Building Human Capacity in Singapore's Population: Testing Innovations in Human Development

Grant Amount: approx. $8,500,000 | June 2017 to May 2021

Project Team (PI & co-PIs)

Professor Jean Yeung (PI)  
Professor John Ham  
Professor Brenda Yeoh  
Professor Lim Sun Sun (SUTD)

A/P Chia Ngee Choon  
A/P Corinne Goh  
A/P Shirlena Huang  
A/P Jessica Pan  
A/P Leher Singh  
Dr Ryan Hong  
Dr Rongjun Yu

This project examines human development in Singapore by using innovative methods to understand factors that can promote Singaporean children’s early childhood development, and provide input that can help address these factors. The main research questions are on the state of Singaporean children; how family, childcare and early education institutions, community, and state interact to shape the development of Singapore’s children; and, how these investments affect intergenerational mobility and social stratification in Singapore.

This project will collect longitudinal data in a national survey and five satellite projects. The core national survey will be a 2-wave panel study for 5,000 households with children aged 0 to 6 and will assess motor, social-emotional, linguistic, cognitive, health and well-being, as well as factors that potentially shape child development and family resilience, such as early childcare arrangements, preschool attendance, time and technology use, financial and non-monetary investment in children, mother and father’s roles, and family stress.

The five satellite projects, based on smaller samples, are: (1) an ethnographic study focusing on the children of cross-cultural families, (2) a laboratory experiment of early childhood linguistic development with a special interest in how the language development of children in multilingual families compares to others and identifying developmental delay, (3) intervention programs that train children’s minds to build social-emotional skills such as cooperation, empathy, and self-control, and identify neural correlates of social cognition and decisionmaking for children, (4) a randomized control trial (RCT) that evaluates various incentives’ success at improving pre-school attendance for disadvantaged children, and (5) an assessment of the impact of matched savings programs on children’s development.
RESEARCH PROJECTS BY CFPR TEAM

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Thematic Grant Recipients

Population Ageing, Old Age Labour and Financial Decisions in Singapore
Grant Amount: $379,624 | July 2017 to July 2020
What are the motives behind household saving decisions in older adults? The project by A/P Liu Haoming and co-PIs Dr Song Chang Cheng and Dr Zhu Shenghao addresses three main issues with regards to bequest motives, annuities on people’s saving decisions, as well as annuities on the labour force participation rate of the elderly.

MOE Tier 2 Grant Recipients

Stages of Family in the Making in Singapore from Antenatal to Postnatal Period
Grant Amount: $474,600 | 2017 to 2019
The study by Prof Catherine Tang and co-PI Prof Jean Yeung, together with collaborator Dr Yvaine Koh, follows 1,000 expectant couples from the antenatal to the postnatal period to identify crucial elements of successful transition that could lead to healthy family functioning, in the context of changing perceptions on family making in Singapore.

Dynamic Models of Transitions in the Indonesian Labour and Marriage Markets
Grant Amount: $566,864 | 2017 to 2019
Prof John Ham and fellow collaborators Prof John Strauss and Dr Firman Witoelar propose to estimate empirical models describing the transitions of employment, marriage, retirement and migration. The modeling approach would be helpful for understanding marriage behaviour in Singapore, and the issue of fertility.

Family Dynamics in the Development of Behavioural Addiction in Singapore Youth
Grant Amount: $379,624 | 2017 to 2020
Prof Catherine Tang and collaborator Dr Yvaine Koh employ a family-based approach to greater understand the mental health consequences of behavioural addiction among adolescents in Singapore, as well as its implications in intervention strategies and policy to reduce the occurrence of addiction and promote healthy family functioning.

For full abstracts, please visit our website here.
CFPR TRAINING PROGRAM IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
NOV to DEC 2017

Additional 10% discount for Training Program alumni

SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS:
SURVEY, EXPERIMENT AND FIELDWORK
Instructor: Dr. Feng Qiushi
Nov 20 - 21

Testimonials from Past Participants:
"Dr Feng was knowledgeable and exceptional in the delivery of the planned content... I also appreciated his sharing of examples especially from his own work. There was also a strong theoretical foundation to the course..."

QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS I WITH SPSS
Instructor: Prof. Paulin Straughan
Nov 23 - 24

Testimonials from Past Participants:
"I think learning the fundamentals really helps, it allows me to appreciate the purpose of using which kinds of statistical tools for what purposes. I wish that I had a lecturer like Prof Paulin for my University Statistics Course. I would have scored even better than A-.

INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
Instructor: Prof. Vineeta Sinha
Nov 27 - 28

Testimonials from Past Participants:
"The teaching style of Prof Vineeta was really good! Approachable, open to questions, a wealth of experience. Lots of interesting examples. She actually answers the questions!"
"Contents are pitched at a suitable level. Rich experience of facilitator; interactions between learners and facilitator during lunch and tea breaks."

QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS:
THEORY AND PRACTICE
Instructor: A/P Narayanan Ganapathy
Nov 30 - Dec 1

Testimonials from Past Participants:
"Having Prof Gana share his experiences to illustrate his point and being able to have a practice in coding with actual data is especially useful."
"He succinctly translated complicated jargon into practical research tips."
"It compliments well with my own research efforts. What he taught is flexible enough for front line practitioners to adopt."

For details on course fee and other information, visit http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/ or email to cfpr@nus.edu.sg
Selected Recent Publications by Members

**Current and Future Economic Costs of Diabetes among Singaporean Adults**

A/P Joanne Yoong and colleagues estimate current and future economic projections of diagnosed type 2 diabetes among the working-age population, and emphasise that the impact of productivity loss will become increasingly significant in Singapore.

**Bilingualism and Advantages of Learning a Third Language**

A/P Leher Singh investigated whether greater phonological flexibility in bilinguals facilitates word learning in additional languages by comparing monolingual and bilingual Singaporean infants.

**Relationship between Overwork and Skilled Women’s Job Choices**

A/P Jessica Pan and Dr Patricia Cortes use data from 18 Western industrialised countries to explore the relationship between the prevalence of overwork and skilled women’s labour force participation as well as occupational choice.

**Race, Reintegration, and Social Capital in Singapore**

A/P Ganapathy Narayanan and Prof Lian Kwen Fee argued that an uneven distribution of ethnic capital among ex-offenders restricts the ability of the Indian/Malay minorities and enables the Chinese majority to achieve acceptance and successfully reintegrate into mainstream society.

**Transcendent Parenting with Mobile Media**

Prof Lim Sun Sun discussed the emergent practice of “transcendent parenting” with the increasing prevalence of mobile media and cloud computing, and its various implications at each stage of young people’s development in Singapore.

**Dynamic Effect of Rural-to-Urban Migration on Inequality in Rural China**

Dr Yi Junjian and colleagues analysed panel data over a 14-year period and found an inverse U-shaped relationship between internal migration and inequality in source villages, whereby contemporary migration was found to increase income inequality.
ASEANFocus Feature: Outlook at 50 Years of ASEAN

Demographic Trends in Southeast Asia

WEI-JUN JEAN YEUNG provides an overview of ASEAN’s population in telling numbers.

“Given the uneven state of development, ASEAN countries face different challenges in the next few decades including human capital development, care of aging population, urban environmental degradation, poverty and inequality in many areas.”


Read the full article on pages 12-14 of the latest issue of ASEANFocus by NUS ISEAS.

CFPR Special Column in Lianhe Zaobao

CFPR has been writing a monthly column on Lianhe Zaobao to share research findings on various family and population issues to the wider public. We invite CFPR Research Associates to submit articles featuring their work which will be published in the Chinese newspaper on the first Sunday of each month. English versions of the article are also available.

What Does Successful Ageing Mean?
Dr Feng Qiushi
Assistant Professor, Sociology &
CFPR steering committee member
(February issue)

How Do We Prevent Dementia?
Dr Feng Lei
Research Assistant Professor,
School of Medicine
(August issue)

Donation Behavior in Singaporean Older Adults
Dr Rongjun Yu
Assistant Professor, Psychology
(July issue)

Fathers as Active Caregivers
Prof Jean Yeung
CFPR Director, Sociology & ARI
(June issue)

Is Filial Piety a Reliable Basis for Intergenerational Support?
A/P Tan Ern Ser
Associate Professor, Sociology
(March issue)

What Do Children Bring to Parents?
Dr Mu Zheng
Assistant Professor, Sociology
(April issue)

