

**2020 CFPR LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES**

## **THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IS PARTLY PHYSICAL: A LOOK AT HEALTH-RELATED DIFFICULTIES IN INTERNET USE AMONG OLDER SINGAPOREANS**

Internet use is increasingly a necessity, with more commercial and governmental entities shifting services online. The ability to use the internet is slowly becoming essential for participation in many spheres of society. While researchers have studied internet use among older adults, most do not look at whether such use (or non-use) is due to health-related reasons. This study uses data from a nationally representative survey of older Singaporeans to examine key correlates of health-related difficulty in internet use among older adults, and whether such difficulties affect older adults' quality of life through their perceived social support networks. Findings show that disparities in internet use are not just shaped by access or skill, but also health. Health-related difficulties in internet use are related to older adults' social support networks and their quality of life. As social connections become increasingly based around networked individuals due to technological advancements, more attention should be given to addressing these health-related difficulties.

Shannon was trained at the University of Michigan, where he received a PhD in Sociology and a MA in Statistics. He uses primarily quantitative methods to pursue his research interests in life course sociology, with a focus on the health and social lives of older adults. So far, he has studied the social support and social participation (including online participation) of older adults, and their implications for mental and physical health outcomes. Findings from these studies have been published in journals such as *Social Science and Medicine*, *Demography*, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, and *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological and Social Sciences*, amongst others.

Chaired by: A/Prof Vincent Chua

Department of Sociology and Co-Director of CFPR, NUS

Date: 2 October 2020 | Time: 12.00noon - 1.00pm | via Zoom

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/y39e9gn6>

