

# ASIAN FAMILIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Webinars on 9 July, 23 July and 6 August 2020

4pm-5.30pm (SGT & PST) | 3pm-4.30 pm (ICT) | 1.30pm-3pm (IST)

## Speakers on 9 July



**Dr Ravi Verma**

Director, International  
Center for Research on  
Women, India



**Prof. Grace T. Cruz**

Director, Population  
Institute, University of the  
Philippines



**A/Prof. Aree Jampaklay**

Director, Institute for Population  
and Social Research, Mahidol  
University, Thailand



**Prof. Jean Yeung**

Founding Director, Centre for  
Family and Population Research,  
National University of Singapore

## Moderator

## Speakers on 23 Jul



**A/Prof. Feng Qiushi**

Deputy Director, Centre for  
Family and Population  
Research, National University  
of Singapore



**Dr. Hu Shu**

Head, Sociology  
Programme, Singapore  
University of Social  
Sciences



**Ms. Kelly Hand**

Deputy Director (Research),  
Australian Institute of Family  
Studies



**A/Prof. Bussarawan (Puk)**

**Teerawichitchainan**  
Co-Director, Centre for Family  
and Population Research, National  
University of Singapore

## Moderator

## Speakers on 6 Aug



**Prof. Gavin Jones**

Emeritus Professor,  
Australian National  
University



**Prof. Emiko Ochiai**

Director, Asian Research Center  
for the Intimate and Public  
Spheres, Graduate School of  
Letters, Kyoto University, Japan



**Prof. Jean Yeung**

Founding Director, Centre  
for Family and Population  
Research, National  
University of Singapore



**A/Prof. Vincent Chua**

Co-Director, Centre for Family  
and Population Research, National  
University of Singapore

## Moderator

# Webinar on 9 July 2020

4pm-5.30pm (SGT & PST) | 3pm-4.30 pm (ICT) | 1.30pm-3pm (IST)

## Speakers



**Dr Ravi Verma**

Director, International Center  
for Research on Women, India

### Topic: Gender issues and COVID-19 in India

The gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are particularly harsh within the patriarchal contexts exacerbated by poverty and loss of livelihood options. Women and girls face a range of complex barriers impacting critical domains including education, health, livelihood, nutrition and violence prevention due to this trap. The key to a gender transformative post-COVID world requires evidence-based policy response with increased representation and role of women in decision-making and leadership.

#### About Speaker

Dr. Ravi Verma from the Asia office of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) in Delhi has worked and published extensively on gender issues including men and masculinities over the past two decades and more. He has led evidence-based flagship child marriage and violence prevention programs and serves on various strategic National and Global Boards and Committees on these issues.



**Prof. Grace T. Cruz**

Director, Population Institute,  
University of the Philippines

### Topic: COVID-19 and the Filipino Older People

The severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the older Filipinos is evident by the disproportionately high share of older people 60 years among the COVID-19 infections and deaths in the country. Government response to elder needs and concerns in this emergency context should be guided by ethical principles, acknowledging the heterogeneity of the older population sector.

#### About Speaker

Dr. Grace T. Cruz is currently the director of the University of the Philippines Population Institute. Her main research interest is on the ageing of the population. She has spearheaded two large-scale national surveys on older Filipinos. She is currently the project investigator of the 2018 Longitudinal Study of Ageing Health in the Philippines (LSAHP) which is part of a two-country comparative study including the Philippines and Vietnam.

## Moderator



**Prof. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung**

Founding Director, Centre  
for Family and Population  
Research, National  
University of Singapore



**A/Prof. Aree Jampaklay**

Director, Institute for Population  
and Social Research, Mahidol  
University, Thailand

### Topic: What happens to families left behind during the COVID-19 pandemic? The case of Thailand

The presentation will focus on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on internal migrants' families at the place of origin. Results are drawn from a rapid assessment of phone surveys based on the previously sampled population. The survey aims to understand the challenges that left-behind families are facing as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic and to advocate with policymakers for a targeted policy response.

#### About Speaker

Aree Jampaklay has been an Associate Professor at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University since 2009. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003. Her research has focused on the migration process and migration's effects on the family left behind, family formation, health, and longitudinal studies. In addition to taking part as a Co-Investigator of ITC-SEA Thailand, her current researches include a longitudinal study on the impact of parental migration on children's well-being and a longitudinal study on migration, gender, and conflict in the deep-south provinces of Thailand.

# Webinar on 23 July 2020

4pm-5.30pm (SGT & PST) | 3pm-4.30 pm (ICT) | 1.30pm-3pm (IST)

## Speakers



**A/Prof. Feng Qiushi**  
Deputy Director, Centre for  
Family and Population  
Research, National  
University of Singapore

### **Topic: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Older Adults in China: Biomedical and Socio-psychological Perspectives**

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected the lives of every human being. This presentation analyzes disadvantages of older adults in the COVID-19 pandemic through biomedical, psychological and social perspectives, and review strategies of the aged individuals against COVID-19 at the individual, family, community, society and global level and conclude with implications for global initiatives towards healthy and active ageing.

#### **About Speaker**

Dr Feng Qiushi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Academic Convenor of Global Studies Program and Deputy Director of Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) in National University of Singapore. His research themes focus on health, aging and economy. He has published more than 40 papers and one book manuscript and done editorial service for a few international journals and book series. He is the Associate Editor of Asian Population Studies and BMC Geriatrics.



