

CONTEXTUALIZING PRODUCTIVE AGING IN ASIA

13-14 MARCH 2017
ARI SEMINAR ROOM
(AS8, LEVEL 4)
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF SINGAPORE

Convenors:
Pei-Chun Ko
Wei-Jun Jean Yeung



CONTEXTUALIZING PRODUCTIVE AGING IN ASIA

13-14 March 2017 | Organized by Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

“Productive Aging” emphasizes older adults’ engagement in productive activities, including working, care giving, volunteering or helping in later life. Asian countries (especially in East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia) face demographic aging on different scales and at varied speeds. In this conference, we aim to address determinants of productive aging in Asia from a multilevel perspective to understand how communities, families and individual factors can facilitate engagement of older adults in Asia.

Using coresidence as an example to illustrate why family factors matter to older adults, cultural values of older adults living with family in later life are prevalent across Asian countries. However, declining coresidence rates and increasing numbers of golden agers living alone affect the motivation for and engagement in productive activities by older adults. Other family factors that also have an influence include intergenerational support to older parents, proximity between parents and children, and adult children’s need of childcare. More studies are needed to research family factors in relation to productive aging in Asia.

Older adults generally spend more time in their residential communities than do younger adults, who go to jobs every day. Studies based on Western countries show that older adults in disadvantaged communities have difficulty being socially connected. It is because community contexts not only include infrastructure, facilities and space that help generate productive activities, but is also related to residential composition and social welfare resources that enhance older adults’ motivation and sense of participation. It is important to investigate the impacts of community contexts on productive engagement in Asia.

Many Asian countries have had reforms in pension, long-term care and health care. Incentives related to productive aging are also implemented in developed countries. These differences in policies and institutional support across Asian countries indirectly influence the rates and intensity of engagement in productive activities across countries.

The two-day conference is a showcase of the diversity of productive engagement in later life across East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian countries. The selected empirical papers will analyse the determinants of old-age employment, volunteering, and care giving as well as lifelong education attendance. More importantly, we hope to disentangle socio-structural, cultural and institutional settings behind productive aging through direct and indirect comparative perspectives.

CONFERENCE CONVENORS

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PHOTO CREDITS

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13 MARCH 2017 (MONDAY)

09:30 – 09:45	REGISTRATION
09:45 – 10:00	OPENING & WELCOME REMARKS
09:45	<p>Wei-Jun Jean Yeung Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</p> <p>Pei-Chun Ko Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</p>
10:00 – 11:30	PANEL 1 – SOCIO-FAMILIAL CONTEXTS
Chairperson	Yang Yi National University of Singapore
10:00	<p>Childhood Conditions and Productive Aging in China</p> <p>Pei-Chun Ko & Wei-Jun Jean Yeung National University of Singapore</p>
10:20	<p>A Study of the Health Impact of Grandparenting on Thai Elderly</p> <p>Touchanun Komonpaisarn & Elke Loichinger Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</p>
10:40	<p>The Lived Experiences of Older Adults Performing Low-income Work in Singapore: Exploring Motivations and Opportunity Contexts</p> <p>Suen Johan University of Cambridge, UK</p>
11:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
11:30 – 12:00	TEA BREAK
12:00 – 13:00	PANEL 2 – DETERMINANTS AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF NON-PAID PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES
Chairperson	Joonmo Son National University of Singapore
12:00	<p>Understanding the Correlates of Formal and Informal Volunteering among Young-olds in Singapore</p> <p>Angelique Chan & Grand H.-L. Cheng Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore</p>
12:20	<p>Beyond Healthcare: Social Participation and Late-Life Cognitive Functioning in Taiwan</p> <p>Chi Chiao National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan</p>
12:40	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:30	PANEL 3 – EMPLOYMENT IN LATER LIFE: DETERMINANTS AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
Chairperson	Liu Hao Ming National University of Singapore
14:00	<p>Health and Well-being of Older Workers in Indonesia</p> <p>Firman Witoelar SurveyMETER, Indonesia</p>
14:20	<p>Productive Aging in Vietnam: Current Status, Determinants and Policy Recommendations</p> <p>Giang Thanh Long & Pham Thi Hong Tham National Economics University, Vietnam</p>
14:40	<p>Changing Patterns of Occupation and Earning of Elderly in India</p> <p>Laishram Ladusingh & Melody Thangajam International Institute for Population Sciences, India</p>
15:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
15:30 – 16:00	TEA BREAK

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16:00 – 17:30	PANEL 4 – GENDER AND FAMILY IN PRODUCTIVE AGING
<i>Chairperson</i>	Pei-Chun Ko National University of Singapore
16:00	Retirement and Work Behaviors after Retirement in a Society with Lack of Public Support: A Case of South Korea Yeonjin Lee & Wei-Jun Jean Yeung National University of Singapore
16:20	Gender Differentials in Social Cohesion, Living Arrangements and Productive Ageing in India: Evidence from Household Survey Data Niharika Tripathi & Praveen K. Pathak University of Delhi, India
16:40	Examining and Theorizing Singapore Chinese’s Perception of Caregiving for Aged Parents Corinne Ghoh National University of Singapore
17:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
17:30	END OF DAY 1
17:45	BUS TRANSFERS TO DINNER
18:15 – 20:00	WORKSHOP DINNER (For Speakers, Chairpersons & Invited Guests)

