

CFPR Lunchtime Seminar Series 2017

Separate and Unequal: Hukou, School Segregation, and Migrant Children's Education in Urban China

This article examines hukou-based school segregation (measured by both unevenness and exposure) and its impact on the gap in academic achievement between migrant and local students in urban China. Based on the analysis of data from a nationally representative school-based survey (Chinese Educational Panel Survey, CEPS), we show that, while migrant children perform significantly worse than urban local children in general, the achievement gap is particularly larger in cities where school segregation based on hukou status is severe, primarily attributable to the uneven distribution of migrants in lower-quality schools with more exposure to negative peer influence. Analyses based on school fixed-effect models and the instrumental variable approach further reveal that a high level of exposure to migrant children has a negative causal effect on the academic achievement of both migrant and local students. These findings not only contribute to the literature on social segregation and inequality in different settings but also have important implications for policies on the social inclusion of migrant children in Chinese cities.



by **Prof Xiaogang WU**

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Xiaogang Wu (Ph.D., UCLA, 2001) is Professor of Social Science and Director of the Center for Applied Social and Economic Research (CASER) at HKUST. His research interests include social stratification and mobility, labor markets and economic sociology, and quantitative methodology. His previous work has appeared in *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Demography*, *Social Science Research*, and among others. Professor Wu has received numerous research grants and fellowship from the US, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. He is currently the Principal Investigator of the "Hong Kong Panel Study of Social Dynamics" (2009-2014), funded by the Strategic Public Policy Research Grant, and of three other research projects funded by the Hong Kong Research Grant Council. He is the editor of the *Chinese Sociological Review*, a quarterly journal published by ME Sharpe. In 2012, he was awarded the Prestigious Fellowship in Humanities and Social Sciences by the University Grants Committee of Hong Kong SAR.

Chaired by: Professor Yeung Wei-Jun Jean, CFPR Director and Dept of Sociology, ARI, NUS

Date: 13 January 2017, Friday | **Time:** 12.00nn - 1.30pm

All are Welcome! Refreshments will be served. Registration is required.

Register at <https://goo.gl/forms/gLebygGVB6zSvGOA2> by 12 January 2017