



ARI20 ANNIVERSARY ROUNDTABLE SERIES

# CHANGING *Family* IN ASIA



**14-15 OCTOBER 2021**  
**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

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# CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA

14-15 October 2021 | Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Asian families are undergoing unprecedented changes in many ways with marriage and fertility rates declining, diverse family types forming, gender and intergenerational relations changing, and population rapidly ageing. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Asia Research Institute (ARI), the Changing Family in Asia cluster brings together its alumni and current staff in an online conference to contribute to dialogues on these issues with cutting-edge research in many countries. The Changing Family in Asia cluster, one of the oldest clusters in ARI established in 2003, will close at the end of 2021. This two-day conference will commemorate the cluster's achievements and legacy, and reflect on ARI's contributions to the achievements of the cluster's alumni. The founding cluster leader, Professor Gavin Jones, will deliver a keynote speech discussing the divorce trends for Muslim and non-Muslim populations in selected Southeast Asian countries, focusing on the narrowing or widening differentials in divorce rates and in the transition period from marriage to divorce.

This will be followed by six panels of cluster alumni presentations on different themes of the changing families in Asian countries. The first session examines the intersection of gender, class, and the family within the context of migration, employment, marriage, religion, and bureaucracy. Speakers in this session will discuss the challenges of COVID-19 faced by migrant workers in Hong Kong and their families in the Philippines, the differences in Chinese women's path to flash marriage, contrasting those whose marriage was arranged through matchmaking and those in a love marriage, the work and family choices of Singaporean parents, and how religious authorities navigate education and rehabilitation programmes for Muslim Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTs) in Malaysia.

The second panel focuses on family and care work in Asia. The topics in this session include intergenerational care in Singapore, socialisation of care in South Korea, and the employment of foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong. Family diversity and emerging trends of family forms will be the focus of the third panel. This session will examine educational expansion and marriage change in Thailand; intimate relationships, sexualities and family gender regimes in Taiwan; and the rising trends of singlehood in China's major cities. In the fourth panel, speakers will discuss parent-child relations—how Chinese parents view education and social upward mobility, their role in their children's marriage decisions, and the impact of rural depopulation on children's development in China. The fifth session highlights issues among families in a non-normative setup resulting from inter-ethnic marriage or transnational divorce. This session also includes a discussion on changes in household structure. The sixth session tackles productive ageing, its associated factors, and psychological health among older adults. The concluding session will discuss the impact of COVID-19 on families.

## WORKSHOP CONVENORS

**Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung** | Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

**Dr Jeofrey B. Abalos** | Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

## PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

DATE	TIME (SINGAPORE TIME)	SESSION
14 Oct 2021 (Thu)	09:30 – 10:30	Welcome Remarks & Keynote Address
	11:00 – 12:15	Panel 1
	14:30 – 15:30	Panel 2
15 Oct 2021 (Fri)	09:30 – 10:30	Panel 3
	11:00 – 12:00	Panel 4
	14:00 – 15:15	Panel 5
	15:45 – 16:45	Panel 6
	16:50 – 17:30	Concluding Session & Closing Remarks

# CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA

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## 14 OCTOBER 2021 • THURSDAY

SGT/GMT+8

<b>09:30 – 09:45</b>	<b>WELCOME REMARKS</b>
09:30	<b>Wei-Jun Jean Yeung</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Tim Bunnell</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
<b>09:45 – 10:15</b>	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b>
Chairperson	<b>Wei-Jun Jean Yeung</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
09:45	Muslim and Non-Muslim Divorce Trends in Southeast Asia in the 21st Century <b>Gavin W. Jones</b>   <i>Australian National University</i>
10:15	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>10:30</b>	<b>END OF SESSION</b>

SGT/GMT+8

<b>11:00 – 12:15</b>	<b>PANEL 1 – GENDER, CLASS AND THE FAMILY</b>
Chairperson	<b>Xiaorong Gu</b>   <i>SOAS University of London</i>
11:00	Coping with the Challenges of COVID-19: The Changing Migrant Family in Hong Kong and the Philippines <b>Cheryll Alipio</b>   <i>University of Maryland, College Park</i> <b>Weijun Yu</b>   <i>University of Maryland, College Park</i>
11:15	From Surplus Men to Women’s Flash Marriage: A Gendered Transmission Mechanism in China’s Rural Marriage Market <b>Yingchun Ji</b>   <i>Shanghai University</i> <b>Ping Liu</b>   <i>Shanghai University</i> <b>Huiguang Wang</b>   <i>Shanghai University</i>
11:30	Gendered Choices: Inequalities at the Intersection of Work and Family <b>You Yenn Teo</b>   <i>Nanyang Technological University</i>
11:45	Navigating Gender and Sexuality around Islamic Law and Bureaucracy in Malaysia <b>Maznah Mohamad</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
12:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>12:15</b>	<b>END OF SESSION</b>

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**SGT/GMT+8**

<b>14:30 – 15:30</b>	<b>PANEL 2 – FAMILY AND CAREWORK IN ASIA</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>You Yenn Teo</b>   <i>Nanyang Technological University</i>
14:30	How to be Filial? Intergenerational Care in Chinese Singapore Families <b>Leng Leng Thang</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
14:45	Rise of the Social? Socialization of Care and Gendered Social Economy in South Korea <b>Hyunok Lee</b>   <i>Yonsei University</i>
15:00	Perceived Quality and Stability: Class-based Factors and Experiences of Employing Live-in Foreign Domestic Workers <b>Adam Ka-Lok Cheung</b>   <i>Hong Kong Baptist University</i>
15:15	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>15:30</b>	<b>END OF DAY 1</b>

# CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA

14-15 October 2021 | Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

## 15 OCTOBER 2021 • FRIDAY

SGT/GMT+8

<b>09:30 – 10:30</b>	<b>PANEL 3 – FAMILY DIVERSITY AND EMERGING TRENDS (1)</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Jeofrey B. Abalos</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
09:30	Educational Expansion and Marriage Change in Thailand <b>Premchand Dommaraju</b>   <i>Nanyang Technological University</i> <b>Shawn Wong</b>   <i>Nanyang Technological University</i>
09:45	Intimate Relationships, Sexualities and Family Gender Regimes in Taiwan <b>Wei-yun Chung</b>   <i>National Taiwan University</i>
10:00	Explanations for Rising Trends of Singlehood in China's Major Cities <b>Yanxia Zhang</b>   <i>China Agricultural University</i>
10:15	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>10:30</b>	<b>END OF SESSION</b>

SGT/GMT+8

<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>PANEL 4 – PARENTING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Zheng Mu</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
11:00	Rural Depopulation, Community and Child Development in China <b>Xiaorong Gu</b>   <i>SOAS University of London</i> <b>Shu Hu</b>   <i>Singapore University of Social Sciences</i>
11:15	Education and Social Upward Mobility: From Chinese Parent's Perspectives <b>Haibin Li</b>   <i>South China University of Technology</i>
11:30	Stalled Revolution or Unwavering Parent-Child Bonds? Parental Role in Marriage Decisions <b>Shu Hu</b>   <i>Singapore University of Social Sciences</i> <b>Xiaorong Gu</b>   <i>SOAS University of London</i>
11:45	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>12:00</b>	<b>END OF SESSION</b>



# CHANGING FAMILY IN ASIA

14-15 October 2021 | Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

## SGT/GMT+8

<b>14:00 – 15:15</b>	<b>PANEL 5 – FAMILY DIVERSITY AND EMERGING TRENDS (2)</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Leng Leng Thang</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
14:00	Ethnic Identification of Children with Intermarried Parents in China: Policy, Gender, and Social Contexts <b>Zheng Mu</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i> <b>Andrew Francis-Tan</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
14:15	Seeking Respectability: Mothering in Non-normative Families <b>Lavanya Balachandran</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
14:30	Transnational Divorce: Understanding Intimacies and Inequalities from Singapore <b>Quah Ee Ling</b>   <i>University of Wollongong</i>
14:45	Diversity and Change in Filipino Households, 1990-2010 <b>Jeofrey B. Abalos</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
15:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>15:15</b>	<b>END OF SESSION</b>

## SGT/GMT+8

<b>15:45 – 16:45</b>	<b>PANEL 6 – AGING AND HEALTH</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Premchand Dommaraju</b>   <i>Nanyang Technological University</i>
15:45	Productive Aging in Asia: Trends, Determinants, and Impacts <b>Pei-Chun Ko</b>   <i>Singapore University of Social Sciences</i>
16:00	Cohort Matters: The Relationships between Living Arrangements and Psychological Health from The Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (KLoSA) <b>Yeonjin Lee</b>   <i>The University of Hong Kong</i>
16:15	The Situation and Well-being of Custodial Grandparents in Myanmar: Impacts of Adult Children's Cross-border and Internal Migration <b>Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
16:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>16:45</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>16:50 – 17:30</b>	<b>CONCLUDING SESSION &amp; CLOSING REMARKS</b>
16:50	Covid-19 and the Family <b>Wei-Jun Jean Yeung</b>   <i>National University of Singapore</i>
17:10	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
<b>17:30</b>	<b>END OF DAY 2</b>

### Muslim and Non-Muslim Divorce Trends in Southeast Asia in the 21st Century

**Gavin W. Jones**

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Focusing on data for Malaysia and Singapore, with some attention to Indonesia, the paper will show divorce trends for Muslim and non-Muslim populations, focusing on narrowing or widening of the differentials in divorce rates and in the time lapse from marriage to divorce. The trends are quite pronounced; for example, in Malaysia, the crude divorce rate for Muslims almost doubled during the 2000-2010 decade, and for non-Muslims it grew much more rapidly still, though in 2010 it still remained at half the Muslim divorce rate. Trends since 2010 have been quite different. The paper will address likely reasons for the observed trends, focusing on changing trends in age at marriage, in the social and economic challenges faced by married couples and in attitudes to divorce.

**Gavin W. Jones** is Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University. After working for the Population Council in New York, then in Thailand and Indonesia, he was with the Demography and Sociology Program at the Australian National University for 28 years, serving as head of program for an eight-year period. This was followed by an 11-year period with the National University of Singapore. He retired in December 2014 as Director of NUS's JY Pillay Comparative Asia Research Centre. Professor Jones has conducted research on varied subjects in the field of demography and human resource development, in recent years focusing especially on low fertility regimes in Asia, delayed and non-marriage, urbanization issues, and equity aspects of educational development. He was founding editor of the journal *Asian Population Studies*. Since retiring from NUS, he has undertaken a number of consultancies for the UNFPA in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia and Lao PDR, and for the Asian Development Bank on urbanization in Cambodia. He also prepared a study for the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of UNFPA on "Sustainable development and demographic trends in the Asia Pacific region".