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14 MARCH 2017 (TUESDAY)	
09:15 – 09:30	REGISTRATION
09:30 – 11:00	PANEL 5 – REFRAMING PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES
<i>Chairperson</i>	Erin Hye-Won Kim National University of Singapore
09:30	(Un)productive Ageing: Dependence and Reciprocity in Old Age in India Premchand Dommaraju Nanyang Technological University Abhijit Visari National University of Singapore
09:50	Productive Aging of Korean Older People Based on Time Use Ju Hyun Kim Chungnam National University, South Korea
10:10	What is Productive in Lifelong Learning? Exploring Lifelong Learning among the Baby-boomers in Singapore Leng Leng Thang National University of Singapore Emily Lim & Sophie Tan Fei Yue Community Services, Singapore
10:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
11:00 – 11:30	TEA BREAK
11:30 – 13:00	PANEL 6 – COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND PRODUCTIVE AGING
<i>Chairperson</i>	Leng Leng Thang National University of Singapore
11:30	Age-friendly Community and Productive Ageing in Hong Kong Zhuoyi Wen Lingnan University, Hong Kong
11:50	Social Engagement and the Elderly in Rural Indonesia Ariane Utomo, Peter McDonald, Iwu Utomo & Nur Cahyadi The Australian National University Robert Sparrow Wageningen University, The Netherlands
12:10	Life After Retirement for Japanese Older Adults: Are They Productive? Yasuhiko Saito Nihon University, Japan
12:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:30	PANEL 7 – CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARISONS ON PRODUCTIVE AGING
<i>Chairperson</i>	Qiushi Feng National University of Singapore
14:00	Comparison of the Social Participation of the Elderly in Gyeonggi Province (Korea) and Shandong Province (China) Ik Ki Kim Renmin University of China
14:20	Productive Aging: Comparative Analysis between Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam Vipan Prachuabmoh Chulalongkorn University, Thailand John Knodel University of Michigan, USA Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan Singapore Management University
14:40	Productive Aging and Quality of Life: Social Divide among the Elderly in China and India Dhiman Das & Shu Hu National University of Singapore
15:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
15:30 – 16:00	CLOSING REMARKS
	Wei-Jun Jean Yeung Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore Pei-Chun Ko Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
16:00	END OF CONFERENCE

Childhood Conditions and Productive Aging in China

Pei-Chun KO

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This study investigates how childhood conditions affect productive activities (working, providing care to family and socially productive activities) among older Chinese in urban and rural areas. Waves 1 and 3 (Life History) of the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) are employed. Drawn from the cumulative dis(advantage), we examine the effects of childhood circumstances on the likelihood of productive engagement through the mid-life and later-life factors –education, work, *Hukou* status, and health. The analytic sample includes respondents aged 55 and above (n=7,636). We found different factors affecting productive engagement of older adults in urban and rural areas. In urban areas, having a non-agricultural *hukou* origin affects socially productive activities through higher education and occupation attainments which result in better financial situations, whereas mid-life factors matter more to the late-life finance which affects the paid work. In rural areas, childhood circumstances have a direct impact on socially productive activities and an indirect effects through education and the change of *Hukou* status which influence later-life health and wealth, which are positively related to activity participation. Findings show that having a non-agricultural *Hukou* origin and growing up in a better quality neighborhood decrease the likelihood that one engages in agricultural work in adulthood. To conclude, one's *Hukou* origin has a cumulative long-term impacts on education and work opportunities in mid-life. Then these mid-life conditions in turn affects late-life health and financial resources which are positively associated with productive aging. A better understanding of how one's life origin and trajectory affect productive aging is needed.

Pei-Chun Ko is a joint Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asia Research Institute (ARI) and the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) at the National University of Singapore. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Cologne in February 2015. Her research interests include aging, intergenerational relationships, social networks and social capital and comparative research in East Asia. Her dissertation examined determinants of grandparental childcare, social activities and education gradients in mental health in China, Japan and South Korea. She is currently working on manuscripts related to determinants of productive aging in China and is conducting a fieldwork project on documenting older Singaporeans' lifelong experience (National Silver Academy) and impacts of courses on social relationships. She plans to develop a comparative perspective to study productive aging across Asian countries.

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung is Provost's Chair Professor of Sociology, Director of the Centre for Family and Population Research, and a Research Leader in the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). Before joining NUS in 2008, she taught at the University of Michigan and New York University. Professor Yeung is a member of the board of trustees of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies and an international advisor to the Institute of Social Science Survey in Peking University. She was a Co-principal Investigator of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and has advised on many international panel surveys. Her current research focuses on American and Chinese family demographic changes and how they relate to children's and young adult's well-being. Her recent publications include edited volumes on *Asian Fatherhood*, *Transitioning to Adulthood in Asia*, *Marriage in Asia*, *One-Person Households in Asia*, *Economic Stress*, *Human Capital and Families in Asia*.

A Study of the Health Impact of Grandparenting on Thai Elderly

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One of the many roles of grandparents is the role as caretaker for their grandchildren. Studies that looked at the situation of elderly providing care to their grandchildren found that care responsibilities can have beneficial effects but can also pose challenges to those providing it, depending on individual circumstances and the intensity of care provision. Literature on the situation of elderly providing care for grandchildren in Thailand is a very timely topic, given that in 2011, 23% of persons 60+ co-resided with and 28% provided care for a grandchild younger than 10 years of age. A special phenomenon is the occurrence of skipped-generation households where grandparents and grandchildren co-reside in the absence of the parents. This household type is mostly the result of parents moving from rural to urban areas in order to work there, and grandparents assuming full care responsibility.

