The CFPR newsletter is published bi-annually by the Centre for Family and Population Research, 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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Contact us:

6601 5387  cfpr@nus.edu.sg  fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/
RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING PROGRAM IN 2021

CFPR provides training courses that cover a wide range of topics in social science research methods. Our courses enable participants to gain a deeper understanding of the techniques used in social science research. Training courses will be held in NUS Kent Ridge Campus from May to early August 2021. Subsidies from SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) for eligible participants are pending approval.

COURSE LIST

(BASIC) ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS
Social Research Design: Survey and Fieldwork
Questionnaire & Sampling Design
Introduction to Qualitative Research
Quantitative Data Analysis I with SPSS
Data Visualization with R

(INTERMEDIATE) SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS
Mixed Methods Research
Introduction to GIS
Quantitative Data Analysis II: Multivariate Regression
Qualitative Data Analysis: Theory and Practice
Computer-assisted Analysis of Qualitative Data
Analyzing Social Media Data (NEW)
Qualitative Methods of Textual and Visual Research: Content and Discourse Analysis (NEW)

(ADVANCED) SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS
Longitudinal Data Analysis
Policy Impact Evaluation
Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis with R (NEW)
Qualitative Analytics for Business and Policy-Making (NEW)

*The course listing is subject to further updates
CFPR’S 2020 TRAINING PROGRAM

Our training program in social research methods was carried out successfully, from September to December 2020, after the phase 2 reopening in Singapore. We held 16 training courses ranging from basic to advanced levels. 215 participants attended our courses. We had participants from government organisations (e.g. Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law, Ministry of Manpower and Public Transport Council) and private organisations (e.g. Changi General Hospital, Continental Automotive Singapore, DSO National Laboratories and TOUCH Community Services). Participants expressed that the courses were useful, interesting, comprehensible and directly applicable to their work scopes.

The way the lecture is conducted, through examples from the Lecturer’s own research or examples that we can relate to, to try to imagine and understand the theory.

- A participant from Social Research Methods

Having group discussions to work on a policy idea and the prof going around to ask critical questions has been helpful

- A participant from Policy Impact Evaluation
**UPCOMING SEMINARS**

In 2021, between January and April, our [CFPR Lunchtime Seminar Series](#) will be conducted online, on Fridays, from 12pm to 1pm over Zoom. We have organized a distinguished group of researchers from leading institutions in Singapore and beyond, who will share their research on topics related to family, population, gender and inequality.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Seminar Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>15 January 2021</td>
<td>Fertility Decline and Trends in Educational Gender Inequality in China.</td>
<td>Prof Wu Xiaogang, Director, Center for Applied Social and Economic Research; Yufeng Global Professor of Social Science, NYU Shanghai; Professor of Sociology, NYU</td>
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<td>12 March 2021</td>
<td>Transcendent Parenting in Asia’s Digitally-connected Families.</td>
<td>Prof Lim Sun Sun, Communications and Technology, Head of Humanities and Arts and Social Sciences, SUTD</td>
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<td>22 January 2021</td>
<td>The Roads One Must Walk Down: Journey to Work and Depression for Beijing’s Residents.</td>
<td>Dr Wang Xize, Asst. Professor Dept of Real Estate, NUS</td>
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<td>19 March 2021</td>
<td>Wealth Accumulation by Marital Sorting on Own Education and Parental Education: The Case of Hypogamy in Contemporary China.</td>
<td>Dr Cheng Cheng, Asst. Professor, School of Social Sciences, SMU</td>
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<td>29 January 2021</td>
<td>A Neuroscience Perspective on Inequity Aversion Behavior in Singaporean Preschoolers.</td>
<td>Dr Natassja Fischer, Research Associate, SG LEADS, CFPR, NUS</td>
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<td>26 March 2021</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Dr Mathew Mathews, Senior Research Fellow, Head, Social Lab LKYSPP, NUS</td>
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<td>5 February 2021</td>
<td>The Race between Technological Progress and Female Advancement: Changes in Gender and Skill Premia in OECD Countries.</td>
<td>Prof Ken Yamada, Economics, Kyoto University</td>
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<td>31 March 2021</td>
<td>How Does Lived Religion Work? Testing a Reciprocal Relationship Between Religious Service Attendance and Religious and Secular Organizational Activities</td>
<td>A/Prof Joonmo Son, Dept of Sociology, NUS</td>
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<td>19 February 2021</td>
<td>Delay of Gratification in Preschool-Aged Children in Singapore: The Contributions of Family Processes and the Influences on Behavioral Development and Academic Achievement.</td>
<td>Dr Chen Luxi, Postdoctoral Fellow, SG LEADS, CFPR, NUS</td>
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<td>16 April 2021</td>
<td>Early Marriage and Health of Women in Later Life: A Multicounty Study.</td>
<td>Dr Kriti Vikram, Asst. Professor Dept of Sociology, NUS</td>
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<td>5 March 2021</td>
<td>Opting Out or Left Out? Gendered Pathways to Singlehood in South Korea.</td>
<td>A/Prof Paul Chang, Dept of Sociology, Harvard University</td>
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<td>23 April 2021</td>
<td>Intergenerational Contact Zones: Place-Based Strategies for Promoting Social Inclusion and Belonging.</td>
<td>A/Prof Thang Leng Leng Head of the Dept of Japanese Studies, NUS</td>
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*Time: 10.30am - 11.30am (SGT)*
Featured Publications