**Coping with the Challenges of COVID-19:  
The Changing Migrant Family in Hong Kong and the Philippines**

**Cheryll Alipio**

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With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting human mobility across the globe, the constraints on movement have laid bare the existing and emerging vulnerabilities that migrants and their families face. Temporary bans have prevented overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from traveling to work destinations while others have been repatriated, leading to loss of livelihoods, wages, remittances, and financial support from family members. In Hong Kong, foreign migrant workers not only contend with strict immigration and employment laws but also various public health measures, including border control, social distancing, enhanced surveillance, contact tracing, and compulsory quarantine. Through their work as housekeepers, cleaners, caregivers, and nurses, these migrant workers further encounter extra hygiene measures and increased health risks. Using case studies of OFWs, alongside longitudinal data from the Hong Kong Department of Health, we explore the multiple challenges that migrants confront and cope with during the pandemic in terms of health and well-being, work stress and family separation, and discrimination by the host country. In examining how the pandemic has exacerbated health disparities and social and structural inequalities that restrict the work, travel, and living conditions of Filipino migrants in Hong Kong, we also consider the impact on their left-behind families. The implications for life transitions and trajectories suggest a need for government policies and community interventions to attend to the changing experiences of the migrant family across two countries.

**Cheryll Alipio** is Program Director of the Institute for Governmental Service and Research and Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her research interests lie in forced labor and transnational migration, gender-based violence and human trafficking, care work and domestic servitude, children and youth, and Southeast Asian studies. She has published in journals, including *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia*, *Children's Geographies*, and *Children and Society*. Her recent co-edited book is entitled, *Money and Moralities in Contemporary Asia* (Amsterdam University Press, 2019).

**Weijun Yu** is PhD candidate in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her research interests include infectious disease epidemiology, network epidemiology, global health, depression and anxiety disorders, cardiovascular disease, built environment and health disparity. She has published in journals including *Health and Human Rights Journal*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, *Scientific Reports*, *Preventive Medicine*, and *Computers in Human Behavior*.



**From Surplus Men to Women's Flash Marriage:  
A Gendered Transmission Mechanism in China's Rural Marriage Market**

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With tens of millions of men more than women in China's marriage market, rural men have experienced a severe marriage squeeze. Our research investigates how men's disadvantage in the marriage market has transferred into women's rush into marriage. We have found that the paths to women's flash marriage are different for those who have an arranged marriage through match making and those who have a lover marriage. For the former, a man's family usually has to prepare for a wedding house in advance to be qualified to enter the marriage market, and take advantage of the entire family network to setup meetings. Once the relationship is confirmed, a man and his family usually take an active role to propose a marriage so that the woman's family cannot say no: such as frequently expressing a sincere marriage will, asking seniors to propose and do house chores for the girlfriend's family, eventually resulting in a flash marriage. For a love marriage, the couple usually had a romantic meeting and are relatively open about premarital sex and cohabitation. Yet, such behavior usually imposes great social pressure on the woman's family in rural China, where traditional gender double standard sex norms prevail. Some men even deliberately induce a pregnancy and take it as a strategy to press a marriage. Under this circumstance, women and their family lose their advantage in negotiating a late and decent marriage while facing the male family's' disdain and have to rush into a flash marriage.

**Yingchun Ji** is the Eastern Scholar Professor in the School of Sociology and Political Science at the Shanghai University. Dr Ji obtained her PhD in the sociology department at UNC-Chapel Hill. She has served as Guest Editor for *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Chinese Sociological Review*, and *China Review* in recent years. She is currently the board member of the International Chinese Sociologist Association and on the editorial boards of *Social Science and Research*, *Oxford Development Studies* and *Chinese Sociological Review*. Her research interests include family sociology, gender studies, demographic transition, and modernity in China. Dr Ji has published in journals of multiple disciplines, such as *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Sex Roles*, *Population Studies*, *Temporalités*, *Chinese Sociological Review*, *China Review*, and *Social Sciences in China*. In addition to empirical studies, Dr Ji has dedicated herself to developing localized concepts to understand changes in the domains of gender, family, demographic transition, and on-going modernization in China.

**Ping Liu** was a Master's student in the School of Sociology and Political Science at the Shanghai University. She is currently a civil servant in Henan Province, China.

**Huiguang Wang** is a PhD candidate in the School of Sociology and Political Science at the Shanghai University. His research interests include family sociology, youth studies, ageing and health. He has published in the following Journals, *China Review*, *South China Population*, *Northwest Population Journal*, and *Youth Exploration*.

**Gendered Choices:  
Inequalities at the Intersection of Work and Family**

**You Yenn Teo**

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Despite educational parity, men and women in contemporary Singapore still see variations in employment patterns and wages. Although sociological research illustrates the significance of gender inequalities at the intersection of work and family, popular discourse—sometimes aided by scholarship which regard persistent inequalities as residual—frequently settle on notions of ‘individual choice’ and ‘personal preferences’ as explanations. In this presentation, drawing from interviews with mothers and fathers in contemporary Singapore, I examine how parents talk about the ‘choices’ they make about work and family to illustrate the contrasting choices men and women talk about making, and what these gendered choices reveal about the social conditions in which people raise children. In particular, I discuss the nature of wage work, the cultural and structural contours of gender roles, and shared practices and beliefs around parenting responsibilities.

