

2020 CFPR LUNCHTIME SEMINAR

FAMILY SES AND YOUNG SINGAPOREAN CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENT

We examine the extent to which parents' education and income contribute to the achievement gap in Singaporean preschool children through parenting beliefs and behaviors and children's agency. Data were drawn from a sample of 2,168 children aged 4 to 6 years in a new national survey - Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SGLEADS). Using the structural equation modelling, we find that parents with different SESs hold varying values and educational expectations on their children, and have different practices of socialization, plans and investment behaviour in children. Children in different families also vary in their self-regulation behaviour. Furthermore, parental attitudes influence parenting behaviours, which in turn, was associated with children's self-regulation. This study establishes an association between parental beliefs, parenting behaviours and children's agency and underscores the importance of early home environment and the intergenerational roots of the achievement gaps.

Dr. Xuejiao Chen is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre of Family and Population Research. She received her Ph.D. degree in Sociology from National University of Singapore in 2020. Her research centers on how environmental factors affect young children's development. Her doctoral dissertation evaluates the mediating pathway of family income on preschool children's achievement and behavior problems in China. She is currently working on the SG LEADS project for the core panel survey.



CHAired BY: ASST. PROF DING XIAOPAN
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DATE: 9 OCTOBER 2020 | TIME: 12NOON - 1PM | VIA ZOOM

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