This study aims to investigate the statistical relationship between husbands’ empowerment and wives’ empowerment. It uses panel data from Bangladesh that include over 4,000 husband-wife pairs and a domain-based framework to capture the multidimensional nature of empowerment. The findings reveal that the interplay between spouses’ empowerment varies across domains. Although husbands and wives act as partners with regard to community influence and daily workload adequacy, they act as rivals with regard to input in productive decisions and ownership of assets. Additionally, the authors identify that wives’ empowerment is positively correlated with their income and employment. Husbands’ empowerment is positively correlated with their household wealth but negatively correlated with their wives’ employment.


This special issue provides insights into the various conditions that lead to the dissolution of families and remarriages and how these reshape family life in Asia. The eight empirical articles in this issue explore re-partnerships, remarriages and stepfamilies across societies in East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia drawing on both quantitative and qualitative approaches. This helps to facilitate cross-cultural comparisons within Asia, and between Asia and the West. Moreover, these papers shed light on the diverse experiences in re-partnership pathways that are affected by broader social...
categories such as class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion and historicity. Seeking to account for the impact on the well-being of adults and children, this special issue documents changes in familial ties, spousal relationships and parenting roles in various socio-political and cultural context across Asian societies.


The temporality of resistance is one of interregna. Resistance wins, loses, and draws, while old and new power relations continuously rise and fall, being entrenched and resurrected as they are contested and usurped. Just as power radiates from all over, from the state, law, other social institutions, and relationships, resistance is diffused across yet vested in individuals and groups, moving in solidarity through interconnected pasts, presents, and futures. “Interregna” thus resonates with contemporary theories about the multi-sited nature of power, but expands the scope of attention to temporal heterogeneity. It sees resistance as a great host crossing lands, seas, and times. Protests in this political moment are connected by their fury and determination to overcome injustice, as well as by histories and memories to struggles that came before. “Interregna” also keeps us alert to unknown wrongs that lie ahead, and the need to fight ceaselessly for progressive justice. Understanding resistance as interregna, we sharpen our appreciation for law and power, and the manner by which we study legal mobilization, legal consciousness, and social change.


This book presents findings on the situation of social capital in Singapore today by studying the personal networks of some 3,000 respondents from the resident population. The study finds that while people are more likely to know someone from a different racial and religious group, they are also far more likely to know someone from the same social class. The emerging class circles leads the authors to examine the institutional and cultural sources of these patternings as well as to ask how social cohesion can be achieved in a system of meritocracy that opens opportunities for all, but yet also sorts people according to their achievements. Over time, distinctive circles differentiating social elites from non-elites and the professional classes from non-professional classes have emerged. The authors propose network diversity as a solution and present empirical results from the research on the power of network diversity and bridging social capital for integrating communities.