**You Yenn Teo** is an Associate Professor, Provost’s Chair, and Head of Sociology at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her research focuses on poverty and inequality, governance and state-society dynamics, gender, and class. She is the author of *Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society* (Routledge, 2011) and *This is What Inequality Looks Like* (Ethos Books, 2018). More information about her work at: <https://teoyuyenn.sg>

### **Navigating Gender and Sexuality around Islamic Law and Bureaucracy in Malaysia**

**Maznah Mohamad**

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Previously, the vocabulary for same-sex relations was limited, within a Malay-Muslim and Syariah lexicography. Today, the term and acronym LGBT is verbalised and written with ease among Syariah scholars, bureaucrats and preachers. In relation to this there is a long list of codified offences associated with sexuality, sexual norms, sexual behavior as well as sexual intentions within the Malaysian Syariah statutes. Nevertheless, despite the seeming comprehensiveness of these regulations, enforcement may be inconsistent due to ambiguities surrounding the definition and circumstances of the “wrongdoings”. Furthermore, while offenders are considered to have deviated from Islam, they are also prevented from leaving the faith. This state of affairs, or captivity, has thus rendered Muslim LGBTs to be a “Them” to be demonized as well as an “Us” to be cleansed. In this presentation, I will discuss how religious authority, within the context of a bureaucratized Islam takes on a technical, even secular approach in its education and rehabilitation programmes directed at Muslim LGBTs. What explains the motivation behind these programmes? How is gender and sexuality delimited, but also negotiated around Islamic law and bureaucracy in Malaysia?

**Maznah Mohamad** is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore. She has researched and published on Malaysian feminism, Islamic marriage and divorce, and gender and electoral politics. Her current research includes a project on examining Malay manuscripts as medium and method for decentring dominant narratives on gender, intimacy and sexuality, while the other is on the interrogation of early photo-archives in the representation of the female in the Malay World. She published her book, *The Divine Bureaucracy and Disenchantment of Social Life* with Palgrave-Macmillan in 2020. Her latest publication, “Sex manuals in Malay manuscripts as another transcript of gender relations” is published in an open-access journal, *Religions* (2021, 12:38).

### How to be Filial? Intergenerational Care in Chinese Singapore families

**Leng Leng Thang**

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Focusing on aging and Singapore families, in this talk, I would like to share a qualitative study co-authored with Kalyani Mehta (Thang and Mehta, 2020) examining intergenerational care in Singapore families. Particularly, we ask in what ways does the older generation serve as a role model the next generation in filial responsibility? Will filial piety practices manifested as co-residential living be sustained over time? Do the children see their parents' path as caregivers as something that is both desirable and feasible for themselves? What do youths regard as possible strategies that will enable them to assume caregiving of their parents? These questions are examined through the voices of Chinese Singaporean grandchildren mostly in their twenties who shared on how they view their parents' acts of caregiving for their grandparents, as well as their role as grandchildren in helping with grandparent care. We argue that, in contrast to notions that Singaporeans are becoming less filial and are abandoning their parents, they are instead very concerned as to how they can realize their values in the face of considerable challenges. Such challenges include financial constraints, lack of time, lack of sibling support and other external factors that hinder their ability to carry out their ideals in reality. Set against the backdrop of life-course and demographic changes, the findings suggest that caregiving for the elderly is gradually undergoing transformation in Singapore, and this is, in turn, leading to perceived changes in the performance of filial practices manifested through emerging changes in living arrangements and care roles related to support for elderly family members.

*Ref: Thang, .L. and Mehta, K. "Teach me to be filial: Intergenerational care in Singapore families." in Beyond Filial Piety: Rethinking Aging and Caregiving in Contemporary East Asian Societies. J. Shea, K. Moore and H. Zhang (eds.). New York: Berghahn. 2020.*

**Leng Leng Thang** is a socio-cultural anthropologist with research interests in ageing, intergenerational approaches and relationships, family and migration with a focus on Asia, especially Japan and Singapore. She has been a member of the ARI Changing Family cluster since it was established and was formerly deputy director of Centre for Family and Population Research. She publishes widely in her areas of expertise and specializes in ethnographic and qualitative research approaches. Currently, she is Associate Professor of the Department of Japanese Studies, also co-Director of the Next Age Institute, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore and honorary fellow of College of Alice and Peter Tan.

**Rise of the Social?:  
Socialization of Care and Gendered Social Economy in South Korea**

**Hyunok Lee**

Department of Global Public Administration, Yonsei University

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This paper sheds lights on the recent increase in social enterprises and cooperatives in care service sector, in particular, in the context of socializing care from the family. There are two important policy contexts in South Korea from the 2000s, socialization of care and promotion of social economy. Both policies have positive potential on care work in the following regards: 1) the policies on the socialization of care meet the needs of care service and lift the care burden of the family; 2) The social economy may reduce the negative impact of marketization by putting people, both users and providers, first. However, would these seemingly positive changes be able to bring gender transformative effect in the care service / labor market? In this paper, first I explore the changes in the care regime with the focus on the in-home care service provision in South Korea and summarize the care provision in the social economy briefly. Then I discuss the tensions in this process of re-partitioning of care provision with the gender perspective and explore various attempts to research gender justice with the case of in-home care service providers in the social medical cooperatives and in-home care service workers' trade unions.

**Hyunok Lee** is an Associate Professor at the Department of Global Public Administration in Yonsei University, Korea. She received a PhD at the department of Development Sociology, Cornell University in USA. Her general research interest lies on exploring the gendered political economic processes in East Asia with the focus on social reproduction. Her current research interests include gendering migration system in East Asia, citizenship in relation to developmental state and welfare regime in East Asia, Intersection of migration regime and care/welfare regime, and Korean developmentalism in Asian region, social economy as an alternative development strategy. Her publication includes 'The Political Economy of Cross-Border Marriage: Economic Development and Social Reproduction in South Korea', in *Feminist Economics* (2012), and 'Trafficking in Women? Or Multicultural Family?: Contextual Difference in Commodification of Intimacy', in *Gender, Place and Culture* (2014).

