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Family Research
(RC06/CFR)

*International Socio-
logical Association*



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President's Column



Dear RC06 Colleagues,

Well, 2020 has been interesting so far to say the least! Do hope you all are managing to stay well and to keep spirits up as we navigate the world-wide pandemic. We are certainly acquiring new skills as classes and meetings move online. With time zone differences, I have had some middle of the meetings online, as perhaps you have as well. We must hope that a vaccine will be not only found but be provided to millions sometime soon. The latter challenge may as large as the former since mass vaccination requires global cooperation which is difficult at present. Meantime, wishing you well and wellness.

As you know, the ISA Sociological Forum planned for July 2020 in Porto Allegre, Brazil has been postponed by the ISA Executive until February 2021. We shall now have to see, with COVID-19 case numbers high in Brazil at present, whether the postponed date will work out. As well, many of our universities and some countries are discouraging or prohibiting international travel over the foreseeable future. It is disappointing because Barbara Barbosa Neves, our Secretary-Treasurer, and Bahira Trask, our Vice-President, who generously serve as coordinators for our RC sessions in the Sociology Forum, have provided an engaging set of sessions. Thank you, Barbara and Bahira for your hard work on behalf of our RC.

Significant gratitude is also due to colleague and Board member, Anja Steinbach who has very generously agreed to take charge of our annual newsletter once again. Thank you very much Anja. And again we thank RC06 volunteers Irma Budginaitė-Mačkinė and Diana Dias de Carvalho for their help with social media, and Aušra Maslauskaitė for help with the website. I always perk up when I see a tweet from ISA Family, and always learn something. **We would welcome a volunteer to help with**

the website, if you or anyone you know might be interested. Our gratitude would be immense, and the duties are not at all onerous.

One concern about the postponement, possible alternative form or cancellation of the Sociological Forum, is our RC's need to vote on the revised statutes circulated to everyone in mid-July 2019 in anticipation of a vote at the Porto Allegre AGM in July 2020. To be consistent with our current statutes, a vote on the revised statutes is necessary. The Board may work on holding an online meeting for this vote – less than ideal but these are less than ideal times.

Good news for RC06 is that we continue to welcome new members. We, of course, are eager for their participation in our activities.

This is a challenging time to think about the future when things open up again, but we would like to encourage anyone with an idea for hosting a conference to please contact any member of the Board. These can be 'down the line.' Plan is in place for the next World Congress to be held in Melbourne, Australia in 2022.

With best wishes to all as we weather the pandemic and strive to be more inclusive.

Susan McDaniel, President RC06

From the Secretary



We are going through difficult times as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect us and our communities. Lockdowns, physical distancing, self-isolation, loss, and socioeconomic downturn became a painful reality for many of us this year. Family sociologists have a critical role in helping analyze and understand the current and long-term impacts of this pandemic on families and relationships.

As we navigate these trying times, we need a lively RC06 community that contributes to a multidimensional understanding of the effects of this crisis on families – at the micro, meso, and macro levels. Several members have been upholding RC06's dynamic online presence, as we participate in a wider conversation about families and relationships during COVID-19. I would like to thank Aušra Maslauskaitė for her invaluable assistance. Aušra has revamped our website and revived the 'Guest Bloggers' feature. We are extremely indebted for her service to RC06, and understand that the present times have made it difficult for Aušra to continue to support us with this task. Our February guest blogger was Lukasz Czarnecki, who wrote a pressing piece about education and capitalism from a cross-cultural perspective. You can read it on our website: Education and two types of capitalism. Evidence from Mexico, South Africa and Vietnam. We are also grateful to Irma Budginaite and Diana Dias de Carvalho for their assistance with our Twitter account. Finally, I am grateful to Anja Steinbach for editing this newsletter. These joint-efforts ensure that RC06 is a leading community within the ISA and family sociology.

This Gazette includes publications and a range of interesting announcements. Furthermore, we take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning members.

Thank you and stay safe,
Barbara

ASIAN FAMILIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has exerted unprecedented pressure on many institutions including the health care systems, schools, government, markets, and law. Family, as the basic socioeconomic unit of the society, bears the brunt of the multiple stressors caused by the disruption to these institutions. These webinars explore the impact of COVID-19 on families in East, Southeast, and South Asia focusing on the vulnerabilities of women, children, and older adults as they experience morbidity, mortality, migration, economic recession, and school closure.

