

CFPR LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES 2018

**EXPLORING SOCIAL NETWORKS OF OLDER
SINGAPOREAN LEARNERS: A MIXED
METHODS APPROACH**

The study documented the existing social networks of older Singaporeans in lifelong learning programs and illustrated how social networks contributed their participation in learning. Data analyses were based on in-depth interviews and network measures of 30 older Singaporeans (between 50 and 79 years old) who attended educational courses in the past two years. The findings showed that older learners' networks included a mixture of social ties from family and friends and closeness with network members influenced learners' involvement in learning. Married respondents who had more family members in their networks reported to be more active in participation, whereas single respondents who had more non-kin members in the networks reported to be more active. Moreover, Couples' overlapping networks seem to be related to spousal support for their partner's participation. To conclude, the study suggests that older adults' social networks outside the learning environment is important to their participation in lifelong learning.

Pei-Chun Ko is a Research Fellow in the Asia Research Institute and the Centre for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore. She received her PhD from the University of Cologne in 2015. Her research interests include productive aging, intergenerational relationships, later life health, and social networks. She is currently working on topics related to childhood and productive aging, spousal influence on wellbeing in later life, and older learners' social networks. She is a guest editor (in collaboration with Wei-Jun Jean Yeung) of the special issue- Contextualizing Productive Aging in Asia in *Social Science & Medicine*.



CHAIRER BY: A/PROF THANG LENG LENG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CFPR AND DEPARTMENT HEAD
OF JAPANESE STUDIES

DATE: 26 OCT 2018 | TIME: 12.00NN - 1.30PM | VENUE: EVANS ROOM

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