

# HONG KONG SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Navigating a Changing World: Comparative Perspectives on Social Structures and Inequalities



Conference Date

**6 December 2025**  
(Saturday)

Venue

**Lam Woo International Conference Centre,  
Hong Kong Baptist University**



# Hong Kong Sociological Association The 14th Council (2024–2026)

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# Welcome to The HKSA 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Welcome to the 26th Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Sociological Association! We are delighted by your attendance, and we are honoured to be hosting it here at Hong Kong Baptist University. Our official theme is “Navigating a Changing World: Comparative Perspectives on Social Structures and Inequalities”. We are very fortunate to have Prof. Man-Yee Kan, visiting from the University of Oxford, as our keynote speaker whose lecture is entitled “Gender Differences in Leisure Time in East Asian and Western Societies.” Also in keeping with our comparative theme, the afternoon plenary roundtable is entitled “East Asian Families in Comparative Perspective” and will feature Prof. ChangHwan Kim (The University of Kansas), Prof. James Raymo (Princeton University), and Prof. Yuying Tong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong). The conference has three sessions of oral presentations as well as one large session for poster presentations. The presenters come from several countries and various continents worldwide. These presentations are all very high quality as we had an unusually large number of submissions this year. We hope that you will find the conference to be intellectually stimulating as well as personally enjoyable. Our wish is for you to discover fresh sociological insights while also meeting new professional colleagues or seeing old friends. Again, welcome to the 26th Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Sociological Association at Hong Kong Baptist University, and thank you for your participation!

**Academy Director**

**Arthur SAKAMOTO**

Academy of Geography, Sociology and International Studies  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Hong Kong Baptist University





# Program Rundown

<b>9:00am – 9:30am</b>	<b>Registration and Morning Refreshment</b> WLB 1/F
<b>9:30am – 10:45am</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony and Keynote Seminar</b> WLB103
<b>10:45am – 11:00am</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b> WLB 1/F
<b>11:00am – 12:20pm</b>	<b>Oral Presentation Session 1</b> WLB 104, 109, 201, 202, 203, 205, 207, 209, 210
<b>12:20pm – 1:45pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b> SCC201
<b>2:00pm – 3:15pm</b>	<b>Plenary Roundtable and Prize Presentation Ceremony</b> WLB103
	<b>Poster Presentation</b> WLB 1/F, Exhibition Gallery
<b>3:15pm – 3:30pm</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b> WLB 1/F
<b>3:30pm – 4:50pm</b>	<b>Oral Presentation Session 2</b> WLB 104, 109, 201, 202, 203, 205, 207, 209, 210
<b>4:50pm – 5:00pm</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b> WLB 1/F
<b>5:00pm – 6:20pm</b>	<b>Oral Presentation Session 3</b> WLB 104, 109, 201, 202, 203, 205, 207, 209

WLB = Lam Woo International Conference Centre / Wing Lung Bank Building

*\* Hong Kong Baptist University is a smoke-free campus.*

# Keynote Speech

## Gender Differences in Leisure Time in East Asian and Western Societies

Time

**9:45am – 10:45am**

Venue

**WLB103**

**Keynote Speaker**

**Prof. Man-Yee KAN**

Professor of Sociology  
University of Oxford

Prof. Man-Yee KAN is currently a professor in the Department of Sociology at University of Oxford. She has conducted extensive research on time use, gender inequalities, marriages, families, and welfare policies in East Asian, European, and Anglophone countries.

Her current project GenTime, funded by a European Research Council Consolidator Grant (2018–2026), aims to investigate trends in gender inequality in time use in East Asian and Western societies.

She was previously a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow (2008–2011) and a Research Councils UK Academic Fellow (2008–2013).



# Plenary Roundtable

## East Asian Families in Comparative Perspective

Time

**2:00pm – 3:15pm**

Venue

**WLB103**

### Speakers



**Prof. James RAYMO**

Professor of Sociology  
Princeton University



**Prof. ChangHwan KIM**

Professor of Sociology  
The University of Kansas



**Prof. Yuying TONG**

Professor of Sociology  
The Chinese University  
of Hong Kong

### Moderator



**Prof. Adam CHEUNG**

Department Chair of Sociology  
Hong Kong Baptist University

This plenary roundtable, featuring Professors ChangHwan Kim, James Raymo, and Yuying Tong, explores East Asian families in comparative perspective. The plenary highlights convergences and divergences across Japan, South Korea, China, and related areas. The discussion will address the latest trends and patterns in marriage and fertility as well as consider emerging non-marital cohabitation amid enduring gender inequality and economic precarity. Panelists will reflect on theoretical and methodological advancements in understanding family dynamics outside Western frameworks, alongside policy pathways for fostering resilience in aging societies. This session illuminates both the shared challenges and the distinctive adaptations across East Asia.

