Distinguished Public Lecture on Family & Population

Jointly organised by the Centre for Family Population Research (CFPR) and Global Asia Institute (GAI)

Postindustrial Low Fertility in Europe and East Asia: Lessons for Singapore

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

Professor Mary C. Brinton
Reischauer Institute Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
Harvard University

Mary Brinton is the Reischauer Institute Professor of Sociology at Harvard University. Her current work focuses on why several regions of the postindustrial world—including Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, and East Asia—now exhibit historically low fertility rates that are leading to rapid population aging and the specter of lowered economic productivity. Brinton's broader interests are in labor markets and gender inequality in postindustrial societies, with a focus on Japanese society.

GUEST-OF-HONOUR

Mrs Josephine Teo
Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport
Republic of Singapore

Mrs Josephine Teo was appointed Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister’s Office to assist in overseeing the National Population and Talent Division. She is concurrently the Senior Minister of State in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Transport.

Welcome Remarks: Professor Ho Teck Hua, Deputy President (Research & Technology) and Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor, NUS
Moderator: Professor Jean Yeung, CFPR Director, Provost’s Chair Professor Sociology & ARI, NUS

Very low fertility rates now characterize all of East Asia and many countries in Europe, leading policymakers to express strong anxiety about the social problems inherent in a rapidly aging population. Many governments have responded with policies designed to render work and family more compatible for mothers. Even so, policy efforts have generally met with limited results in terms of fertility change. Why? My research analyzes the social and economic reasons behind very low fertility in postindustrial countries, with particular emphasis on gender-role ideologies that place a high value on intensive motherhood while also encouraging women to participate in the labor force. The persistence of gender essentialism—a focus on women’s essential role as the primary caregiver—coupled with women’s full-time employment translates into two full-time jobs for women with children. This makes the balancing act between work and family highly problematic. My research thus points to the necessity for changes in working conditions and in social norms regarding gender roles, in addition to redoubled efforts with regard to policy solutions.

19 January 2017 | Thursday | 9.30am—12nn | On-site Registration: 9am
Shaw Foundation Alumni House Auditorium Level 2

Click here for full programme details. Register now at https://goo.gl/forms/WMo2ZecOIEOJNRzs2
CFPR Special Column in Lianhe Zaobao

Consistent with the Centre’s role of promoting research and informing public discussion, the Centre has been invited to comment on family and population issues in the media. Since last August, CFPR has had a regular monthly column in Lianhe Zaobao featuring works from our research team members.

14 August 2016, Living Alone: Trend of One-person Households in Asia, Prof Jean Yeung, CFPR Director and Provost's Chair Professor, Department of Sociology, ARI, NUS

3 September 2016, Being a Good Grandparent: Comparative Intergenerational Relationships in Japan and Singapore, A/P Thang Leng Leng, CFPR Deputy Director and Associate Professor, Department of Japanese Studies, NUS

2 October 2016, Asian Women’s Gender Role, Work-family Balance, and Mental Health, Prof Catherine Tang, CFPR Deputy Director and Professor, Department of Psychology, NUS

6 November 2016, Network Inequality: An Under Researched Dimension, Dr Vincent Chua, CFPR steering committee member and Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS

4 December 2016, Marriage and Divorce among Malays in Singapore: ‘Nurture’ Rather than ‘Nature’ as Key to Building Intact and Resilient Families, A/P Maznah Mohamad, CFPR steering committee member; and Dr Suriani Suratman from the Department of Malay Studies, NUS

1 January 2017, Are We Pushing Our Children Too Hard in Academics?, Dr Ryan Hong, CFPR Research Associate and Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, NUS

Grant Secured by Research Team

MOE Tier 1
The Impact of Schooling Type on Student Achievement in Dhaka
Pi: Prof John Ham, CFPR Deputy Director; Provost’s Chair Professor, Department of Economics, NUS
Amount: $125,012.00

CFPR Faculty Development Grant Recipients
The grant is currently open for applications until 1 March 2017. Click here for details.

Marriage Property Law and Household Behaviour: Evidence from a Quasi-experiment in China
Pi: Dr Yi Junjian, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, NUS
Amount: $9,976.00

Relationships between Childhood Bilingualism and Early Word Learning
Pi: A/P Leher Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, NUS
Amount: $10,000.00
2017 CFPR TRAINING PROGRAM IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

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- Analysis of Missing Data with R
- Multilevel Modeling with R
- Computer-assisted Analysis of Qualitative Data
- Propensity Score Matching Analysis
- Time Series Data Analysis
- Structural Equation Modeling with R
- Longitudinal Data Analysis
- Policy Evaluation using Experimental Methods
- Population and Society

TESTIMONIALS FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS

"The theories and methods shared are very practical and can be applied to my current work setting."

"The practical elements of the course were engaging and very useful in my learning."

"Great introduction to statistics, professors were very patient and did not take our knowledge or lack of knowledge for granted."

"I am able to apply theory to practice almost instantly."

For details on schedule, course fee and other information, visit http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/ or email to cfpr@nus.edu.sg
Upcoming Conference

Joint Conference for International Sociological Association (ISA)
RC06 (Family Research) & RC41 (Sociology of Population)
Theme: Changing Demography, Changing Families
Date: 17-19 May 2018
Venue: National University of Singapore

Upcoming Seminar Series & Workshops

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

13 January: Separate & Unequal: Hukou, School Segregation, and Migrant Children’s Education in Urban China by Professor Wu Xiaogang, Professor of Social Science, and Director, Center for Applied Social and Economic Research (CASER), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

18 January: One Egalitarianism or Several? Two Decades of Gender-Role Attitude Change in Europe Seminar (joint with NUS Department of Sociology) by Professor Mary Brinton, Reischauer Institute Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Harvard University. Venue: FASS Faculty Lounge

3 February: Who benefits from Children in Highly Gendered Society? Exploring the Role of Children’s Education in Parental Survival in South Korea by Dr Lee Yeongjin, Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, NUS

10 February: Maternal Education and the Multidimensionality of Child Health Outcomes by Dr Kriti Vikram, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS

17 February: India’s Family Planning Programme: Past, Present and Future (joint with Asia Research Institute) by Professor Leela Visaria, Honorary Professor, Gujarat Institute of Development Research Venue: ARI Seminar Room, AS8, Level 4

3 March: Impact of Changing Population Age Structure of Asian Countries on Labour Market (joint with Asia Research Institute) by Professor Leela Visaria, Honorary Professor, Gujarat Institute of Development Research

10 March: Multilingualism and Language Development in Singaporean Children by A/P Leher Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, NUS

17 March: Problems (and Possible Solutions) for the Recent Crisis in Psychological Research by A/P Mike Cheung, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, NUS

21 March: Seminar by Professor Steven Stern, Department of Economics, Stony Brook University, New York

7 April: Seminar by A/P Tracey Skelton, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, NUS

21 April: Seminar by A/P Xu Lanjun, Associate Professor, Department of Chinese Studies, NUS

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