

CFPR

CENTRE FOR FAMILY AND
POPULATION RESEARCH

Newsletter

Issue 12 | August 2020



NUS
National University
of Singapore



Special Features

Research Methods Training Courses

*Webinar Series on Asian Families
and Covid-19*

MOE Tier 2 Grant Recipients

SG LEADS Research Updates

Interview with Prof Mike Cheung

CFPR Former Interns Going Places

The CFPR newsletter is published bi-annually by the Centre for Family and Population Research, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. CFPR's vision is to provide thought leadership as a hub for excellence in family and population research in Asia.

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LOOKING FOR RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING COURSES?

CFPR provides training courses in social science research methods ranging from basic to advanced levels. Our courses enable participants to gain a deeper understanding of research methods and apply them to real issues in their fields of research and work. CFPR has so far trained more than 600 participants. Many have expressed that the courses were useful and directly applicable to their work scopes. All CFPR courses are funded by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) for eligible participants. Singapore Citizens and PRs can enjoy SSG subsidies ranging from 70% to 90% of the **course fees**. Training courses will be held in NUS Kent Ridge Campus from October to December 2020.

(BASIC) ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

Social Research Methods: Survey, Experiment and Fieldwork	Oct 7-8
Introduction to Qualitative Research	Oct 15-16
Questionnaire & Sampling Design (NEW)	Oct 19
Data Visualization with R	Oct 26-27
Quantitative Data Analysis I with SPSS	Oct 28-29

(INTERMEDIATE) SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

Qualitative Data Analysis: Theory and Practice	Nov 4-5
Introduction to GIS (NEW)	Nov 19-20
Computer-assisted Analysis of Qualitative Data	Nov 26-27
Mixed Methods Research	Dec 3-4
Quantitative Data Analysis II: Multivariate Regression	Dec 7-8

(ADVANCED) SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

Big Data and Machine Learning in Social Sciences with R (NEW)	Nov 17-18
Policy Impact Evaluation	Nov 24-25
Structural Equation Modeling with R	Nov 30 - Dec 1

(BASIC) HEALTH & POPULATION DYNAMICS MODULE

Preparing for Global Aging: Theory, Policy and Business	Dec 9-10
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For more information on courses and fees, please visit:
<https://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/trainingprogram/currentcourse.html>

All courses
are SSG
funded!

WEBINAR SERIES ON ASIAN FAMILIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic has exerted unprecedented pressures on many institutions including health care, schools, governments, markets, and the law. Family, as the basic socioeconomic unit of society, bears the brunt of multiple stressors caused by disruptions to these institutions. The ongoing public health crisis has continued to put social inequality into sharp relief, revealing many vulnerabilities of our society and pushing many families to the edge. To highlight various ongoing policy-relevant research related to how Asian families fare during the Covid-19 pandemic, CFPR in collaboration with the Asian Population Association (APA), hosted three webinars on 9 July, 23 July and 6 August 2020. CFPR's Founding Director Professor Jean Yeung, CFPR's Co-Directors Associate Professor Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan and Associate Professor Vincent Chua served as moderators for the respective webinars.



Prof. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung

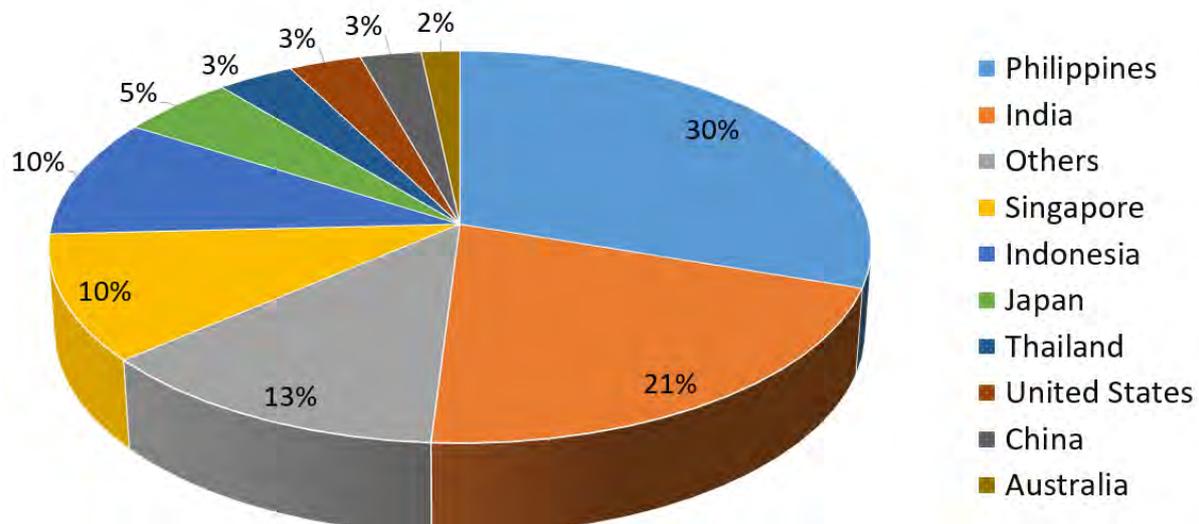


A/Prof. Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan



A/Prof. Vincent Chua

We were joined by nine distinguished speakers from the Australian National University, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Center for Research on Women (India), Kyoto University (Japan), Mahidol University (Thailand), National University of Singapore, Singapore University of Social Sciences and University of the Philippines. More than **1, 800** participants from all corners of the globe registered for the webinar series. Our audience represented over **40** countries with many from the Philippines, India, Indonesia and Japan. The recordings of the webinar series are available at the [CFPR website](#) and [Facebook page](#), which have garnered more than **2000** views as of August 2020.