Using data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey from 1989 to 2006, this paper examines the effects of child’s gender on parental joint time allocation between the labour market and the household. The results reveal that the birth of sons rather than daughters significantly reduces time spent on household chores by mothers. Thus, the authors argue that due to son preference in rural China, mothers with sons, especially
first-born sons, are glorified by their families and gain higher intra-household bargaining power. However, the effects of children’s sex composition on fathers’ time allocation and mothers’ time for labour-market activities are weak or mixed. Overall, the paper finds that child’s gender can have a significant impact on parental time allocation in rural China.


This handbook studies the importance of modernization and globalization for understanding gender in Asia by bringing together a wide range of scholarly perspectives on five critical areas in the field: ageing and health; labour; migrations and mobilities; gender at the margins, and the theory and practice of researching in Asia. This volume demonstrates the difference a gendered perspective makes in providing a better understanding of these issues in Asia by identifying gaps in current research, and by using both qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the topic. Using empirical case studies, contributors highlight the challenges and changes to cultured traditions and practices that characterize gendered norms surrounding the societal roles of men and women in Asia. Overall, this volume provides nuanced insights to socio-political currents in Asian countries.


This study investigates the effect of coresidence with the husband's or the wife's parents on the division of household labour between couples in China. The authors examine how life course, education, hukou, and the gender composition of coresiding parents moderate the relationship between intergenerational coresidence and division of household labour. While patrilocal coresidence (staying with husband's parents) dominates in both rural and urban China, matrilocal coresidence (staying with wife's parents) is increasingly common in urban China. Based on four waves of the China Family Panel Studies, both patrilocal and matrilocal coresidence seem to widen the within-couple gender gap in housework time among urban hukou holders. Among rural hukou holders, neither patrilocal nor matrilocal coresidence significantly influences how much time the husband spent on housework. In conclusion, the authors suggest that coresidence with the husband's or the wife's parents may exacerbate gender inequality in housework division.


In this study, the authors assess how Chinese middle-school adolescents allocate their time, how time-use activities are associated with their developmental outcomes and how gender affects the relationship between time use and developmental outcomes. Examining a national sample of middle-school adolescents in China, this study confirms that Chinese adolescents spend most of their waking hours on academic pursuits. Although time spent on homework and tuition enhanced academic performance and educational aspirations, it also increased depressive
symptoms. The results also show gender differences where girls spend more time on academic activities and housework than boys who spend more time on leisure activities and after-school sports. The authors urge society-wide policies to address the persistent gender bias that disadvantages girls from early ages. Overall, this study shows that a balanced time allocation is crucial for the all-round development of children.


Exposure to disaster and armed conflict heightens cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk. The paper examines how stressors of war exert a lasting impact upon population health, particularly the CVD risk of war survivors now entering older adulthood. Based on the 2018 Vietnam Health and Aging Study, findings suggest that exposure to wartime combat and violence, as well as malevolent living conditions, exhibit significant, positive associations with cardiovascular conditions. Moreover, the authors discuss how war-related stress and health consequences are gendered whereby women may bear disproportionate long-term health penalty. In conclusion, the paper provides evidence on the linkages between specific, individual-level war exposures and CVD risk which allows identification of groups at risk and subsequent prevention and treatment on the various ways armed conflict shapes CVD risk for men and women.


This study examines whether different types of involvement in bullying were associated with alcohol and marijuana use for female and male adolescents. The study shows that females were more likely to be victims of both traditional bullying and cyberbullying, while males were more likely to be bullies and bully-victims of traditional bullying and cyberbullying. Furthermore, the study reveals that although some forms of involvement in bullying were associated with alcohol and marijuana use, some of these associations became non-significant when considering social-ecological covariates. Being a traditional bully-victim increased the risk of alcohol use for males. While, being a traditional bully and cyberbullying victim increased the risk of alcohol use for females. In addition, being a cyberbully increased the risk of marijuana use for males. The authors also discuss the effect of parental monitoring, characteristics of peers and ethnicity on the risk of alcohol and marijuana use for both sexes. Overall, the study findings suggest that the dynamics of behavioural problems (e.g. bullying involvement) need to be understood within holistic contexts.


