Recent Demographic and Family Changes in China

1 November 2016 (Tuesday) | 9.00am-4.00pm | AS7-06-42

Jointly Organized by CFPR and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

This workshop will feature the following speakers with their respective topics:

- **Unequal Childhoods in China: Parental Education, Children’s Time Use, and Child Development**
  by **Dr Zheng MU**, CFPR Research Associate, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS

- **Educational Mobility of Chinese Youth: An Empirical Study in the Era of Booming Population Migration**
  by **Associate Professor Jianlin NIU**, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

- **Gender, Housework Division, and Child Rearing Decision-making**
  by **Dr Shu HU**, Research Fellow, Center for Family and Population Research (CFPR) and Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS

- **The Study on Family Structure and Intergenerational Residence Arrangement from the Perspective of Social Transformation: Data from Shanghai, Zhejiang and Fujian**
  by **Professor Ge YANG**, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

- **Cross-Cohorts Changes in Physical and Cognitive Function of Oldest-Old aged 80-105 in China**
  by **Dr Qiushi FENG**, CFPR Research Associate, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS

- **Population Size and Developing Trend of the Lost Only Child Women in China**
  by **Professor Guangzhou WANG**, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

- **Marriage Squeeze in China, 2005-2025 – its Measurements, Distribution and Causes**
  by **Associate Professor Ting FENG**, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

- **Household Portfolio Choice, Reference Dependence and Marriage Market**
  by **Dr Junjian YI**, CFPR Research Associate, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, NUS

Moderator: **Provost’s Chair Professor Wei-Jun Jean YEUNG**, Department of Sociology; Director, Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR); and Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS

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### TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2016

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Unequal Childhoods in China: Parental Education, Children’s Time Use and Child Development

Dr Zheng MU, CFPR Research Associate, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS

Abstract:
Previous literature has established that child development is greatly influenced by the family socioeconomic background. This study aims to articulate the role of parenting style in this process. We examine, in the context of China, how parental background leads to different styles of parenting (i.e., concerted cultivation vs. accomplishment of natural growth) (Lareau, 2011). We also investigate how parenting styles ultimately affect various developmental outcomes of Chinese children. Based on a national sample of Chinese school-aged children (CFPS 2010), we found that family socioeconomic background had a strong impact on the style of parenting. Higher parental education leads to stronger concerted cultivation, which however, only helps with children’s education-related outcomes (i.e., educational expectation and academic performance). On the other hand, less educated parents rely more on the strategy of accomplishment of natural growth, which consistently exert a negative influence on educational expectation, academic performance, and non-cognitive skills.

Biography:
Zheng MU is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. I received my PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan in December 2013. From January 2015 to July 2016, I was a joint postdoctoral fellow in the Asia Research Institute and the Centre for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore. My areas of specialization include marriage and family, ethnicity, migration, development, and contemporary China. My research centers on trends, social determinants and consequences of marriage and family behaviors, with special focuses on Chinese Muslims and Chinese migrants. My dissertation examined how individuals' marriage and fertility behaviors have been formed and framed by China's contemporary social changes and regional variations. I am currently working on projects examining heterogeneities in the mechanisms and outcomes of Chinese migrants' marital behaviors.

Educational Mobility of Chinese Youth: An Empirical Study in the Era of Booming Population Migration

Associate Professor Jianlin NIU, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Abstract:
This article examines the educational mobility of Chinese youth, with a special focus on the phenomenon of dropping-out risks of school-age children in the era of ever-increasing population migration since 1980s in China. Empirical results show that the peers’ migration encourages school-age children to dropout during compulsory education, but has no effect on the education decision once compulsory education is accomplished. To the contrary, the migration of family members has a significant effect in protecting school-age children from dropping out during compulsory education and enhancing their chance of receiving higher education.