The objective of our study is to shed light on the health effects on grandparents of providing care for grandchildren. Whether this experience is a positive or a negative one concerning the caretaker's health depends on a wide range of factors that we explore in the context of Thailand. We are particularly interested in comparing the grandparenting experience between those living in rural and urban areas, between men and women, as well as between those that are main caretakers compared to those that provide only supplementary care. We also expect to find noticeable differences between households where three generations are living together compared to skipped-generation households.

The study is based on the quantitative analysis of two waves of the National Survey of Older Persons in Thailand, 2011 and 2014. The findings from this study will be the first in-depth quantitative analysis about the grandparenting-health relationship in Thailand and one of very few to date in an Asian society. Overall, we expect that some of our results will be similar to the results found by Chen and Liu (2012) for China, but then again, the context in China and Thailand does differ significantly e.g. we do not expect to find as large differences between maternal and paternal grandparent households as are found for China. Contrary to the situation in China, there is unfortunately no longitudinal data available for Thailand, so we rely on cross-sectional data. One difference to the Study by Chen and Liu (2012) is that we investigate both physical health (self-rated health and also health based on functional/ADL/IADL difficulties) and (self-rated) mental health of the grandparents who take care of grandchildren. Our preliminary results (not controlling yet for selection bias into caring for grandchildren) indicate that those who provide intense care as well as occasional care of their grandchildren report both better physical health and mental health, with different magnitude for each intensity level of care. We will address the issue about selection bias by using an instrumental variable approach, where we use an exogenous shock (i.e. the death of both parents of the grandchildren) as sub-group analysis to control for selection.

Our datasets contain information about activities of the elderly (community club/elderly club/ community activities engagement) and we will include this information in our analysis.

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Touchanun Komonpaisarn is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at Chulalongkorn University (CU). Her main research areas are health economics and micro econometrics. Dr Komonpaisarn obtained a PhD in economics from the University of Texas, Austin. She is a member and secretary of the Master in Health Economics and Healthcare Management Program at the Faculty of Economics at CU.

Elke Loichinger is a Lecturer at the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University and a guest researcher at the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) at Laxenburg, Austria. Her research interests include population projections and various aspects of population aging, foremost prospects of labor supply in aging societies and developments of health status. She holds a MPP in Public Policy from Duke University, USA, and a PhD in statistics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria.

The Lived Experiences of Older Adults Performing Low-Income Work in Singapore: Exploring Motivations and Opportunity Contexts

SUEN Johan

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Based on reports by the Ministry of Manpower, the proportion of older workers in Singapore aged 65 years and above has almost doubled in the last decade from 13.8 per cent in 2006 to 24.7 per cent in 2015. Mainly due to having low educational qualifications (mostly lower secondary school and below), the majority of older workers earn a monthly wage of less than S\$1,500 and are employed as cleaners, labourers, and in service positions. However, academic literature that systematically examines the experiences of older workers in detail remains relatively scarce. This paper thus aims to contribute to current research on older workers in Singapore by providing a qualitative account of their lived experiences, employment and life histories, as well as the socio-familial contexts of older adults who perform low-paid work. Through analysis of data obtained through in-depth interviews with 15 older adults aged between 65 and 87 years, the findings of this study will elucidate the following aspects: (a) the variety of informal and formal types of low-paid work undertaken by older adults in Singapore, (b) the contexts in which such work opportunities arise, and (c) the motivations behind engaging in low-paid work. It is argued that a more holistic approach to understanding economic participation by the older poor in Singapore could be achieved by adopting a conceptualization of work that is more diverse and which includes work performed on an informal basis, and secondly, by exploring how decision-making processes of older workers are impacted by the interaction between individual systems of meaning, household contexts, and familial relationships.

Suen Johan is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge. His research focuses on the qualitative linkages between employment, poverty, ethnicity, and later life.

Understanding the Correlates of Formal and Informal Volunteering among Young-Olds in Singapore

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Volunteering has been associated with various health benefits and contributes to longevity for older persons. In this regard, promoting volunteering among the older population requires understanding the predictors of volunteering for this age group. Previous research studying the motivations behind volunteering has primarily focused on formal volunteering with little attention paid to informal volunteering. In this paper we explore the correlates of formal and informal volunteering separately. To do so we use resource theory to understand the role of human capital, social capital, and cultural capital in influencing formal and informal volunteering among Singaporean young-olds (aged 50 to 59). Logistic regression analysis ($N = 308$) revealed that education, social participation, religiosity, and being male contributed to formal volunteering. On the other hand, higher psychological resilience, more household members, stronger social networks, lower household income, and Indian (versus Chinese) related to a higher likelihood of informal volunteering. We conclude that the proposition of the resource theory is generally applicable to Singaporean young-olds, and that it is essential to study formal and informal volunteering together but separately as the motivations underlying them seem to differ.

Angelique Chan holds joint appointments as Associate Professor in the Signature Program in Health Services and Systems Research, Duke-NUS Medical School and the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS). She is the founding Director of the Centre for Ageing Research and Education, CARE, at Duke-NUS. Her current research examines disability transitions, mortality, and the effects of social support on health, caregiver burden, and use of long-term care services. She has consulted widely both local and international and sit on several national committees on ageing and education.

