

Finding a Home: Housing Experiences of Interim Rental Housing Families and Single Mothers

Presenters: Dr Teo Poh Leng, Senior Lecturer, UniSIM and Dr Neo Yu Wei, Research Fellow, Social Service Research Centre, NUS

Date: 10 November 2016

Time: 4pm to 5:30pm

Venue: AS7-01-17, The Shaw Foundation Building, Block AS7, Level 1
National University of Singapore, 5 Arts Link, Singapore 117570

Abstract (“O, give me a home” – Low income Families who are Housed and Yet Homeless):

Internationally, Singapore is reputed to have a successful national public housing policy. The lead housing authority, the Housing and Development Board (HDB), has housed more than 96% of the resident Singapore population in HDB-purchased homes. For the very poor, there is a social safety net for them to rent smaller HDB flats via the Public Rental Scheme. This presentation discusses the housing experiences of a unique group of families who fall outside the realm of normative public housing in Singapore – vulnerable families on the Interim Rental Housing Scheme (IRHS). The experiences of these families in transitional housing highlight a few pertinent issues which include the multi-dimensional nature of a home, home and homelessness being two sides of the same coin, home ownership, and the quality of family life, in particular for children caught in the web of family homelessness

Abstract (“Go find a husband, so that you can buy a flat” – Housing Barriers and Gendered Marginalization Faced by Single Mothers):

Public housing policies in Singapore are designed based on the principle of encouraging and maintaining “strong and stable families”, where “families” are generally accepted as intact, nuclear, with legally married parents and at least one family member as the stable breadwinner. However, what happens when families deviate from this family profile, especially for lower-income, single-mother families? This presentation discusses the housing barriers that single-mother families face as they struggle to improve their housing situation by attempting to move out of temporary or rental housing. It is argued that specific housing policies or schemes not only exclude or create additional barriers for single mothers, they deepen the lines of marginalisation along gender, ethnicity and nationality. The consequences of these housing barriers not only affect the single mothers’ well-being, but also the well-being of their children.

Presenter’s profile:

Poh Leng has more than 20 years of social work experience at the Ministry of Social and Family Development, leading dedicated teams in a variety of settings that include marriage matters, rehabilitation of juvenile offenders and youth-at-risk, destitute persons, family and child protection and welfare, social research and elderly services. She is currently on secondment to UniSIM as a Senior Lecturer.

Presenter’s profile:

Yu Wei is a research fellow with the Social Service Research Centre. A sociologist by training, Yu Wei is primarily interested in how the social construction of poverty, childhoods and families influence social policy designs, as well as service delivery. She conducted her doctoral study on how social inclusion policies are framed by policymakers, service providers and children from low-income families in Australia. Recently, she is involved in a research project examining the experiences of families living in rental housing in Singapore.

REGISTRATION IS CLOSED

Registration closes on Thursday, 3 Nov 2016.
Seats are on a first-come, first-served basis. All are welcome.
For enquiries, please contact [Ms Jess Tan](#)