Biography:
Jianlin NIU is an associate professor at Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She got her M.A. in Economics at Peking University (China) in 2003, and Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Western Ontario (Canada) in 2008. Her research interests include education and health studies, marriage and family issues, demographic and social processes modeling, statistics and quantitative methods. Recently, she conducted a research project on the impact of internal population migration on the development of human capital in China. Currently, she is working on investigating the effect of educational expansion on the dynamics of labor force supply in contemporary China.
Gender, Housework Division, and Childrearing Decision-making

Dr Shu HU, Research Fellow, Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) and Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS

Abstract:
Over the past few decades, compressed modernization and different state policies in East Asian societies have produced uneven progress on equality between men and women in the private and public spheres both within and across these economies. In this paper, we intend to examine 1) how are the patterns of housework division and childrearing decision-making between husband and wife different in China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan in the recent times; and 2) how do individual-level factors including gender role attitude, time availability, and relative resources shape housework division and childrearing differently across the four societies. We use data from the East Asian Social Survey 2006 module and the International Social Survey Program 2012 module. We restrict data analyses to married women aged between 20 and 69 and who were or had a husband in paid work at the time of survey. Results suggest that the gaps in housework division among China (most egalitarian), Taiwan, Korea, and Japan (least egalitarian) have persisted, but appear to have shrunk over the observation period. The odds of childrearing decision-making primarily by husband relative to joint decision-making are higher in China, followed by Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. Gender role attitude, time availability, and relative resources all have independent effects on housework division, but not childrearing decision-making. The effect size of gender role attitude and time availability differs between China on the one hand and Taiwan, Korea, and Japan on the other. The interpretations and implications of these findings are discussed.

Biography:
Shu HU is currently a joint research fellow at the Asia Research Institute and the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR). She is a family sociologist and her research interests center on how family origin, gender, and the state shape the lives and wellbeing of individuals at different stages of the life course. She received her PhD in Sociology from National University of Singapore in 2015. Her research during graduate school focused on parental labor migration and adolescents’ transition to high school in rural China. She has also done research on transition to adulthood of young people, and changes and continuities of marriage values in China. She has published in The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and Chinese Journal of Sociology.

The Study on Family Structure and Intergenerational Residence Arrangement from the Perspective of Social Transformation: Data from Shanghai, Zhejiang and Fujian

Professor Ge YANG, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Abstract:
Under the background of social transformation, the family structure and living mode of our country is changing significantly. The factors are summarized as the idea and the life course. Tradition and Modernity of the idea form a mixture of tradition and Modernity of intergenerational residential model. In this paper, we use the Family Dynamic Survey data, and construct Ordinal logistic model, to analyze the impact of social transformation on the current Chinese family structure and intergenerational residential arrangements. The family structure is undergoing significant changes: the shrinking family size, the decline in the proportion of nuclear family and the promotion proportion of immediate family, single family, empty nest family. From the intergenerational residential mode, tradition makes parents still prefer to living with son, but modernity makes the living distance be far away; the need each other of different life stages narrow the distance. In general, the changes of family structure and intergenerational residence mode make the family function decrease, and family support for the elderly is facing the crisis.

Biography:
YANG Ge is an associate professor at Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She got her M.A. and Ph.D. in Demography at Renmin University of China in 2010. Her research interest includes left behind children, trend prediction, family, spatial distribution of migration and urbanization issues, demographic and social processes modeling, statistics and quantitative methods. Recently, she conducted a research project on the study of changes in family structure of internal migration in China. Currently she is working on migration trend and migrant children policy evaluation.
Cross-Cohorts Changes in Physical and Cognitive Function of Oldest-Old aged 80-105 in China

Dr Qiushi FENG, CFPR Research Associate, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS

Abstract:
The aim of this study was to explore whether increased longevity is leading to compression or expansion of morbidity among Chinese oldest-olds. Data are from Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Study (CLHLS). Three pairs of cohorts aged 80-89, 90-99 and 100-105 were examined; the two cohorts in each pair were born ten years apart, with the same age at the time of the assessment in the CLHLS 1998 and 2008 surveys. Compared to cohorts born 10-years earlier, annual death rates at oldest-old ages among later cohorts were all substantially reduced, and their ADL disabilities had significantly reduced; however, cognitive function and objective physical performance (stand-up from a chair, pick-up a book from floor, turning around 3600) were all significantly worse in later cohorts than earlier cohorts. Recent improvements in living standards and availability of facilities for daily living may contribute to these contrasting health trends.

Biography:
Dr Qiushi FENG received his PhD degree from Duke University, and is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also the steering committee member of the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) in NUS, Research Associate of East Asian Institute (EAI) in NUS, and an Honorary Research Fellow in Shanghai Academy. His research areas are aging and health, demography, and economic sociology. He has published 17 papers in the SSCI/SCI-indexed journals, and is now serving in the editorial board for Journal of Aging and Health, Research on Aging, BMC Geriatrics, and BMC Public Health. He is appointed as the associate editor of the Springer book series, Advance in Studies of Aging and Health.

