



Faculty of Arts
& Social Sciences



Migrant Care Workers in Italy and Taiwan: A Comparative Study

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Chair: Associate Professor Shirlena Huang,
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Venue: FASS Executive Seminar Room, 01-07
The Shaw Foundation Building (AS7)



Abstract

In family-oriented societies, geriatric care is mainly provided by family members (especially female family members). However, with increasing labor force participation by women, and greater mobility, families are less able to care for their elders, and therefore, there has been a shift from relying on family members (the 'family'-model of care) to paid foreign caregivers (the 'migrant-in-the-family' model of care). This research examines elder care policies in Italy and Taiwan, each of which is a rapidly aging society. Questions raised include whether outsourcing the care of elders is the best solution to meet the care crisis? Should more elder-care units be established to meet the growing need for geriatric care? Should border controls be relaxed to attract more foreign care workers? For elderly men, is marrying much younger women from less developed countries a valid option?

About the speaker

Ko Chyong-fang is Research Fellow and Director of the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California, USA. Her research interests lie in the areas of social demography, transnational migration, cross-border marriage, and elder care policy.