

5 DECEMBER 2013 (THURSDAY)		
09:45 – 10:00	REGISTRATION	
10:00 – 10:30	WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	
	<p>Wei-Jun Jean YEUNG Asia Research Institute, and Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore</p> <p>Adam Ka-Lok CHEUNG Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</p>	
10:30 – 12:00	PANEL 1 – PATTERNS AND TRENDS: OVERALL PATTERN, EAST ASIA	
	Chairperson : Gavin W. JONES	
10:30	<p>Chai PODHISITA Mahidol University, Thailand</p> <p>Peter XENOS Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p>	Asia's Emerging Patterns of Living Alone: Analysis of Asian Censuses and Surveys
10:50	<p>Adam Ka-Lok CHEUNG National University of Singapore</p> <p>Wei-Jun Jean YEUNG National University of Singapore</p>	Temporal-spatial Patterns of One-person Households in China, 1982- 2005
11:10	<p>Hyunjoon PARK University of Pennsylvania, USA</p> <p>Jaesung CHOI SungKyunKwan University, Korea</p>	Long-Terms Trends of Living Alone in South Korea: 1960-2010
11:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH	
13:00 – 14:30	PANEL 2 – PATTERNS AND TREND: EAST ASIA	
	Chairperson: Qianhan LIN	
13:00	<p>Yu-Hua CHEN National Taiwan University, Taiwan</p>	Impacts of Demographic and Socioeconomic Trends on the Growth in Single-person Households in Taiwan
13:20	<p>Fumie KUMAGAI Kyorin University, Japan</p>	Japan's Age of Aging: Elders Living Apart
13:40	<p>Richard RONALD University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands</p>	How Urban Contexts and Housing Sectors are Shaping of the Rise in Single-person Households in Japan and South Korea
14:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
14:30 – 14:50	TEA BREAK	

LIVING ALONE: ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS IN ASIA (5-6 DECEMBER 2013)

Organized by Changing Family in Asia Cluster of Asia Research Institute,
and supported by Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore.

14:50 – 16:15	PANEL 3 – PATTERNS AND TREND: EAST ASIA	
	Chairperson: Suzanne NAAFS	
14:50	Ngai Ming YIP City University of Hong Kong Ray FORREST City University of Hong Kong	Choice or Constraint? Exploring Solo-living for Young Households in Hong Kong
15:10	Claire Seungeun LEE National University of Singapore	Living as an Ant Tribe and Living in a Shoebox: Emerging Young One-person Households in South Korea
15:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
16:00 – 16:10	BREAK	
16:10 – 17:40	PANEL 4 – PATTERNS AND TREND: SOUTHEAST, SOUTH, WEST ASIA	
	Chairperson: Dhiman DAS	
16:10	Christophe Z. GUILMOTO (via Skype) Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), and Centre Population & Développement (CEPED), France Myriam de LOENZIEN Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), and Centre Population & Développement (CEPED), France	Emerging, Transitory or Residual? One-person Households in Viet Nam
16:30	Jaikishan DESAI Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand	Change and Stability in Vietnamese Households over 15 Years of Rapid Growth
16:50	Premchand DOMMARAJU Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Single-person Households in South Asia
17:10	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
17:40	END OF DAY ONE	
18:00 – 19:30	CONFERENCE DINNER (For Speakers, Chairpersons & Invited Guests)	

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6 DECEMBER 2013 (FRIDAY)

10:30 – 12:00		PANEL 5 – LIVING ALONE AND WELL-BEING (1)	
	Chairperson: Haibin LI		
10:30	Fatemeh TORABI University of Tehran, Iran Mohammad Jalal ABBASI-SHAVAZI University of Tehran, Iran, and Australian National University A. ASKARI-NODOUSHAN Yazd University, Iran	Trends and Patterns of Single-person Households in Iran: An Exploratory Analysis	
10:50	W. Indralal DE SILVA University of Colombo, Sri Lanka	Isolation in Life: Growth of Single-Person Households and their Well-being in Sri Lanka	
11:10	Bussarawan TEERAWICHITCHAINAN Singapore Management University John E. KNODEL University of Michigan, USA Wiraporn POTHISIRI Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	What Does Living Alone Really Mean for Older Persons?: A Comparative Study of Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand	
11:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS		
12:00 – 13:00		LUNCH	
13:00 – 14:30		PANEL 6 – LIVING ALONE AND WELL-BEING (2)	
	Chairperson: Adam Ka-Lok CHEUNG		
13:00	James M. RAYMO University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA	Living Alone in Japan: Relationships with Health and Happiness	
13:20	Jeong-Hwa HO Ajou University, Korea	Young and Living Alone: Life Satisfaction and Future Family Plans of Young Unmarried One-person Households in Korea	
13:40	Angelique CHAN Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore, and National University of Singapore Prassanna RAMAN Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore	Social Support and Mortality in the Singaporean Elderly: Results from the Social Isolation, Health, and Lifestyles Survey	
14:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS		
14:30 – 15:00		TEA BREAK	

LIVING ALONE: ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS IN ASIA (5-6 DECEMBER 2013)

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15:00 – 16:10		PANEL 7 – LIVING ALONE, POLICY AND PROSPECTS	
	Chairperson: Yingchun JI		
<i>15:00</i>	Erin Hye-Won KIM National University of Singapore	Public Support Crowds Out Family Support: Evidence from a New Government Pension in Korea	
<i>15:20</i>	Qiushi FENG National University of Singapore Zhenglian WANG Duke University, USA Wei-Jun Jean YEUNG National University of Singapore Yi ZENG Duke University, USA, and Peking University, China	Projection of One-person Household in China, 2010 to 2050	
<i>15:40</i>	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS		
16:10	END OF CONFERENCE		
16:10 – 16:20	BREAK		
16:20 – 16:45	DISCUSSION ON PUBLICATION PLAN (For Authors only)		

Asia's Emerging Patterns of Living Alone: Analysis of Asian Censuses and Surveys

Chai PODHISITA

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The percentage of persons living alone (% LA) is an ubiquitous product of household surveys and national censuses; but interpretation of this simple statistic is fraught analytically. Ideal for analysis would be longitudinal histories of the living arrangements of representative samples of individuals. However, we generally must do with current cross-sectional household information for a series of dates, and without information on alternative household arrangements (e. g.: numbers of surviving kin by type), and on household residential decision-making in light of those alternatives.

