

Centering Singlehood in Family Research



18 August 2023

9.30AM - 10.30AM (SGT)
(ZOOM)

Session chaired by:

A/P Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan
(CFPR Co-Director & Department of Sociology
and Anthropology)

Roughly 40% of U.S. adults are single, meaning they are unmarried and not living with a cohabiting partner. Singlehood levels have risen in recent decades, reflecting the retreat from marriage and growing acceptance of other living arrangement configurations, such as solo living. Nonetheless, researchers have been slow to investigate singlehood, which remains obscured by an entrenched scholarly focus on union transitions and couplehood. The overarching goal of my presentation is to demonstrate why researchers should move singlehood from the margins to the center. I begin by describing demographic trends in singlehood. Then, I discuss novel theoretical developments in singlehood research, drawing on a forthcoming special issue of *Journal of Family Theory and Review* on singlehood for which I am co-guest editor. Next, I share some preliminary findings on midlife single adults from newly collected data. Finally, I conclude with a call to action about next steps in this research area.

THE SPEAKER

Professor
Susan L.
Brown



Susan L. Brown is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Bowling Green State University. She is Director of the Center for Family and Demographic Research and Co-Director of the National Center for Family & Marriage Research. A family demographer, her research addresses union dynamics and their consequences for health and well-being.