South Korean older adults work beyond their statutory pension age compared with other
countries in the OECD. While the official retirement age is 60, the effective average retirement age is 70. This is because half of Koreans aged 65 and above live in poverty. This study investigates work experiences over their life course and family circumstances. The authors found that skilled manual workers, compared to nonmanual workers, are less likely to retire and more likely to re-enter the workforce, after retirement. Those who are self-employed are more likely to retire later. The authors also show that nonmarried and divorced women are likely to retire later, compared to married women. Overall, the paper highlights a need to provide various types of social support to older job seekers, especially to those with low-class jobs and those without family networks.


Through the gender lens, this chapter compares and contrasts the recent situation of older women and men in Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand based on recent nationally representative ageing surveys in respective countries. The authors assess whether gender disparities exist among successive cohorts of older persons and how they vary across three broad well-being indicators including health status and receipt of personal care, economic well-being, and social connectedness. Findings suggest that gender differences in old-age well-being depend on the type of indicators and how these indicators are measured. Evidence points to the importance of socio-demographic factors (including living arrangements) as well as societal contexts (such as economic development levels, fertility trends, and government policies). The chapter concludes that a more balanced perspective that allows for both male and female disadvantages to be addressed might be a more effective way to address the needs of the current and future generations of older persons.


This article examines the link between paternal migration and children's academic achievement, using the 2005 and 2012 waves of the national India Human Development Panel Survey (IHDS). Additionally, it investigates if fathers' migration is associated with increased investments in children's education and time spent on educational activities. It finds that current and long-term migration of the father is positively associated with children's education. Sons of migrant fathers demonstrate higher reading and arithmetic achievement, benefit from more significant education expenditure, and spend more time on educational activities than sons of non-migrant fathers. Daughters of migrant fathers exhibit higher reading skills and receive higher education investments but are no different from daughters of non-migrant fathers in time spent on educational activities and arithmetic achievement. The results show that sons experience a more robust remittance effect, but it is promising to note that girls also benefit from their fathers' migration.

This chapter reviews the recent literature on how intergenerational support, living arrangements, and elderly care are associated with ageing-related health outcomes among the Chinese elderly. Based on the review, this chapter highlights two research gaps: (1) the lack of a gender perspective in understanding ageing and health in quantitative studies; (2) the relative absence of qualitative studies to further the theoretical understanding of micro-level gendered experiences of ageing. The second part of the chapter uses five waves of the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (2002 to 2014) to discuss the socio-demographic characteristics of China's ageing population as well as the prevalence of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) limitations, cognitive impairment, emotional distress and self-reported chronic diseases in the Chinese population aged 60 and above, with a specific focus on gender.


This study aims to understand the prevalence and characteristics of individuals aged 16 to 35 who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and the risk factors associated with being in NEET in China. The analysis uses the 2012 China Labor-Force Dynamics Survey to show that the NEET rate was 8 percent during the study period. The results indicate that women were more likely to be in NEET. Married women and female migrants had significantly higher risks of being in NEET, with migration having opposite effects for men and women. Education had protective effects against being in NEET, especially for women. Age had a nonlinear effect, with individuals aged 22 to 25 at the highest risk of being in NEET. In conclusion, the author discusses the implications for public policy and directions for future studies on NEET in China.


Early childhood is a crucial period for human development that has long-term implications for one's life trajectories. During the years before formal schooling, brain size and structures, as well as cognitive abilities, undergo rapid development. In China, however, there is no established reliable early childhood achievement test that can be used in a study. This study validates an achievement test for Chinese preschoolers. The authors analyze data from a nationally representative sample of children aged three to six who participated in the Zhang-Yeung Test of Achievement for Chinese Children (ZY-TACC) in 2012. The instrument consists of a 28-item verbal test and a 24-item numeracy test. It exhibits ample ability to distinguish among children of different ages and varying family backgrounds in ways consistent with previous literature. The authors demonstrate that the ZY-TACC is a psychometrically robust, culturally and contextually appropriate instrument for assessing Chinese preschool children's achievement. The instrument can make a significant contribution to research on early childhood development in China.
Dr Mu Zheng is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, NUS. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 2013. She was a joint postdoctoral fellow in the Asia Research Institute and the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) at NUS from 2015-2016. Her research interests lie at the intersection of trends, social determinants and consequences of marriage and family behaviours, with a special focus on how marriage and family have served as major inequality-generating mechanisms. Her research draws on both quantitative and mixed methods. She has published in international journals such as Demographic Research, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Social Indicators Research, and Social Science Research. We spoke to her to find out more about her research expertise.