An historical series of information is crucial. Changes in % LA are underway throughout the region and are likely to reflect strongly both period and cohort (historical and lifetime) influences, as well as the impermanent but important transition effects found during periods of transition. In the time frame of prime interest across Asia (the last two or three human generations) the most prominent influences include fertility and mortality transitions and very substantial economic transformations, all varying in timing and tempo among the countries. Sorting out these influences requires large-scale survey and/or census data for a set of populations, and for as long a time series as possible for each of those populations.

The proposed paper will examine the living alone phenomenon using Asian regional census rounds from the IPUMS archive (currently 38 census micro-files from 11 Asian countries), supplemented when possible with additional data. We will employ a methodology based on the pooling of census data within and across countries and the modeling of % LA across countries, cohorts, ages, and the few fixed characteristics available in the censuses -- language spoken, religion, and educational levels -- reflecting historical and personal time and certain social differentiations. The pooled data include overlapping cohorts and therefore some multiple measurements of % LA that can suggest levels of consistency among the data-sets.

Cross-national results will be complemented by employing the same approach in the data-rich context of Thailand, for which we have micro-files for census rounds each decade 1970 through 2010 plus bi-annual rounds of the Household Socio Economic Survey (HSES) from 1986 through 2009. These large-scale data sets have sufficient samples to allow multiple measures for single-year cohorts. The product of the proposed analysis is intended to be, within the data limitations, a macro-level history of Asian cohorts over their lifetimes with respect to % LA.

Chai Podhisita is Associate Professor, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand. His main interests include adolescents and youth; life course studies; family and household studies. He had participated in numerous field studies using both household survey and qualitative methods and had carried out a census-based study of youth living arrangements.

Peter Xenos is Visiting Lecturer, College of Public Health Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. His main interests include adolescents, youth and the life course; families and households; historical demography; spatial demography. He had completed numerous survey or census-based analyses of demographic and social change.

Temporal-spatial Patterns of One-person Households in China, 1982-2005

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Profound changes in social and economic contexts in China have been witnessed since the 1980s. Socioeconomic development and family planning policy in China have led to the decline in fertility rate and family size. These socio-demographic changes have significant implications on the living arrangements and household. For the past three decades, there has been a rise of one-person households. One-person household is a category of heterogeneous population. Living alone as a living arrangement can be voluntary-based and involuntary-based. However, there is generally a lack of systemic effort in differentiating and explaining the pattern of different types of one-person householders in the literature. The trend of regional heterogeneity of household structure, single-person households in particular, in China is also often neglected in the literature but has its theoretical and policy significance.

In this paper, we examine the temporal-spatial pattern of the four types of one-person households (Never married – living alone; Married – living alone; Divorced – living alone; Widowed – living alone) in China between 1982 and 2005 by analyzing the 1% sample of 1982 and 1990 Census micro-data, and inter-censal 1% Population Sample Survey in 2005. Despite the variability of the composition of one-person householders, the overall percentage of population living in one-person households was 1.81%, 1.62% and 3.58% in 1982, 1990 and 2005 respectively. An increasing spatial heterogeneity on the proportions of never married – living alone and married – living alone one-person households are also observed. One-person households, especially those who are not widowed, are increasingly clustered in those economically developed provinces and municipalities. At prefecture-level analysis, results for fixed effect regression show that industrialization and internal work-migration explained a large portion of change of spatial variation in types of one-person households but the impacts of these factors of different types of one-person households vary. Policy and theoretical implications will be discussed.

Adam K. L. Cheung is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Changing Family in Asia cluster of Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. He has received his PhD in Sociology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research and previous publications focus on the roles of social factors in domestic violence in the Chinese context. He is also working on projects related to family relations, internal migration and family structure in China. His research papers were published and accepted for publication in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Violence & Victims*, *Violence Against Women*, *Social Transformations in Chinese Societies*, and other edited volume.

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung is a Professor at the Department of Sociology and the Cluster Leader in the Changing Family in Asia research cluster in Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She chairs the Family, Children, and Youth Research Cluster in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in NUS. Professor Yeung is on the editorial boards of *Demography*, *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Journal of Family Issues*, and had served on Child Development board and numerous scientific review committees. She is a Board of Trustee member of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies and an international academic advisor to the Institute of Social Science Studies in Peking University. Professor Yeung was a co-principal investigator of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. Her current research includes various family demographic issues in American and Asia. Her recent publications include edited special issues on Asian Fatherhood, Transitioning to Adulthood in Asia, and Shifting Boundaries of Care in Asia and a forthcoming volume on Economic Stress and Families in Asia.