**Perceived Quality and Stability:  
Class-based Factors and Experiences of Employing Live-in Foreign Domestic Workers**

**Adam Ka-Lok Cheung**

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Employing live-in foreign domestic workers (FDWs) has become a common domestic outsourcing option in Hong Kong and some other East Asian societies. Little effort has been devoted to investigating the potential variability of the quality and stability of employing FDWs. This study supplements and extends the current literature by adopting employers' perspective to examine the quality and stability of the practice and how these are related to the employing families' social class backgrounds. Drawing data from a representative household survey and follow-up in-depth interviews, the stability of employment of FDWs is related to the class background of the employers. The quantitative analysis results show that the positive relationship between class background and the stability of the employment of FDWs operated through both indirect and direct channels. The qualitative data reveal that employers with live-in FDW held negative perceptions of FDW replacement. The employers regarded FDW replacement as a troublesome and costly practice, and therefore an unpleasant and undesirable event. This study provides evidence that the experience of employing FDWs is stratified by social class. Not all employers were able to outsource their household labor satisfactorily.

**Adam Ka-Lok Cheung** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests include gender ideology, division of household labor, marital relations and domestic violence in Hong Kong and other Asian societies. His research has been published in *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Demographic Research*, *Violence against Women*, *Violence and Victims*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Current Sociology* and other peer-reviewed journals.



## Educational Expansion and Marriage Change in Thailand

**Premchand Dommaraju**

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**Shawn Wong**

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In Asia educational expansion has been linked to decreases in early marriage and increases in non-marriage. The influence of education on marriage has varied across societies depending on gender structures and changing composition of the educational groups. This paper investigates the effect of educational expansion on convergence, divergence, and stability of marriage patterns in Thailand. With rapid educational expansion, gender egalitarian structures, historically low rates of early marriage and acceptance of non-marriage, Thailand provides a unique context to examine the relationship between educational expansion and marriage changes. The data from three rounds of nationally representative Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys were analysed using discrete-time survival models. Findings reveal a complex pattern of both convergence and stability in marriage patterns. Women delayed entering marriage during the period of educational expansion and this change was primarily driven by compositional factors. Education as expected had a negative effect on marriage entry. But the effect of education has changed over time. For the lowest two educational groups there has been a convergence of trends in marriage. However, for women with higher education marriage patterns diverged from the other educational groups. Though timing of marriage changed, proportion of higher educated women marrying has remained remarkably stable during period of educational expansion. The findings reveal the different pathways and implications of educational expansion on marriage patterns

**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 Southeast and South Asia focusing on the common demographic issues faced by the diverse societies in the two regions. His works have appeared in leading social and demographic journals including *Population and Development Review*, *Demographic Research*, *Population*, and *Population Studies*. He is currently the vice president of the Asian Population Association.

**Shawn Wong** is a first year MA student in sociology at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Earlier he worked as a research assistant on a project examining marriage changes in Southeast Asia. He has co-authored two book chapters: "The Concept of Productive Ageing" and "Grandparenthood and Grandparenting in Asia".

### **Intimate Relationships, Sexualities and Families Gender Regime in Taiwan**

**Wei-Yun Chung**

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In Taiwan, marriage is seen as a union between two people and between two families. The practice of marriage and family is gendered. Sons are expected to continue the family line, while daughters are thought to marry out of their natal families and become a new member of their husbands' family upon marriage. In my PhD research project, I examine how living arrangements, gender ideology, and cultural norms jointly structure housework allocation and power relations between heterosexual couples. I find that forming a nuclear family far away from the husband's parents gives the couple the opportunity to share housework more equally, although in general women still tend to take a greater share of domestic chores. By contrast, husbands are spared from most housework when the couple live with the parents of either side. There has been a considerable volume of literature on how Taiwanese LGBTQ people negotiate their sexual orientation with family gender regimes based on and perpetuated by heterosexual marriage before the legalisation of same-sex partnership. Inspired by these studies and Taiwan's recent legalisation of same-sex partnership, I begin to explore how same-sex partnership and the established family gender regime influence one another after same-sex partnership legalisation and the potential of same-sex partnership to change from within.

**Wei-Yun Chung** is a Research Associate of Global Asia Research Center (GARC), National Taiwan University. Prior to joining GARC, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Changing Family in Asia Cluster, at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and she obtained a PhD in human geography at the University of Cambridge, UK. Her research interests lie in the connection between sexuality, marriage, family, and labour market in East Asia.

### Explanations for Rising Trends of Singlehood in China's Major Cities

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The persistence of universal marriage in China continued until recently when many major cities witnessed a significant increase in delayed marriage and non-marriage. The singlehood levels are particularly high among females with high education attainments and males with low education attainments China's Major Cities. Drawing on findings from a qualitative study with 50 single men and women aged 30-40 from a broad range of socioeconomic and educational backgrounds in three major cities of China, this paper focuses on comparing single women and men's attitudes about freedom, marriage and work and argues the persistence of traditional hypergamy norm and the rising individualism has powerful influence on mate selection and marriage formation in urban China and contributes to the rising trend of singlehood.

**Yanxia Zhang** is an Associate Professor in the College of Humanities and Development Studies at China Agricultural University (CAU). She received her PhD in Social Policy from the University of Oxford and worked at National University of Singapore (NUS) and the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD), and served Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a Social Development Specialist before joining CAU in 2014. Her current research interests include changing marriage and family, cross-national studies on child and family policies, urbanization and poverty, social governance and the China Model, pension and elderly care. She has published in the peer-reviewed journals in the fields of sociology, social policy, demography, gender studies and social work.

