

<b>19 NOVEMBER 2020 (THURSDAY)</b>	
<b>09:30 – 10:30</b>	<b>PANEL 1 – THE END OF UNIVERSAL MARIAGES?</b>
Chairperson	<b>Wei-Jun Jean Yeung</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
09:30	Contemporary Marriage in Cambodia <b>Patrick Heuveline</b>   <i>University of California-Los Angeles, USA</i>
09:50	Not “When to Marry” But “Whether to Marry”: The Continuing Rise of Non-Marriage among Men and Women in the Philippines <b>Jeofrey B. Abalos</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
10:10	<b>QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>PANEL 2 – SEARCHING FOR A PARTNER ONLINE</b>
Chairperson	<b>Gavin W. Jones</b>   <i>Australian National University</i>
11:00	How to Find Mr/Miss Right? The Mechanism of “Search” among Online Daters in Shanghai <b>Yang Shen</b>   <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China</i> <b>Yue Qian</b>   <i>University of British Columbia, Canada</i>
11:20	From Arranged to E-Arranged Marriages in India: Tracing the Contours <b>Anirban Mukherjee</b>   <i>Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, India</i>
11:40	<b>QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>
<b>12:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>PANEL 3 – RECENT PATTERNS IN TRANS-ASIAN MARRIAGE</b>
Chairperson	<b>Fatemeh Torabi</b>   <i>University of Tehran, Iran</i>
14:00	Marriage Markets in West Asia: Trends, Determinants and Public Policies <b>Anis Ben Brik</b>   <i>Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar</i>
14:20	Changing Patterns of Age Differences between Spouses in Asia <b>Premchand Dommaraju</b>   <i>Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i>
14:40	Between Tradition and Modernity: Men’s Marriage Trends in Asia <b>Gavin W. Jones</b>   <i>Australian National University</i> <b>Gu Xiaorong</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
15:00	<b>QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>PANEL 4 – EDUCATION AND MARRIAGE</b>
Chairperson	<b>Wen-Shan Yang</b>   <i>Academia Sinica, Taiwan</i>
16:00	Education and Decision-Making Power among Transnational Couples in South Korea <b>Soomin Kim</b>   <i>Hanyang University, South Korea</i> <b>Doo-Sub Kim</b>   <i>Hanyang University, South Korea</i>
16:20	Educational Attainment, First Employment, and First Marriage in Japan <b>Noriko O. Tsuya</b>   <i>Keio University, Japan</i>
16:40	Changing Aspirations in a Modernizing India: Higher Education among Women and Marriage in India <b>Kriti Vikram</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
17:00	<b>QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>
<b>17:30</b>	<b>END OF DAY 1</b>

<b>20 NOVEMBER 2020 (FRIDAY)</b>	
<b>09:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>PANEL 5 – COHABITATION AND DIVORCE</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Patrick Heuveline</b>   <i>University of California-Los Angeles, USA</i>
09:30	“I Am Not Single But Not Married Either”: Cohabitation and its Determinants among Young Adults in Taiwan <b>Wen-Shan Yang</b>   <i>Academia Sinica, Taiwan</i> <b>Ying-Ting Wang</b>   <i>Yuan Ze University, Taiwan</i>
09:50	Divorce Narratives and Class Inequalities in Indonesia <b>Rachel Rinaldo</b>   <i>University of Colorado-Boulder, USA</i> <b>Eva Nisa</b>   <i>Australian National University</i> <b>Nina Nurmila</b>   <i>State Islamic University, Indonesia</i>
10:10	Premarital Cohabitation, Marital Dissolution, and Marital Quality in China <b>Mu Zheng</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Jean Yeung</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
10:30	<b>QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>
<b>11:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>13:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>PANEL 6 – NEW TREND IN CHILD MARRIAGE AND CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGE</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Noriko O. Tsuya</b>   <i>Keio University, Japan</i>
13:00	Macro-level Correlates of Early Marriage in Asia <b>Fatemeh Torabi</b>   <i>University of Tehran, Iran</i>
13:20	Sex Brings Shame to the Family: Siri' (Shame) as the Primary Predictor of Child Marriage in South Sulawesi, Indonesia <b>Heribertus Rinto Wibowo</b>   <i>Tulodo, Indonesia</i>
13:40	Impact of Consanguineous Marriages in Pakistan: Evidence from the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey <b>Rizwan ul Haq</b>   <i>Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad Pakistan</i> <b>Usman Ahmad</b>   <i>Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad Pakistan</i>
14:10	<b>QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>
<b>14:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>15:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>PANEL 7 – NEW MARRIAGE TRENDS IN ASIA AND THEIR DETERMINANTS</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Doo-Sub Kim</b>   <i>Hanyang University, South Korea</i>
15:00	Transnational Marriages in Singapore <b>Wei-Jun Jean Yeung</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Shirlena Huang</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Brenda S.A. Yeoh</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Bernice Loh</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Shuya Lu</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
15:20	Remarriage in Thailand: A Study of Emerging Trends, Correlates and Implications for the Well-being of Women and their Families <b>Wiraporn Pothisiri</b>   <i>Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</i> <b>Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Nitchakarn Kaewbuadee</b>   <i>Shanghai University, Republic of China</i>
15:40	North Indian Rural Men in Cross-cultural Marriages: Negotiating Conjugal Intimacy and Familial Relationships <b>Paro Mishra</b>   <i>Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, India</i>
16:00	<b>QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>
<b>16:30</b>	<b>END OF DAY 2</b>

## PANEL 1

### Contemporary Marriage in Cambodia

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In Democratic Kampuchea, the « Khmer-Rouge regime » separated parents from children and responded to a decline in marriages with hastily-organized mass marriages. Shortly after its fall in January 1979, marriages in Cambodia were once again carefully arranged by parents and near universal. Starting in the 1990s, the country underwent rapid socio-economic changes, including rising educational levels, new economic opportunities, in particular for young women, and urbanization. These changes may be hypothesized to weaken the authority of parents over their children and to reduce women's incentives to marry and remained married, ultimately leading to changes in family formation and dissolution.