*Others refer to countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Egypt, France, Hong Kong, Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Webinars Highlights

9 July 2020

Topics and Panellists

- *Gender issues and Covid-19 in India | Dr Ravi Verma, Director, International Center for Research on Women, India*
- *Covid-19 and the Filipino Older People | Professor Grace T. Cruz, Director, Population Institute, University of the Philippines*
- *What happens to families left behind during the Covid-19 pandemic? The case of Thailand | A/P Aree Jampaklay, Director, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Thailand*

Discussion Highlights

The July 9 speakers discussed how public health measures such as mobility restrictions have profound implications on livelihoods, family relationships, intergenerational support systems, and many other aspects of family life. The impacts vary significantly for people of different economic strata and age groups, with the most disadvantaged groups experiencing the highest risk of exposure to the virus, marginalization and social isolation. The speakers discussed reduced access to reproductive health services, the impacts of returned migration on family relationships as well as intergenerational support for the old and young.



Dr Ravi Verma



Prof. Grace T. Cruz



A/Prof. Aree Jampaklay

All three speakers commented on strategies at the national, regional and community levels that aim to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 in India, the Philippines, and Thailand. They reflected that this is an opportune time to work towards creating a more equitable society and drawing fairer social contracts across different segments of the population.

23 July 2020

Topics and Panellists

- *The Covid-19 Pandemic and Older Adults in China: Biomedical and Socio-psychological Perspectives | A/P Feng Qiushi, Deputy Director, Centre for Family and Population Research, National University of Singapore*
- *The Effectiveness and Implications of Online Learning: Survey Findings from Middle School Students in a Hubei county | Dr. Hu Shu, Head, Sociology Programme, Singapore University of Social Sciences*
- *Families in Australia and the Life during Covid-19 | Ms. Kelly Hand, Deputy Director (Research), Australian Institute of Family Studies*

Discussion Highlights

The July 23 speakers discussed how the pandemic has affected different generations. While the old are most vulnerable to the disease, the young are sacrificing economically and socially. The sudden shift to working and studying from home has affected family relationships and wellbeing. The speakers discussed community-based strategies, parent-child interactions, housework sharing between couples that includes childcare and emotional support between family members.



A/Prof. Feng Qiushi



Dr. Hu Shu



Ms. Kelly Hand

Despite the unprecedented challenges, all three speakers highlighted evidence of the positive outcomes and lessons learnt from the pandemic in China and Australia. They also pointed out the need for international coordination, equitable distribution of digital and educational resources and psychological support to address the impacts of Covid-19.

6 August 2020

Topics and Panellists

- *The Coronavirus and South Asia—How to Minimize Mortality While Keeping the Poor in Work?* | Prof. Gavin Jones, Emeritus Professor, Australian National University
- *Shadow Work of Staying at Home: Positive and Negative Effects on Gender Relations in Japan* | Prof. Emiko Ochiai, Director of Asian Research Center for the Intimate and Public Spheres, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University, Japan
- *The implications of Covid-19 for Families and Policy Response in Singapore* | Prof. Jean Yeung, Founding Director, Centre for Family and Population Research, National University of Singapore

Discussion Highlights

The Aug 6 speakers explained the gender, health and socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on families in South Asia, Japan and Singapore. The effects of pandemic-related financial stressors and day-to-day disruptions vary for different age groups. The speakers discussed the age and gender differences in morbidity and mortality related to Covid-19, increased risk of people falling deeper into poverty, increased housework and child-rearing burden on women as well as the consequences of unconducive home environments for children's development.



Prof. Gavin Jones



Prof. Emiko Ochiai



Prof. Jean Yeung

They also discussed Covid-19's implications on intergenerational solidarity, gendered impacts of familistic policies and the effects of parental involvement on children's development. Although the impact of Covid-19 is largely negative, the speakers highlighted some hopeful prospects. They pointed out that the public health crisis is pushing us to reduce existing inequalities, be more innovative, spend more time with family and challenge prevailing gender norms.

COVID-19-RELATED RESEARCH

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, CFPR research associates have actively engaged in conducting research as well as providing empirically-based insights into how the pandemic has implications for family, the economy, and population trends in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region.

Covid-19 and Older Adults | A/P Feng Qiushi

In many countries, older adults are facing the most severe threats in the Covid-19 pandemic. This paper examines the biomedical and socio-psychological reasons for the disadvantages faced by older adults. The paper examines this using the statistics of infection, hospitalization and mortality, comparing older Chinese and other age groups. Moreover, the paper reviews the counter strategies that are in place across societies to help older adults during the Covid-19 pandemic. The strategies are examined at the individual, family, community and government levels. Conclusively, the paper makes long-term policy recommendations to tackle the difficulties faced by older adults.

Covid-19 Can Widen Gaps in Children's Development | The Straits Times | Prof Jean Yeung

Based on findings from the Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS), Professor Jean Yeung discussed how the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to disrupt the health and cognitive development of children and further widen inequality in key resources for Singaporean children. Children's development is impacted by material resources, living space, caregiver's involvement and education, psychological stress and nutrition. SG LEADS data supports the patterns of how parents of higher socio-economic-status are better informed of children's developmental outcomes and have more resources to create an enriching environment. Meanwhile, parents who have lower socioeconomic status, may not be able to do as well. Prof Yeung also discussed the widening digital gap and the strain on families' economic resources that can affect young children's physical, brain and socio-emotional growth. Due to Singapore's circuit breaker measures, disadvantaged children might lag further behind after school resumes, which Prof Yeung termed as the early 'summer learning gap effect'.



