

CFPR SEMINAR SERIES (JAN-APR 2024)

SUCCESSFULLY AGING ALONE?: RISING RISKS IN FAMILY-BASED MODELS OF CARE CROSS-NATIONALLY



24th January 2024
12PM – 1:30PM (SGT)
AS7, Level 6, The Shaw
Foundation Building



Session chaired by:
A/P Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan
(CFPR Co-Director & Department of Sociology
and Anthropology)

REGISTER HERE:

https://nus.sydney1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5usVEXsXQLUw6xw

For the first time in human history, older adults will outnumber children and a substantial and growing proportion will lack one or more nuclear family tie (e.g., childless, unpartnered, or so-called “kinless”). Such unprecedented shifts require a reevaluation of existing models of “successful aging”, particularly in terms of long-term care policies. This paper draws on country-level data from multiple publicly available sources to examine correlations in cross-national patterns of fertility, marriage and partnership, living alone, preferences for care, healthcare funding, and long-term care policies in low-, middle-, and high-income countries. Results: Although there exists substantial heterogeneity across countries, family-based models of care (that rely on the presence of partners and children) remain dominant cross-nationally. This pattern sharply contrasts declines in fertility and increases in living alone. Results suggest cultural and policy lag, wherein current models of family-based long-term care are mismatched to future demographic realities—particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

OUR SPEAKER



A/P Christine Mair
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
BALTIMORE COUNTY

Christine A. Mair is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Health, Equity, and Aging in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Her research examines demographic and cultural shifts related to family and non-family relationships and documents how social support (or lack thereof) shapes health and aging experiences, especially cross-nationally.

OUR CO-HOST



NUS Department of
Sociology and Anthropology