In this paper, we use four waves of the Cambodian Demographic and Health Surveys from 2000 to 2014 to test these hypotheses and document contemporary trends in marriage and divorce in Cambodia. More specifically, we study whether marriage continues to be early, nearly universal and primarily arranged by parents. We also try and assess whether socio-economic changes and potential changes in marriage formation have contributed to any increase in the proportion of marriages ending in divorce.

Our preliminary findings indicate an increase in “love” marriages not arranged by parents, although parents continue to play a role in a majority of new marriages. We find little change in age at first marriage, however, and the proportion every-marrying also continues to be quite high. The proportion of marriages ending in divorce is increasing steadily but slowly, and overall divorce levels remain relatively low compared to other countries in the region.

**Patrick Heuveline** is Professor in the Department of Sociology and the International Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. Co-author of a widely used textbook on demographic analysis, *Demography: Measuring and Modeling Population Processes* (Blackwell, 2001), he has conducted research mostly in formal and in family demography. His substantive research interests center on how childhood family structures affect child wellbeing and the transition to adulthood. His work to date has been divided between comparative, secondary data analyses on single parenting and cohabitation in Western Nations, and, since 2000, the design, implementation and data curation of the ongoing Mekong Integrated Population-Registration Areas of Cambodia. Combining a Health and Demographic Surveillance System and “rider” surveys on specific topics of interest, this project is generating data specifically intended for the study of demographic change since the Khmer-Rouge period (1975-79).

PANEL 1

**Not “When to Marry” But “Whether to Marry”:  
The Continuing Rise of Non-Marriage among Men and Women in the Philippines**

**Jeofrey B. Abalos**

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The proportion of Filipinos who are never married in their 40s has increased over time. It increased from 7% in 1960 to 9% in 2015 among women, and from 4% to 11% among men. This paper aims to examine the continuing rise of non-marriage in the Philippines and the factors associated with this phenomenon. Census data from 1970 to 2015 will be used to establish trends in non-marriage in the country, while only the two most recent census data (2010 and 2015) will be used in the multivariate analysis to investigate the correlates of non-marriage. This study will focus on the role of several socioeconomic indicators such as education, employment status, urban residence and migration status on the likelihood of singlehood in the country. Preliminary results show that the patterns of non-marriage in the Philippines differ according to these indicators, and that the patterns vary between men and women. Education has a linear relationship with non-marriage among women and a curvilinear relationship among men. Working overseas is associated with higher prevalence of non-marriage among women, but the reverse is true among men.

**Jeofrey Abalos** recently completed his PhD from the Australian National University. His research interests include, population ageing and health; marriage and cohabitation; and divorce and separation.

## PANEL 2

### How to Find Mr/Miss Right? The Mechanism of “Search” among Online Daters in Shanghai

**Yang Shen \***

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Since the first dating website—Match.com—launched in 1995, online dating has become increasingly popular over the past two decades. It has profoundly changed the dating landscape, as the Internet allows daters to identify an expanded pool of potential partners that they would not otherwise meet via traditional venues. China provides a unique context for research on online dating, as its drastic socioeconomic transformations have brought about drastic changes in individuals’ attitudes towards and practices of intimacy and marriage but so far little is understood regarding the interrelation between online dating and intimacy. Based on interviews with 30 heterosexual online daters conducted in Shanghai in 2017, we examine how interviewees navigated a marriage market where tradition and modernity coexist and whether the Internet widens online daters’ intergroup social contact and facilitates social change. We find that the interviews’ choices of dating sites and mobile apps vary by gender, socioeconomic status (e.g., income, education) and *hukou* status, and those choices are driven by online daters’ mate preferences. Although online daters’ dating preferences are heterogeneous, the Internet exhibits the cyberbalkanization effect: the interviewees’ partner searching is both motivated and constrained by their previously-held preferences, which channel them to finding someone similar to themselves. Consequently, online dating, instead of acting as an agent of social change, may reinforce existing social boundaries in China’s marriage market. This research has implications for changing practices of intimacy in Chinese society and has contributed to the small but growing body of literature on online dating.

**Yang Shen** is Assistant Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. She did her PhD in Gender Studies at the London School of Economics. Her research interests lie in gender and family studies, qualitative research methods, contemporary China studies and migration studies. Her current research projects include women’s fertility practices, housing and intimacy and online dating in China. Her academic articles appeared in the *Journal of Family Issues*, *China Quarterly*, *Policy Studies*, among others. Her book monograph ‘Beyond tears and laughter: gender, migration and the service sector in China’ has been published by Palgrave in 2019.

**Yue Qian** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver). She received her PhD in sociology from the Ohio State University. Her research interests are in the areas of social demography, family, and gender. She has conducted research on both East Asia and North America. Her current research focuses on 1) online dating and family change in China and Canada, 2) trends and variation in assortative mating, and 3) how gender intersects with family and population processes to shape social inequality. Her research has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Her research has been published in the *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Social Science & Medicine*, among others.

## PANEL 2

### **From Arranged to E-Arranged Marriages in India: Tracing the Contours**

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The rise of matrimonial websites in India can be traced to the 1990s when the country was experiencing the advent of economic liberalization and privatization. Research suggests that matrimonial website users are mostly between 18 to 35 years of age, enjoy commendable economic standing, and are concentrated in the mega-cities of the country (Titzmann, 2013). While the existing scholarship have hailed online matrimonial sites as domains in which individuals are empowered with the agency of choosing their spouse and negotiate their role as mature adults, this paper argues that marriage medialization broadly abides by the contours of Indian traditional values and norms. Content analysis of profiles and interviews with the users of the popular matrimonial websites in India (namely, Shaadi.com, Bharatmatrimony.com, and Jeevansathi.com) revealed that inconspicuousness of the virtual environment does not lead the users to deviate from the specificities of the Indian cultural moorings. The paper thus observes certain commonality in the profiles of matrimonial users: they are mostly of unmarried people; educational and job credentials of the prospective grooms are highlighted and the brides portray themselves as traditional; marriages aim to be hypergamous with an emphasis on caste, religious, and class compatibility; profiles cohere with the socially desirable body types. Further, even in cases where spousal selection is made by the candidate, parental/familial involvement becomes imperative for the finalization of marriage. The paper contends that internet matchmaking is an evolved form of arranged marriage, in which 'human' matchmaker is replaced by software algorithms. Thus, in modern India, marriages continue to be arranged, heterosexual, and lifelong union.