Raising workers' dorm standards: Who pays? | The Straits Times | A/P Jessica Pan and Dr Ong Pinchuan

The authors discussed the questions of 'who pays' for mandated improvements in foreign workers' living conditions, as their dismal living conditions are considered a major reason for the rapid transmission of the Covid-19 in Singapore. Although many Singaporeans want foreign workers to have better living conditions, it is unclear how much society is willing to bear the cost of this provision. Using economic theory, the authors argued that it is likely that the foreign workers will bear the brunt of the increased costs in the form of lower wages given their lower bargaining power. The authors also pointed out that finding a long-term solution for living conditions of migrant workers requires Singaporeans to consider what we value as a society.

~ CONGRATS ~

MOE TIER 2 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our Co-Director A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan and Deputy Director A/P Feng Qiushi for receiving the Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 2 grants for their new research projects.

Childless Aging in Singapore and Thailand (CAST): A Comparative Mixed Methods Study

TPV: S\$676,572, **PI:** A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan, **Co-PI:** A/P Christine Ho, **Collaborator:** A/P Wiraporn Pothisiri, **Funding Period:** Sep 2020 to Aug 2023

The global trend of increasing proportion of older adult population who never had a child in their lives is historically unprecedented and has raised grave concerns around the world about challenges in old-age support. A key feature of this study is to compare childless aging in Singapore and Thailand – two of Southeast Asia's most aged societies. The comparative study will examine the demographics of childless older populations, pathways to childlessness, and the well-being of childless older persons using both quantitative and qualitative research approaches.

Lifelong Education for Aging Productively (LEAP) in Singapore

TPV: S\$850,260, **PI:** A/P Feng Qiushi, **Co-PIs:** Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, A/P Liu Haoming, Assistant Prof Feng Lei, **Collaborator:** Dr. Teck Kiang Tan, **Funding Period:** Aug 2020 to July 2023

The rapid population aging in Singapore calls for innovative solutions to enhance the human capital of a population to ensure the nation's economic growth and social development. The project aims to illustrate the potential of a developmental strategy for the greying Singapore that concentrates on the promotion of productive aging through encouraging lifelong learning, economic activeness and social participation among older adults.



Mike Cheung

*Appointed as Full
Professor,
Department of
Psychology, NUS*



**Catherine
So-kum Tang**

*Appointed as
Distinguished
Professor and
Director of
Graduate School,
Hong Kong Shue
Yan University*

Welcoming New CFPR Research Associates



Jiang Nan

Assistant Professor,
Social Work, NUS



Nina Guyon

Assistant Professor,
Economics, NUS



Paul A. O'Keefe

Assistant Professor,
Head of Studies,
Psychology, NUS

SG LEADS RESEARCH UPDATES

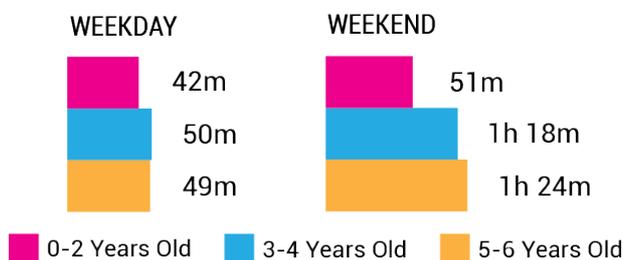
The Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS), led by Prof Jean Yeung, was initiated in 2017 and funded by the Ministry of Education Social Science Research Thematic Grant (SSRTG). It has completed its first wave of survey data collection with a national sample of Singaporean children aged 0-6 and their primary caregivers and the first two reports are now available on the CFPR Website. The **first report** provides a profile of the study sample which represents Singaporean children of all races and socioeconomic status from many communities across the nation. The **second report** constitutes of observed patterns relating to parenting behaviour, boundary setting, discipline measures, parenting attitudes, parenting stress, family conflicts, marital satisfaction, psychological distress and children's behaviours. It also reveals how parents spent time with their children. Finding highlights are featured as follows.



How Children Spend Time

- Children spend on average between 40-50 minutes/weekday and 50 minutes to 1h 24mins/weekend day watching TV

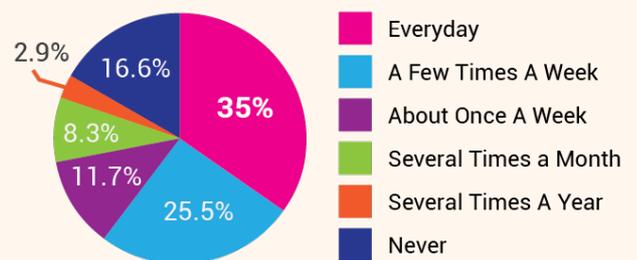
Watching TV
(Calculated from Child's Time Diaries)



Spending Time with Parents

- 58% of children eat with both parents at least once a day
- 35% parents read to their child every day, and 26% a few times a week

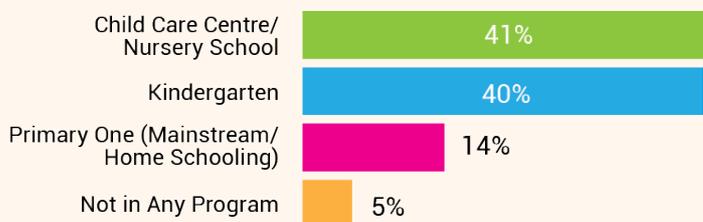
How often do parents read to their children?