Tune in on 9 and 23 July 2020

4pm-5.30pm (SGT & PST) | 3pm-4.30 pm (ICT) | 1.30pm-3pm (IST)

Speakers on 9 July



Dr Ravi Verma
Director, International
Center for Research on
Women, India



Prof. Grace T. Cruz
Director, Population
Institute, University of the
Philippines



A/Prof. Aree Jampaklay
Director, Institute for Population
and Social Research, Mahidol
University, Thailand



Prof. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung
Founding Director, Centre for
Family and Population Research,
National University of Singapore

Moderator

Speakers on 23 July



A/Prof. Feng Qiushi
Deputy Director, Centre for
Family and Population
Research, National University
of Singapore



Dr. Hu Shu
Head, Sociology
Programme, Singapore
University of Social
Sciences



**A/Prof. Bussarawan (Puk)
Teerawichitchainan**
Co-Director, Centre for Family
and Population Research, National
University of Singapore

Moderator

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Zoom links will be provided upon successful registration. Please email to cfpr@nus.edu.sg for any enquiries.

For more information: <https://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/events/conferences/index.html>

Tune in on 9 July 2020

4pm-5.30pm (SGT & PST) | 3pm-4.30 pm (ICT) | 1.30pm-3pm (IST)

Speakers



Dr Ravi Verma
Director, International Center
for Research on Women, India

Topic: Gender issues and COVID-19 in India

The gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are particularly harsh within the patriarchal contexts exacerbated by poverty and loss of livelihood options. Women and girls face a range of complex barriers impacting critical domains including education, health, livelihood, nutrition and violence prevention due to this trap. The key to a gender transformative post-COVID world requires evidence-based policy response with increased representation and role of women in decision-making and leadership.

About Speaker

Dr. Ravi Verma from the Asia office of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) in Delhi has worked and published extensively on gender issues including men and masculinities over the past two decades and more. He has led evidence-based flagship child marriage and violence prevention programs and serves on various strategic National and Global Boards and Committees on these issues.



Prof. Grace T. Cruz
Director, Population Institute,
University of the Philippines

Topic: COVID-19 and the Filipino Older People

The severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the older Filipinos is evident by the disproportionately high share of older people 60 years among the COVID-19 infections and deaths in the country. Government response to elder needs and concerns in this emergency context should be guided by ethical principles, acknowledging the heterogeneity of the older population sector.

About Speaker

Dr. Grace T. Cruz is currently the director of the University of the Philippines Population Institute. Her main research interest is on the ageing of the population. She has spearheaded two large-scale national surveys on older Filipinos. She is currently the project investigator of the 2018 Longitudinal Study of Ageing Health in the Philippines (LSAHP) which is part of a two-country comparative study including the Philippines and Vietnam.

Moderator



Prof. Wei-Jun Jean Yeung
Founding Director, Centre
for Family and Population
Research, National
University of Singapore



A/Prof. Aree Jampaklay
Director, Institute for Population
and Social Research, Mahidol
University, Thailand

Topic: What happens to families left behind during the COVID-19 pandemic? The case of Thailand

The presentation will focus on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic from internal migrants' families at the place of origin. Results are drawn from a rapid assessment of phone surveys based on the previously sampled population. The survey aims to understand the challenges that left-behind families are facing as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic and to advocate with policymakers for a targeted policy response.

About Speaker

Aree Jampaklay has been an Associate Professor at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University since 2009. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003. Her research has focused on the migration process and migration's effects on the family left behind, family formation, health, and longitudinal studies. In addition to taking part as a Co-Investigator of ITC-SEA Thailand, her current researches include a longitudinal study on the impact of parental migration on children's well-being and a longitudinal study on migration, gender, and conflict in the deep-south provinces of Thailand.

Tune in on 23 July 2020

4pm-5.30pm (SGT & PST) | 3pm-4.30 pm (ICT) | 1.30pm-3pm (IST)

Speakers



A/Prof. Feng Qiushi
Deputy Director, Centre for
Family and Population
Research, National
University of Singapore

Topic: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Older Adults in China: Biomedical and Socio-psychological Perspectives

The COVID-19 pandemic has been expanding rapidly across the world, which has profoundly affected the lives of every human being. It is evidenced that older adults are the most susceptible and vulnerable sub-population in the COVID-19 outbreaks, with the higher infection risk and mortality rate than younger people. This presentation analyzes disadvantages of older adults in the COVID-19 pandemic through biomedical, psychological and social perspectives, and systematically review strategies of the aged individuals against COVID-19 at the individual, family, community, society and global level. The presentation will conclude by a discussion of the COVID-19 implications upon the global initiatives towards healthy and active ageing.

About Speaker

Dr Feng Qiushi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Academic Convenor of Global Studies Program and Deputy Director of Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) in NUS. His research fields are ageing and health, population studies, and economic sociology. His research themes are mostly focused on health and economy and he is interested to try different methods in research practice, such as multivariate statistics, simulation-based projection, experiment, comparative and historical approaches, as well as ethnographic approaches. He has published more than 40 papers and one book manuscript and done editorial service for a few international journals and book series. He is the Associate Editor of Asian Population Studies and BMC Geriatrics.



