

LINEAGE NETWORKS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN RURAL CHINA



A/PROF FELICIA F. TIAN

Felicia F. Tian is an A/Prof of Sociology in Fudan University, China. Her research interests include social networks and social capital, marriage and family, and Chinese society from historical and comparative perspectives. Her recent project examined how lineage networks affect education opportunities in rural China. Her research has appeared in *Social Networks*, *Chinese Sociological Review*, and *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

CHAIRER BY: DR MU ZHENG
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

DATE: 24 AUGUST 2018
TIME: 12.00 NN - 1.30PM
VENUE: VENTUS EVANS ROOM

Refreshments will be served !

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Since the 2000s, Chinese government launched a policy initiative to massively close primary and secondary schools in rural China ("Chen Dian Bing Xiao", dismantling teaching points and merging schools, school-merger thereafter). Between 2001 and 2010, over half of the rural teaching points and primary schools, as well as a third of secondary schools, were closed. The public is mired in debate about the potential cures, but the focus is majorly about reforms on the school side; Villagers' voices and lived experiences during the school merger have not fully been brought to bear in the debate. This talk will explore how rural residents make collective effort to preserve their schools and highlight the role of lineage networks in preserving education resources in rural China.

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