Grand Cheng is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Centre for Ageing Research and Education (CARE) of Duke-NUS Medical School. One of his research interests is social relationships and health, and he is now examining the psychosocial processes of sleep among older adults. He also studies work and social mobility, and identity and group processes.

**Beyond Healthcare:
Social Participation and Late-life Cognitive Functioning in Taiwan**

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Many studies have focused on the complexity of health care access, coverage, and utilization in caring older people with poor cognitive functioning. This study yet hypothesizes that social participation promotes later-life cognitive functioning beyond the availability of healthcare such as National Health Insurance (NHI) program. Two research questions are investigated. Is social participation independently associated with later-life cognitive functioning? What adolescent risky behaviors may better characterize later-life social participation of Taiwanese older adults in the period of NHI?

Using a population-based natural experiment study design, data from the Taiwan Longitudinal Study on Aging (TLSA, 1993-2007) are analyzed. I employ mixed-effects models to estimate the effects of social participation and NHI on cognitive functioning over time while taking community development, concurrent health status and medical care utilization into consideration. In addition, I further explore possible early-life risky behaviors that may contribute to late-life social participation.

Results from multivariate mixed-effects models showed that being active in social activities is significantly associated with a higher level of cognitive functioning ($\beta=0.12$, $p<0.01$). And, adolescent drinking is significantly associated with involvement in social participation (aOR=1.62; $p<0.05$).

My investigation suggests significant and independent effects of social participation on late-life cognitive functioning, even taking the NHI and related utilization effect into consideration. These results underscore the importance of social participation of Taiwanese older adults in cognitive status beyond healthcare, which partly is characterized by their risky behaviors in adolescence.

Chi Chiao, is Professor in Institute of Health and Welfare Policy, National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan. Her primary research interests are to investigate the demographic and social processes that influence health and related behaviors of vulnerable groups, including women, adolescents, and older adults. Her current research is exploring issues on social disparities in changes and differences in mental health and related risky behaviors via cross-national data sets by using multilevel approach.

Health and Well-being of Older Workers in Indonesia

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In a country where social programs to support the elderly and pension schemes are lacking, older population may continue to work until relatively late in lives. This continued participation in the labor force may be affected by wealth, health, as well as individual preferences. At the same time, the prolonged involvement in the workforce may also take a toll on their health and well-being, particularly for those who remain in the workforce due to lack of other means of support.

Using data from the multiple rounds of the Indonesia Family Life Survey including the newly available IFLS5 (2014), the paper will focus on the health and well-being of the older employees in Indonesia. The paper will study the pattern of labor force participation of individuals aged 45 and above including job sectors, occupations, hours worked, and job characteristics and investigate the relationship to health and well-being. Various health measures will be considered including self-reported health measures such as physical activities, general health symptoms, activities of daily living and physical functioning (ADL, IADL), doctor diagnoses of chronic conditions, as well as objectively measured health or biomarkers such as BMI, blood pressure, hemoglobin levels, timed sit-to-stand, grip strength, balance test, and timed walk. The paper will also look at measures of mental health including measure of depressive symptoms, hedonic well-being, as well as job and life satisfaction. Differences between gender, urban-rural, and education will be examined as will the differences between agricultural and non-agricultural work, and pension-eligible and non-eligible employment. Information about non-coresident family members and transfers, which is available in IFLS, as well as access to government social assistance programs will be taken into account when considering the means for old-age support that the elderly workers may have. Finally, by taking advantage of the panel dimension of the data, the paper will be able to look at the changes in the various health and well-being outcomes across the multiple rounds of the IFLS.

Firman Witoelar is a research economist at SurveyMeter. His research interest is in the area of microeconomics of development and with particular interest in health behavior and outcomes, education and labor market outcomes, ageing, and household surveys. Witoelar was a Co-Principal Investigator of the Indonesia Family Survey Wave 4 (2007) and is currently a Co-PI of IFLS 5. Before his current appointment at SurveyMeter, Witoelar was a Rockefeller Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Economic Growth Center, Yale University (2004-2006), and a research economist at the World Bank, Washington, DC (2009-2013). His international field experience include setting up tracking operations and provide training in Tanzania and Uganda on how to track respondents in nationally representative longitudinal household surveys. He holds a PhD in Economics from Michigan State University (2004).

Productive Aging in Vietnam: Current Status, Determinants and Policy Recommendations

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This paper, using data from Vietnam Aging Survey (VNAS) in 2011 and Labor Force Survey (LFS) in 2014, explored the productive activities among older people (those aged 60 and over) in Vietnam. Productive activities in this paper cover working, taking care of (great)grandchild(ren), doing housework and housing maintenance, and participating in social groups or community work. Disaggregation of data by sex, the results showed that across age groups, living areas, educational levels, older men and women were significantly different in these productive activities, which in turn provided a number of policy implications in promoting older people's activities as well as protecting them from a variety of possible risks and vulnerabilities.