Dr. Hu Shu
Head, Sociology
Programme, Singapore
University of Social
Sciences

Topic: The Effectiveness and Implications of Online Learning: Survey Findings from Middle School Students in a Hubei county

Due to the ongoing pandemic, many countries and regions have closed their schools and moved classes online. To understand how students fare as they engage in full-scale online learning at home, I conducted an online survey in a Hubei county. In this webinar, I present findings on students' perceived effectiveness, advantages, and disadvantages of online learning, discuss social inequalities in access to digital devices and the Internet required for online learning, and the implications of online learning for educational inequality.

About Speaker

Dr. Hu Shu is a lecturer with the Sociology Programme in the School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences at Singapore University of Social Sciences. Her research interests centre on how family origin, gender, and the state shape the lives and wellbeing of individuals at different stages of the life course. Her research on parental labour migration and children's educational outcome, children's time use, transition to adulthood, marriage values and behaviours, parenting, quality of life among older adults have appeared in peer-reviewed journals.

Moderator



**A/Prof. Bussarawan
Teerawichitchainan**
Co-Director, Centre for
Family and Population
Research, National
University of Singapore

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Series “Family Research” at Springer VS

The series „Family Research“ at Springer VS exists since 2014. A number of interesting books have already been published, mostly in German. However, as we strive to increase the series' international visibility, manuscripts in English are also highly welcome. We would thus like to invite you to submit monographs or edited volumes taking empirical or theoretical perspectives on family related topics. All books are available in print and online without a publication fee.



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Series “Family Research”

In family research we can identify two basic positions: On the one hand, there is an institutional perspective, where family is seen as an institution, which can be thought independent of their members, and, on the other hand, there is a micro-social perspective, where family is seen as a unit of interacting members. The book series “Family Research” includes publications in the whole range of research topics regarding partnership and family. Taking into account an interdisciplinary view on family, sociological studies are included as well as studies from Psychology, Pedagogic, or Economics.

Manuscripts for book publications in German or English are very welcome.

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PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Balachandran, L., & Yeung, W.J. (2020). Examining social mobility amongst remarried ethnic minority women in Singapore. *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(7), 1055-1077. doi:10.1177/0192513X20918441.

Abstract: Using a qualitative life history approach, this article offers to enhance our understanding of how remarriage impacts social mobility trajectories amongst ethnic minority women in Singapore. In particular, the attention to ethnic minority Malay women's biographies reveals how the intersections of "ethnicity" and "class" render visibility to how re-partnership entails social exclusion that is morally and culturally coded concealing the emotional and material struggles that women in stepfamilies cope with. In comparing the lived experiences of remarried middle-class Malay women with their working-class counterparts, this article argues that stepfamily formation in Singapore in fact tends to deepen rather than mitigate vulnerabilities, particularly for the latter, thus failing to live up to the lure of economic stability that repartnerships are conventionally assumed to provide. In so doing, the article also argues for a nuanced understanding of social mobility as a non-linear process rather than an outcome.

Balachandran, L., & Yeung, W.J. (2020). "Old bonds, new ties: Contextualizing family transitions in re-partnerships, remarriage and stepfamilies in Asia." Introduction to special issue in *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(7), 879-890. doi:10.1177/0192513X20918428.

Abstract: The continued emphasis on a decontextualized nuclear family in Asia has often obscured experiences of re-partnered individuals and stepfamilies, wherein transitions including couple dissolution and remarriage or cohabitation

have had particular implications for family well-being and social mobility. This paper highlights key points in the papers in this special issue. The pertinence of extended family ties and the cultural pressures of collectivism advance shared perspectives of re-partnership and stepfamily formation across East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Drawing from quantitative and qualitative methodologies, these papers direct attention to the heterogeneity in re-partnership pathways where broader social categories such as class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion and historicity differentially intersect across national and socio-political contexts.

Czarnecki, L., Juarez Contreras, K.J. Dong, W. (2020). Measuring Educational Index between China and Mexico, *Journal of Applied Social Science*, 14(1), 106–122.
doi:10.1177/1936724419899974

Abstract: Since the 1980s, China and Mexico adopted market-oriented public policies, which impacted all spheres of their respective societies. This study pays special attention to the areas of income, literacy, and urbanization; identifies relevant policies effects on their educational systems; and proposes a model of education index for analyzing their transformations. It found regional inequalities between west and east China and southern and north-central Mexico a crucial factor that affects the Education Index. In conclusion, we provide a theoretical and practical understanding of the education inequalities occurred in both countries.

Gu, X. & Yeung, W.J. (2020). Hopes and Hurdles: Rural Migrant Children's Education in Urban China, *Chinese Sociological Review*, 52(2), 199-237.