Long-terms Trends of Living Alone in South Korea: 1960-2010

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One of the major demographic changes in Korea is the rapid increase of one-person households, from 7 percent in 1985 to 24 percent in 2010. In this study, by focusing on individuals instead of households as a unit of analysis, we investigate the long-term trend over half a century in solo living in Korea using 1960 to 2010 Census. We investigate gender and age differences in the changing trend of living alone. Our detailed examination of two groups that experienced the most dramatic changes over time, the widowed elderly aged 65 or over and never-married 25 to 34-year-olds, shows that those with lower education were more likely to live alone than their counterparts with higher education. We interpret the negative relationship between education and the likelihood of living alone in the context of Korean society that has the long tradition of valuing living together.

Hyunjoon Park is Korea Foundation Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. His research interest includes family changes, education, and social stratification in East Asia with the focus on South Korea and Japan. He has recently published a book, *Re-Evaluating Education in Japan and Korea: De-mystifying stereotypes* (2013) and coedited (with Emily Hannum and Yuko Butler) the volume, *Globalization, Changing Demographics, and Educational Challenges in East Asia* (Research in Sociology of Education, Vol 17).

Jaesung Choi is an Assistant Professor in Economics at the SungKyunKwan University in Seoul, Korea. He received his PhD degree from University of Pennsylvania in 2013. His primary research interests are education, the labor market, welfare policy, and demography. His research focuses on investigating gender and socioeconomic background as sources of inequality in childhood outcomes, with an overarching goal of developing effective policies to affect children's development and lessen inequality. He has been working with Hyunjoon Park and Jere Behrman for the project on the causal effects of single-sex schools on students' academic, health, and behavioral outcomes. Dr Choi is the recipient of the scholarship from the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies for his doctoral study.

Impacts of Demographic and Socioeconomic Trends on the Growth in Single-person Households in Taiwan

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Sociologists have been engaged in a heated debate about dramatic transitions in the structure and functions of families over the twentieth century. What is new is the option of forming a one-person household within a traditionally family-oriented society like Taiwan. According to the latest population census, there are more than 1.6 million Taiwanese or 7.2 percent of the population living alone in 2010. The single-person households have constituted 22 percent of the total. Such a rise is attributed to the increasing number of young singles in their twenties and thirties who leave their parents' homes to live independently as well as people who delay marriage or choose not to get married. There are also those who live alone after getting divorced and some widowed seniors who live by themselves. However, people living alone can be split into two types, *elective* single-person households who have chosen living alone as well as *forced* single-person households who have been constrained to this lifestyle by circumstances (Bennett and Dixon 2006). Why are more people living in one-person households in Taiwan? How much is by choice and how much is by necessity? What demographic and socioeconomic factors underlie the growth and how are these likely to change in the future? To answer these questions, this research examines the factors that affect the formation of single-person households among Taiwanese and their housing characteristics by using four decennial censuses of 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010.

Yu-Hua Chen is Associate Professor in the Department of Bio-Industry Communication and Development at the National Taiwan University. Her research and teaching specialties are social and family demography as well as sociological research methods. Dr Chen is currently engaged in two research projects. The first project replicates and expands the VOC (value of children) study in the 1970s. It aims to examine the effect of transmission of VOC between generations and to explore the interplay of children-related values, childbearing intentions and reproductive behaviors across generations. The other project uses the dynamic household projection model to assess the sensitivity of future living arrangements in Taiwan to various demographic factors and to develop a range of scenarios for composition of the population by household age structure and size.

Japan's Age of Aging: Elders Living Apart

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Population aging is one of the most striking phenomena throughout the world today, changing the way we all live. Japan is no exception. Elders are pulling away from their traditional multi-generational households, to live alone, or as couples.

This qualitative analysis examines historic, archival and current statistical data, to find changes, nationally and regionally, in the institution of the Japanese family, which differs widely from one region to another. The continuities sustaining the traditional nature of the Japanese family and household are highlighted by analyzing traditional coresidency households in the northern part of the farming region in Tohoku, Yamagata prefecture in particular. Yamagata is different than neighboring prefectures in the region. Similarly, the study identified a long-existing unique family household type in the southern part of Kyushu, Kagoshima prefecture in particular, (unlike other prefectures in Kyushu), in which one- and two-person households are the predominant types among the elderly. These analyses support the widely held notion that Japan today is experiencing population aging amid increases in the households in which the elderly live alone, but with significant regional variations. Factors accounting for the unique characteristics of households in Yamagata and Kagoshima respectively could only be explained through Japanese historical and cultural development. It is traced back to the Ritsu Ryo System established in 701, which lasted for well over a millennium.

Regional variations in Japan stem from such characteristics as socio-economic factors, cultural and historical backgrounds, existing family patterns, and urban-rural differences, inherent in each region. They in turn, interact with community and family traditions to enhance amicable family relationships in the aging society. Furthermore, various programs developed for the elderly alone households could have significant implications for Asian societies that will soon follow the Japanese footsteps.

Fumie Kumagai is a Japanese sociologist holding an American doctorate with an extensive experience in the West as a student, a college professor, and a researcher. Professor Kumagai has been Professor of Sociology with the Graduate School of International Cooperation and the Department of Foreign Studies at Kyorin University in Tokyo, and is currently Professor Emeritus of Kyorin University. Although she does no longer possess regular teaching duty she continues to conduct research and writings. Her major interest focuses on regional variations in the social system, the family and demography in comparative perspectives with special attention to Japan and the U.S.A. She feels that a part of invisibility of Japan comes from its inability in expressing clearly in the international community. In an attempt to alleviate the situation, therefore, Professor Kumagai is eager to exchange dialogue with ever progressing global society about the true nature of Japan.