**Anirban Mukherjee** is currently serving as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum University (RGIPT), Jais, UP. Prior to his engagement at RGIPT, he served as an Assistant Professor at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Uttarakhand for 3.5 years. He earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from Kansas State University, USA and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Sociology from Presidency College, Calcutta and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, respectively. His areas of research interest include Urban Sociology, Industrial Sociology, and Diaspora Studies. His dissertation is entitled, "Assimilation and Intergenerational Relations among Creative Workers: The Case of Bengali-Indian Immigrants in Kansas City Metropolitan Area." The research focuses on the migration of Bengali (the inhabitants of the state of West Bengal, India) professional workers to United States and examines the role that urban amenities play in the adaptation and assimilation of Bengali-Indian professionals as creative workers to social life in a U.S. metropolitan area.

### PANEL 3

## **Marriage Markets in West Asia: Trends, Determinants and Public Policies**

**Anis Ben Brik**

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Marriage markets have changed dramatically since the last three decades in West Asia. Foremost among these developments have been the large changes in divorce rates, the decline in marriage, and the general weakening of the traditional family structure. Drawing upon a range of theoretical frameworks and based on a review of quantitative research studies on marriage published between 1980 and 2019; analysis of administrative data and national surveys on marriage, divorce and fertility in the region, this paper analysis trends of marriage in select West Asian countries – Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Turkey; and investigate the cause and effects of changes in marriage market in the region. Consistent with previous research, trends in marriage in West Asia, reflect tension between rapid social and economic changes and limited change in family expectations and obligations. The age at first marriage and the celibacy rates have been steadily increasing in West Asia, partly due to mass education, female employment, health improvements and other modernizing factors. The high cost of marriage, which includes the payment of dowry, gold, the expenses of the wedding ceremony and housing, is one of the other main factors behind the delay in marriage in the region. Indeed, young people in West Asia are today confronted with economic difficulties to finance their marriage, especially in a context of urban growth, unemployment, decrease in oil prices, new female subjectivities; which is provoking social frustrations and questioning the reproduction of the family in the region. A variety of public policies have been implemented in many countries in the West Asia such as marriage allowances, a cap on the dowry's amount and wedding halls. However, all these measures do not seem very efficient in reducing the cost of marriage which continues to increase in the region, prompting young people to opt either for debts or to other alternative forms of financing, such as popular finance, collective weddings and Islamic banks. Some people prefer also to marry a foreigner or to enter into a secret marriage (misyar) where mahr is significantly lower in these marriages compared to a non-mixed marriage or a 'standard marriage'.

**Anis B. Brik** is Associate Professor at the College of Public Policy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU). Before joining HBKU, he served as the Director of Family Policy Department at the Doha International Family Institute, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Graduated from London School of Economics and Political Science. Dr Ben Brik has served as advisor on social policy at the UAE government. He has served in a number of national and international committees, including chairing the Middle East United Nations NGO Major Group, member of the Social Protection Committee of the Qatar National Development Strategy; member of the national committee on youth, labor market, population of the UAE government. Dr Ben Brik has conducted research on youth, family relationships, child well-being, social protection, culture and sustainable development. Dr Ben Brik is member of core group of the MENA social policy network [www.menasp.com](http://www.menasp.com)

## PANEL 3

### Changing Patterns of Age Differences between Spouses in Asia

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Age differences between spouses have important implications on several demographic and social outcomes—from fertility, longevity, marriage prospects to gender relationships, marital quality and stability. As in other parts of the world, men marry women older than themselves in most of Asia. But there is a wide diversity of patterns in age heterogamy and these patterns have changed over the last three decades. In contrast to the literature from western countries, there is surprisingly little known about age heterogamy in Asian countries (with notable exception of two recent studies on China and Indonesia), and no recent comparative study across countries in Asia. The present study aims to build the literature by systematically investigating age differences over time and across countries in South and Southeast Asia, two regions which have witnessed steady structural changes (such as in women's education) and ideational and normative changes related to marriage.

The two key objectives are: a) examine trends and variations in age differences across countries in the two regions over three decades from 1990s to 2010s; b) investigate the role of marriage age, gender and education on spousal age differences. The analysis will be conducted using DHS and MICS data from South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan) and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines). The data will be analyzed using quantile regression for time trends and log-linear models. Postestimation methods will be used to present the results in an accessible way. This paper is part of a larger project on marriage change in South and Southeast Asia using census and survey data from the two regions.

**Premchand Dommaraju** is Associate Professor of sociology and Director of the MSc in Applied Gerontology Programme at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research focuses on socio-demographic issues related to marriage, families and households, and ageing in three regions in Asia—Southeast, South and Central Asia—and on the common demographic issues faced by the diverse societies in these regions. His works have appeared in leading social and demographic journals including *Population and Development Review*, *Demographic Research*, *Population*, and *Population Studies*. He is also currently the Vice-President of the Asian Population Association.