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

I aim to understand the multifaceted interactions between individuals, families, and social contexts, and how they jointly shape patterns of social inequality. Particularly, it is thrilling to uncover the nuances and fluidity in changes of gender norms and ideals. My ongoing research projects examine how internal migration, interactions between gender inequality and intergenerational inequality, and interactions between gender norms and socioeconomic context shape individuals’ time use patterns, family experiences, and well-being in China. Based on these research projects, I hope to show the social importance of families beyond its relevance to the private sphere and demonstrate how families shape social inequalities across gender, socioeconomic status, and family origins.

How may your research related to gender inform policies in Singapore and beyond?

Findings from several of my research projects reached the consensus that gender inequality cannot be effectively weakened without changes in people’s mindsets. Policy changes and practical arrangements can only be helpful in the short run and may even perpetuate gender inequality in a disguised manner. For example, according to a recently published work by Dr Hu Shu and myself, we found that living together with elderly parents may not reduce burdens of housework for women or alleviate the unequal division of housework across gender in China. Instead, it is essentially the transmission of housework within women across generations. This sustains the gendered division of labour within households. While younger and better-educated women are focusing on paid labour, older generations of women are shouldering more household responsibilities.

What are your thoughts on how the COVID-19 pandemic may impact co-residents’ behaviors based on a gender lens?

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the time we spend at home and thus the amount of housework and caregiving. Of course, given that both genders work from home more often nowadays, this newly emerging situation opens more space for potential negotiations for more equal divisions of household responsibilities. Yet, with the ideologies emphasizing women’s roles as homemakers largely entrenched and prevalent, for many families, the increased workload within the household are disproportionately borne by women.
Dr Kriti Vikram on Child Development Outcomes

Kriti Vikram is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, NUS. She received her PhD from the University of Maryland in 2015. One stream of her research focuses on the intergenerational transfer of (dis)advantage in health and cognitive development of children. A second stream evaluates the role of governmental intervention in children’s development. A third focuses on familial and contextual factors shaping women’s health, fertility, and contraceptive use in developing countries. As a graduate student at the University of Maryland, she was involved with the India Human Development Panel Survey. She has published in Demography, World Development, Health & Place, Social Science Research, Social Science & Medicine, amongst others. We spoke to her to find out more about her research expertise.

Could you tell us more about your recent research focus?

I am working on multiple projects. One investigates how fathers’ migration affects the health and academic achievement of left-behind children in India. Another assesses gender differences in children’s time-use patterns. A third evaluates how early marriage impacts later-life health of women in India and other developing countries.

What has your experience been so far in conducting/executing these projects?

It has been an exciting journey, and I am learning a great deal about gender preferences in India. This was not something I initially sought to do, but my empirical results compelled me to investigate further. For instance, in a recent paper on fathers’ migration and children’s outcomes forthcoming in the International Migration Review, I found boys are the primary beneficiaries of the household’s economic and social remittances. Daughters also gained from their father’s migration, but the gains are significantly lower than those obtained by sons. In other work, I discovered male privilege extends to how time is structured – boys spend considerably more time in school and leisure activities than girls in India. Girls spend more time on household chores and care work and less time in school and play. In the event of economic shocks experienced by households, such as crop failures, girls are more likely to engage in paid and care work. In a paper published in World Development, I evaluated the medium-term impact of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in early childhood on subsequent cognitive achievement among children in India. I found that food supplementation, immunization, and health interventions received by children through this governmental program proved to be vital in overcoming inequalities in the intra-household distribution of resources, as girls gained disproportionately more from the program. The results suggest the Indian government has a tremendous role to play in levelling the playing field for girls.

Can you explain your motivation behind your recent papers?

