NUS | Centre for Family and Population Research
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Social Exclusion and Cognitive Impairment of the Elderly in China

Yang Yi, Department of Sociology, NUS

Date: 26 February 2016, Friday

Time: 12nn - 1.30pm

Venue: Ventus - Evans

**Seminar chaired by
Dr Feng Qiushi,
Assistant Professor,
Dept of Sociology, CFPR, NUS**

**All are welcome!
Light lunch will be provided.**

**Register at
http://goo.gl/forms/0O9swq7chP
by 22 Feb 2016.**

This study aims to examine how social exclusion, defined as a multidimensional composite index, including financial deprivation, social isolation, and lack of basic social rights, is related to cognitive impairment of the elderly in China. The index ranges from moderate social exclusion to extreme social exclusion to capture the cumulative impact of disadvantages resulted from each individual dimension of deprivation. This approach goes beyond the conventional approach of focusing on any single factor when studying the correlates and determinants of health in later life. I draw data from a national representative Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS). The study focuses on the old aged 65 to 99 in the baseline. Cognitive impairment is measured by the Chinese version of Mini Mental Statement Examination (MMSE). I find that social exclusion increases the risk of the onset of having cognitive impairment. Severer and extreme degree of social exclusion causes higher risk of onset of cognitive impairment. Low income, lack of participation in social activity, nobody to seek support from, and no access to certain basic social rights are the risk factors that cause cognitive impairment in late life for older Chinese.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Yang Yi is a Ph.D candidate at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. She obtained her Master's degree in Sociology at Peking University, China. Her Ph.D dissertation works on social exclusion and cognitive impairment of the elderly in China by drawing data from the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS). Her research interests lie in social inequality and social stratification, ageing and health, and gender studies.