How Urban Contexts and Housing Sectors are Shaping of the Rise in Single-person Households in Japan and South Korea

Richard RONALD

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Like most developed societies, Japan has experienced a remarkable household fragmentation in recent years, and around one in three households now contains one person living alone. In urban contexts like Tokyo, around half of all households are made up of single-persons. South Korea has been a later starter with the single-person trend, but is catching up rapidly with rates increasing from 15.5% of all households in 2000 to 23.9% in 2010. The prominence of single-person households is not unusual to developed societies, but is being shaped in particular ways in these settings, not only by socioeconomic, cultural and demographic contexts, but also by housing markets and urban environments. This paper addresses how urban housing markets in Japan and South Korea are shaping manifestations of single living as well as how this continued trend is beginning to reshape housing sectors and urban landscapes. We further address how movements through the life courses as singles are changing perceptions of family and adulthood in regard to housing ladders and careers. A combination of data sources is drawn upon including national housing studies, family attitude surveys and census data, on the one hand, and qualitative interviews with singles on the other. In considering emerging household patterns and life courses shaped around singlehood, and how these are interacting with housing and urban environments in Japan and South Korea, a particular development pathway can be defined that does not adhere to norms established in North America and Western Europe, but, arguably, is likely to be influential in other East Asian contexts.

Richard Ronald is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Urban Studies at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He has published widely on housing in relation to social, economic and urban transformations in Europe and Pacific Asia including a number of monographs and edited volumes. He has held Japan Foundation as well as Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowships at Kobe University in Japan, and has been a Visiting Professor in the Department of Housing and Interior Design at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea. He is currently the Review Editor of *The International Journal of Housing Policy*. His latest research project, funded by the European Research Council, is investigating the role of housing markets and family property wealth in welfare regime transformations in Europe and East Asia.

Choice or Constraint?
Exploring Solo-living for Young Households in Hong Kong

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Solo-living among young adults in Hong Kong would seem to be exceptionally low with regard to other affluent cities. This may be driven by a combination of cultural (e.g. familism) as well as economic factors (e.g. high housing costs). More recently, an expanding population of highly educated, young adults (particularly those with overseas education experience), guest workers and returning emigrants at the high end of the labour market combined with delayed marriage and increased divorce have heightened the aspiration and the need for independent living (in some cases facilitated by rich parents). At the same time, population aging has obliged more young adults to stay with their parents to provide care and high housing costs continue to be a significant deterrent for solo-living. This is exacerbated by the unstable income and career prospects of many young adults. This paper offers new empirical research on the changing dynamics in the formation of single-person households in Hong Kong. It will draw on three different data sources. First, analysis of Census data from 1981 to 2011 will show the social and economic characteristics of single person households and their changing profile over the decades. Second, the way in which cultural, social and economic factors shape the housing choices of the young will be explored via a recent survey conducted by the authors of 1000 young adults aged 18 to 35. Lastly, in-depth interviews with young adults from varied backgrounds will further substantiate our understanding of such dynamics. This paper would aim to shed further light on understanding the impacts of social change on the formation of young single households.

Ngai Ming Yip and **Ray Forrest** are respectively Professor and Chair Professor of Housing and Urban Studies in the Department of Public Policy at the City University of Hong Kong. Ray Forrest is also the head of the Department and Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies at the University of Bristol. They have recently edited two books respectively *Young People and Housing: Transitions, Trajectories and Generational Fractures* (2012 (Routledge) and *Housing Markets and the Global Financial Crisis: The Uneven Impact on Households* (2010) (Edward Elgar). They are currently conducting a Hong Kong Research Council funded project on Housing and Hong Kong's Post-80s Generation: Attitudes, Aspirations and Future Trajectories.

Living as an Ant Tribe and Living in a Shoebox: Emerging Young One-person Households in South Korea

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According to the 2011 Seoul census, single households take up 24.4% of the total population, which is larger than the proportion of households of 4 (23.1%). Likewise, living arrangements are important not only in examining how solos' live, but also in exploring its implications to the changing society. A shoebox is a type of living arrangements of small rooms designed for or occupied by solo living. The Korean government sees the demand which is reflected on its demographic change and starts to build such housing. On the other hand, the term "ant tribe" was originally coined by a Chinese to describe young graduates on low incomes who live in cramped conditions – like a colony of ants. Living spaces like *gosiwon*, *one-room* in Korea have been popular among university students and young working people. Japan also has this sort of living arrangements due to the high living cost and the similar trend.

This paper explores young singlehood's life histories which are reflected on the changing living landscape and policies towards singlehood in South Korea. Their consumption patterns and preparation for the future are explored in their interviews. On the basis of the Seoul census data, the two most concentrated areas of singlehood, Gwanak-gu (a university area) and Gangnam-gu (a business area), are identified. Thus, interviews of Korean singles live in these areas are presented. Gwanak-gu singlehood by and large lives as an ant tribe in *gosiwon* or one-room, while Gangnam-gu and Japanese singlehood usually lives in a shoebox. This paper seeks to contribute to the burgeoning literature on singlehood in Asia by illuminating living arrangements and lifestyles of young Korean singles and offer implications to other Asian societies.

Claire Seungeun Lee is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology and Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. Formerly she worked at the Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE) in South Korea. Her research interests include social change, cultural and economic sociology and social policy from a comparative angle.

Emerging, Transitory or Residual? One-person Households in Viet Nam

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Viet Nam has witnessed a gradual increase in single-person households over the last twenty years. They accounted in 2009 for 7.3 % of all households in the country as against 4.4% ten years earlier. We will start by a description of their demographic traits, leading to identify the existence of two distinct types: young workers with a predominance of migrants among them and old persons who are often widowed. The paper will try to delineate their main social, economic, ethnic and geographical characteristics of these two types. We will also try to understand how they relate to other household types such as households with unrelated members, nuclear households and complex households. These households are often missed by sample surveys and we will therefore census statistics, using the large 15% sample of 2009 comprising more than 257,000 single-person households.