### PANEL 3

## **Between Tradition and Modernity: Men's Marriage Trends in Asia**

**Gavin W. Jones**

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Recent years have seen an expanding literature on women's delay in and 'flight from' marriage in many Asian societies, particularly in East Asia and Southeast Asia, which diverges from traditional norms and cultural ideals, and has significant implications for fertility trends in this region. But if women are delaying marriage or avoiding it altogether, how does this impact men's marriage patterns? In what ways are men actively engaged in the change in motivations for and resistance to marriage? Is there a symbiotic relationship between men's and women's motivations and the obstacles they face in contracting marriage? The current study attempts to answer these questions by exploring census and survey data from a number of Asian contexts. Preliminary findings include: 1) between the 1970s and 2010s, there was an overall rise in marriage age for men across Asia and the slope of change is especially sharp in East Asia; 2) men in East Asia and Southeast Asia increasingly remain single in their early 30s and early 40s (with the exceptions of China and Indonesia), while earlier and almost universal marriage continues to dominate men's nuptiality in South Asian societies (though Sri Lanka is an outlier); 3) at the aggregate level, economic growth and changing labour markets, including less certainty of permanent employment, affect both males and females. Shifting gender dynamics (as reflected in women's higher educational attainment and better earnings prospects) are much analyzed in relation to nuptiality patterns in Western countries; to what extent do similar forces affect men's marriage patterns in Asia? To what extent does men's own educational attainment influence their marriage patterns, and are patterns of gender inequality at the household level viable explanatory variables for the prevalence and timing of men's marriage? The study seeks to unravel complex trends and inter-regional heterogeneity in marriage behaviors of men in their negotiation of traditional norms and new gender dynamics amidst rapid social change in Asia.

**Gavin W. Jones** is an emeritus professor, but remains active in research. He has studied marriage patterns in Asia over a long period, but is conscious of the need to focus much more on the forces influencing men's decisions about whether, when and whom to marry, and the extent to which they actually have agency in these decisions. He has recently conducted a study on child marriage in Pakistan, based on DHS data.

**Xiaorong Gu** is currently a Research Fellow at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS). She is a sociologist who shows great passions in 1) understanding how broader social and economic systems shape the development and well-being of young populations, and 2) in exploring the social consequences of China's economic reform for its social stratification patterns and for everyday life of ordinary people. Her wider research interests include child and youth development, migration, family, education, social stratification, China's political economy and mixed-methods research.

## PANEL 4

### Education and Decision-Making Power among Transnational Couples in South Korea

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Extending the resource and gender theories on marital power, this paper explores the relationship between education and marital power of immigrant women married to Korean men in South Korea. Resource theory assumes that women's higher educational status than her husband would lead to increased power in marriage life. According to the gender perspective, however, women's relatively higher educational status does not strengthen their marital power, as it violates the gender norms about husband's dominance in marriage. It is hypothesized in this study that the contrasting effects of these two theories can be incorporated depending on the level of women's educational attainment. For women with low education, higher educational status than their husband tends to be associated with increased marital power, as per resource theory. When women simultaneously have higher absolute and relative educational status, however, the gender norms in marriage are considered to be violated strongly and thus relatively higher educational status may not translate positively into marital power. Using data from the 2015 Multicultural Family Survey, this study conducted a series of logistic regression analyses to model immigrant women's education and their decision-making influence on children's education. Results of analyses show that both absolute and relative educational status are important predictors of women's marital power. For women with high school or less education, their relatively higher educational status leads to increased marital power. In contrast, the male dominant culture tends to override the resource effect among college educated women. Theoretical implications of these findings are discussed in this paper.

**Soomin Kim** is post-doctoral researcher at the Center for SSK Multicultural Research, Hanyang University. She recently received her doctoral degree in Sociology from Stanford University with a focus on sociology of family and gender. Her research interests lie broadly in gender in marital dynamics in the East Asian context. Her doctoral thesis, "Resource, Development, and Tradition: Explaining Persistence and Costs of Intergenerational Marital Norms in South Korea," analyzes whether the non-normative gender division of marital costs affects the patterns of intergenerational relations in marriage for South Korean newlyweds. Currently, she is working on research projects about gender in marital dynamics of immigrant women married to Korean men in Korea.

**Doo-Sub Kim** is Distinguished University Professor at Hanyang University and Director of the Center for SSK Multicultural Research in South Korea. He is also Adjunct Professor at Shanghai University and Jilin University in China. He has research and teaching experience at the East-West Center, Seoul National University, University of Oxford, University of Iowa, and University of British Columbia. He also served as President (2016-2018) of the Asian Population Association. He received his BA and MA in Sociology from Seoul National University, and Ph.D. from Brown University. His current research focuses on low fertility, demographic transition and marriage migration in Asia. He has published 52 books/monographs and some 160 journal articles and book chapters. In recognition of his active consultation to the Korean government as well as academic contributions, he was awarded the Order of Service Merit (2004) and the Order of Civil Merit (2018) from the President of Korea.

## PANEL 4

### **Educational Attainment, First Employment, and First Marriage in Japan**

**Noriko O. Tsuya**

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This paper examines the patterns of educational attainment and employment among young Japanese women and men, and their effects on the likelihood of first marriage. Since the mid-1970s, marriage has increasingly been delayed in Japan. The proportion never-married among women age 25-29 jumping from 18% in 1975 to 60% in 2010. The corresponding proportion for men also rose sharply: from 14% to 47% among those age 30-34. The proportion single at age 50 has also increased notably, reaching 14% among women and 23% among men in 2015.

Like other industrial countries in Asia, improving educational attainment is a major factor causing declining first marriage in Japan. Decreasing marriage is also hypothesized to be related to diminishing financial security associated with the proliferation of temporary employment. Examining Japan — the first Asian country gone through industrialization and the demographic transition — as an illustrative case, this study seeks to account for the impacts of changing economic opportunities of young women and men in the context of changing labor market and social structure.

We first examine the trends and age patterns, by gender, of first marriage, educational attainment, and employment in Japan, based on aggregate data. We then examine, in the multivariate context, the effects of educational attainment and first employment on the likelihood of first marriage, using micro-level data drawn from a national family survey in 2004 and its follow-up in 2007. The presentation concludes with a summary of the findings and a discussion of their implications to other Asian countries.

**Noriko O. Tsuya** is Professor of Economics, and the Director of the Institute of Economic Studies at Keio University in Tokyo. She holds a PhD from the University of Chicago with specialization in demography and applied methodology and statistics. Her research focuses on fertility and family change in Asia and developed countries. She is currently the president of the Population Association of Japan, and the chair of the Council Committee of National Institute of Population and Social Security Research. She also serves several government committees, including Japan's Statistics Committee, the Social Security Commission of Japan Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare, and the National Land Agency. She is the first author of numerous publications, including *Marriage, Work, and Family Life in Comparative Perspective* (University of Hawaii Press, 2004), *Prudence and Pressure: Reproduction and Human Agency in Europe and Asia, 1700–1900* (MIT Press, 2010), and *Convergence to Very Low Fertility in East Asia* (Springer 2019).

## PANEL 4

### **Changing Aspirations in a Modernizing India: Higher Education among Women and Marriage in India**

**Kriti Vikram**

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India has witnessed a remarkable expansion of higher education in the past few decades, with women emerging as significant winners in the process. According to recent statistics, women outnumber men in several undergraduate programs, including the highly competitive medical and science programs. Remarkable achievements are also observed in the enrollment and completion of graduate education among women. This paper focuses on the role of female higher education on three dimensions of marriages: pushing the age at marriage higher, providing greater autonomy in the choice of the spouse, and transforming the quality of spousal relations. This study utilizes a sample of 36,880 currently-married women from the most recent wave (2012) of the nationally-representative India Human Development Survey. Using Cox proportional hazard models and logistic regression models, the paper assesses how higher education among women, defined as college education, enables women to lead lives substantively different from their less-educated peers. Results show that these women marry at later ages, have greater autonomy in choosing their husbands, and enjoy more egalitarian relations within marriages. Although still rooted in cultural traditions, college education among women is instrumental in bringing about cultural change in India.

**Kriti Vikram** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. Her research centers on the social determinants of health, cognitive development, and well-being of children. One stream of her research focuses on the intergenerational transfer of (dis)advantage in health and cognitive development. These include a series of papers that illustrate how parental resources and characteristics influence the health and cognitive development of children in India. The second stream of research assesses the role of contextual factors in shaping human development. A third related line of work evaluates the role of governmental intervention on children's health and cognitive achievement. The last strand focuses on women's health and well-being, marriage, fertility, and contraceptive use in developing countries. As a graduate student at the University of Maryland, she was closely involved with the India Human Development Survey. She has published in *Demography*, *World Development*, *Health & Place*, *Social Science Research*, and *Social Science and Medicine*.

PANEL 5

**“I Am Not Single but Not Married Either”:  
Cohabitation and its Determinants among Young Adults in Taiwan**

**Wen-Shan Yang**

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The public and the government in Taiwan are alarmed by the trend of decreased marriage rate and increased singlehood. What masked in the statistics of “singlehood” is that there is a distinction between people who are partnered and who are not. Among those who are partnered, those who are currently cohabited might be more likely to form a family or enter marriage. Hence, without proper estimate of cohabitation, we could not fully understand the scale of singlehood and the union/family formation. Using the recent follow-up collection of the Taiwan Youth Project data, we estimate the proportion of overall cohabitation and premarital cohabitation among young adults aged 24 to 34. We also examine the determinants of cohabitation. Preliminary results show that 55% of men and 46% of women were not married at age 34, but 19% of men and 17% of women were cohabited with a partner.

**Wen-Shan Yang** is an adjunct Research Fellow at Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. Prof Yang works on the trajectories of family formation and fertility behaviour of Taiwanese youth.

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## PANEL 5

### Divorce Narratives and Class Inequalities in Indonesia

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In the past twenty years, divorce has been on the increase in Indonesia. Indonesian statistics show that divorces initiated by women exceed those by men. One issue that is often neglected is how socioeconomic differences also play a role in this matter. Recent research from the US shows that higher education, economic security, and older age at marriage are associated with both lower divorce rates and lower marriage rates. Drawing on our collaborative research on Muslim divorce in Indonesia, this paper focuses on the interplay between divorce strategies and class interests among Muslim couples. Our in-depth interviews with (93) Muslim men and women and (19) judges from Islamic courts suggest that class interests and inequality also shape different dynamics of divorce among Muslim Indonesians. Couples from less educated, lower income backgrounds tend to more easily accept marriage dissolution, with women becoming much less tolerant of men's behaviors such as domestic violence, infidelity, and failure to provide financial support. Educated, middle class urban couples divorce for similar reasons but tend to experience a lengthier process accompanied by complex layers of conflict. Many educated women's narratives emphasize their ability to support themselves through working, and a desire to be free of a bad marriage at any cost. Class and education thus contribute to significant differences in the experience and trajectories of divorce in Indonesia.

**Rachel Rinaldo** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Graduate Program in Sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research interests include gender and sexuality, globalization, culture, religion, Islam and Muslim societies, and qualitative methods, with a focus on Indonesia. She is the author of *Mobilizing Piety: Islam and Feminism in Indonesia* (Oxford 2013). Her current research projects include a study of divorce in Indonesia and a study of contemporary art scenes in Southeast Asia. Her most recent article is "Obedience and Authority among Muslim Couples: Negotiating Gendered Religious Scripts in Contemporary Indonesia" (*Sociology of Religion* 2019).

**Eva F. Nisa** is Senior Lecturer of anthropology in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University. She is also Adjunct Research Fellow in the School of Social and Cultural Studies, Victoria University of Wellington and Honorary Research Associate, the Faculty of Graduate Research, Victoria University of Wellington. She was formerly a lecturer in Religious Studies at Victoria University of Wellington and completed two post-doctoral projects at the Universität Hamburg (Germany) and Universiteit van Amsterdam (the Netherlands). Her research interests include Islam and Muslim societies, gender relations, Islamic family law, gender and religion, the anthropology of Islam, political Islam, Islamic economy and philanthropy, religion and media (social media), Islamic thought, Qur'anic exegesis, refugees and migration, and religion and popular culture.

