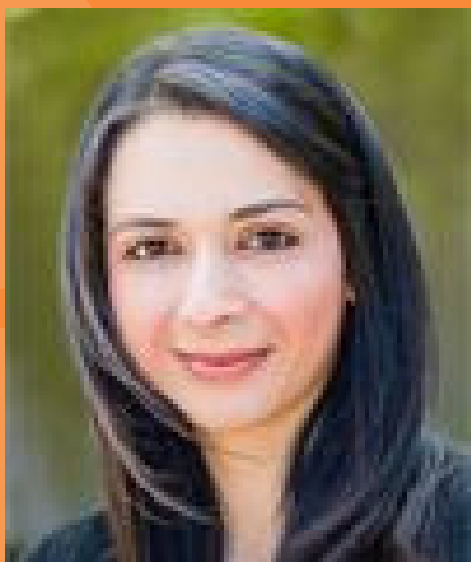


# ***RAISING THE SECURE CHILD IN INSECURE TIMES: HOW AFFLUENT, UNEMPLOYED PARENTS MAINTAIN PRIVILEGE***

Parenting strategies in the “age of insecurity” are of interest to sociologists because they offer insights into how privilege is maintained intergenerationally. Emerging research in the American context on this issue has been narrowly conceived, for example focusing on the importance of education, or emotional dispositions, or raising adaptable children. Further, research in the American context has conceptualized parenting strategies as drawing from a set of resources within the nuclear family. In the present study, I draw on in-depth qualitative data, including over 100 interviews with members of 48 affluent, college-educated, dual-earner American families with children, where one spouse is experiencing unemployment. This conceptually useful sample captures how parents whose own privilege is under threat conceive of, and attempt to transmit, a sense of security to their children. I find that expansive notions of parental obligations mean that unemployed parents deploy emotional and material resources in order to ensure that their children’s present and future opportunities remain in-tact. Parents evince individualistic narratives which suggest that financial prudence in the past is key to sheltering children. This obscures the extensive material support that parents receive from kin. Implications for the racialized wealth gap, the intergenerational accumulation of advantage, and polarized inequality in the context of insecurity are discussed.



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Aliya Hamid Rao is an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the School of Social Sciences at Singapore Management University. She received her Ph.D from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016 and completed a Postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University. Her research has appeared, or is forthcoming, in the Journal of Marriage and Family, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Research in the Sociology of Work, Sociology of Religion, and Contexts. Her first book, on how unemployment impacts the families of affluent workers, is under contract with the University of California Press.

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***Chaired by: A/Prof Bussarawan (PUK) TEERAWICHITCHAINAN  
Dept of Sociology, Deputy Director of CFPR, NUS***

***Date: 1 Mar 2019 | Time: 12.00nn - 1.30pm | Venue: Ventus evans room  
Light lunch will be served. Registration is required.  
pls register at <https://tinyurl.com/ycaxjtjq>***