Abstract: Rural migrant children are a rapidly growing demographic in Chinese cities. Existing sociological literature yields inconsistent findings regarding their wellbeing and adaptation to the urban society, partly due to a bifurcation of methodological approaches. Combining multilevel modelling and field research, this mixed-method study documents the coexistence of high hopes and arduous hurdles migrant children encounter in a nested system of inequality, which im-

pacts their educational performance in complicated ways. We report the following findings. At the family level, in-depth interviews record parents' unbounded aspirations for children's educational success as a family social mobility project. However, cumulative socioeconomic disadvantage, the spill-over of migrant parents' job precarity and stress, and strained intergenerational ties due to prior family separation constitute major barriers that suppress migrant children's performance. At the school level, a de facto segregation system negatively impact migrant children's performance by disproportionately channelling them to schools less favourable in ranking, resources and academic climate, and subject to social discrimination. We highlight the tension between the co-existing "hopes and hurdles" in migrant children's urban educational experience and discuss the social and policy implications.

Ko, P. C. (2020). Investigating social networks of older Singaporean learners: A mixed methods approach, *Educational Gerontology*, 46(4), 207-222. DOI:

[10.1080/03601277.2020.1726595](https://doi.org/10.1080/03601277.2020.1726595)

Abstract: Lifelong learning is regarded as an important channel in promoting active engagement in later life for aging societies. While most studies depict older learners as a group resilient to engaging in lifelong learning, few have addressed the impacts of their social networks on their participation. Drawing on the nationwide lifelong learning program in Singapore, the study explores the extent older Singaporean adults' social networks influence their involvement in learning courses and illustrates how those networks matter to their motivations. A mixed methods approach consisting of two network instruments (Name Generator and Position Generator) and in-depth interviews based on 30 older Singaporeans (between 50 and 79 years old) were employed. The findings demonstrated that primary family members (spouse and children) were key discussants for older learners, but the narratives showed only children were key supporters. For female learners, husbands' support could be limited. Such a gender difference was revealed in overlap networks among couples, with male learners receiving greater positive support from their wives. Furthermore, the results showed that single

or widowed learners had more non-kin members and diverse network resources, which reflect in their discourses of being highly motivated and active in spreading news of courses. To conclude, the study delivered deeper understandings of how diverse social contexts influence older learners' motivations. Future research shall continue to focus on variations of network characteristics and network resources to improve the understanding of how significant others and accessible network resources provide social support or opportunities for older learners.

Laß, I. (2020). The effects of non-standard employment on the transition to parenthood within couples: A comparison of Germany and Australia. *European Journal of Population*. doi:10.1007/s10680-019-09548-7

Abstract: Using longitudinal data from Germany and Australia for the 2001–2013 period, this study investigates the link between non-standard employment, such as fixed-term contracts, temporary agency work, part-time and casual work, and first birth within couple relationships. In contrast to previous studies, competing risks event history models are estimated to simultaneously consider couples' risks of first birth and of partnership dissolution. The results indicate, for example, that temporary employment of the female partner, and especially temporary agency work, decreases first birth risks in both countries. This suggests that women, in their dual role as primary carer and secondary earner, seek a secure employment position to return to after parental leave. In contrast, male partner's part-time work negatively affects the first birth risk and simultaneously increases the risk of partnership dissolution only in Australia, suggesting a more important role of men as primary earners in this country. Overall, the study highlights the twofold impact of non-standard employment on fertility, consisting of a direct influence on the first birth risk among stable couples and an indirect influence through the risk of partnership dissolution.

Laß, I., & Wooden, M. (2020). Temporary employment and work-life balance in Australia. *Journal of Family Research*. doi:10.20377/jfr-357

Abstract: While it is often believed that temporary forms of employment, such as fixed-term contracts, casual work and temporary agency work, provide workers with more flexibility to balance work and private commitments, convincing empirical evidence on this issue is still scarce. This paper investigates the association between temporary employment and work-life balance in Australia, using longitudinal data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey for the period 2001 to 2017. In contrast to previous studies, we compare results from pooled cross-sectional and fixed-effects regressions to investigate the role of time-constant unobserved worker characteristics in linking temporary employment and work-life outcomes. The results show that, after accounting for job characteristics and person-specific fixed-effects, among women only casual employment is unequivocally associated with better work-life outcomes than permanent employment. For men, we mostly find negative associations between all forms of temporary employment and work-life outcomes, but the magnitudes of these associations are much smaller and mostly insignificant in fixed-effects models. This result suggests that male temporary employees have stable unobserved traits that are connected to poorer work-life balance.

Lee, Y. & Yeung, W.J. (2020). The Country that Never Retires: The Gendered Pathways to Retirement in South Korea. *The Journals of Gerontology. Series B, Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbaa016

Abstract: Among all Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, South Korean older adults work until the latest age. We investigate the extent to which work experiences over the life course and family circumstances can be associated with older workers' incentives to remain in the labor force beyond the statutory pension age. We explore gender-specific patterns of labor force exit and labor force re-entry in later life. Using panel data of South Korean older workers and retirees from 2006 to 2016, we estimate multilevel discrete-time models with random effects to predict their labor force transition process that unfolds over time. Results show that skilled manual workers are less likely to exit employment and more likely to re-enter the labor force. A longer history of

self-employment is related to later retirement. The relationship between career characteristics and the risk of retirement is only significant for men. Late-aged employment transition among women appears to be more related to family conditions. Women who receive financial support from adult offspring are more likely to remain out of the labor force but this relationship is not pronounced among men. The paper concludes that policies aimed at extending working lives need to provide various types of social support to older job seekers, especially those who had low-class jobs and those without family networks.