**Nina Nurmila** is a Professor of Gender and Islamic Studies at the State Islamic University (UIN) Bandung. Her PhD on Gender and Islamic Studies was from University of Melbourne (2007). She was a Fulbright Visiting Researcher at Temple University, Philadelphia, USA (2000), Endeavour Postdoctoral Research Fellow at University of Technology, Sydney (2008), Fullbright Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies at University of Redlands, California, USA (2008-9). She was also a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Western Sydney (2013) and University van Amsterdam (2015). Nina is the author of *Women, Islam and Everyday Life: Renegotiating Polygamy in Indonesia* (London; New York: Routledge, 2009&2011). She wrote several articles on gender and Islam in the international journals and book chapters published for example at Routledge (London& New York), Brill (the Netherlands), University of Amsterdam Press (the Netherlands) and Demeter (Canada).

## PANEL 5

### **Premarital Cohabitation, Marital Dissolution, and Marital Quality in China**

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Cohabitation has been on the rise in China, especially since the start of China's economic reforms. Along with modernization and migration, cohabitation has been less stigmatized and become more instrumentally important in its role as a trial marriage. Using data from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 waves of the Chinese Family Panel Studies with fixed effect models, the authors examined the associations between premarital cohabitation, marital quality of the first marriage, and the probability of the subsequent divorce. We have also used propensity score matching to balance the observed individual characteristics that may be correlated with premarital of cohabitation, which may support the robustness of the main empirical results. We hypothesize that there is great heterogeneity in the association between premarital cohabitation, marital dissolution, and marital quality across age, period, urban-rural divide, and migration status. Specifically, we expect that premarital cohabitation is only negatively associated with marital quality and positively associated with divorce for those who are older, married in the earlier period, hold rural Hukou, and have never been migrated, as cohabitation is uncommon among these groups.

**Zheng Mu** is Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. Her areas of specialization include marriage and family, ethnicity, migration, development, and contemporary China. Her research centres on trends, social determinants and consequences of marriage and family behaviours, with special focuses on Chinese Muslims and Chinese migrants. She is currently working on projects examining heterogeneities in the mechanisms and outcomes of Chinese migrants' marital behaviours.

**Wei-Jun Jean Yeung** is a Provost-Chair Professor in the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS). She is the founding Director of the Centre for Family and Population Research in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in NUS. She also leads the Cluster Leader in the Changing Family in Asia research cluster in Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. She is an international academic advisor to the Institute of Social Science Studies in Peking University and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies. Professor Yeung was a co-principal investigator of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the longest running social science longitudinal study in the world. She is an international advisor of several family panel studies in the world. Professor Yeung's current research includes various family demographic issues in Asia and in America. Her publications are in leading journals and are cited widely.

## PANEL 6

### Macro-level Correlates of Early Marriage in Asia

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Although the practice of early marriage – defined as marriage before the age of 18 – has continued to decline around the world, one in every five young women (aged 20 to 24) still marry as children. Because early marriage has negative consequences for girls and for the society, it is now on the global development agenda. The majority of child brides live in Asia and that includes over 400 million women. Yet, no study to date has investigated cross-national differences in early marriage and the factors explaining the existing differences among Asian countries. Using the most recent data from multiple sources, this paper describes the geographical distribution of early marriage in Asia, investigates the extent to which the existing variation is related to demographic, economic and gender-related factors and examines the association between early marriage and health outcomes. The findings suggest that the prevalence of early marriage largely varies among Asian countries, ranging from 4 per cent in Oman, Qatar and Maldives to 59 per cent in Bangladesh. Furthermore, the indicators of population dynamics and educational attainment display stronger associations with early marriage than those representing either economic situation or gender equality. After adjusting for other covariates, the single predictor of early marriage is the proportion of girls progressing to secondary school. As expected, early marriage is associated with poor health outcomes among mothers as well as children. These findings reiterate the international concern about early marriage and calls for investment in continuation of education as the most important protective factor.

**Fatemeh Torabi** is a faculty member at the Department of Demography, the University of Tehran, Iran. She has a BA in Sociology (2004), an MA in Demography (2006), both from the University of Tehran, and a PhD in Demography (2011) from the Department of Population Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK. She has been appointed as the Research Deputy of Centre for Women's Studies, University of Tehran (2014-2016) and elected as a council member of the Population Association of Iran (2011-2017). More recently, she has been a visiting scholar at the NYU Population Centre (2016-2019) and the Department of Population and Family Health, the Columbian University (2018-2019), U.S. Her research interests include family demography, marriage and divorce, fertility and gender studies in Middle East, with a special focus on Iran. Her research results have been shared via several publications and presentations at national and international population conferences.

## PANEL 6

### **Sex Brings Shame to the Family: *Siri'* (Shame) as the Primary Predictor of Child Marriage in South Sulawesi, Indonesia**

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The child marriage burden remains high in Indonesia. Indonesia is seventh in the world in incidence of child marriage. South Sulawesi is one of provinces that has one of the highest burdens of child marriage in Indonesia. The study aims to explore the determinants of child marriage in Bone, South Sulawesi. This is a cross-sectional study with a mixed methodology approach using a triangulation method. For the quantitative study, a total of 1,004 respondents consisting of 500 households and 504 adolescents were recruited. For the qualitative methods, 39 in-depth interviews and 5 focus group discussions were conducted. Most did not know the minimum legal marriage age for women (1.2% answered correctly) and men (2.1% correct). The impact of child marriage stated included disruption of education (47.2%), fewer job opportunities (29.4%), domestic violence (26.2%), and health risks (20.8%). Factors influencing child marriage include norms for women (wellbeing and caregiving) and for men (economic and protection). Primary determinants of child marriage included *siri'* (shame), especially around a daughter's unwanted pregnancy and the connected fears around dating. Islamic values, interacting with Bugis contexts, produce local interpretations of laws and traditions. The strength of *siri'* highlights how decisions are made with parents as authorities and adolescents still highly dependent. Economic pressures need to be addressed and adolescents must be supported to complete basic education. There is a need to conduct interventions to prevent child marriage including providing sexual and reproductive health education to young people.