### Rural Depopulation and Youth Development in China

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Since the economic reform in the early 1980s, rural China has witnessed for decades sustained population loss due to mass out-migration of working-age adults and more recently their nuclear families to economically prosperous urban boomtowns. Much has been written about the impact of migration of individuals upon their left-behind dependents, revealing complex and mixed effects of multiple and multi-directional mechanisms at work. Depopulation, however, should not be narrowly conceptualized as an individual- or family-level demographic and social phenomenon, but rather a community one. Synthesizing literature in rural studies and community studies, the current research develops an analytical framework that links depopulation with community-level social changes in rural areas. Using longitudinal data from China Family Panel Studies, we apply multi-level modeling to empirically test whether and how depopulation might affect children's wellbeing in rural communities. We report the following preliminary findings: 1) rural depopulation has become a prevalent phenomenon among Chinese rural communities across the country, as revealed by our latent profile analysis. The majority of rural communities could count as migrant-sending rather than destination communities, with a high out-migration rate and a higher percentage of labor force in agriculture, have a relatively smaller population size, are more far away from urban towns and have a relatively lower income per capita. 2) Community characteristics have moderate effects on youths' educational outcomes through their socioeconomic resources and infrastructure, but depopulation as a demographic feature shows no significant results for either youths' verbal test score or their educational attainment; and 3) females have a pronounced advantage in both educational outcomes relative to males, even after accounting for a variety of individual, family and community factors. In particular, young women in depopulated communities have significantly higher verbal scores, revealing a higher level of resilience. The current study contributes to existing literature on internal migration and youth development in contemporary China by unpacking the complex relationship between population transition, community development and individuals' wellbeing. Our findings suggest that a sweeping discourse on depopulation and rural decline in China is not warranted. It is likely that depopulation as a demographic trend does not equal to the loss of human and social connections of migrants with their home communities. Youths' educational outcomes in these communities are more contingent on the level of family resources they have received and their early learning experiences.

**Gu Xiaorong** is a Research Fellow with SOAS University of London, and a Cluster Associate with Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She is a trained sociologist of childhood and youth with a focus on contemporary China. A major line of her scholarship focuses on unravelling the multidimensional family life and dynamics of China's migrant working class in the post-reform era. Her work broadly engages with childhood and youth, migration and mobilities, family, education, social stratification, political economy and mixed-methods research.

**Shu Hu** is Lecturer and Head of the Sociology Programme at School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences at Singapore University of Social Sciences. She received her PhD in sociology from National University of Singapore. Her research interests center on how family origin, gender, and the state shape the lives and wellbeing of individuals at different stages of the life course. Her research on parental labor migration and children's educational outcome, transition to adulthood, marriage values and behaviours, parenting, quality of life among older adults have appeared in peer-reviewed journals.

### **Education and Social Upward Mobility: From Chinese Parent's Perspectives**

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In recent years, the topic of whether education can break the social class solidification and help individuals achieve upward social mobility has aroused heated discussion. If this problem cannot be clarified clearly, it will bring a negative impact on the decision-making of education investment, and will lead to the "Hopeless Schooling", which will lead some rural youth and some urban low-income groups to give up the opportunity to change their fate. In this study, we carried out a questionnaire survey on "Residents' Education and Employment", and the participants were around 3800 parents from 20 cities, including Beijing, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Kunming. These cities were chosen due to the differences in economy, culture and politics as well as geographical distribution. Among these participants, 69% were male, 48% were from rural areas. The age mainly ranged from 23 to 80. Results showed that Chinese parents still value education, and the degree to which families attach importance to education is almost not affected by their family income. The schools that children actually attend are influenced strongly by their family income. Education is a mediator between family factors and individual social status. In other words, family factors have a significant impact on an individual's education level, and education level has a significant impact on an individual's social status.

**Haibin Li** is currently a researcher in the Institute of Public Policy, South China University of Technology. She received her PhD and master's degree in Education from the University of Sydney, Australia. Before joining the Institute of Public Policy, she worked at University of Sydney, Australia; Dalhousie University, Canada and National University of Singapore. Her current research interests are investigating resilience factors, particularly family/school/individual factors and educational policy that influence children's achievements.

### **Stalled Revolution or Unwavering Parent-Child Bonds? Parental Role in Marriage Decisions**

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Modernist theories predict that as society modernizes, familial relationships become more individualized and personalized, leading to a revolution of intergenerational dynamics to the favor of youths. China provides a compelling testing ground for such theories, given its dramatic social, economic, and political changes in the past century, coupled with an enduring familist culture. We argue that while certain aspects of the enormous socioeconomic transformation in China may have weakened parental influence in marriage decisions, other aspects such as the one-child policy, weak social safety net, and market volatility have reinforced the importance of the parent-child ties. Drawing upon nationally representative data from the Chinese General Social Survey and the China Family Panel Study, our preliminary findings show an unmistakable decline in arranged marriage across birth cohorts and marriage cohorts. Yet, across generations and educational levels, between 30 to 57 percent of marriage cohorts reported some or a lot of parental influence in their spouse choice. Contrary to some expectations, parental influence in marriage decisions was stronger in both the least developed regions and the most developed cosmopolitan cities than in other regions. The continuing and divergent influence of parents in marriage decisions has implications for reproduction of social inequality.