**Dr. Hu Shu**  
Head, Sociology  
Programme, Singapore  
University of Social  
Sciences

### **Topic: The Effectiveness and Implications of Online Learning: Survey Findings from Middle School Students in a Hubei county**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, many countries have closed their schools and moved classes online. Based on findings from an online survey in a Hubei county, China, I show students' perceived effectiveness, advantages, and disadvantages of online learning and discuss social inequalities in access to digital devices and the Internet required for online learning and the implications of online learning for educational inequality.

#### **About Speaker**

Dr. Hu Shu is a lecturer and Head of the Sociology Programme in the School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences at Singapore University of Social Sciences. Her research interests centre on how family origin, gender, and the state shape the lives and wellbeing of individuals at different stages of the life course. Her work on parental labour migration and children's educational outcome, children's time use, transition to adulthood, marriage values and behaviours, parenting, quality of life among older adults have appeared in peer-reviewed journals.

## Moderator



**A/Prof. Bussarawan  
Teerawichitchainan**  
Co-Director, Centre for  
Family and Population  
Research, National  
University of Singapore

### **Topic: The impact of COVID-19 on relationships in Australian families**

The Families in Australia: Life during COVID-19 survey ran from May 1 to June 9 2020 and had 7,306 participants from around Australia. Our aim was to understand how Australian families coped with the COVID 19 pandemic during that time. This presentation focuses on how this experience impacted on the relationships in families looking at couple relationships within households as well as how families supported and kept in touch when they did not live together. In particular, it explores how factors such as changes to work and child care arrangements as well as the need for social distancing from family members from outside the home impacted on people's quality of relationships and their wellbeing.

#### **About Speaker**

Kelly Hand is Deputy Director (Research) at the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS). She has worked in the area of family and policy research for over 20 years. Her research has focused on the impacts of policies and services systems on families. A particular area of expertise is her ability to work collaboratively with policymakers and other stakeholders to develop research and evaluation projects that create impact for policy decision making.



**Ms. Kelly Hand**  
Deputy Director, Research,  
Australian Institute of  
Family Studies



# Webinar on 6 August 2020

4pm-5.30pm (SGT & PST) | 3pm-4.30 pm (ICT) | 1.30pm-3pm (IST)

## Speakers



**Prof. Gavin Jones**

Emeritus Professor,  
Australian National  
University

### **Topic: The Coronavirus and South Asia – How to Minimize Mortality While Keeping the Poor in Work?**

There are some things we understand about COVID-19 and many that we don't. Enormous differences are apparent between countries in caseloads and death rates. The epicentre has shifted over time; we hope it doesn't shift to South Asia, where the effect on poverty could be dire. The presentation will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of South Asian countries in dealing with the virus and set out what appear to be the best strategies in dealing with it.

#### **About Speaker**

Gavin Jones is Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University. After 11 years with the National University of Singapore, he retired in December 2014 as Director of NUS's JY Pillay Comparative Asia Research Centre. After working for the Population Council in New York, then in Thailand and Indonesia, he was with the Demography and Sociology Program at the Australian National University for 28 years, from 1975 to 2003, serving as head of the program for an 8-year period.



**Prof. Emiko Ochiai**

Director of Asian Research  
Center for the Intimate  
and Public  
Spheres, Graduate School  
of Letters, Kyoto  
University, Japan

### **Topic: Shadow Work of Staying at Home: Positive and Negative Effects on Gender Relations in Japan**

The survey I conducted with Nanami Suzuki made it clear, first, that the stay-at-home policy combining working from home and closing the schools has greatly increased the housework and child-rearing burden on the family, and the weight of that burden is particularly heavy on women with children. The second point is that many people feel that working from home has improved their family relations. Men, in particular, feel this. To ensure that working from home becomes part of the "new normal," we need to construct a social system that internalizes care and unpaid domestic work and to redefine gender roles.

#### **About Speaker**

Emiko Ochiai is Professor of Sociology and Director of Asian Research Center for the Intimate and Public Spheres (ARCIP) at Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University. She is a family sociologist and family historian who has been also active in the field of gender studies. She is the series editor of *The Intimate and the Public* in Asian and Global Perspectives from Brill.



**Prof. Jean Yeung**

Founding Director, Centre  
for Family and Population  
Research, National  
University of Singapore

### **Topic: The implications of COVID-19 for Families and Policy Response in Singapore**

With anxieties riding high over the health risk to COVID-19 pandemic, the closure of daycare centres and schools, and the impact of economic recession, this global crisis has exposed and exacerbated inequalities among families. I show variations across different groups of families in Singapore in the resources available to them and discuss the implications for family dynamics, children's development, and young people's transition to adulthood. I will discuss how the Singapore government and communities have addressed these challenges.

#### **About Speaker**

Professor Yeung is a Provost-Chair Professor in the Department of Sociology in NUS. She is the founding Director of the Center for Family and Population Research in NUS. She is also the Cluster Leader of the Changing Family in Asia research cluster in the Asia Research Institute at NUS. She is a council member of the Asian Population Association and of the International Sociological Association, Research Committee for Family.

## Moderator



**A/Prof. Vincent Chua**

Co-Director, Centre for  
Family and Population  
Research, National  
University of Singapore