Day Care, School & Enrichment

- One in five 3-6-year-old children attends extracurricular activities such as dancing, music, arts, sport, or others

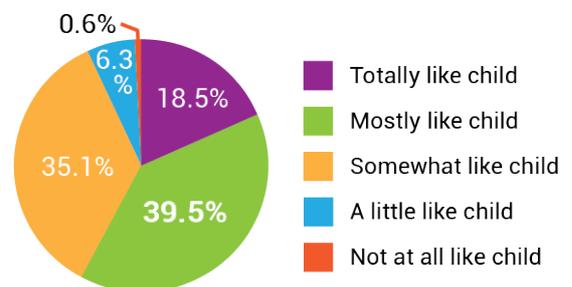
3 - 6 Years Old



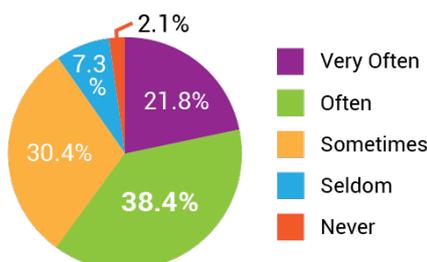
Children's Self-Control (Ages 3-6)

- Children's self-control increased with age, and girls showed a higher level of self-control than boys.

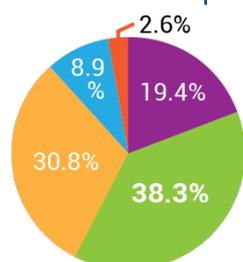
Child waits for his/her turn in games and other activities



How often do PCGs set limits for children's bedtime?



How often do PCGs set limits for children's snack consumption?



Setting Boundaries for Children

- Three in five primary caregivers (PCGs), with at least one child older than 3, often set limits for children's bedtime and snack consumption
- Better educated PCGs were more likely to set rules for children's daily routines than PCGs with lower education.

PROFESSOR MIKE CHEUNG ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Professor Mike Cheung (Department of Psychology, NUS) has recently joined the CFPR Steering Committee. His research interests lie at the intersection of quantitative methods and their applications in psychological research. His research focuses on structural equation modeling (SEM), meta-analysis, and multilevel models. His publications include a book titled “Meta-Analysis: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach” and more than 70 papers in international journals. He currently serves as an Associate Editor of Neuropsychology Review and Research Synthesis Methods, and a member in the editorial boards of five international journals. He has taught courses on ‘Multilevel Modeling with R’, ‘Structural Equation Modeling with R’ and ‘Reliability and Validity of Measurement and Scale Development’ in CFPR’s Training Programs since 2015. We spoke to him to find out more about his research expertise.



Could you tell us about your research expertise, particularly how it contributes to family and population research?

Issues in family and population are complicated, involving multi-disciplines in FASS, Science, Business, and even Medicine. We need perspectives from individuals, societies, and policies to understand how and why we behave in certain ways. One core theme spanning across various disciplines is research methodology. Research methodology provides tools to answer research questions in CFPR. Most colleagues in CFPR focus on substantive research questions such as aging and health. My research questions are in quantitative methods.

What are the major themes of your research ?

My research area is quantitative psychology, which is a discipline to promote psychology as a quantitative, rational science. More specifically, my primary research topics are meta-analysis and structural equation modeling (SEM). The central research theme of my research program is to integrate meta-analysis and SEM into a unified framework. When there are sufficient primary studies on a topic, researchers may want to synthesize these findings with a meta-analysis. If the primary studies use SEM as the methodology, the method of synthesizing findings of studies with SEM is known as meta-analytic structural equation modeling (MASEM). In a series of papers, my colleagues and I extended this approach into a comprehensive framework to conduct MASEM.

Another line of my research program is SEM-based meta-analysis. This utilizes the SEM framework to conceptualize and conduct a meta-analysis. The similarities between a meta-analytic model and a structural equation model make it possible to use SEM packages, e.g., Mplus and Stata, to conduct a meta-analysis. One direct benefit of this is that techniques in SEM, such as the handling of missing data, non-independent data, and robust statistics, are directly available to researchers conducting a meta-analysis.

Could you tell us more about your recent research focus?

I am exploring machine learning and big data analytics in the social and behavioral sciences. Multivariate statistical techniques, such as SEM, multilevel modeling, and meta-analysis, play a critical role in the social and behavioral sciences. These techniques allow researchers to test their theoretical models and research hypotheses empirically. However, in the era of rapid availability and reliance on Big Data to make decisions in business, government, and society, the current use of the established statistical tools in the social and behavioral sciences may not be adequate to handle the volume and complexity of such data to make accurate and useful inferences. I am interested in extending several multivariate statistics beyond its current use in analyzing Big Data in the social and behavioral sciences.

For more details:
<http://mikewlcheung.github.io/>

SELECTED RECENT RESEARCH

Cheung, M. W. (2019). A guide to conducting a meta-analysis with non-independent effect sizes. *Neuropsychology Review*, 29(4), 387-396.



