

2020 CFPR LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

ADULT CHILDREN'S TRANSITION TO MARRIAGE AND OLDER PARENTS' SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

The linked lives principle of life course theory emphasizes the interdependency between one's life and those of significant others. This study examines the impact of adult children's transition to marriage on older parents' subjective wellbeing in China, where the marriage and reproduction of children especially sons are perceived essential to the continuation of family lineage and the provision of old-age support. We use panel data of a nationally representative sample of 12,027 parent-child dyads derived from the Chinese Family Panel Studies. The results show that adult children's transition to marriage leads to an increase in parents' life satisfaction and a decrease in their depressive symptoms. The beneficial effect is more evident when it is the marriage formation of a son or an only child, or when the parent holds weaker traditional family values or lives in urban areas. The findings highlight the importance of contextualizing the linkedness of lives.



Dr. Shu HU is a lecturer with the Sociology Programme in the School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences at Singapore University of Social Sciences. Her research interests center on how family origin, gender, and the state shape the lives and wellbeing of individuals at different stages of the life course. Her research on parental labor 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.



Dr. Pei-Chun KO is a lecturer at the Centre for University Core at Singapore University of Social Sciences. As a sociologist, her research interests include productive and active ageing in Asia, intergenerational relationships, neighborhood and social engagement, life course and health, social networks and social capital. Her publications can be found in international peer-reviewed journals, including Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Journal of Aging and Health, and Social Sciences and Medicine.

Chaired by: Dr Mu Zheng, Assistant Professor
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Date: 18 September 2020 | Time: 12.00noon - 1.00pm | via Zoom

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