

2020 CFPR LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

Reciprocal Effects between Health and Social Support in Older Adults' Social Relationships

This study examined the longitudinal reciprocal effects between health and social support in older adults' relationships with their children and friends. Data are from the 2006 and 2010 waves of the Health and Retirement Study (N = 3,760). The study focused on three specific aspects of social support: frequency of contact, positive interactions, and negative interactions. Autoregressive cross-lagged models were used to examine the bidirectional effects between social support and health. When the bidirectional effects between health and social support were simultaneously examined, the longitudinal effect of social support on health was not significant. In contrast, older adults' poor health was associated with decreased contact and decreased positive interactions with friends as well as with increased negative interactions with their adult children and friends. The findings suggest that older adults' poor health has a negative impact on their social relationships and that such effect surpasses the effect of social relationships on health.



Jung-Hwa Ha is a professor at the Department of Social Welfare at Seoul National University in South Korea. She received her Ph.D. in Social Work and Sociology from University of Michigan. Her research interests include aging and the life course, widowhood, social support and social engagement in later life, end-of-life care, and dementia care. Currently, she is conducting research on implications of childlessness for older adults' well-being across 5 Asian countries, and end-of-life care planning for people with dementia. She teaches courses on death, loss, and grief across the life course, graduate and undergraduate seminar on aging, and social work with people with disability.

Chaired by: **A/Prof Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan**
Department of Sociology and Co-Director of CFPR, NUS

Date: **17 January 2020** | Time: **12.00noon - 1.30pm**
Venue: **FASS Research Division Seminar Room, AS7-06-42**

Light lunch is provided. Registration is required.

Registered at: <https://tinyurl.com/reuwlj7>