Meta-analysis refers to the statistical analysis of a large collection of analysis results. When there is a large pool of empirical studies on a similar topic, a meta-analysis can be used to synthesize the research findings in disciplines across behavioural, medical, and social sciences. Conventional meta-analytic procedures assume that effect sizes are independent. When effect sizes are not independent, conclusions based on these procedures can be misleading or even wrong. Both multivariate meta-analysis and three-level meta-analysis have been proposed to handle non-independent effect sizes.

This paper gives a brief introduction to these new techniques for applied researchers. The author highlights the benefits of using these methods to address non-independent effect sizes and illustrates how to apply these techniques with real data in R and Mplus. Overall, the paper concludes that the recent development of multivariate and three-level meta-analyses provides a good starting point for analyzing non-independent effect sizes.

Cheung, M. W. (2019). Some reflections on combining meta-analysis and structural equation modeling. *Research Synthesis Methods*, 10(1), 15-22.



Meta-analysis and structural equation modeling (SEM) are two of the most prominent statistical techniques employed in the behavioral, medical, and social sciences. While meta-analysis synthesizes research findings, SEM tests complex models with latent and observed variables. In this invited paper, the author gives his personal views on the historical development of combining these two methods in the forms of meta-analytic SEM (MASEM) and SEM-based meta-analysis. He also demonstrates how meta-analysis can be extended and integrated with other techniques to address new research questions. He concludes that meta-analysis has the potential to be a general tool for combining information in both primary research and research synthesis.

Feng, Q., Fong, J. H., Zhang, W., Liu, C., and Chen, H. (2020). Trends of Leisure Activities of Chinese Oldest-olds from 1998 to 2018. *American Journal of Public Health*.



Leisure activities have long been considered an important factor for healthy aging. Meaningful and purposeful leisure activities are associated with a wide range of positive outcomes for older adults, such as physical, mental and social well-being as well as reduced risks of mortality. The current research is however mostly focused on leisure-time physical activities of children, adolescents and adults. This study examines the trends of various leisure activity engagement among the oldest-old Chinese from 1998-2018, using the panel data from the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS).

The results reveal that, for the past two decades, the likelihood of TV-watching in Chinese oldest olds increased by about 2-3 times, exercising decreased by about 25%, social gaming and reading decreased by 20-30%, and doing housework has increased by about 40% among urban women. These findings suggest the Chinese elderly are more sedentary and solitary in daily life. The authors discuss the social and historical reasons for this negative trend, and call for a major shift of China aging policy, highlighting the promotion of lifestyle intervention as a cost-effective measure against increasing medical expense from the population aging.

Jiang, N., Lu, N., Sun, Q., & Lou, V. W. Q. (2020). Positive and negative experiences and life satisfaction among spousal caregivers for frail older adults in urban china: A parallel process model. *Age and Ageing*.



In China, approximately 8.61 million frail older adults need care and 55% of them receive care from their spouse. Spousal caregiving involves parallel processes of caregiving burden and positive appraisal. However, the positive and negative experiences are often examined independently. This study aims to empirically test a parallel process concept among spousal caregivers of frail partners in urban China. The authors reveal 2 paths towards life satisfaction: (1) activities of daily living were negatively associated with burden, and burden was associated with lower life satisfaction; and (2) spousal caregivers' self-reported health and financial state were positively associated with positive appraisal which was associated with higher life satisfaction.

The authors suggest that life satisfaction could be used as an indicator to determine whether services meet spousal caregivers' needs. The paper advocates for policies and interventions that promote positive views of caregiving. This would help health care professionals focus on the importance of adopting person- and family-centred and strengths-based care models that promote a high level of overall life satisfaction despite the hardships of their caregiving tasks.

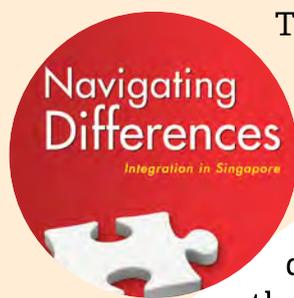
Jiang, N., & Kaushal, N. (2020). How children's education affects caregiving: Evidence from parent's last years of life. *Economics and Human Biology*, 38, 100875.



The last year of life is a critical period where the need for caregiving is high as older adults often experience significant functional and cognitive decline. This paper examines the relationship between adult children's education and their caregiving and financial support towards ageing parents in their last years of life. The authors report that having a college degree and above has a significantly positive association with financial and knowledge support provided for ageing parents. However, this is not the case for instrumental help where professional care may be needed.

The authors conclude that investment in children's education has long-term effects that could improve the health of older adults and lower cost of health care. The paper also discusses policy implications for stakeholders who work with older adults and their families.

Koh, G., Tan, E. S. & Chua, V. (2020), *The Future of the Middle Class in Singapore: 2020 and Beyond*. In Chong, T. (Ed) *Navigating differences: Integration in Singapore*, 222-245. Singapore: ISEAS.



This chapter discusses the changes that have occurred in Singapore's middle class, exploring its growth in Singapore since 1987. It charts the aspirations and achievements of the middle class, but considers the anxieties associated with their striving for social mobility. The authors have argued that if left to market forces, the class structure might end up a polarized one, with the hollowing out of the middle class into two distinctive groups of elites and non-elites. This narrative is set against the backdrop of rising costs of living, slowing intergenerational mobility, and social segregation. In addition, the authors have highlighted how social capital and the “parentocracy” has turned out to reinforce privileges within certain segments of the middle class. The chapter concludes that the state and society have to work towards socio-economic policies that ensure a more stable middle class.