Giang Thanh Long is an Associate Professor and Director of the Institute of Public Policy and Management (IPPM), National Economics University, Hanoi; Senior Researcher at Institute of Social and Medical Studies (ISMS), Hanoi; Affiliate Research Fellow of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford. His research interests include the economics of aging and health protection for older people, using actuarial and micro-simulation techniques to provide evidence-based policy studies. His research outcomes have been published widely, including *Asian Economic Journal*, *Asia Pacific Migration Journal*, *Asia Pacific Population Journal*, *Asia Pacific Development Journal*, *Asia Pacific Economic Literature*, *Development and Change*, *International Social Science Journal*, *Journal of Population Ageing*, and *Social Sciences and Medicine*. He was a member of the drafting team for the Vietnam's Social Protection Strategy 2011-2020; and a key member of taskforce and research group for reforming social assistance system in Vietnam, under MoLISA.

Changing Patterns of Occupation and Earning of Elderly in India

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A comprehensive assessment of dynamics of occupation pattern, earning potential and gender gap in the real earning of elderly are key policy inputs for lessening the public burden of population ageing and enhancement of healthy ageing. Using micro data from nationally representative surveys it is found that work participation of elderly in India has increase from 13.3 percent in 2004-05 to 16.4 percent in 2011-12 and for males it is significant from 19.4 to 23.3 percent while that for females is marginal from 7.1 to 10.1 percent during this period. The distribution of worker by occupations classified as agricultural and animal farming, labourer, business, salaried and professional and part time worker constitutes 17.8, 55.9, 8.4, 12.8 and 5.1 percents respectively in 2004-05 and corresponding figures are 17.6, 53.2, 2.7, 12.2 and 14.4 percents in 2011-12. The mean working days in a year for elderly working as agriculture and animal farmer, labourer, business, salaried and professional and part time work in 2004-05 are 121, 178, 210, 281 and 222 respectively and corresponding mean working days in 2011-12 are 90, 181, 175, 319 and 118 respectively. The mean annual earning for elderly engaged in the aforesaid occupation in order are Rs. 14277, Rs. 19315, Rs. 32932, Rs. 93880 and Rs. 44811 in 2004-05 and the corresponding mean earning in 2011-12 after adjustment of inflation are Rs. 11719, Rs. 27591, Rs. 30896, Rs. 109673 and Rs. 21078 respectively. The gender gap in earning is significant and has not change over time. Multigenerational living arrangement and residing rural areas are found to have deterrent effect on annual earning, while household income quintile has significant enhancing effect on annual earning but age and incidence of long term morbidities have no significant effect on annual earning. Contribution of endowment factors in gender in earning gap decreases.

Laishram Ladusingh is Professor of Statistics and Demography at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India. He teaches statistics, research methodology, survey research, ageing, clinical trials and design of experiments to postgraduate students. He holds postgraduate degree in Statistics and PhD in Population Studies. He is the key coordinator for implementing District Level Household and Facility Survey for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. He has published papers in areas of economics of population ageing, social security, longevity and work, public health, stochastic modeling, maternal and child health in peer reviewed scholarly journals. He served as members of technical advisory committees of various government and academic bodies.

Melody Thangjam, has obtained MPhil Degree in Population Studies from the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India. She is currently pursuing her PhD from the Tata Institute for Social Sciences, Mumbai. She is working as Project Officer at the International Institute for Population Sciences in the project "Counting Women's Work Project" funded by the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Earlier she worked at TISS Mumbai as a Project Officer in the UNFPA-IEG-TISS-IEG project titled "Increased Awareness, Access and Utilization of Elderly Services. She has previously worked on various issues in the field of elderly well-being in India.

Retirement and Work Behaviors after Retirement in a Society with Lack of Public Support: A Case of South Korea

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While researchers have paid attention to activities beyond the sphere of formal employment as life expectancy increased, studies have not fully considered the links between family and community-level socioeconomic resources and informal and formal activities. Activities in old age have been found to have positive association with older adults' health and psychological well-being in many societies. Korea is an important case to examine given the fact that the share of the elderly population is increasing rapidly with one of the world's lowest Total Fertility Rate (TFR), 1.25 in 2016. In an era of phenomenal socioeconomic transformation, not only is private support network shrinking, governmental support of the elderly remains limited. Korean men are known to retire very late, on average at age 71 despite an official retirement age of 60 to provide for old age. Because of structural inequalities embedded in the gendered hierarchy, Korean women are less likely to participate in full-time work and in national pension programs compared to men throughout their life course. Therefore, women are prone to be exposed to old-age income insecurity, which makes older women more likely to rely on family resources and networks from informal activities. Yet, recent studies found that gender roles have changed in the past few decades. Korean women have experienced a huge increase in higher education enrollment. However, little is known about how this increased educational attainment has affected paid work, formal and informal activities engagement for men and women over time, and to what extent the gender gap in these activities has decreased over time. In this paper, we investigate what factors influence older adults' participation in paid labor activities and formal activities such as participation in religious, political, cultural, or other types of organizations as well as informal activities with neighbors and friends. We assess the relationships between three types of social engagements among Koreans aged 60–79 using the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (KLoSA), which was initiated in 2006 and followed up until 2014. We also investigate the extent to which these activities vary by gender and by cohort. In particular, we explore how older adults' work experience, human capital, financial resources, offspring's resources and community level factors are associated with changes in various forms of activities and whether the relationships are contingent on institutional and cultural contexts.