Lu, Y., Yeung, W.J., & Treiman, D.J. (2020). Parental migration and children's psychological and cognitive development in China: Differences and mediating mechanisms. *Chinese Sociological Review*, 1-27. doi:10.1080/21620555.2020.1776600

Abstract: Internal migration has resulted in a large number of left-behind children in China. Despite growing attention to this population, important gaps remain in our understanding of their cognitive development and the factors that mediate the impact of migration on children. The present study draws on a new nationally representative survey of Chinese children to study the psychological and cognitive development of left-behind children. Results show that rural children left behind by both parents (but not by one parent) are worse off in both psychological well-being and cognitive development than rural children living with both parents. The disadvantage of left-behind children is mediated by their caregivers' emotional well-being, parenting practices, and education. We also find a pronounced rural-urban difference in children's cognitive development.

Lu, Y., Yeung, W.J., Liu, J., & Treiman, D.J. (2019). Health of left-behind children in china: Evidence from mediation analysis. *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, 5(4), 431-452. doi:10.1177/2057150X19872685

Abstract: Internal migration in China has resulted in large numbers of left-behind children. Despite growing attention paid to this population, existing research has not systematically addressed the mediating mechanisms linking parental migration to children's health. The present study examines the influences of migration

on the health of left-behind children in China and the mediating channels, using data from a new nationally representative survey. We compare three groups of rural children aged 3–15 years ($N = 2473$): those who were left behind by both parents, those who were left behind by one parent and those living with both non-migrant parents. Results show that the health of rural children left behind by both parents (but not by one parent) is worse than the health of children living with both parents. The health disadvantage of these children is mediated by their caregivers' poor health status and caregiving practices. These mediating factors not only have a direct impact on child health but also exert an indirect impact by shaping children's nutritional intakes. Contrary to conventional wisdom, monetary remittances are not a significant mechanism linking migration to child health.

Ravn, S., Barnwell, A., & **Neves, B. B.** (2020). What Is “publicly available data”? Exploring blurred public–private boundaries and ethical practices through a case study on Instagram. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 15(1-2), 40-45.

Abstract: This article adds to the literature on ethics in digital research by problematizing simple understandings of what constitutes “publicly available data,” thereby complicating common “consent waiver” approaches. Based on our recent study of representations of family life on Instagram, a platform with a distinct visual premise, we discuss the ethical challenges we encountered and our practices for moving forward. We ground this in Lauren Berlant’s concept of “intimate publics” to conceptualize the different understandings of “publics” that appear to be at play. We make the case for a more reflexive approach to social media research ethics that builds on the socio-techno-ethical affordances of the platform to address difficult questions about how to determine social media users’ diverse, and sometimes contradictory, understandings of what is “public.”

Steinbach, A., Augustijn, L., & Corkadi, G. (2020). Joint physical custody and adolescents’ life satisfaction in 37 North American and European countries. *Family Process*. doi: 10.1111/famp.12536 (online first, open access)

Abstract: Joint physical custody, a parental care arrangement in which a child lives with each parent about equally after separation or divorce, is an increasingly common phenomenon in many Western countries. Although attention from family scholars, practitioners, and law professionals is growing, there are hardly any numbers on the prevalence of joint physical custody (JPC). Moreover, studies using large-scale representative data on the effects of JPC for children's well-being are still rare. The data for this study come from Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC), a representative cross-national survey of adolescents in 37 European and North American countries that was conducted in 2002, 2006, and 2010 and included information on students at the ages of 11, 13, and 15 years ($N = 92,886$). First, results revealed that symmetrical JPC after family dissolution is still very rare in the majority of countries (5% or less), but reaches 10–20% in some countries. Second, adolescents' life satisfaction in nonintact families is higher in symmetric JPC arrangements than in asymmetric care arrangements. However, after controlling for children and family characteristics, the differences disappear. Thus, it is not the symmetric JPC arrangement that induces adolescents' higher life satisfaction, but rather the children and family characteristics that are associated with the choice of such a custody arrangement by separated or divorced parents.

Technical Bureau of the Permanent Population Committee. (2020). Singapore's Inclusive Family-Oriented Population and Social Policies and SDGs, *Population*, 45, 5-15. Doha, Qatar: Yeung, W.J.