**Heribertus Rinto Wibowo** specializes in mixed method research with extensive experience and advanced skills in quantitative techniques. He conducted a baseline and formative research study on child marriage and menstrual health management in South Sulawesi, a formative research on young people's access to health services in Indonesia and a research study on the impact of tobacco control program on Indonesian adolescents. He has a Master's degree in public health (Curtin University). He led the Partnership for Human Development (PHD)'s Gender Self-Assessment study, Nutrition study in Timor-Leste in 2018, WASH assessment in Timor-Leste in 2017. He also leads the research and M&E tasks as part of the human centred design process for the KOMPAK Market Linkages program in East Java and West Nusa Tenggara funded by the Australia *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade* (DFAT) in 2018 and Smart Games for Children project in Jakarta funded by Grand Challenges Canada in 2019.

## PANEL 6

### **Impact of Consanguineous Marriages in Pakistan: Evidence from the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey**

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Consanguinity can be described a matrimony between two individuals who are related by blood as a second cousin, with the inbreeding coefficient (F) equal to or more than 0.0156. Here (F) is a measure of the proportion of loci at which a child can inherit identical gene copies from parents. Globally prevalence of consanguineous marriage varies within and between populations according to ethnicity, culture, caste and religion. Consanguinity is a deeply rooted social trend among one-fifth of the world population mostly residing in the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa, as well as among emigrants from these communities now residing in North America, Europe and Australia. Consanguinity is more common in developing world and especially in the Islamic countries. Many Muslim countries in Asia and North Africa have witnessed demographic changes such as urbanization and improvements in socioeconomic status but cultural practices, especially those pertaining to marriage, have remained largely unchanged. Close kin marriages were also practiced among Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Parsis. On the same token Pakistan also has the prevalence of consanguineous marriages. Marriage decisions typically involve tradeoffs between costs and benefits for an individual as well as the family. Available research from different areas of Pakistan have shown a high number of consanguineous marriages and their association with various recessively inherited disorders. The current study aims to determine the prevalence of consanguineous marriages and its association with the sociodemographic characteristics. Further we aim to study the impact of the consanguinity on the reproductive career of the couple as well as the spousal harmony from the lenses of gender based violence and women autonomy. We shall use the data provided by the Pakistan Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) three rounds. The sociological determinants of marriage decision-making have not been adequately explored within the Pakistani cultural milieu due to lack of data. One of the primary contributions of this research is that prevalence of consanguinity seems to be undocumented.

**Usman Ahmad** works as Senior Research Economics at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). Done PhD from Oxford Brookes University, UK in 2016. His research interest is in population, labour, education, rural economy and poverty. He has more than ten years of experience in different capacities. In his past and current positions at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) he has gained experience in research, writing reports, designing Power Point presentations and much more.

## PANEL 7

### Parental Decision-making Patterns in Transnational Marriages in Singapore

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Transnational marriages between Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans have increased significantly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, accounting for a substantial proportion of all marriages involving citizens registered in Singapore. This proportion peaked at 41% in 2009 and subsequently declined to 36% in 2018. About three-quarters of these couples are Singaporean grooms with foreign brides, where the majority of foreign brides originate from lower-income countries in Asia such as China and Vietnam. The share of citizen-births involving a non-citizen parent has also increased, from about a quarter in 2000 to one-third in 2018. Previous studies have shown that transnational marriages also tend to have multiple disadvantages in socioeconomic status and lack access to formal and/or informal support systems. The increase in transnational marriages raises new questions about the well-being of these families and challenges these families may face in raising children.

In this paper, we focus on families with Singaporean grooms and foreign brides that have preschool children. In such families, foreign brides are often seen as subordinate and dependent on their Singapore husbands because of their lower socioeconomic status and insecure immigration status. We examine the gender dynamics between the spouses and their decision-making patterns in how to raise children. We use data collected from a new study – Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS) to conduct a mixed-method study. Data from a national survey and in-depth interviews from a subsample will be used to compare the socioeconomic profiles of these families with other Singaporean families and to examine whether transnational couples make decisions regarding how to raise their children differently from other Singaporean parents.

**Wei-Jun Jean Yeung** is Provost's Chair Professor of Sociology, Founding Director of the Centre for Family and Population Research, and Research Leader of the Changing Family in Asia cluster in the Asia Research Institute in the National University of Singapore (NUS). She is a leading scholar in demography and family studies, with work published in leading international journals. Prof Yeung has received many prestigious research awards. Her recent publications include books on Singapore Family and Population and Southeast Asian families, volumes on Marriage in Asia, Migration and Marriage, Living Alone: One-Person Households in Asia, Long-term Care in Asia, and Productive Aging.

**Shirlena Huang** is Associate Professor at the Geography Department at the National University of Singapore. Her research focuses mainly on issues at the intersection of migration, gender and families, with a particular focus on care labour migration and transnational families within the Asia-Pacific region. More recently, she has looked at eldercare issues and international marriages. She also researches in the area of urbanisation and heritage conservation (particularly in Singapore). She serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including the gender/feminist journals *Gender Place and Culture* and *Women's Studies International Forum*, as well as book series *Asian Cultural Studies: Transnational and Dialogic Approaches* (Rowman & Littlefield) and *The Intimate and the Public in Asian and Global Perspectives* (Brill).

**Brenda S.A. Yeoh** is Raffles Professor of Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Research Leader of the Asian Migration Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. Her research interests include the politics of space in colonial and postcolonial cities, and she also has considerable experience working on a wide range of migration research in Asia, including key themes such as cosmopolitanism and highly skilled talent migration; gender, social reproduction and care migration; migration, national identity and citizenship issues; globalising universities and international student mobilities; and cultural politics, family dynamics and international marriage migrants. She has published widely on these topics and her recent books include *Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, with Lan Anh Hoang) and *Contested Memoryscapes: The Politics of Second World War Commemoration in Singapore* (Routledge, 2016, with Hamzah Muzaini), *Asian Migrants and Religious Experience: From Missionary Journeys to Labor Mobility* (Amsterdam University Press, 2018 with Bernardo Brown) and *Handbook of Asian Migrations* (Routledge, 2018 with Gracia Liu-Farrer).