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Gender Differentials in Social Cohesion, Living Arrangements and Productive Ageing in India: Evidence from Household Survey Data

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India is undergoing feminisation of population ageing in recent years. These demographic changes further compounded owing to social structural changes related to gender asymmetries and weathering of joint-families over the life course. However, there is lack of understanding about how gender disparities in social resources (social cohesion and joint-families) might deprive potentials of productive ageing among older adults in Indian context.

This paper attempts to understand the extent gender differential in social cohesion and living arrangement, and its association with productive ageing in older adults in Indian population. Social cohesion is operationalized through measuring the extent of participation of older adults in various social, cultural/religious, political organizations, and community related activities in the neighbourhood. Productive ageing is measured through active participation of elderly in economic and social life spaces. Various domains related to participation of elderly in the social life spaces included extent of involvement of elderly in both the household decisions/activities and community/neighbourhood related activities.

Using data on 9852 elderly from the UNFPA-BKPAI project conducted across seven states in India during 2011, we examined gender disparities in social cohesion and living arrangement and its association with the productive ageing among elderly in Indian population. Descriptive statistics and multivariate analysis was undertaken to analyse the data.

Data indicates wide gender gaps in social cohesion with declining share of elderly living with children. Elderly staying alone or without spouse were less likely to engage in productive ageing than others.

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Examining and Theorizing Singapore Chinese's Perception of Caregiving for Aged Parents

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Using the constructivist grounded theory method, this study examines how Singapore Chinese perceive and negotiate their caregiving responsibilities for their aged parents. The results show the complexity of how these children were involved emotionally, affectively and cognitively in managing their ambivalence of fulfilling their filial obligations. The strengths of the parent-child relationships coupled with their interactions with social, cultural, legal and economic domains are factors that impact decision making. This study discusses how the concept of filial piety cannot be viewed in dichotomized way of being filial or unfilial but a notion that is dynamic and can be negotiated. Implications for social work practice will be discussed.

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(Un)Productive Ageing: Dependence and Reciprocity in Old Age in India

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In this paper, we examine the notion of productive ageing in the socio-cultural, moral, institutional and demographic contexts of India. The concept of productive ageing with the emphasis on production (paid or unpaid) is limited in two ways: first, it excludes those who cannot (like the frail) or unwilling to produce and second, it implicitly assumes productivity and independence as globally recognized and valued ways to age. We take these two limitations as points of departure to conceptualize and investigate (un)productive ageing in India. In India, unlike in the west, dependence, transience and decline in old age are not considered as loss or failure to age well. Ageing in India draws on different moral-cultural scripts, family and kinship systems and institutional structures and the lived experiences of the elderly do not nicely fit into the Eurocentric models of productivity and independence in old age.

Drawing on primary qualitative data from 54 interviews with the elderly in south India and secondary quantitative data, we investigate (un) productive ageing by focusing on dependence and reciprocity in old age in India. Quantitative data are from Indian Human Development Surveys conducted in 2011-12 and UNFPA's Building Knowledge Base on Population Ageing in India conducted in 2011. These rich and varied data sources help us to investigate the structure of intergenerational relations, interdependencies, reciprocity and productivity in old age. They also help in re-conceptualizing productivity in old age in an Asian context.

The productive activities that we examine are (1) those related to work participation among the elderly, (2) contribution by the elderly to the total household budget and its purpose (particularly use of the elderly population's contribution for children and grandchildren's education), (3) participation in social and community activities, volunteering, religious programmes and services. We also analyse time diary information in the BKPAI dataset – which is the primary source for our quantitative data – and that details routine daily activities including grandchildren caretaking, social visits, work for remuneration, etc.

We examine constraints as well as attitudes towards productive activities at older ages and in particular the implications for intergenerational relationships and dependencies. We expect that our contribution will be both empirical and theoretical. Based on the empirical evidence from India, we would like to suggest that productivity may be reconceptualised at least in the South Asian context.

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Abhijit Visaria is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. He received his PhD and MA in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation examined differences in son preference between Hindus and Muslims in India and Bangladesh, using measures of sex selection and sex differentials in child health outcomes. His current work focuses on measurement and implications of sex selection in Asia, particularly in the context of declining fertility desires.

Productive Aging of Korean Older People Based on Time Use

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The productivity of older people and their activities are evaluated very positively in the society, encouraging more participation. Beginning with a criticism of a current discourse on the productivity of older people falls short of enough consideration about social reality and individual situations. This paper raises the following key questions. Is the Life-World of Korean older people classified distinctively in terms of productive activity? Does the productive aging take on a uniformed appearance within the group? If not, which characteristics of older people bring differences in their participation in productive activities?

This study based on the data taken from <2014 Korea Time Use Survey> that was constructed the Statistics Korea. Every participant (27,000 respondents) was asked to complete daily diaries at 10-min intervals for 2 days. The total number of samples in the survey is approximately 11,986 households, with about 27,000 of individual members aged 10 or above, and 26,988 valid respondents. Among these participants, this study selected 3,766 older adults aged 65 and greater who reside in city areas. This study conduct the Cluster analysis and multinomial logistic analysis on how different influence the participation of productive activities among Korean older people.

The group of Korean older people can be classified into four types of characteristics in terms of productive activities. (1) First type: spending relatively little time in most of the activities, and have a rather passive style of productive activities. It is difficult to distinguish the typical pattern of time use of productive activities, as there seem to be no dominant activities. (2) Second type: self-development activities, which involved in developing own ability and participation in social organizations to maintain social relations. Socializing, religious practice, education/training, and leisure activities are most importantly enjoyed. (3) Third type: a substantial amount of time is devoted to paid work. More than 7 hours is allocated to labor activity. (4) Fourth type: For the members of this type, household management is the main activity with the greatest time spent.