Raising Bilingual Children: Advantages, Challenges and Strategies for Success
A/P Leher Singh
Associate Professor, Psychology
(May issue)
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Deadline: 1 November 2017
Joint International Sociological Association (ISA) Conference for RC06 (Family) & RC41 (Population), 17-19 May 2018

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY  CHANGING FAMILIES
Organized by CFPR and Department of Sociology, NUS

Keynote Speakers

Professor Judith Seltzer
Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
2016 President, Population Association of America
Director, UCLA California Center for Population Research

Professor Wolfgang Lutz
Professor for Social and Economic Statistics, Vienna University of Economics and Business
Director, Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital
Director, Vienna Institute of Demography

Upcoming Lunchtime Seminar Series
Lunchtime seminars are held from 12pm to 1.30pm at Ventus Evans Room unless otherwise noted.

- **8 SEP**
  Tykes, Tablets, and Tantrums: Investigating Pre-schoolers’ Digital Media Use and Parental Mediation Strategies
  Prof Lim Sun Sun, Professor of Media & Communication, Head of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, SUTD

- **15 SEP**
  Who Has Bequest Motives?
  A/P Liu Haoming, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, NUS

- **22 SEP**
  A New Map of Life: Social Innovation and the Longevity Revolution
  Mr Marc Freedman, Founder and CEO of Encore.org

- **4 OCT**
  Developmental Implications of Asia’s Changing Demography
  Prof Gavin Jones, Emeritus Professor, Australian National University; Associate, Murdoch University

- **20 OCT**
  Effects and Mechanisms of Mindfulness-based Interventions: A Research Overview
  Dr Keng Shian-Ling, Assistant Professor, Division of Social Sciences (Psychology), Yale-NUS College

- **27 OCT**
  Doing Research with Children: Some Methodological and Ethical Reflections from the Field
  Dr Vinnarasan Aruldoss, Postdoctoral Fellow, Sussex University

- **10 NOV**
  Social Networking Addiction among Singaporean Youth
  Dr Yvaine Koh, Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute and CFPR, NUS

- **17 NOV**
  Ageing and Psychological Well-being
  A/P Roger Ho, Associate Professor and Consultant Psychiatrist, Department of Psychological Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS

- **24 NOV**
  For Money or for a Life: A Mixed-Method Study on Migration and Time Use in China
  Dr Mu Zheng, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS
New Members in the CFPR Family

Ng Ching Siew, Sascha

Sascha joined CFPR on 24 July 2017 as Manager.
Before joining CFPR, Sascha has been with the Singapore Management University since 2006, and previously held a managerial position in the School of Law for the past 7 years.

Lavanya Balachandran

Postdoctoral Fellow, Changing Family in Asia Cluster, ARI and CFPR
PhD, Sociology, National University of Singapore, 2017
Research interests: Academic achievement amongst ethnic minorities, blended families in Singapore, qualitative sociology

Research Associates

NUS faculty members and researchers whose research interests are aligned with CFPR’s interdisciplinary research focus are encouraged to join as Research Associates. We would like to welcome the following associates who joined this year:

Sanjay CHAUDHURI
Associate Professor
(Statistics and Applied Probability)

CHONG Yap Seng
Associate Professor
Executive Director (SICS, A*STAR)
Director (SiNMeD, A*STAR-NUS)
Vice Dean (Academic Medicine)

CHU Junhong
Associate Professor
(Marketing)

Lynnette CHUA
Associate Professor
(Law)

FENG Lei
Research Assistant Professor
(Psychological Medicine)

Roger HO
Associate Professor &
Consultant Psychiatrist
(Psychological Medicine)

Jussi KEPPO
Associate Professor
(Decision Sciences)
Co-Director
(Business Analytics Center)

LEE Yeonjin
Postdoctoral Fellow
(Asia Research Institute)

LI Jialiang
Associate Professor
(Statistics and Applied Probability)

Matthew LIM
Senior Tutor
(Psychology)

YANG Yi
Postdoctoral Fellow
(Asia Research Institute)

Joanne YOONG
Director (CHSPR)
Associate Professor
(SSHSPH and Medicine)
Job and Research Opportunities

1) Research Scholarships for PhD and Masters Programme Applicants

2) Full-time Research Associate position

3) Multiple positions open for longitudinal panel study on early childhood development in Singapore led by multidisciplinary team of CFPR members

4) Part-time Student Research Assistants wanted in two large-scale research projects led by Prof Catherine Tang

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