Population Size and Developing Trend of the Lost Only Child Women in China by Computer Simulation

Professor Guangzhou WANG, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Abstract:
Based on reviews of past research on death of only child and their families, this paper pointed out underlying issues of their basic concepts, methods and key research questions, raised estimation methods for losing only child for life time condition probability and losing only child fertile women’s rebirth rate. Total population of women who lost their only child would be considerably overestimated if substituting the concept of one child death with losing only child women, or taking the women birth by 1->2 parity progression (due to dramatic change of fertility level and pattern of the second child under family planning policy). With census, raw data sampling and population micro-simulation system, this paper estimated total population of women above 35 that lost their only child is about 1.4 million in 2015 and unlikely to reach 6 million by the year 2050, whereas the total number of family that lost their only child would not exceed 10 million in 2050.

Biography:
Guangzhou WANG is a professor at Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He got his M.A. in Geography at Lan Zhou University (China) in 1990, and Ph.D. in Demography at the Peking University (China) in 2000. His research interests include applied demography, fertility, family planning policy, population projection and micro simulation and sampling survey. Recently, he conducted several research projects on the family planning policy adjustment and lost only child problems for public policy in China. Currently he is working on the methods and application of the population big data for Chinese administrative data base.
Marriage Squeeze in China, 2005-2025 – its Measurements, Distribution and Causes

Assistant Professor Ting FENG, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Abstract:
China’s high sex ratio at birth brings a shortage of potential brides compared to potential grooms. Nevertheless, the sharp decrease of fertility rate after 1970, along with the fluctuation of parental cohort scale, led to a dramatic decline of birth cohort size from 1980 to 2000, which disadvantages males of these cohorts when a certain positive age difference between mates exists. To analyze the marriage market, the individual-level data from the 2005 1% census and the micro-simulation method were used in this study, and individual-level information was simulated and projected for the time frame from 2005 to 2025. Marriage preference was derived from several nationwide social surveys and the 2010 census. Conditional probability of marriage and unmarried sex ratio were calculated as the measurements of marriage squeeze among overall population and subgroups of marriage candidates. Different scenarios were generated, and sensitive analyses were used to attribute the important causes.

Biography:
Ting FENG is an assistant professor in CASS/IPLE. She received her M.A. in Population Economics from Xiamen University and Ph.D. in Actuarial Science from Renmin University of China. Her major research interests including ageing and demographic methods. The subjects she is concerned about are the unbalanced factors of population structure under the prompt and fundamental demographic changes in China, such as age, gender, urban-rural, geography, social class and generational shift, etc. Currently she is working on several topics including elderly health, marriage squeeze and the relationship circle.

Household Portfolio Choice, Reference Dependence, and Marriage Market

Dr Junjian YI, CFPR Research Associate, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, NUS

Abstract:
This paper investigates how marriage market conditions affect household portfolio choice through a reference-dependent mechanism. We exploit male-biased sex ratios in China, and build a reference-dependent framework that incorporates children's marriage prospect. The model predicts that son families hold more risky assets facing a more male-biased sex ratio, as their expected marriage expenditure would rise. Consistently, our empirical results show that a 0.1 increase in the local sex ratio would raise for son families stock market participation probability by 1.2 percentage points (25.7 percent), or the stock share of liquid wealth by 0.7 percentage point (42.7 percent); whereas the sex-ratio effect on portfolios for daughter families is not evident. Various robustness checks and ancillary results validate our proposed reference-dependent mechanism.

Biography:
Junjian YI is an assistant professor since July 2014 in the Department of Economics, National University of Singapore. He was a postdoctoral scholar from 2011 to 2014 in the Department of Economics, the University of Chicago. My M.Phil. degree in Economics was received in 2007, PhD in 2011, and both in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His fields of interest include Economics on Health and Healthcare, Labor and Demographic Economics, Economic Development, Economics on Human Capital, and Chinese Economy. His research papers have appeared in economics and demography journals, such as Review of Economics and Statistics, Demography, and Economic Inquiry.

Chairperson
Dr Yi YANG, Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Biography:
Yi YANG is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Changing Family in Asia cluster at National University of Singapore. She obtained her PhD in Sociology from National University of Singapore. She graduated with Master’s degree in Sociology at Peking University, China. Her research interests lie in social inequality and social stratification, ageing and health, and gender studies. While at ARI, she will work on social exclusion and cognitive impairment of the elderly in China by drawing data from the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS).