



**MIGRANTS' TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD IN CHINA:
MARRIAGE AND JOB TRAJECTORIES ON THE ORIGIN-
EDUCATION-GENDER INTERSECTIONS**
By Dr Zheng Mu, Postdoctoral Fellow, ARI/CFPR, NUS

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Chaired by A/P Thang Leng Leng, NUS

ABSTRACT. China has witnessed tremendous increase in internal migration during the past three decades. While there is huge diversity in the direct causes of migration such as job, education, and marriage, the common theme has been pursuits of upward mobility. Specifically, both education and advantageous family origins may facilitate assimilation into the receiving communities, and render more marriages across the regional boundaries and better long-term career development in the receiving communities. However, the education effect has largely been moderated by family origins. For the highly-educated migrants, while those with wealthier family background tend to have prosperous career prospects in both the receiving and the sending communities, those from economically disadvantaged families are more determined to take root in the receiving communities. However, for migrants who did not go to college, their actions of migration tend to be transient regardless of family origins. There are remarkable gender differences in both the main effects of education and family origins, and their interactions.

About the Speaker



Dr Zheng Mu is a joint postdoctoral fellow in the Asia Research Institute and the Centre for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan in December 2013. Her areas of specialization include marriage and family, ethnicity, migration, development, and contemporary China. Her research centers on trends, social determinants and consequences of marriage and family behaviors, with special foci on Chinese Muslims and Chinese migrants. Her dissertation examined how individuals' marriage and fertility behaviors have been formed and framed by China's contemporary social changes and regional variations. She is currently working on projects examining heterogeneities in the mechanisms and outcomes of Chinese migrants' marital behaviors.