Christophe Z. Guilmoto is a Senior Fellow in demographer from the French *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD) and he is based at CEPED in Paris. Over the recent years, he has been working on prenatal gender bias and his research covers India, China, Viet Nam, the Caucasus and Southeast Europe. He was recently invited professor at the National University of Singapore in early 2013 where he organized with Prof Gavin Jones a conference on the comparative demography of China, India and Indonesia. His recent academic writings have appeared in leading journals such as *Demography*, *Population and Development Review* or *PLOS*. He is also the author of the latest 2012 UNFPA report on sex imbalances at birth in the world.

Myriam de Loenzien is a demographer at the Research Institute for Development (IRD). She is based at the Center Population and Development (CEPED) in Paris. Her main research areas focus on population, health, disability, family and reproductive health. In the last 10 years she has done extensive research in Viet Nam using quantitative and qualitative approaches. Her most recent publications deal with HIV/AIDS. She is currently working on a book manuscript on *Family and HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam* and is co-editor of a forthcoming book on population in Viet Nam.

Change and Stability in Vietnamese Households over 15 Years of Rapid Growth

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In this paper we analyze data from seven national household surveys conducted in Vietnam between 1992/93 and 2010 to examine changes in household size and composition, and patterns of individuals' living arrangements over the life cycle. Data show a secular decline in household size, and a reduction in the number of young children in a household, both of which are consistent with a decline in fertility. We also observe a delay in household formation, a decline in the proportion of elderly living with their offspring, and an increase in the proportion of single-person households. These types of household structures are more prevalent amongst the elderly, are associated with marital disruption, and affect women more than men. Comparing economic well-being of individuals living alone with demographically similar individuals in multi-person households we find evidence of significant differences that suggest elderly living by themselves might be worse off than those who live with others.

Jaikishan Desai is an economic demographer with a PhD in Economics and a Masters in Biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. For 20 years, he had worked in international development, and conducted research on various issues (gender, fertility, contraception, poverty, agricultural reforms, health) in various countries (Vietnam, India, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya). For the past 3 years, he had been at the Health Services Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington, in New Zealand. He is also a Senior Lecturer in the School of Government and teaches courses in Health Economics, and contributes to teaching in courses on research methods in public policy, and behavioural economics.

Single-person Households in South Asia

Premchand DOMMARAJU

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The proposed paper will address the first two themes of the conference—to present overall trends in single-person households in Asian countries and to examine the demographic and socio-economic profile of those living alone—by examining data from countries in South Asia. The paper will provide a comparative and rounded treatment of single-person households in South Asia. Drawing primarily on Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data, the paper will examine single-person households in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal. For India, the most populous country in South Asia, in addition to DHS data, published Census tables on households and data from other household surveys will also be analysed.

To examine single-person households requires defining ‘households’ and ‘single-person’. Defining these two concepts is not straightforward. Households as defined in surveys do not necessarily coincide with social notions of what constitutes a household held by different communities. Single-person households as understood as “households with only one person living in it” may be a restrictive definition. In urban centres, it is not uncommon for people, especially migrants to live with unrelated persons in the same household. The common notion of households also excludes those staying in institutional settings such as the young staying in hostels or the old staying in old-age home. They could in one sense be considered as living alone—without any family or relatives. The paper will reflect and expand the analysis by using alternative definitions of single-person households.

Premchand Dommaraju is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Sociology at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His main research interest is in social demographic issues (marriage, divorce, family, fertility, ageing and mortality) with a geographical focus on Asia. His publications have appeared in *Population*, *Population Studies*, *Population Research and Policy Review* and *Journal of Population Research*. He is currently the associate editor of the journal *Asian Population Studies*.

Trends and Patterns of Single-person Households in Iran: An Exploratory Analysis

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This paper aims to study the overall levels and trends of solitary living in Iran over the past five decades, and to examine social, economic and demographic patterns prevailed among one-person households. Utilising data from successive Iranian censuses, an attempt is made to address the following questions. (a) What is the overall trend in the number of one-person households? (b) How do these households vary by sex, age, education, labour-force participation, marital status and rural-urban place of residence? The findings suggest that the proportion of one-person households in Iran stayed at around five percent between 1956 and 2006. This figure rose to seven percent in 2011, showing a forty-percent increase in only five years. Furthermore, women increasingly comprise a larger proportion of one-person households (68.8% in 2011). This change can be due to increased longevity and the resulting higher period of widowhood and solitary living among women. In fact, nearly half of solo-living women are aged 70 and more. The age distribution of male one-person households follows a quite different pattern, with a substantial rise at ages 20-29, a decline before the age of 70 and another rise at higher ages. This suggests that marriage postponement has made a significance influence on male solitary living. There are also considerable gender differences in marital status, educational attainment and labour-force participation both in urban and rural areas, and in the country as a whole.

Fatemeh Torabi is Assistant Professor at the Department of Demography of the University of Tehran, Iran. Her areas of interest are marriage, fertility and family demography. Jointly with Professor Abbasi-Shavazi, she is currently involved in studying time use and family formation among women in Iran, parent's time investment during different stages of family development in Iran as well as women's role in development in the Middle East and North African region.