Abstract: This article provides an overview of the key aspects of the changes that occurred in Singapore's population and families during the last half of a century, highlights the critical public policies that help shape the evolution, and identifies the challenges that Singapore's family and population trends face for its future development. Singapore provides a rare opportunity to examine the complex relationship between development and family changes with its unique hybrid of East and West, of cosmopolitanism and conservatism. The article focuses on its national ideologies about family and relevant policy measures designed to

achieve family cohesion, an integrated society, and a sustainable population. Policies covered include marriage and fertility measures, immigration policies, as well as social protection programs such as the public housing policy, measures to encourage childbirth and marriage, and interventions for vulnerable populations such as low-income families and disadvantaged elderly. I observe that many of these policies are consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. I also highlight the current major challenges in family and population issues faced by Singapore.

Yeung, W.J., and Yang, Y. (2020). Labor Market Uncertainties for Youth and Young Adults: An International Perspective. Introduction to a special issue Young People in Uncertain Labor Markets, *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 688(1).

Abstract: A crisis for youth labor market conditions has been building globally for more than two decades, reflected in the persistently high rates of youth unemployment around the world, which is about three times as high as that for adults. About one in five young people are not in education, employment, or training, and a large share of young adults are working in the informal economy or in precarious conditions. This volume includes a collection of thirteen articles that examine the causes, patterns, and consequences of labor market uncertainties for youth and young adults in Europe, Latin/South America, the United States, and Asia, as well as a concluding article. They reveal vast inequalities among young people, with those having the least education and lowest skills, females, those with low family socioeconomic status (SES), ethnic minorities, and migrants being the most vulnerable. In this introduction, we describe the global trends and regional variation in labor market conditions for young people, explicate the importance of integrating young people into labor markets, and summarize the findings and policy implications of these articles.

Yeung, W.J., Chen X., Ding X., Cheung, M. (in press). Achievement Test for Chinese Preschool Children: Validity and Social Correlates. *Chinese Journal of Sociology*.

Abstract: Early childhood is a crucial period for human development that has long term implications for one's life trajectories. During the years before formal schooling, the brain size and structures, as well as cognitive abilities undergo rapid development. Children's cognitive abilities develop by leaps and bounds and show great malleability. Cognitive development during early childhood exerts a long-lasting influence on children's life chances in their adulthood. In China, however, there is no established reliable early childhood achievement test that can be used in a study. This study validates an achievement test for Chinese pre-schoolers. We analyse data from a nationally representative sample of children aged 3 to 6 who participated in the Zhang-Yeung Test of Achievement for Chinese Children (ZY-TACC) in 2012. The instrument consists of a 28-item verbal test and a 24-item numeracy test. Our evaluations indicate a satisfactory level of difficulty, as well as high internal consistency and reliability. This instrument exhibits a good ability to distinguish children of different ages and varying family backgrounds in ways consistent with previous literature. Children's test scores are also found to correlate in the expected direction with their behavioral indicators. We demonstrate that ZY-TACC is a psychometrically robust, culturally, and contextually appropriate instrument for assessing Chinese preschool children's achievement. The instrument can make a significant contribution to research on early childhood development in China

Special Issues

Balachandran, L., & Yeung, W.J. (2020). Old bonds, new ties: Contextualizing family transitions in re-partnerships, remarriage and stepfamilies in Asia. *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(7). doi:10.1177/0192513X20918428.

Abstract: The eight papers in this special issue expand scholarship beyond acknowledging the increasing prevalence of re-partnership and stepfamilies seeking to facilitate cross-cultural comparisons within the region, and between Asia

and the West where notable advancements have been made in theorising diverse family processes. The pertinence of extended family ties and the cultural pressures of collectivism advance shared perspectives of re-partnership and stepfamily formation across East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia. At the same time, drawing from quantitative and qualitative methodologies, these papers direct attention to the heterogeneity in re-partnership pathways where broader social categories such as class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion and historicity differentially intersect across national and socio-political contexts.

Mu, Z. & Yeung, W.J., (2019). Migration and marriage in Asian contexts. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. doi:10.1080/1369183X.2019.1585005

Abstract: The papers in this special issue show that Asian marriage migrants' experience of integration and assimilation are complex, nuanced, and heterogeneous across migrants' sociodemographic backgrounds, ethnic profiles, and political contexts. The heterogeneities in Asian marriage migrants' assimilation trajectories challenge the classic assimilation theory which assumes an unilinear integration trajectory in all relevant aspects. This issue diversifies the academic discourses on migration and marriage by going beyond marriage migration to include how other types of migration shape family formation processes including divorce and remarriage. It also examines the mechanisms underlying the migration-marriage link. Finally, this special issue widens methodological repertoires in the field of marriage and migration by using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method analyses to divulge the complexity of the relationships. Topics examined in these papers include variations in economic well-being, cultural assimilation, gender inequality vis-à-vis marriages, migrants' subjective well-being, and how policies pertinent to cross-cultural marriages affect migrants. Unlike in the western societies where race/ethnic integration is a dominant concern, in Asia, the extended families of marriage migrants and their spouses, patriarchy, religion, and caste also play a big role in Asian migrants' family formation behaviours.