**Shu Hu** is Lecturer and Head of the Sociology Programme at School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences at Singapore University of Social Sciences. She received her PhD in sociology from National University of Singapore. Her research interests center on how family origin, gender, and the state shape the lives and wellbeing of individuals at different stages of the life course. Her research on parental labor migration and children's educational outcome, transition to adulthood, marriage values and behaviours, parenting, quality of life among older adults have appeared in peer-reviewed journals.

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### **Ethnic Identification of Children with Intermarried Parents in China: Policy, Gender, and Social Contexts**

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The share of the population of Chinese ethnic minorities has risen by 50% from 1964 to 2010. Demographic forces alone cannot account for the rise. In this paper, we examine how preferential educational policies, gender of the children and the minority parent, and other contextual factors influence the ethnic identification of children with intermarried parents in China. Using nationally representative census data, we find that the policy significantly increases minority identity. However, the child is much less likely to identify as a minority when only the mother is a minority than when only the father is a minority. This study contributes to research on the history and demography of Chinese ethnic minorities, the impact of preferential educational policies, and the social construction of ethnoracial identity.

**Zheng Mu** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS). She is also a Research Associate at the NUS Centre for Family and Population Research. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan in December 2013 and joined the NUS ARI and CFPR as a postdoctoral fellow in 2015. Her research interests include trends, social determinants and consequences of marriage and family behaviors, with focuses on how marriage and family serve as major inequality-generating mechanisms. Most of her work draws on quantitative and mixed methods, and she also employ qualitative methods in some projects. Her ongoing research projects examine how internal migration, interactions between gender inequality and intergenerational inequality, and interactions between gender norms and socioeconomic contexts shape family experiences, time use patterns, and well-being in China.

**Andrew Francis-Tan** is a Visiting Associate Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. He received his PhD in economics at the University of Chicago. Professor Francis-Tan engages in quantitative research in the fields of education, labour, and demography. His current research aims to understand patterns of inequality, public policies intended to empower vulnerable populations, and factors that shape seemingly-immutable social categories like race/ethnicity and gender.

### Seeking Respectability: Mothering in Non-normative Families

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In Singapore, a pro-family policy landscape that privileges a heteronormative nuclear family ideal constituting legally married parents and their biological children has eclipsed experiences of alternative family structures and understandings of them. This is particularly so in the case of stepfamilies that deal with complex family transitions such as a prior couple dissolution and repartnership but remain less visible due to their resemblance to conventional first-time married families. Recent statistics reveal that remarriages account for more than 1 in 5 civil marriages and thirty-percent of Muslim marriages indicating a sizeable presence of reconstituted families in Singapore. This paper contributes to a growing but still largely underdeveloped literature on Asian stepfamilies by foregrounding the mothering experiences of Singaporean ethnic minority women who have either remarried or married a previously divorced partner. Empirical data collected from in-depth interviews with 24 women in both stepmother and stepfather families across different socio-economic groups demonstrate how mothering roles and practices have been differentially influenced by their familial position in relation to their spouse, stepchildren, biological children and extended kin. The narratives however highlight that despite the varied family transition pathways, reconfigurations of mothering in stepfamilies eventually revolve around efforts to compensate for the non-normative family structure. The findings support the wider literature that mothering in stepfamilies retain and reproduce rather than dismantle cultural values and ideals of traditional motherhood.

**Lavanya Balachandran** is a Lecturer with the College of Alice & Peter Tan at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Her teaching and research interests include inequality and stratification in Singapore with a specific focus on family, education, transition to adulthood, race and ethnicity and social networks. Lavanya is the author of the recently published *Tamils, Social Capital and Educational Marginalisation in Singapore* (Routledge Critical Studies in Asian Education Series).

### **Transnational Divorce: Understanding Intimacies and Inequalities from Singapore**

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In this presentation, I will discuss research findings from my recently published book on transnational divorce. The project funded by Singapore government was conducted from the field site of Singapore. The findings provide insights into a global family phenomenon revealing global hierarchy of nations, global inequalities, global gender (dis)order and transnational intimacies. The findings are organised according to four main groups of transnational divorcees in Singapore: low-income marriage migrant women from less wealthy countries; low-income Singaporean citizen men; middle-class living-apart-together divorced parents; and overseas-based Singaporean citizen divorced mothers. Employing transnational, intersectional feminist perspectives, I expose and challenge taken for granted, seemingly neutral and tightly interlocked structures of privileges and inequalities at the site of transnational intimate life. The presentation ends with a discussion on *fire dragon feminism* as place-based feminist activism to reimagine more just and equal futures.

**Ee Ling Sharon, Quah** (she/her) is a fire dragon feminist. Ee Ling is on a mission to fill up her fire dragon feminist arsenal with superpowers, and summon her superpowers to expose inequalities, blow flames at injustices, rebuild communities for a more just and equal world. She has very little patience for white male mediocrity, misogyny, patriarchy, racism and queerphobia. Ee Ling is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and School Education Leader, University of Wollongong (UOW). Her research and teaching areas include genders, sexualities, families, migration, race, inequalities, intersectionality, feminisms and social policy. She is the author of *Transnational Divorce: Understanding Intimacies and Inequalities from Singapore* (Routledge 2020) and *Perspectives on Marital Dissolution: Divorce Biographies in Singapore* (Springer 2015).

### **Diversity and Change in Filipino Households, 1990-2010**

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Several demographic and socioeconomic changes have swept the Philippines in the past few decades, including declining fertility, postponement of age at union, rising incidence of union dissolution, improvement in longevity, and increasing internal and international migration. However, little is known on how these changes have impacted the Filipino household. To address this gap, this study examines the trends and patterns in household structure and composition in the Philippines, with a focus on (1) household size, (2) one-person households (3) nuclear households, and (4) extended households. Data are drawn from the 1990, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing (CPH).