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi is Professor of Demography at the Department of Demography of the University of Tehran, Iran, and Future Fellow at the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ADSRI), Australian National University (ANU). His main research has been focused on Iran's fertility transition but he has also worked on family change, reproductive health, Muslim demography, international migration/ethnicity and Afghan's refugees in Iran. He has been served as the head/president of prominent national and international scientific institutions, including the Department of Demography of the University of Tehran (2002-2006) and the Asian Population Association (2011-2012).

Abbasi Askari-Nodoushan is Assistant Professor at Faculty of Social Sciences of Yazd University, Iran. His main research interest focuses on family and marriage attitudes and behaviours, nuptiality transition, fertility change and demography of Iran. With collaboration of his colleagues, he recently initiated a second wave of a project on family-demographic change based on a panel research design in the city of Yazd, Iran. He was also involved in writing a series of co-authored paper or research report on Iranian marriage market, marital homogamy, family dissolution and divorce, economic costs of marriage and intergeneration family change.

Isolation in Life: Growth of Single-person Households and their Well-being in Sri Lanka

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A few decades ago, single-person households (SPHs) were virtually non-existent in Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, consequent to ageing, migration, urbanization, social and economic changes, the single-person households have increased from 3.3 in 1990 to 5.6 in 2012. This paper will examine the trends and well-being of SPHs in Sri Lanka, using data from population censuses and national surveys. Of the SPHs in 2012 almost 55% are identified to be elderly, while only 14% is below the age 40. The corresponding elderly SPHs were lower in the 1990s. The sex ratio of the SPHs is more favorable for females: 82 males per 100 females. However, in 1990 the ratio was more favourable for males. During the last couple of decades female longevity has increased significantly compared to males and by 2011 the gender gap in life expectancy at birth was 9 years. Gender disparity in the gain of longevity has impacted on the marital status of the SPHs. Two-thirds of the female SPHs are widowed while the corresponding figure among the males is only 28%. During the last few decades an increasing proportion of male SPHs comprises of never married males (in 2012 the figure is 40%), while the corresponding figure among the females is only 18%. Education and livelihood patterns of SPHs also indicate a significant gender disparity. Over 71% of males had secondary or above education, while only one-half of the females had the same. Education has impacted on their employment: 66% and 29% males and females of SPHs are employed. In the mean time one-third of both sexes are reported to be unhealthy for work. Poor income and social networks all suppressed the well-being status of SPHs. Thus, policy planners in Sri Lanka need to recognize their vulnerability and develop appropriate social protection programs without any further delay. *(299 words)*

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What Does Living Alone Really Mean for Older Persons?: A Comparative Study of Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand

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This study addresses the situation and correlates of older persons aged 60 and older in Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand who live alone based on recent nationally representative surveys of older persons. Results reveal a modest upward trend in solo living among elderly across all three countries over the last few decades. The prevalence of solo living remains low, accounting for less than one-tenth of all older persons in the three countries. A very substantial proportion of elderly in one-person households live in quasi-coresidential arrangements with a child living in very nearby dwelling. This was an important aspect of solo living in all three countries, perhaps illustrating a critical aspect of how intergenerational support and transfers are being renegotiated and reinterpreted. Contrary to the common portrayal of solo-living elders as being disadvantaged and depressed, our evidence provides a more varied and nuanced view with regards to their situations. Solo living is not always associated with financial stress and depends in part on how their economic situation is measured. Although solo dwellers report more psychological distress than those living with others, we do not find any evidence to support the notion that solo dwellers are socially alienated. Having children, regardless of whether they live near, seems to offer some protection for elderly from psychological woes. Clearly, solo living appears to restrict the chances that older adults will receive personal assistance when needed. We also find that solo living elders who are childless are the most vulnerable groups in all three countries. This minority group will need attention from policy makers and social workers. While solo dwelling is correlated strongly with adverse outcomes in old-age wellbeing in Myanmar and Vietnam, this is much less so in Thailand; yet the explanation for the cross-national differences remains an open question.

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John Knodel is Research Professor Emeritus at the Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, USA, and international affiliate of the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He obtained his PhD in sociology from Princeton University where he specialized in demography. His earlier work focused on European historical demography. During the last four decades he has conducted collaborative research on a wide range of social demographic topics in Southeast Asia, especially in Thailand but also in Cambodia and Vietnam and most recently in Myanmar. This included extensive studies of the fertility transition in Thailand, sexual behavior in relation to the Thai AIDS epidemic, family change in Vietnam, and the impact of the AIDS epidemic on older persons in their role as parents of HIV infected adults in Thailand and Cambodia including how the advent of widespread use of ART has altered the situation. More recently he has examined the impact of rural to urban migration of adult children on older age parents in both Thailand and Cambodia and the future of family support to older persons in Thailand. His current research involves broad assessments of the situation of older persons in Thailand and Myanmar and comparative studies involving Vietnam as well on several more focused issues related to ageing including the contribution of older persons to family and community

Wiraporn Pothisiri is a lecturer at College of Population Studies (CPS), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from Chulalongkorn University in 1998 and 2001. She also received a Master's degree in Demography from University of California at Berkeley in 2003, and a PhD in Demography and Population Studies from London School of Economics and Political Science in 2010. Her main research interests are aging, fertility, fertility forecasting, abortion and other reproductive health related issues. Her recent research at CPS focuses on living arrangement and its association with older persons' psychological well-being, the translation of the National Plan on Older Persons into practice, and the development of community capacity in response to needs of older population. She is also working with IIASA on population and climate change issues.