Yeung, W.J., Yang, Y., & Kallaberg, A.L. (2020). Labor Market Uncertainties for Youth and Young Adults: International Evidence. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 688(1).

Abstract: Persistently high rates of youth unemployment have been a global concern for more than two decades. One in five young people is currently not in education, employment, or training (NEET), and women, minorities, and individuals in lower socioeconomic populations are among the most vulnerable to becoming unemployed.

In the March 2020 volume of The ANNALS, Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, Yi Yang, and Arne L. Kalleberg bring together scholars to examine the causes, patterns, and consequences of labor market uncertainties for young adults around the world. Focusing on regional inequalities and widespread, global trends, this volume highlights the importance of youth integration into labor markets and outlines policy changes that are crucial for this integration to be successful.

Encyclopedia Entries

Ko, P. C. (2020). [Impairment](#). In D. Gu & M. Dupre (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging*. Springer.

Media Articles

Barbara Barbosa Neves: ABC News Op-ed '[During coronavirus, we need social sciences and humanities more than ever. This is why](#)', May 1.

Barbara Barbosa Neves: Monash Lens Op-ed '[Counting the COVID-19 social cost: How people are faring in the pandemic – Laying bare how we treat older people](#)', May 5.

Barbara Barbosa Neves: ABC News Op-ed '[The coronavirus is a disaster for lonely older Australians. We can help ease their pain in small ways](#)', April 6.

Barbara Barbosa Neves: Monash Lens Op-ed '[Coronavirus: How COVID-19 is changing the world: A new appreciation for social connection](#)', April 15.

Book Chapters

Domínguez Zermeño, D., Czarnecki, L., & Ruíz de la Cruz, E. F. (2019). Envejecer en la CDMX: perspectivas y retos. In J. I. Flores Dávila (Ed.), *Inventario de la Ciudad de México: presente y futuro de su gente. Diez encuestas sobre la Ciudad de México. Tomo II* (pp. 215-253). Mexico: Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas.

Abstract: Mexico City is the city with the largest number of people over 60 years of age nationwide and the third largest Latin America with approximately 1.4 million. Even though it is anticipated that CDMX population will decrease in the coming years, the amount of older adults will increase. Since 2001, the CDMX government has been characterized by being avant-garde in the implementation of programs aimed at the protection of rights of older people. As part of the CDMX Inventory study. Present and future of its people, who was carried out by the UNAM with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, at the beginning of 2019 the public opinion Survey was applied in the Mexico City. This article aims to present the main results from the survey linking the opinions, perceptions and attitudes of the respondents with the current context.

Books



Fixing Parental Leave: The Six Month Solution

Gayle Kaufman
2020

What do Papua New Guinea, Suriname, and the United States have in common? These three nations are the only ones that do not offer some form of parental leave to new parents. The US lags far behind the rest of the world on this important issue, raising questions about our commitment to gender equality and the welfare of our families.

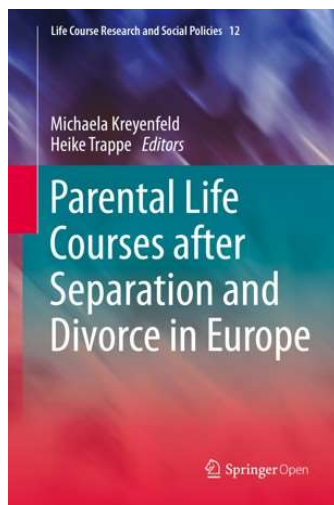
Fixing Parental Leave takes an in-depth look at parental leave policies in the US, the UK, and Sweden, and evaluates the benefits and drawbacks of leave policies in each country. Through these case studies, it is clear that there is more to parental leave policies than whether a country provides time off around the birth or adoption of a child. While most policies are designed to help women return to work, this is only half of the puzzle. The second half requires men to be meaningful partners by encouraging them to take equal time at home.

Ultimately, the book provides a solution that will promote gender equity through a policy that enables parents at companies of all sizes to spend six months with their new child.

Links:

<https://thesocietypages.org/ccf/2020/04/14/fixing-parental-leave-the-six-month-solution/>

<https://nyupress.org/9781479810369/fixing-parental-leave/>



Parental Life Courses after Separation and Divorce in Europe

Michaela Kreyenfeld & Heike Trappe

2020

Series: Life Course Research and Social Policies

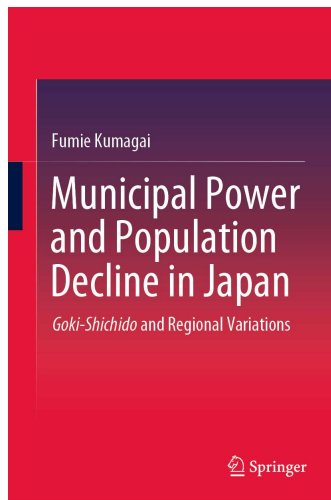
- This open access book focuses on post-separation families in major European Countries
- Addresses multiple perspectives and interconnected themes of family life
- Features a rigorous longitudinal perspective that situates post-separation behaviour and well-being in the life course

