Aging and wisdom: age-related changes in economic and social decision making

Assistant Professor Rongjun Yu, Department of Psychology, NUS

World life expectancy is increasing and many populations will begin to age rapidly. The impending prevalence of a greater number of older people living longer lives will have significant social and economic implications. It is important to understand how older people make economic and social decisions. Aging can be associated with a “phenomenon of decline” and also greater wisdom. In this talk, Dr Yu will review and connect the behavioral sciences and neuroscience literature on age differences in the following social and economic decision making domains that represent subcomponents of wisdom: (1) prosocial behavior; (2) resolving social conflicts; (3) emotional homeostasis; (4) self-reflection; (5) dealing effectively with uncertainty. Overall, the exact relationship between old age and each subcomponent remains unclear. A better understanding of these relationships holds the potential to alleviate a wide range of mental health problems, and has broad implications for social policies aimed at the elderly.

Date: 11 March 2016, Friday
Time: 12nn - 1.30pm
Venue: Ventus Evans Room

Seminar chaired by Prof Catherine Tang, Dept of Psychology and Deputy Director, CFPR, NUS


All are welcome! Light lunch will be provided.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Rongjun Yu joined the department of Psychology in NUS in August 2014. He obtained his M.S. in Psychology from Peking University, under the supervision of Prof. Xiaolin Zhou. In 2011, he completed his Ph.D. in Psychology from MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, UK, working with Dean Mobbs and Andy Calder. Prior to starting his position with NUS, he did research at Caltech in Pasadena, Mass General Hospital in Boston, as well as South China Normal University in China.