As a child, visiting my father’s natal village in a backward agricultural region in north India was an eye-opening experience. My parents started a charitable school here where they had to go door-to-door to convince parents to send their daughters to school. Parents willingly sent sons, but education was deemed unnecessary for daughters, who were expected to marry early and remain “within the four walls of their homes”. Given these early experiences, it is no surprise that I pursued sociology and social development as a calling. In my first job, I worked on adolescent health issues in rural West Bengal, India. The most pressing issue facing female adolescents was early marriage and motherhood. When I learned about the Sociology of the Life Course as a PhD student, the theoretical links between early marriage and later-life health slowly took shape in my mind. After coming to Singapore, I became interested in the lives of migrant workers and the implications of their migration for their left-behind families. As evident, several of my academic papers are an outcome of this experiential journey.
LUNCHETIME SEMINARS ON GENDER IN SINGAPORE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CFPR has engaged in hosting our lunchtime seminar series online where speakers from various institutions shared findings and insights on their latest research projects to a wide-ranging audience. In 2020, we hosted 10 lunchtime online seminars that had a total of 570 participants in attendance from various countries.

11 Sep 2020: Convergence and Divergence in Spouses’ Time Expenditures on Paid Labour, Housework and Childcare during COVID-19: Evidence from Singapore by Dr Tan Poh Lin, Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew, School of Public Policy, NUS

Dr Tan provided insights into the changes and gender gap in spouses’ time expenditures on paid labour, housework and childcare using data that was collected before, during and after the circuit breaker (COVID-19 lockdown) in Singapore. She discussed how the gap in time spent on paid work had decreased while the gap for time spent on housework increased. For childcare, the gap in time spent decreased slightly as fathers became more involved. The study also looked into how factors such as the presence of a domestic helper, length of marriage and number of children affected patterns of time expenditure.

13 Nov 2020: Education as Care Labour: Expanding our Lens on The Work-Life Balance Problem by A/Prof Teo You Yenn, Provost’s Chair in Sociology, School of Social Sciences, NTU

A/Prof Teo shared interesting insights into how the Singapore’s education system’s demands are a major component of contemporary care labour for parents. She discussed how parental practices for children's schooling needs have effects on how gender is experienced manifested in the family for both adults and children. She concluded that looking into policy effects in the area of education as care labour will help draw attention to the ways in which gender shapes pathways and familial practices and how gender norms solidify layers of practice.

Fun fact: Since its inception in 2014, CFPR has hosted 130 lunchtime seminars
Our postdoctoral fellows Dr Chen Xuejiao and Dr Jiyeon Lee presented their findings from the SG LEADS project during our Lunchtime Seminar Series. 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 is embarking on its second wave of data collection.

9 Oct 2020: Family SES and Young Singaporean Children's Achievement by Dr Chen Xuejiao, Postdoctoral Fellow, CFPR, NUS

Dr Chen presented the extent to which parents’ education and income contribute to the achievement gap in Singaporean preschool children through parenting beliefs, behaviours and children’s agency. She drew a sample of 2,168 children aged 4 to 6 years in the SG LEADS Wave 1 dataset. She found that children of the lowest income quartile fall behind their peers of highest income quartile by 0.85 SD in numeracy test and 0.65SD in the verbal test. Children with less-educated parents (secondary and below) underperform their peers with highly-educated parents (university and above) by 0.76SD on numeracy score and 0.69SD on the verbal score.

She suggests that parents with varying socioeconomic status (SES) hold varying values and educational expectations of their children, and have different practices of socialization, plans and investment behaviour in children. Specifically, parents with low income and education
invest less in children’s learning materials and shared-activities with children. They tend to have higher instrumental values and low educational aspirations for their children, and less likely to set boundaries for children’s activities. Data also reveal that children in low-SES families have lower self-regulation skills than their better-off counterparts. All of these are predictive of preschool children’s verbal and numeracy skills. Furthermore, parental attitudes influence parenting behaviours, which in turn, links to children’s self-regulation. She concluded that parental beliefs, parenting behaviours and children’s agency are interlinked and emphasized the importance of early home environments and the intergenerational roots of achievement gaps.

23 Oct: SES Differentials in Singaporean Preschoolers’ Time Use Patterns by Dr Lee Jiyeon, Postdoctoral Fellow, CFPR, NUS

Dr Lee discussed how parents’ socioeconomic status shapes the time allocation of preschool children aged 0-6. Her data were drawn from the novel children’s time diary data collected in the SG LEADS project. She analyzed 5,011 children’s weekday and weekend diaries and identified factors that explain the differences in time allocation among children of different family characteristics.

