

Thermal Comfort and Marital Relations: Evidence from China's heating policy

22 January 2016, Fri | 12nn - 1.30pm | Ventus Evans Room

ABSTRACT Previous research has had difficulty determining the effects of thermal comfort on well-being. Here, we exploit China's heating policy to identify the effects of thermal comfort on marital relations. From the 1950s', the government of China subsidized heating (either through central heating or free/subsidized coal supply) to urban residents north of the Huai River but not south of the river. Using a regression discontinuity design, we find that the heating policy was associated with 0.5 percent lower divorce in countries north of the Huai River as compared with countries to the south. The lower divorce is correlated with two dimensions of marriage quality – lower age of marriage, and closer to ideal difference in age between the spouses, but not correlated with combined years of education.

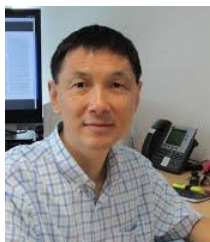
About the Speakers



A/P Liu Haoming is an Associate Professor in the Economics Department at the National University of Singapore. Prior to joining the National University of Singapore, he has worked in the School of Economics, the University of New South Wales, Sydney, for one year. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Western Ontario, and a BA in Mechanical Engineering from Northern Jiaotong University, Beijing, China.



A/P Junhong Chu is an Associate Professor of Marketing at the NUS School of Business. She received a PhD in Marketing from the University of Chicago in 2006 and a PhD in Law (demography) from Peking University in 1996. A/P Chu is an empirical modeler. Her research interests include two-sided markets, network effects, e-commerce, distribution channels, retail competition, high-tech markets, social interactions, emerging markets and China's economy and markets. She was a 2011 MSI Young Scholar and won the NUS Business School Outstanding Researcher awards in 2008 and 2011.



Professor Ivan PL Png is a Distinguished Professor in the School of Business and the Department of Economics at the National University of Singapore. His research focuses on the economics of innovation. He is the author of *Managerial Economics*, which has been published in multiple editions. He received the NUS-UCLA Executive MBA Teaching Excellence Award in 2008 and 2011. Dr Png was a nominated MP (10th Parliament of Singapore), 2005-2006, and a member of the Trustworthy Computing Academic Advisory Board, Microsoft Corporation, 2006-2010. For leisure, he exercises with his wife and plays tennis with colleagues (badly).

Chaired by: A/P Kim Erin Hye-Won, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

Register by **18 Jan 2016** at <http://goo.gl/forms/ZKyD2cyxkh> Light lunch will be provided