This study differentiated the diversified aspects of older adulthood in terms of productive activities. The results revealed that there was a significant difference in productive activities by gender. This classification suggests the Life-World of Korean older people is not homogeneous but it is multifaceted, showing their different desire and characteristics when participating in productive activities. Furthermore, most of the elderly did not participate in productive activities, this possibility rose as one's age increased.

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What is Productive in Lifelong Learning? Exploring Lifelong Learning among the Baby-boomers in Singapore

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Coined in 1982, the term "productive aging" is commonly associated with active participation in work, although it has since expanded beyond employment to include other dimensions of "work", such as volunteering, care-giving and other activities that "produces good/service for society, whether paid or unpaid." (Bass, Caro and Chen, 1993). As an increasingly popular endeavor in later life, can lifelong learning be considered one of the "other activities" under the productive aging framework? How is lifelong learning connected to the notions of productive aging? This paper seeks to explore such connections as perceived by the baby-boomer learners in Singapore and examines the extent through which lifelong learning could play a significant role in enabling productive aging. Data for this paper is derived from a qualitative study of "lifelong learning among older adults in Singapore" (2012) which included a total of 64 interviews with learners and non-learners of the baby-boomer generation (age 50-64). Through a discussion of how both the learners and non-learners perceive lifelong learning, and the impact of their engagements as experienced by the learners, we suggest that lifelong learning could have an implication on productive aging beyond the notion of work. For example, learners often associate learning with happiness, and recount how learning provides an avenue for social participation through fostering new friendship with their course mates, and enhancing one's technological and computer skills in strengthening existing social relationships, these impacts on social well-being may not have direct economic benefit, but could also enhance other dimensions of well-being and increases one's level of social activeness. This paper hopes to promote productive aging in two levels: first, to provoke further re-thinking of what constitutes productive activities on the conceptual level, and second, on a practice level, we propose an intervention framework catering to the different levels of awareness and participation to encourage more efforts into lifelong learning among the baby-boomers.

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Emily Lim is trained in psychology (BA (Hons) and Postgrad dip.) and she is currently a senior researcher at Fei Yue Family Services. She has research interest on ageing issues and has worked in projects relating to coping strategies of seniors, ageing-in-place and low income seniors in Singapore.

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Age-friendly Community and Productive Ageing in Hong Kong

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World Health Organization (2007) promotes the idea of age-friendly cities in order to enable people to age actively and productively. In Hong Kong, the population aged 65 years and above is projected to rise from 13% in 2011 to 30% in 2041 (Census and Statistics Department of the Government of HKSAR, 2012). With this rapid growth of the elderly population, greater efforts are urgently needed to prepare for the shift in demographics and the challenges it brings to the Hong Kong society.

The survey results reveal, productive ageing in term of volunteering and employment is modest at the community, though good community infrastructure and community service are in place. Qualitative data suggests, while opportunities of volunteering and employment are available, productive engagement is constrained by senior citizens' poor health and physical fitness, illiteracy, no labour insurance for older employees and ageism. Moreover, Chinese culture under local community circumstance may act as pull and push factors of productive engagement. According to the ethical principles of filial piety and caring engagement, older people should enjoy their retirement years at home with their family members, and shoulder part of the caring role of their adult children, such as taking care of the grandchildren, providing instrumental support, and so on.

Thus, careful program designs for senior citizens in different health conditions, community education to reduce ageism, and policy advocacy are needed to underpin a more age-friendly community and productive ageing in Hong Kong.

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Social Engagement and the Elderly in Rural Indonesia

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Despite their higher fertility levels, rural areas are relatively older relative to urban areas in Indonesia. This paper questions how levels of social engagement vary across socio-demographic groupings of the elderly population in rural Indonesia. We utilize a sample of 2,750 respondents aged 60 and over, drawn from 10 purposely-selected relatively “old” villages. Our three measures of social engagement are: participation in income-generating activities, participation in communal activities (including religious and other community activities), and participation in care work. While there is a notable between-village variation in social engagement, the majority of our respondents are actively engaged in productive and/or communal activities in their old age until they can no longer be so. We argue the notion of promoting active ageing, as typically understood in the Western and/or urban contexts, is of secondary importance to health care provision and managing old-age disability in these ageing rural communities.

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Life After Retirement for Japanese Older Adults: Are They Productive?

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Life expectancy at birth for Japan now reached at 87.05 for females and 80.79 for males in 2015. According to World Health Report by WHO, Japanese seem to have the highest healthy life expectancy. These reported years are for at birth. In aging society we probably better paying attention to numbers at older ages such as at age 60 or 65. Life expectancy at age 65 for females is 24.31 and 19.46 for males in 2015. This means that those who reach age 65 in 2015, on average, need to prepare for another 20 to 24 remaining years of life. What will they do during the remaining years of life? Using data from Nihon University Longitudinal Study of Aging (NUJLSOA) which started in 1999, we examine changes in life of those age 65 and above at baseline survey over the 10 year period. Some of them were still working, able to manage house chores, and help their children at baseline. How many of them were still working, managing house chores and helping their children? We describe changes observed over the 10 year period first. Then, we try to explain factors affecting such changes observed in activities over 10 years.