Her analysis uncovers the finding that children of better-educated parents spent more time in achievement-oriented activities, and less time on electronic devices. She also revealed that children of employed mothers spent more time on school/daycare, less time in achievement-oriented activities, electronic devices, and sports on weekdays but not on weekends. She noted that the increasing assortative mating in Singapore may contribute to a more polarized society through the divergent pattern of intergenerational transfers of resources to children. She concluded that policy interventions to reduce time-use gaps in early childhood are needed.
INTERNATIONAL e-SYMPOSIUMS

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, CFPR has engaged in hosting international e-symposiums to highlight various ongoing policy-relevant research that has attracted participants from all over the world. In December 2020, we held 2 webinars with about 675 registrations in total. Our audience represented over 35 countries with the majority from Indonesia, Philippines, India, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan, and other countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tehran, Timor-Leste, UK, USA and Vietnam.

The Impact of the Pandemic on Family Life in Asia | 17 December 2020

On 17 December 2020, CFPR and the College of Public Policy, Hamad Bin Khalifa University co-organised the webinar on The Impact of the Pandemic on Family Life in Asia. The webinar discussed the findings of an international research project “The Impact of the Pandemic on Family Life Across Cultures”. About 250 participants from various countries registered for the webinar. We were joined by 3 moderators and 3 panellists. CFPR’s Founding Director Prof Jean Yeung was one of the moderators. They discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s and parents’ mental health, parent-child relationships, coping strategies, family resilience and family policies in Malaysia, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Singapore.

Financial Adequacy among Older People in Selected Asian Countries | 10 December 2020

On 10 December 2020, Asian Population Association (APA) and CFPR co-hosted the webinar on Financial Adequacy among Older People in Selected Asian Countries. We were joined by 5 distinguished speakers from the Nihon University (Japan), Universitas Indonesia, National University of Singapore, Singapore University of Social Sciences, and the University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences (Iran). The webinar discussed the question “with deteriorating marketable skill, weakening health, disappearing filial piety, and limited government support, what is the prospect on living with dignity among Older People?” About 424 participants from a variety of countries registered for the webinar. CFPR’s Co-Director A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan was one of the panellists for the webinar. She presented on the “Expansion of Thailand’s social pension policy and its implications for family support for older persons”.
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Economic and Social Impacts of Population Ageing: China in a Global Perspective | 30 November – 3 December 2020

Co-organised by East Asian Institute, NUS, the conference explored how China’s quest for modernisation plays out amidst rapid population ageing, how economic and social innovations come about, how life courses are re-organised and how ageing norms are re-formulated. A/P Feng Qiushi presented on the “Rural Vitalization, Population Aging and Toilet Revolution in China”. Prof Jean Yeung presented on the “Trends, Challenges, and Research in Aging and Elderly Care in Asia”.

Singapore Research Nexus Virtual Event | 26 November 2020

A/P Vincent Chua presented on elite schools and neighbourhoods in Singapore (“Getting Ahead in Singapore: How Neighbourhoods, Gender, and Ethnicity Affect Enrollment into Elite Schools”) during the panel session “Pedagogy, Education and Development”, alongside other panellists from NUS: Dr Lee Li Neng (Chair), A/P Chris McMorran and Dr Kamalini Ramdas.

Emerging Dimensions of Marriage in Asia | 19-20 November 2020

The E-conference was organised by Asia Research Institute via Zoom, bringing together scholars from multiple disciplines to broaden our understanding of the rapidly changing patterns and issues related to marriage in the different regions of Asia. Prof Jean Yeung was one of the conference convenors and speakers. A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan, Dr Kriti Vikram, Dr Mu Zheng and our PhD Research Scholar Shuya Lu were part of distinguished list of panellists.

Managing Demographic Change in Southeast Asia: Challenges and Issues amidst the ‘New Normal’ | 19-20 November 2020

The [online] workshop organised by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and supported by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, addressed the well-known demographic phenomenon of ageing societies. A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan was one of the panellists in this workshop. She presented on “Measuring Productive Aging in Southeast Asia: Some Reflections from Comparative Analyses of Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand”.

