



NUS
National University
of Singapore

Centre for Family and Population Research
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

2019 CFPR Lunchtime Seminar Series

Left Behind or Active Aging? Rural Land and Old-age Support in China amid the Welfare Crisis

Millions of the elderly are left behind in the countryside as China undergoes large-scale rural-urban migration and rapid urbanization. Past research has shown how being left behind has adversely affected the elderly. While acknowledging the poor situation of rural older people, this paper shows that moving the elderly to the city and incorporating them into the urban welfare system as envisaged by the government is not the solution. Given the looming urban welfare crisis, this solution would be financially unsustainable, and it will harm the interests of the rural elderly if they are forced to give up land and move to the city. This paper further argues that rural land has played a positive role in providing eldercare and fostering active aging and that a welfare system based on land would offer an alternative solution for aging support in China as well as in other developing countries.



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Shaohua Zhan earned his Ph.D. degree in sociology from Johns Hopkins University and is currently an assistant professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He studies land politics, food security, social policy, and migration, with a focus on China. His works have appeared in *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, *World Development*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Geoforum*, *Globalizations*, *The China Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Modern China*, etc. His forthcoming book, titled *The Land Question in China: Agrarian Capitalism, Industrious Revolution, and East Asian Development* (Routledge, 2019), examines the contrasting development paths of industrious revolution and agrarian capitalism in rural China.

Chaired by: A/Prof FENG Qiushi

Dept of Sociology, CFPR Steering Committee member, NUS

Date: 29 Mar 19 | Time: 12.00nn-1.30pm | Venue: Ventus Evans Room

Light lunch will be provided. Registration is required.

Pls register at <https://tinyurl.com/y7mqfms9>