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Comparison of the Social Participation of the Elderly in Gyeonggi Province (Korea) and Shandong Province (China)

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Activity theory assumes a positive relationship between activity and life satisfaction of the elderly, and proposes that the successful aging occurs when the elderly stay alive and maintain social interactions. The elderly as getting older show lower rate of participation in various social activities. Social participation of the elderly may be a good indicator of the productive and successful aging of the elderly. In this paper, social participation indicates participating in the various activities including cultural and social activities of the elderly.

Korea and China in the East Asia are geographically very closely related. In addition to the geographical proximity, these two countries have shared many socio-cultural similarities in spite of some differences. The strong family planning programs under the strong government leadership in both Korea and China have accelerated the rapid processes of the demographic transition, especially in the process of the fertility transition.

The rapid process of the fertility transition has influenced the drastic changes of the population aging in both Korea and China, which turns out to be the fastest in the world. This paper shows the trends of the rapid processes of the population aging in both Korea and China, then compares the social participation of the elderly. This paper will compare the different patterns of the social participation of the Korean and Chinese elderly focusing on the similar but different cultural background. Finally, his paper possibly analyzes the determinants of the satisfaction of the social participation of the elderly in both countries. Regression analysis will be employed for checking the determinants.

The data for this paper were collected in Incheon-Gyeonggi Province in Korea and Shandong Province in China. Incheon-Gyeonggi Province and Shandong Province are the most closely located between Korea and China. The data are based on the same questionnaire at almost the same time, Chinese data in 2009 and Korean data in 2010. The number of the Korean data for the analysis is 1014, that for the Chinese data is 890.

Ik Ki Kim is Xin'ao International Outstanding Professor, College of Population and Sociology, Renmin University of China. His areas of research include population aging (comparison in the East Asia), urban sociology and urbanization, comparison of the East Asian culture, Korean wave, and social changes in the East Asia. Professor Kim was professor at Department of Sociology, Dongguk University, a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Michigan and Sophia University in Tokyo.

Productive Aging: Comparative Analysis between Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam

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Reciprocity relationships between adult children and elderly parents are the social norm in Southeast Asia. While adult children have filial responsibilities to care for and support their elderly parents, older persons are expected to assist their adult children, families, and communities. Rapid social and technological change may impact upon norms and public perceptions of older people (OP). Due to their advanced age and relatively low education OP may be perceived as a burden or less productive compared to younger people. The concept of productive aging was introduced by the World Health Organization to change such negative attitudes towards aging and to promote older persons' participation in community and economic development. Research on productive aging has been emerging; however, cross-national comparative studies remain rare. Based on recent representative surveys of older persons, this study examines the prevalence of and factors associated with productive aging among three ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Results indicate that elderly in the three countries engage in various dimensions of productive aging, including contribution to household chores, participation in economically productive work, provision of financial support to children, and provision of personal care for household members including grandchildren and other adults. Male and female elders tend to engage in different dimensions of productive aging. Older persons' non-economic contributions to households (e.g., grandchild care) are important as they likely reduce the burden of working-age household members, thus allowing them to be more economically productive.

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John Knodel is Research Professor Emeritus at University of Michigan and international affiliate of the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University. He 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. During the last two decades his studies focused mainly on issues related to the older aged population including the AIDS epidemic impact on older persons, how migration of adult children affects older age parents, intergenerational family support exchanges, and broad assessments of the situation of older persons including comparative analyses involving Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. His research involves both quantitative and qualitative methods. Current research focuses on long term care of older persons, widowhood and grandparental care of children left behind by migrants from Myanmar to Thailand. Virtually all his work is done in collaboration with colleagues in the region.

CONTEXTUALIZING PRODUCTIVE AGING IN ASIA

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Productive Aging and Quality of Life: Social Divide among the Elderly in China and India

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Engagement in productive activities serves two important needs among the aging population. It encourages the older people to continue making social and economic contributions. It also provides an ideology to counter ageism. Few studies have examined its implication on the quality of life even though such engagements are usually quite common among aging population in developing countries with inadequate or nonexistent public welfare system. In this study, we examine the implication of such practices in China and India, both of which have a rising aging population and are projected to account for about two-fifths of the world's elderly population by 2050.

Specifically, we examine how early life circumstances affect physical and financial conditions and through them affect the relationship between economic and social engagement and quality of life. We further evaluate the moderating role of family structure in the process. Finally, we examine the gendered nature of these relations. Our China-India comparison is motivated by their differences in developmental trajectories, welfare regimes and social context of aging. We are interested in understanding how societal contexts shape the relationship between productive engagement and quality of life. We use data on respondents aged 50 and above for China and India from the Study on Global Ageing and Adult Health WAVE 1 (2007/2010).

Preliminary results show that productive aging defined by both economic and social engagement have mixed effects on quality of life among aging population in both countries. Overall, engaging in economic activities significantly improves quality of life for Chinese men and women and Indian men, but not for Indian women. Men do not benefit from social engagement. The benefits of social engagement for women depend on their physical limitations, wealth and coresidence with spouse, children, and grandchildren. Older population with poor childhood circumstances face more physical and financial limitations in their old age, which further restricts their capability of benefiting from engagement in productive activities.

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