Living Alone in Japan: Relationships with Health and Happiness

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Historically, living alone in young adulthood has been far less common in Japan than in the U.S. or other Western countries. However, the trend toward later marriage, combined with changing attitudes, has resulted in a rise in the proportion of young Japanese adults who live alone. For example, census data show that the proportion of 25-29 year-old women living alone increased from 5% in 1980 to 17% in 2010. Efforts to evaluate the extent to which living alone is associated with well-being are limited, however. The goals of this paper are twofold. First, I use census data to document trends in single-person households for men and women age 20-39, to describe trends in the characteristics of those who live alone (e.g., age, employment, education), and to evaluate the extent to which the rise in solo households is explained by changes in marriage timing. I then use data from the 2000-2008 rounds of the Japanese General Social Survey to examine the extent to which men and women living alone differ from their counterparts living with others in terms of both self-rated health and happiness. Initial tabulations indicate that those living alone are significantly less happy than those living with others whereas the two groups do not differ with respect to self-rated health. In subsequent extensions, I will examine the extent to which these bivariate relationships are sensitive to controlling for a range of individual characteristics including education, employment, and friendship networks. I will also examine the extent to which relationships differ by gender and by the marital status of those living with others. This work will provide a first look at the well-being of this growing, but understudied, segment of the youth population in Japan.

James Raymo is Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, where he is also director of the Center for Demography and Ecology and an affiliate of the Center for Demography of Health and Aging, the Institute for Research on Poverty, and the Center for East Asian Studies. Raymo's research focuses primarily on evaluating patterns and potential consequences of demographic changes associated with rapid population aging in Japan. He has published widely on key features of recent family change in Japan, including delayed marriage, extended coresidence with parents, and increases in premarital cohabitation, shotgun marriages, divorce, and single parent families. In two other lines of research, he has examined relationships between work, family characteristics, and health outcomes at older ages in Japan and patterns of retirement and well-being at older ages in the U.S. He is currently involved in a project that examines family change and inequality in cross-national comparative perspective. His research has been published in top U.S. journals such as *American Sociological Review*, *Demography*, and *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* as well as in Japanese journals. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Demography* and *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Raymo received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan after completing his M.A. in Economics at Osaka City University in Japan.

**Young and Living Alone:
Life Satisfaction and Future Family Plans
of Young Unmarried One-person Households in Korea**

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Increase in unmarried people living alone has become the keyword describing social and family changes in Korea since 2000. Social discourses are not favorable towards unmarried solo living in young adulthood as it deviates from traditional norms of mandatory marriage and coresidence with parents when unmarried and is expected to predict poor emotional wellbeing due to social isolation. This study examined emotional wellbeing (life satisfaction and experience of suicidal thoughts) of unmarried solo residents aged between 20 and 39 in comparison to the married people and the unmarried people living with family. Data from the most recent two waves of Korean Social Survey (2010 and 2012) is used. Results suggest that, for people with positive attitudes towards marriage, unmarried solo residents tend to have life satisfaction lower than married family coresidents but higher than unmarried family coresidents. For people with ambivalent or negative attitudes towards marriage, there is no difference in life satisfaction between unmarried solo residents and married family coresidents. Unmarried family coresidents have lowest the life satisfaction compared the other two types of marriage and living arrangements. There is no difference in the probability of ever having thought about committing a suicide across marriage and living arrangements. This suggests that traditional norms on marriage and family coresidence may not reflect the needs of current young generations. Academic and social implications are discussed in the paper.

Jeong-Hwa Ho is an Assistant Professor at Department of Sociology, Ajou University (South Korea). She earned her doctoral degree at University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, and served as an Assistant Professor at Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore July 2010- December 2012. Her main research areas include population aging process, transitions from middle to old age such as retirement, and their consequences on old-age quality of life. Her interests areas also include the newly emerging phases of life course such as healthy and active old age and extended singlehood in Asian societies.

Social Support and Mortality in the Singaporean Elderly: Results from the Social Isolation, Health, and Lifestyles Survey

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Studies on the effects of social support and loneliness on mortality in older people generally agree that healthy social networks and emotional fulfillment are keys to successful ageing. Loneliness has been established as a predictor of mortality and advancement of disability. We use data from the Social Isolation, Health, and Lifestyles Survey commissioned by the Ministry for Community Development, Youth, and Sports in 2009 to develop evidence-based policies targeting the enhancement of social participation in the Singaporean elderly (N=4995). In this study, we explore the relationship between physical loneliness (living alone) and social networks, and find that while physical loneliness is not associated with mortality, emotional isolation is. We also investigate how the impact of social isolation on mortality differs by age, gender, and type of social network. We conclude that the quality of social interactions is more important than physical loneliness for healthy ageing.

Angelique Chan holds joint appointments as Associate Professor in the Signature Program in Health Services & Systems Research, Duke-NUS and the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS). She is also Director of the Tsao Ageing Research Initiative at the Department of Sociology, NUS. Dr Chan received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1995 and was a NIA Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan. She has published widely on aging issues in leading international journals including the Journal of American Geriatrics Society, International Sociology, Journal of Aging and Health, and Journal of Gerontology Series B: Social Sciences. She is co-author of a book titled Ageing in Singapore: Service Needs & the State (Routledge 2006) and Co-editor of Ultra-low Fertility in Pacific Asia: Trends, Causes and Policy Issues (Routledge 2009). Her current research investigates the relationship between aging and various physical and mental health outcomes. Thematically, her work examines disability transitions, mortality, the effects of social support on health, caregiver burden, and use of long term care services. Her work involves the analyses of large national databases and conducting randomized control trials among Singaporean elderly to evaluate self-care and falls prevention programs. Her international work includes working with partners from China, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the UK and USA on caregiving, long term health financing, and disability transitions. She has performed consultancy work for government organizations such as the Ministry of Social and Family Development, Agency for Integrated Health, Ministry of Health, the United Nations, Temasek Foundation and the World Bank. She is also Director (Research) for the Singapore Mental Health Association and a member of the Taskforce on Aging for the Singapore National Research Foundation.