Mohamad. M. (2020). *Perfecting the Family*. In Mohamad, M. (Ed) *The Divine Bureaucracy and Disenchantment of Social Life: A Study of Bureaucratic Islam in Malaysia*, 189-232. Singapore: Palgrave-Macmillan.



This chapter explores premises that underscore the quest for ‘perfecting’ the Islamic family, as envisioned by the Divine Bureaucracy, where one of its foremost priorities is the reformulation of syariah to embody a new Malay-Muslim masculinity and femininity. It examines contentious male-female syariah litigation, the teaching and learning of marriage and the judicial displacement of Muslim-non-Muslim family units, where one partner is Muslim and the other a non-Muslim. It also documents and analyses the evolution of syariah family laws over different periods of social reform.

Then, it explores how the perfection of the new Muslim family has also involved more affable routes such as the certification of mandatory marriage education courses before any Muslim marriage can take place. Through these courses, marriage is objectified as a set of skills and conduct that is teachable and learnt. The judicialisation of the Muslim-non-Muslim family is shown to have worked towards the disruption rather than the protection of family, and highlights the Divine Bureaucracy as the key agent of both family-making and unmaking.

Singh, L., Quinn, P. C., Qian, M., & Lee, K. (2020). *Bilingualism Is Associated With Less Racial Bias in Preschool Children*. *Developmental Psychology*, 56(5), 888–896.



Bilingualism is a relatively common experience for most children as they are raised in bilingual environments. Bilingual children have been shown to differ from monolingual children in various aspects of psychological development. However, very few studies have explored bilingualism and social interactions. This study investigates if monolingual and bilingual children demonstrate differences with respect to racial bias, an aspect of social functioning. It explores implicit and explicit biases against African race individuals in pre-schoolers.

The authors reveal that monolingual children exhibit greater implicit bias against African race individuals than bilingual children, independent of their native language. Evidence for monolingual-bilingual differences for explicit bias was less clear. Monolingual Chinese children exhibited greater explicit bias than bilingual children. Whereas, monolingual English children's explicit bias scores did not differ from those of bilingual children. The monolingual Chinese children were tested in China and the monolingual English children were tested in Singapore. This suggests that living in a multilingual society with inter-racial contact may buffer against explicit racial bias. Following this, the authors discuss the findings in terms of cognitive and experiential mechanisms that may link bilingualism and racial bias. Overall, the paper concludes that bilingual exposure may be associated with a lower level of racial bias compared with monolingual exposure.

Yeung, W. J., Yang, Y., & Kalleberg, A. L. (2020). Young People in Uncertain Labor Markets: International Evidence. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 688(1).



Persistently high rates of youth unemployment have been a global concern for more than two decades. One in five young people are not currently in education, employment, or training; and women, minorities, and individuals in lower socioeconomic populations are among the most vulnerable to becoming unemployed. Youth unemployment rates are on average three times as high as adult unemployment rates. This is because young people often lack the required skills, work experience, social network connections and economic resources to support them as they secure jobs.

This volume of *The ANNALS* examines young people's experience in Europe, East Asia, North and South America, and Central Asia. Focusing on regional inequalities and widespread trends, this volume both highlights the importance of youth integration into labor markets and outlines policy changes that are crucial for this integration to be successful.

Congratulations to CFPR's Graduating Research Scholars



Bi Yue

Master of Social Sciences (Psychology), NUS

Thesis Title: *Center-Based Child Care, Self-Regulation and Behavior Problems in Singaporean Preschoolers*

Supervisor: *Dr Ding Xiaopan*



Nawal Binti Mohamed Hashim

Master of Social Sciences (Psychology), NUS

Thesis Title: *The Influence of Family Socioeconomic status and Theory of Mind on Young Children's Prosocial Behaviour*

Supervisor: *Dr Rongjun Yu*

**Both theses were based on data from the Singapore Longitudinal EARly Development Study (SG LEADS)*

CFPR Former Interns Going Places

CFPR provides summer internships to local and international undergraduate students to gain practical work experience. Interns have opportunities to work with leading family and population researchers in NUS. We talked with our former interns—Lee Jieqi, Qin Si Celine and Claire Yunhan Xu—to find out what they are up to and how their internship experiences have enhanced their career paths.



Lee Jieqi

Manager (Identity and Integration) at Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)

How was your experience of being mentored by CFPR faculty members?

Jieqi: During my internship, I supported CFPR staff by reviewing demographic trends across Southeast Asian countries and China. I also helped organise Friday lunchtime seminars. The CFPR folks were very supportive and ensured that I had opportunities to hear from faculty members' sharing on their research findings. I also had opportunities to connect with CFPR research associates and postgraduate students.

attended a training program on longitudinal data analysis, and more. I interacted with faculty members regularly, and learned a lot from their comments and suggestions.

What is the fondest memory you have of interning in CFPR?

Jieqi: My fondest memory was exploring different lunch spots in NUS with the CFPR folks. I also had the opportunity to attend a workshop jointly organised by CFPR and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, where I was able to learn more about recent demographic and family changes in China, including how urban-rural mobility trends have impacted family structures and child development.

Celine: Prof. Yeung was kind and supportive throughout my internship at CFPR and my application to graduate school. Her knowledge, leadership, and genuine care for others provided me with a model for my career. I felt fortunate to be her mentee!