**Jeofrey Abalos** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Asia Research Institute. He completed his PhD in Demography at the Australian National University.

### **Productive Aging in Asia: Trends, Determinants, and Impacts**

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Population aging across Asian countries has brought much attention to its impacts on economic development. Productive aging which is usually defined by employment, caregiving and volunteering in old age has gradually gained policy attention to promote older adults' social engagement and inclusion. In the talk, I will give an overview of the definitions of productive aging and describe the trends of productive engagement across major Asian societies. Moreover, I will review the determinants of productive aging, and summarize the impacts of productive engagement on health and wellbeing of older adults in the existing literature. In particular, I will highlight the importance of socially productive engagement, including caregiving and volunteering for older adults. Policy implications of socially productive engagement with considerations toward institutional settings, changing attitudes towards ageing, and trends of healthy life expectancy will also be discussed. I will conclude with the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults' opportunities and resources for productive engagement and reflect on future directions of productive-aging research for the post-COVID-19 era.

**Pei-Chun Ko** is Lecturer at Centre for University Core at Singapore University of Social Sciences. She obtained her PhD from University of Cologne, Germany. Her research interests include productive engagement (employment, caregiving, volunteering, and learning), place and health, intergenerational relationships, life course, and social networks. Her publications can be seen in *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Social Sciences and Medicine*, *Journal of Aging and Health* and *Educational Gerontology*.

**Cohort Matters:**  
**The Relationships between Living Arrangements and Psychological Health  
from the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (KLoSA)**

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Little is known about cohort variations in the relationships between living arrangements and psychological health among older adults. The current study evaluates whether cohort differences in the intergenerational relationships affect the differences in the health benefits of multigenerational living arrangements, and how they do so.

Using panel regression models with lagged variables based on South Korean data, we compare the shape of the relationships between living arrangements and psychological conditions of two cohorts of older adults.

The study finds birth cohort differences in older adults' psychological well-being. Among older adults in recent cohorts, living in a multigenerational household is positively associated with depression and negatively linked with life satisfaction while the pattern is not observed among older cohorts. The cohort variations were partly explained by children's marital status and home ownership. Conclusion: The cohort variations in older adults' mental health may reflect the changing socio-demographic status of children and intergenerational support.

**Yeonjin Lee** holds a joint appointment as Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Work and Social Administration and the School of Public Health of Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine. She received her PhD in Sociology with a Demography specialty from the University of Pennsylvania, U.S. She has a Master degree in Social Policy from Columbia University, New York, U.S. Her principal line of research focuses on how human behaviors are shaped by a process of reciprocal causation between the individual and the environment, with an emphasis on social determinants of mental health and cognitive function in later life. In general, Dr Lee's research aims to address less known issues to clarify the pathways underlying health inequalities across populations. Methodologically, she utilizes statistical approaches to handle population survey, spatial and big data aligning analytic strategies with the nature and scope of the research questions. Dr Lee participates in developing comparative research projects which evaluate social policies relevant to healthy aging process.



## The Situation and Well-being of Custodial Grandparents in Myanmar: Impacts of Adult Children's Cross-border and Internal Migration

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Custodial care for grandchildren left behind by migrant parents is an important contribution made by grandparents for their families and societies, given rising migration flows and increasing prominence of skipped-generation households in low- and middle-income countries. Yet, little is known about the scope and consequences of custodial grandparenting in developing settings. Analyzing unique data from the 2017 Myanmar Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren Survey, this study examines the extent to which the middle generation's cross-border and internal migration are associated with caregiving intensity, perception towards grandchild care, and psychological well-being among grandparents. Results suggest limited negative impacts of the middle generation's migration on the situation and well-being of grandparent caregivers. Custodial grandparents, particularly those caring for children of cross-border migrant mothers, experience heightened caregiving responsibilities and perceived difficulties in grandchild care. Nevertheless, all else equal, the middle generation's migration is not significantly associated with grandparents' psychological well-being. Remittances from migrant children and care support from non-coresident family members are found to reduce grandparents' caregiving intensity, improve caregiving perception, and lower psychological distress. In sum, findings echo Myanmar's widespread norms of grandchild care provision by grandparents and underscore mutual interdependence across generations, as evidenced in the importance of remittances from migrant children and informal care support networks in determining the well-being of Myanmar grandparents. This study extends current theoretical perspectives that emphasize custodial grandparenting either as a response to family crises or as a household strategy to facilitate middle-generation migration. Instead, our evidence suggests that, when conceptualizing custodial grandparenting practices in developing settings, it is instructive to consider not only opportunities but also challenges and ambivalent situations associated with the middle generation's diverse migration patterns.

**Bussarawan (Puk) Teerawichitchainan** is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Co-Director of the Centre for Family and Population Research. She received a PhD from the University of Washington. She was a past fellowship recipient of Fulbright, the Social Science Research Council, and the Population Council. Her research interests lie at the intersection of family demography, social gerontology, population health, and social stratification. Her current research examines the roles of family, policy, and social structure in explaining the well-being of older persons in the Asia Pacific region, particularly Southeast Asia. Her research has been funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund Tier 2.

### COVID-19 and the Family

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The COVID-19 pandemic has exerted unprecedented pressure on many institutions including the health care systems, schools, government, markets, and law. Family, as the basic socioeconomic unit of society, bears the brunt of the multiple stressors caused by the disruptions to these institutions. I propose a conceptual framework to examine the impact of COVID-19 on families and illustrate with findings from Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS).

**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.