Prassanna Raman is a Research Assistant at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (Program in Health Services and Systems Research). With a background in development economics, economic geography, and urban planning, she is interested in how social capital formation in cities can shape public health, particularly in rapidly ageing societies. Prassanna is working on several projects addressing differing cultural attitudes towards long-term care facilities use in Singapore, self-care management for low-income elderly, and the relationships between social networks and successful aging.

Public Support Crowds out Family Support: Evidence from a New Government Pension in Korea

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Population aging is an imminent concern for many developed countries and is not a distant concern in most other countries. How public transfers for the elderly affect familial elder support is of substantial policy interest as the effectiveness of the government programs in part depends on the relationship. Despite the significant policy implications, relevant evidence is still lacking. Interestingly, it is not even clear whether public income support for elderly people will increase or decrease elders' coresidence with their adult children, which could naturally be an important source of elder support.

Current knowledge of the relationship between public transfers and elders' living arrangements is mostly descriptive and only a handful of studies in the U.S. have utilized natural experiments. The quasi-experimental studies have found that additional income from the government increased independent living among elders, and attributed that finding to elders' preference for privacy. There is no such study in Asia, where co-residence remains prevalent and norms of and preferences for co-residence are particularly strong.

In 2008, the Korean government introduced the Basic Old-Age Pension (BOAP), a means-tested income support program for poor elders. This paper utilizes the policy intervention, and examines the effect of the program on elders' likelihood of living alone. To estimate a comprehensive crowd-out effect of familial support, I analyze the impact on financial support elders received from adult children also.

I analyze the 2006, 2008, and 2010 waves of the Korean Longitudinal Study of Ageing, which is a nationally-representative longitudinal survey of Koreans aged 45 or older. The analysis takes a difference-in-difference approach, which compares changes in the family support received by two elderly groups, one that receives BOAP benefits and the other that does not due to not meeting the age or income cutoffs.

Erin Hye-Won Kim is an Assistant Professor in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Kim is also a faculty associate in the Changing Family in Asia Cluster in the NUS Asia Research Institute. Before joining the NUS faculty in 2012, she earned her master's and doctoral degrees in Public Policy from Duke University in the U.S. Kim's research examines the relationships among social policy, individual and family behaviors, and people's well-being. Currently, she is working on issues related to low fertility, intergenerational support, gender equity, and subjective well-being, using large-scale data sets. Geographically, she focuses on Asian countries, including Korea, Singapore, and Thailand.

Projection of One-person Household in China, 2010 to 2050:

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Single-person household has been increasing rapidly in China, and to estimate the future trend of this unique type of household has important implications for policy planning and market strategy. This paper applied a newly-developed method, the ProFamy Extended Cohort-component Method, to forecast the changes of single-person household in China from 2010 to 2050. With the ProFamy method, we provided the age-gender-rural/urban-specific projections of single-person household, which are more detailed than projections using traditional projection methods such as the headship rate approach. As these trends could be heterogeneous within China, we further project the changes of single-person household at different sub-national levels, such as regional level (Eastern, Central and Western regions), provincial level (Hebei province as an example case), and city level (Beijing as an exemplar case).

Qiushi Feng is an Assistant Professor of Sociology Department in the National University of Singapore. He received his PhD degree at Duke University, and then worked as a post-doc research associate at the Duke University Medical Center. His fields include aging and health, demography, and economic sociology. His research applies both qualitative and quantitative methods, and he teaches social research methods in the department. He published at Journal of American Geriatrics Society, Journal of Gerontology: Social Science, Journal of Public Health, Journal of Aging and Health, Stroke, Arthritis Care and Research, and International Journal of Market Research. He is currently working on a project of comparing successful aging in Singapore, Shanghai and Seoul, and a project of forecasting household structure and eldercare cost in China and India for the next forty years.

Zhenglian Wang is a Senior Research Fellow in the Center for Study of Aging and Human Development and Geriatric Division, Department of Medicine of Medical School in Duke University, USA.

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung is a Professor at the Department of Sociology and the Cluster Leader in the Changing Family in Asia research cluster in Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She chairs the Family, Children, and Youth Research Cluster in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in NUS. Professor Yeung is on the editorial boards of *Demography*, *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Journal of Family Issues*, and had served on Child Development board and numerous scientific review committees. She is a Board of Trustee member of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies and an international academic advisor to the Institute of Social Science Studies in Peking University. Professor Yeung was a co-principal investigator of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. Her current research includes various family demographic issues in American and Asia. Her recent publications include edited special issues on Asian Fatherhood, Transitioning to Adulthood in Asia, and Shifting Boundaries of Care in Asia and a forthcoming volume on Economic Stress and Families in Asia.

Yi Zeng is a Professor at the Center for Study of Aging and Human Development and Geriatric Division / Department of Medicine of Medical School, and Institute of Population Research and Department of Sociology, Duke University, USA. He is also a Professor at the China Center for Economic Research of Peking University in China, and Distinguished Research Scholar of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Germany. He is Director of the Center for Chinese Population and Socioeconomic Studies at Duke University. His primary research fields are: (1) population healthy aging and elderly health service and policy; (2) new methods of family households & living arrangements forecasting and its applications in socioeconomic and health services planning and policy analysis; (3) family dynamics and life course studies including marriage, divorce and cohabitation; (4) demographic, economic and social changes and their policy implications in elderly health care needs/costs and socioeconomic development in China.