Celine: My [CFPR] colleagues were the best! Apart from our pleasant cooperation at work, I enjoyed the snacking break when I learned from my colleagues about preparing for an academic career, maintaining work-life balance, and Singapore's fun places to visit. CFPR is a warm and vibrant workplace where I always felt energized.



Qin Si Celine

Accepted into the Master's Program in Regional Studies (East Asia) at Harvard University

Claire: My experience at CFPR was very fruitful. I got the chance to work on various tasks. I analyzed data and got trained for conducting interviews for the SG LEADS project, collected materials for the newsletter, managed social media platforms,



Claire Yunhan Xu

Accepted into the Master's Program in Public Policy and Management, Data Analytics Track (MSPPM-DA) at Carnegie Mellon University

Claire: Trying different food for lunch [on campus and around NUS] was the highlight of my day! When I was an intern in CFPR, other CFPR members or interns would take me to have different food everyday at lunch break, like Malaysian food, Indian food, Singaporean food, Euro-Asian food that I never tried before.

How has CFPR helped in your career/research journey?

Jieqi: Through my internship, I was able to better appreciate how demographic trends like countries' fertility and ageing rates, along with population mobility and migration, have significant correlations with countries' economic and socio-cultural developments. This inspired me to consider how I could contribute towards national efforts to address demographic trends and their impact on Singapore, including integrating immigrants and other foreign-born groups in the Singapore community.

Celine: Assisting in the conference held by CFPR was eye-opening. It exposed me to a wide variety of research by pioneering scholars around the world. This drove me to make progress constantly in college. The routine work of data analysis and report writing at CFPR enhanced my research competency.

Claire: SG LEADS opened my eyes to how a big interdisciplinary project could be conducted by bringing together the wisdom of researchers and associates from all disciplines. I also realized the importance of research communication work which brought to the attention of the governments, think tanks & research organizations, the private sector, as well as the general public. In addition, CFPR reinforced my interest in data-informed policy-making and inspired me to pursue my passion further at Carnegie Mellon University.

Updates on CFPR Research Staff



**CFPR Research Associate
Gi Pasaraba Lori Jane Masil**

Accepted with Scholarship into a Master's Program in Sociology, University of Calgary, Canada



**CFPR Research Assistant
Steve Wang Zhiwen**

Accepted into a PhD program in Economics, University of Pittsburgh, United States

~ CONGRATS ~



Ganapathy Narayanan

*Associate Professor,
Department of
Sociology, NUS*

*Awarded the
Public Service Medal
(Pingat Bakti
Masyarakat)*



Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan

*Associate Professor,
Department of
Sociology, NUS, and
Co-Director, CFPR*

*Awarded the
Humanities and
Social Sciences (HSS)
Faculty Research
Fellowship from NUS
Office of the Deputy
President (Research
and Technology)*

PEOPLE

New Staff



Amy Teo Hui Qing
Research Associate



Ismail Shogo
Trainee
under A/P Feng Qiushi



Lily Seah
Research Assistant



Liow Jia Jie
Intern
under SG LEADS Project



Liu Jinhan
Research Scholar
Department of Sociology
(on CFPR PhD Research
Scholarship)



Nicole Chong
Trainee
under Prof Jean Yeung



Trivia Yeo
Trainee
under A/P Bussarawan
Teerawichitchainan

Academic Visitors



Bong Joo Lee
Dean of College of Social
Sciences, Seoul National
University and Editor in
Chief of Child Indicators
Research



Chong Keng Hua
Associate Professor,
Architecture and
Sustainable Design,
Singapore University of
Technology and Design



Jung-Hwa Ha
Professor, Department of
Social Welfare, Seoul
National University



Kyriakos S. Markides
Professor, Annie and John
Gnitzinger Distinguished
Professor of Aging,
Department of Preventive
Medicine and Population,
University of Texas



Sang-hoon Ahn
Professor, Department of
Social Welfare, Chair of
Institute for Global Social
Responsibility, Seoul
National University



Stephanie Kramer
Research Associate at
Pew Research Center



Wu Bei
Dean's Professor, Director,
Global Health & Aging
Research, Director for
Research, Hartford Institute
for Geriatric Nursing, Rory
Meyers College of Nursing,
New York University

ACTIVITIES



CFPR hosted 5 seminars in Jan-Feb 2020. Speakers from various universities shared findings and insights on their latest research projects. Due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, CFPR lunchtime seminars were temporarily suspended from mid-February to April and planned to resume in mid-August.



CFPR's Founding Director Prof Jean Yeung bringing our guests from Seoul National University—Prof Bong Joo Lee, Prof Sang-hoon Ahn and Prof Jung-Hwa Ha—around CFPR.

Asia Thinker Series Virtual Panel | 21 May 2020

The Asia Thinker Series is organised by Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS. The virtual panel of #AsiaThinkerSeries was held over Facebook Live. The panel explored the question “Will the Pandemic Make or Break the Family?” CFPR's Founding Director **Professor Jean Yeung** was one of the experts on this panel. The moderator for the panel was CFPR's Research Associate **Assistant Professor Tan Poh Lin**. Prof Yeung discussed the uneven impact on different types of families and how this pandemic has revealed where the weak points are in Singapore.



The 100 Year Lives in Asia Conversations Series | 2 July 2020

The University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong organised the 100 Year Lives in Asia Conversations Series. The episodes explore a variety of topics to address the changing needs of people and their families as they prepare to live longer lives, and also on challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of them. CFPR's Co-director **A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan** served as a panellist for the episode on ‘Responsibilities Across Generations’. She discussed the implications of demographic transitions for continuity and change in intergenerational support systems in Southeast Asian societies.



LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

CFPR Lunchtime Seminar Series will be held at 12 pm over Zoom from August 2020 to November 2020. Distinguished speakers from different institutions will be discussing a variety of topics.

14 August 2020

Development of Ageing Policies and Long Term Care Services in China

Speaker: Prof Du Peng, Institute of Gerontology, Renmin University of China

Moderator: Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung



2 October 2020

The digital divide is partly physical: A look at health-related difficulties in internet use among older Singaporeans

Speaker: Dr Shannon Ang, School of Social Sciences, NTU

Moderator: A/P Vincent Chua



28 August 2020

Affirmative Action in Malaysia and South Africa: Preference for Parity

Speaker: Dr Lee Hwok Aun, Regional Economic Studies, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Moderator: A/P Vincent Chua



16 October 2020

Can Social Media Use Help Young Adults Cope with Stress During the COVID-19 Pandemic? A Panel Survey in China

Speaker: Dr Jiang Shaohai, Department of Communications and New Media, NUS

Moderator: A/P Feng Qiushi



11 September 2020

Convergence and Divergence in Spouses' Time Expenditures on Paid Labor, Housework and Childcare during COVID-19: Evidence from Singapore

Speaker: Dr Tan Poh Lin, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

Moderator: A/P Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan



30 October 2020

Public and private safety nets for low-income families in Taipei and Shanghai: A qualitative examination

Speaker: Dr Wang Julia Shu-Huah, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong

Moderator: A/P Tan Ern Ser



18 September 2020

Adult Children's Transition to Marriage and Older Parents' Subjective Well-being

Speakers: Dr Hu Shu, Sociology Programme and Dr Ko Pei-Chun, Centre for University Core, SUSS

Moderator: Dr Mu Zheng



13 November 2020

Education as care labour: expanding our lens on the work-life balance problem

Speaker: A/P Teo You Yenn, Provost's Chair in Sociology, School of Social Sciences, NTU

Moderator: A/P Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan



For registration and more information about the seminars:

<https://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/events/seminars/index.html>

CFPR IN THE NEWS

4 Mar 2020 | Tap the potential of female labour to keep Singapore buzzing | The Straits Times

Singapore's female labour force participation (LFP) rate has stagnated at about 60% for the last 5 years. The government has done much over the years to encourage female LFP by helping working mothers and addressing caregiving issues. **Associate Professor Jessica Pan** commented that these measures can help ease constraints in work-life balance but are unlikely to succeed without "a fundamental change in the way work is organised". She noted the need for bold policies related to gender norms.

8 Mar 2020 | Becoming a mum later in life: Women share their joys and challenges | The Straits Times

Older mothers are on the rise, a phenomenon that sociologists say has been brewing worldwide for at least 30 years. **Professor Jean Yeung** said that the high level of education attained by women and their focus on career achievements play a role in the increase in older mothers. She pointed out that "Highly educated women want to achieve at work, but many institutions, such as the workplace and the family, have not caught up with this". Support for child-rearing and work-life balance from employers and from men at home is still lacking.



22 June 2020 | Women take on more childcare, even when in full-time work: Poll | The Straits Times

While 72% of Singaporean mothers with young children are working full-time, they are still taking on a lion's share of the childcare duties than men. **Professor Jean Yeung** shared new research findings from the Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS) which interviewed families of about 5,000 children aged 0-6 in 2019. On average, a child spent 3 hours 51 minutes engaged with the mother on a weekday and 1 hour 44 minutes with the father, although fathers spent more time with children on weekends. Prof Yeung urged encouraging fathers' involvement in childcare activities, especially on weekdays as findings clearly show its benefits for children's development, marital relations, and the fathers' well-being.

28 July 2020 | Number of births edges up after 8-year low in 2018 | The Straits Times



Latest statistics show an increase between 2018 and 2019 in the number of registered births as well as deaths in Singapore. Regarding the trends in births, **Professor Jean Yeung** explained that "the increase may reflect couples catching up after years of postponing child-bearing". She also articulated that this could be because of greater subsidies provided by the Government to assist fertility treatments. Furthermore, **Associate Professor Tan Ern Ser** commented that due to Singapore's rapidly ageing population, the increase in the number of deaths would be in an upward trajectory.

SUPPORT CFPR



CFPR is dedicated to conducting evidence-based, policy-relevant and inter-disciplinary research in the study of trends, determinants, and consequences of family and population changes around the world, particularly in Asia. CFPR needs your support to train the next generation of research leaders, and shape the development of healthy children, youth and families.

Your donation will be used to:

- ▶ Support the education and development of students through research scholarships
- ▶ Provide capacity training in policy relevant research related to family and population issues
- ▶ Bridge academic research with policy making to promote the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Singapore and Asia
- ▶ Conduct research to strengthen inclusive multi-ethnic societies through healthy families and population

Key research areas:

- ▶ Ageing and Health
- ▶ Children and Youth Development
- ▶ Fertility, Marriage and Family Policies
- ▶ Gender Relations
- ▶ Intergenerational Relations and Transfers
- ▶ Migration, Human Capital and Labour Market
- ▶ Population and Household Dynamics
- ▶ Social Stratification and Inequality



**Singapore tax residents will receive a 2.5 times tax deduction for donations made in 2020*

We appreciate the confidence that all of our donors, members and readers have placed in our work in the past years. We will strive to reach greater heights and look forward to working with you in 2020.

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