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Understanding and Supporting Low-Income Families during COVID-19 and its Aftermath | 18 November 2020

The webinar was part of the NUS Giving Webinar Series organised by the NUS Development Office. Prof Jean Yeung was one of the distinguished speakers for the webinar. Together with the other panellists, she discussed the challenges low-income families face during these difficult times and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

GSA 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting | 4-7 November 2020

The GSA 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting was organised online by the Gerontological Society of America. The meeting brought together researchers, educators, scientists, health care professionals and industry experts to address the most pressing issues in the field of aging. In this year’s meeting, A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan presented her research study titled the "expansion of Thailand's social pension policy and its implications for family support for older persons".

Global Family Change, Demographic Challenges, and Human Development | 29 October 2020

Prof Jean Yeung gave a live talk on "Global Family Change, Demographic Challenges, and Human Development" at the NUS PhD eOpen Day Forum. She shared her research on demographic challenges, human development and social inequality, noting the inequalities by socioeconomic status, gender, age, and race. She also discussed results from the SG LEADS project on early childhood development.

Going Solo in China: Trends in the Next Three Decades | 23 October 2020

In this webinar, Prof Jean Yeung explained the prevalence and characteristics of those who will live alone in China in the next three decades based on projections using the ProFamy Extended Cohort-component Method.


This was part of the CASER Research Seminar Series organised by NYU Shanghai. Prof Jean Yeung discussed some results of the SG LEADS project focusing attention on children's time diaries and the Woodcock-Johnson achievement tests.

Productive Longevity Workshop | 22-23 September 2020

CFPR affiliates Prof Jean Yeung, A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan, A/P Feng Qiushi, A/P Thang Leng Leng, A/P Roger Ho and Dr Yi Huso were speakers in the 2-day online workshop organised by the proposed Centre for Productive Longevity, NUS.
CFPR hosted a virtual happy hour for our staff to e-connect while working from home, catch up on the centre's activities, welcome new staff and bid farewell to staff who were leaving.
**CFPR IN THE NEWS**

**27 October 2020 | Hello Singapore: Singaporean Fathers Taking Paternity Leave | Channel 8**

**Prof Jean Yeung** gave an interview about Singaporean fathers taking paternity leave. She shared results from the 2019 SG LEADS. She mentioned that 66.4% of the dads in families with a child under 7 took the paid paternity leave when their child was born. Prof Yeung pointed out that fathers with higher education and occupational status are more likely to take paternity leave.

**30 October 2020 | Co-ops Connect with Partners to Do Well and Do Good | The Business Times**

In this Op-Ed, **A/P Vincent Chua** writes about the role of social enterprises in Singapore as an institution that sets out to do well (raises revenues) in order to do good (serve the community). These dual goals are achieved by connecting with partners within and across social enterprises, including with corporations. By meeting needs in the community, social enterprises have a direct and important role mitigating social inequalities.

**12 November 2020 | Lost Opportunities for Asia’s Lockdown Generation | Bloomberg News**

**Prof Jean Yeung** was interviewed by Bloomberg where she discussed ways the pandemic is making the impact of economic recession on young people much worse compared to other age groups. She warns that the impact of this crisis may strain relations with older generations and put young people's mental health at risk. She also discussed women being forced into unpaid labour as they fall out of the workforce.

**5 December 2020 | Are we ready to talk about race? | The Straits Times**

**A/P Tan Ern Ser** shares his expert opinion on how conversations about race should be conducted in Singapore. He points out the potential drawbacks of unmediated discussions on race on online and offline platforms. He encourages open and respectful conversations which consider different perspectives and aim to resolve the problems that are identified during such discussions.

**19 December 2020 | Awesome, Weird and Everything Else | The Economist**

**Prof Jean Yeung** explains how “Because girls often perform better than boys, parents start to have higher expectations and invest more in girls than boys.” Ironically, some old gender stereotypes may now be helping girls.
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 2021. Refer to this link for more information - [https://fass.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/support-us/](https://fass.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/support-us/)

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 2021.