**Bernice Mui Kiang Loh** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Family and Population Research, National University of Singapore. She is currently working on the Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SGLEADS), with a focus on transnational families, and how these families raise children in cross-cultural homes in Singapore.

**Shuya Lu** is a PhD student at Department of Sociology in the National University of Singapore. She is affiliated with the Center for Family and Population Research (CFPR) as a research scholar under the Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS). Her research interest focuses on how the family environment and parenting practices play a role in early childhood development with a focus on children in transnational marriages.

PANEL 7

**Remarriage in Thailand:  
A Study of Emerging Trends, Correlates and Implications  
for the Well-being of Women and their Families**

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Thailand's marriage system, like elsewhere in Asia, has been undergoing a significant transformation. Past research often focused on explaining continual decline in marriage rates, delay in marital timing, and rise in marital dissolution. Much less attention has been paid on trends and consequences of remarriage in the country. Addressing this research gap, we examine recent trends, correlates, and potential implications of remarriage among Thai women of reproductive age (age 20-49) based on data from five nationally representative surveys conducted between 2001 and 2016. Our preliminary results indicate that remarriage rates have doubled during the last 15 years. About one-fifth of currently married women in 2016 have been married before, compared to only 9% in 2001. Moreover, among formerly married women, percentages ever-remarried rose markedly from 61% in 2001 to 71% in 2016.

Since our results are based on self-reported marital status in the surveys, they are unlikely affected by persistent underreporting of marriage, divorce, and remarriage as shown in the Thai government's population registration system. Thailand's relatively high prevalence of remarriage/re-partnering thus warrants further investigation into factors associated with the likelihood of remarriage among previously married women, including their socioeconomic characteristics, number of children from their previous union, duration of the previous marriage. Moreover, given that marriage as an institution provides various benefits for married individuals compared to unmarried counterparts, we further examine how women who remarry differ from those who do not with regards to their attitudes towards marriage, health status, health risk behaviors, and life satisfaction. We plan to discuss the implications of this emerging trend for understanding the evolving family and kinship systems in Thailand and more broadly, in Asia.

**Wiraporn Pothisiri** is Associate Professor at College of Population Studies (CPS) at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Her research interests include health and social aspects of population aging, fertility and reproductive health, and population projection. Her recent research focuses on the association between education and health status among Thai older population, roles of family and its support on older persons' psychological well-being and health care utilization, and the development of community capacity in response to needs of older persons.

**Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan** holds joint appointments as Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Co-Director of the Centre for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore. Her research interests lie at the intersection of family demography, social gerontology, population health, and social stratification. She conducts research on these topics mostly in the context of Southeast Asia but is also interested in doing comparative analyses across Asia-Pacific countries. Her current research examines the roles of family, policy, and social structure in explaining the well-being of individuals, particularly older persons, in Southeast Asia. This includes an ongoing study funded by the National Institutes of Health on the long-term impacts of war and trauma exposure on health and well-being of older Vietnamese survivors in northern Vietnam.

**Nitchakarn Kaewbuadee** is a first-year PhD student in Demography at Asian Demographic Research Institute, School of Sociology and Political Science, Shanghai University, China. Her research interests center on fertility, reproductive health, marriage and population projection. She holds an MA degree in Demography from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Her master's thesis examined the situation and determinants of delayed childbearing among Thai women. She is currently a project member for the sub-national population projection of Thailand. For her PhD thesis, she wishes to work on Thailand's fertility projection based on the second demographic transition theory.

## PANEL 7

### **North Indian Rural Men in Cross-cultural Marriages: Negotiating Conjugal Intimacy and Familial Relationships**

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Cross-border marriage migration in response to sex-ratio imbalance and changing gender relations is a widely prevalent phenomenon in many parts of Asia. A similar pattern is now visible in female deficit northern and north-western states of India, where 'surplus' rural men, unable to find spouses locally, are transgressing conventional marriage norms and bringing in 'cultural strangers' as spouses from distant parts of India and from Nepal and Bangladesh. Such cross-cultural marriages constitute a striking social phenomenon especially in a region that places heavy premium on maintaining caste endogamy and cultural homogeneity in matters related to marriage.

Existing literature on these marriages has accorded primacy to understanding the experiences of migrant brides (Ahlawat, 2016; Kaur, 2012; Mishra, 2016). Consequently, men who marry cross-regionally remain understudied in India. This paper fills in this gap by analysing the 'lived' experience of husbands in cross-region marriages. It draws on long-term ethnographic fieldwork (August 2012-December 2013 with follow ups in 2017 and 2019) in Sonapat and Hisar districts of Haryana and employs narrative analysis method (Riessman 2000) to investigate the gendered subjectivities of men within cross-cultural intimacies and family relations.

This paper argues that men in cross-regional marriages enact 'new' 'bolder' forms of intimacy that mark a departure from earlier times where such expressions invited social and familial criticism. What is evident is a perceptible shift towards the primacy of conjugal relationship at the expense of the fraternal and mother-son bond which reflects the reconfiguring of relationships within the family/household in north India. By bringing out men's perspectives on cross-regional marriages, this paper also successfully counters their negative stereotypes in media and activist accounts which deem cross-cultural marriages and participants in them as *a priori* problematic.

**Paro Mishra** is currently Assistant Professor of Social Anthropology at the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIITD). She holds a PhD (2017) in Social Anthropology from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. Her postgraduate (2009) and undergraduate (2007) training is from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and University of Delhi, respectively. Her research examines the impact of sex-ratio imbalance on family and marriage patterns in North India with a particular focus on the phenomenon of cross-region marriage migration. Her areas of interest include: Family, Kinship and Marriage, Demographic Anthropology, Gender Studies, ICTs, Marriage Migration and Transnationalism. She has published research papers and book chapters in international and national avenues like Springer, Sage and Orient Blackswan. She is a recipient of several fellowships and grants from University Grants Commission (2011), Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (2014), Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (2015) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (2014, 2018).