This open access book assembles landmark studies on divorce and separation in European countries, and how this affects the life of parents and children. It focuses on four major areas of post-separation lives, namely (1) economic conditions, (2) parent-child relationships, (3) parent and child well-being, and (4) health. Through studies from several European countries, the book showcases how legal regulations and social policies influence parental and child wellbeing after divorce and separation. It also illustrates how social policies are interwoven with the normative fabric of a country. For example, it is shown that father-child contact after separation is more intense in those countries which have adopted policies that encourage

shared parenting. Correspondingly, countries that have adopted these regulations are at the forefront of more egalitarian gender role attitudes. Apart from a strong emphasis on the legal and social policy context, the studies in this volume adopt a longitudinal perspective and situate post-separation behaviour and well-being in the life course. The longitudinal perspective opens up new avenues for research to understand how behaviour and conditions prior or at divorce and separation affect later behaviour and well-being. As such this book is of special appeal to scholars of family research as well as to anyone interested in the role of divorce and separation in Europe in the 21st century.

Link for more details:

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-44575-1>



Municipal Power and Population Decline in Japan: *Goki-Shichido* and Regional Variations Fumie Kumagai 2020

- The first book to employ Goki-Shichido as a theoretical framework for the analysis of municipal power and regional revitalization in Japan
- The first book to identify "marriage power" as a significant factor in population sustainability, authored by one of Japan's eminent sociologists
- Highlights elements of municipal power, both positive and negative, as the driving force for community revitalization, and recommends new policies at the municipal level

This book provides an insightful sociological study of the declining Japanese population, using statistical analysis to establish the significance of municipal power using demographic data on national, regional, prefectural and municipal levels. Penned by one of Japan's eminent sociologists, it provides a quantitative characterization of population decline in Japan with a focus on regional variation, and identifies the principal explanatory factors through GPI statistical software tools such as G-census and EvaCva, within a historical perspective. Furthermore, it offers a qualitative assessment of what constitutes 'municipal power' as this relates to regional/local revitalization as a means of addressing municipal population decline. Using Goki-Shichido as a theoretical framework, this book pays special attention to municipal variations within the same prefecture, presenting a completely unique approach. In combining these two dimensions of analyses, the book successfully reveals the impact of municipal power and socio-cultural identity of social capital in the region, from both quantitative and qualitative perspectives at the municipal level. Demography issues in Japan have been receiving increasing attention among researchers given the growing number of declining populations in developed countries, in tandem with rapid aging and low fertility trends.

Link:

<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811542336>

Announcements

I. Awards & Honours

- **Barbara Barbosa Neves** was speaker at the *Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia*: “Loneliness in the Digital Age. A Virtual Symposium”, June 24.
<https://socialsciences.org.au/events/loneliness-in-the-digital-age-a-virtual-symposium/>
- **Maitreyee Bardhan Roy** has been awarded as the collegium of Eminent Scientist under Indian Council of Social Sciences Research.

II. Grants & Projects

- **Barbara Barbosa Neves**: ‘AI for Older Australians in Aged-Care Facilities: Challenges and Opportunities’ (2020). Funded by the Interdisciplinary Research Support Scheme on AI & Data Science. <https://research.monash.edu/en/projects/ai-for-older-australians-in-aged-care-facilities-challenges-and-o>
- **Barbara Barbosa Neves**: ‘Young people’s experience with Australian public services’ (2020). Funded by the Australian Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. <https://research.monash.edu/en/projects/young-peoples-experience-with-australian-public-services>

New & Returning Members

We welcome the following new or returning members (2020):

Cristina Gomes
Mexico

Fumiya Uchikoshi
United States

Melanie Heath
Canada

Daniel Gabaldon-Estevan
Spain

Ekawati Sri Wahyuni
Indonesia

Chin-Chun Yi
Taiwan

Magdalena Zadkowska
Poland

Lukasz Czarnecki
Mexico

Titik Harsanti
Indonesia

Loretta Baldassar
Australia

Erika Busse
United States

Stefania Adriana Bevilacqua
Italy

Joanne Elizabeth Roberts
United States

Coralie Theys
Belgium

Akiko Nagai
Japan

Hisano Niikura
Japan

Sergey V. Ryazantsev
Russia

Board of RC06 (2018-2022)

President	Susan McDaniel
Vice-President	Bahira Sherif Trask
Secretary and Treasurer	Bárbara Barbosa Neves
Members at large	Anja Steinbach (this newsletter's editor)
	Jean Yeung
	Marlize Rabe