# Overview of Panel & Oral Presentation

## Session 1

Time

**11:00am – 12:20pm**

Venue

Session

<b>WLB104</b>	<b>1A</b>	<b>Visual and Online Methods in Qualitative Sociology</b>
<b>WLB109</b>	<b>1B</b>	<b>Gender and Sexuality (1)</b>
<b>WLB201</b>	<b>1C</b>	<b>Migration and Ethnic Minorities (1)</b>
<b>WLB202</b>	<b>1D</b>	<b>Health Inequalities and Disabilities (1)</b>
<b>WLB203</b>	<b>1E</b>	<b>Sociology and Environment</b>
<b>WLB205</b>	<b>1F</b>	<b>Education and Social Mobility (1)</b>
<b>WLB207</b>	<b>1G</b>	<b>Marriage, Work and Family (1)</b>
<b>WLB209</b>	<b>1H</b>	<b>Population and Demography (1)</b>
<b>WLB210</b>	<b>1J</b>	<b>Elder Loneliness</b>

## Session 2

Time

**3:30pm – 4:50pm**

Venue

Session

<b>WLB104</b>	<b>2A</b>	<b>Chinese Masculinities in Flux</b>
<b>WLB109</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>Gender and Sexuality (2)</b>
<b>WLB201</b>	<b>2C</b>	<b>Migration and Ethnic Minorities (2)</b>
<b>WLB202</b>	<b>2D</b>	<b>Health Inequalities and Disabilities (2)</b>
<b>WLB203</b>	<b>2E</b>	<b>Work and Organisations</b>
<b>WLB205</b>	<b>2F</b>	<b>Education and Social Mobility (2)</b>
<b>WLB207</b>	<b>2G</b>	<b>Marriage, Work and Family (2)</b>
<b>WLB209</b>	<b>2H</b>	<b>Population and Demography (2)</b>
<b>WLB210</b>	<b>2J</b>	<b>Theory and Society</b>

# Overview of Panel & Oral Presentation

## Session 3

Time

**5:00pm – 6:20pm**

Venue

Session

<b>WLB104</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>From Being to Becoming: Women's Creativity in the Face of Posthuman Uncertainty</b>
<b>WLB109</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>Gender and Sexuality (3)</b>
<b>WLB201</b>	<b>3C</b>	<b>Migration and Ethnic Minorities (3)</b>
<b>WLB202</b>	<b>3D</b>	<b>Life Course Studies</b>
<b>WLB203</b>	<b>3E</b>	<b>Social Media</b>
<b>WLB205</b>	<b>3F</b>	<b>AI and Sociology</b>
<b>WLB207</b>	<b>3G</b>	<b>Marriage, Work and Family (3)</b>
<b>WLB209</b>	<b>3H</b>	<b>Political Sociology</b>

# Panel and Oral Presentation

## Session 1

Time

**11:00am – 12:20pm**

### Session 1A Venue: WLB104 Chair: CHIU, Tuen Yi Jenny Visual and Online Methods in Qualitative Sociology

Diagrammatic Elicitation and Visualization of Care: A Qualitative Study on Intergenerational Care Expectations and Arrangements | CHIU, Tuen Yi Jenny, *Lingnan University* | WONG, Yu Yan Yanko, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Using Narrative Interviews with Photo-elicitation to Explore Family Negotiations between Chinese LGB People and their Parents after Sexual Identity Disclosure | LO, Po Yee Iris, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

All Things 'Bright and Beautiful': Studying Structural Precarity through Everyday Objects  
| LAI, Y.S. Ruby, *Lingnan University*

The Subjective Meanings of Online Rumors: Some Empirical and Methodological Insights from an Online Ethnographic Case Study | YIP, Yui Fung Gary, *Lingnan University*

### Session 1B Venue: WLB109 Chair: SIU, Yu Kwan Kaxton Gender and Sexuality (1)

Sexual Self-Experimentation in the Age of Platform and Algorithm: The Case of Sexfluencer/Wanghuang in Hong Kong | WONG, Chi Fung, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Beyond Homosexism: Side as a Fissure in the "Penetrative Matrix" and a Reinterpretation of Queer Theory  
| JIANG, Haotian, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Desires Across Borders: How Sexual Habitus Mediates Geopolitical Tensions for Mainland Chinese Gay Migrants in Hong Kong | LIN, Zhensheng, *The University of Hong Kong*

Words, Bodies, or Both?: Exploring Transgender Identity Expression in Taiwanese Families  
| BARABAS, Jona, *The University of Hong Kong*

### Session 1C Venue: WLB201 Chair: SHIN, Hwajin Migration and Ethnic Minorities (1)

The Embodied Waste Laborer: Value, Labor, and Community Resilience among Pakistani Workers in Hong Kong's Informal Street Market | SHUM, Chun-tat Terence, *Hong Kong Metropolitan University*

Drivers and Trajectories of the Asylum-Migration Nexus: Preliminary Findings from Migrant Domestic Workers Seeking Asylum in Hong Kong | LAM, Ka Wang Kelvin, *The University of Hong Kong*

Perceived Discrimination of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Hong Kong: The Empowering Role of Refugee-led Organizations | MAN, Pui Kwan, *Hong Kong Shue Yan University*

Balancing Rapport and Boundaries in Research with Marginalized Communities  
| GHEORGHIU, Iulia, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

### Session 1D Venue: WLB202 Chair: KIM, Dahye Health Inequalities and Disabilities (1)

Online and Offline Social Participation and its Gendered Effects on Subjective Well-being among Youth in Hong Kong | CHEN, Xi, *Lingnan University*

Social Participation and Cognitive Function in Chinese Older Couples: Urban-Rural Variations in Partner Effects  
| CHEN, Anqi, *Nanyang Technological University*

Perceived Ageism, Macro-Level Sociopolitical Factors, and Subjective Well-Being: A Cross-National Study of Older Adults in 43 Societies | MENG, Fei, *Lingnan University*

Oral Health and Social Engagement Among Older Adults: A Gendered Story | SUNG, Pildoo, *Hanyang University*

**Session 1E Venue: WLB203 Chair: MAK, Sau Wa Veronica**  
**Sociology and Environment**

Displacement by Conservation: Land Enclosure and the Making of Agrarian Heritage in China  
| KAN, Karita, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Commodifying and Decommodifying nature: A Case Study of Sustainable Tourism and the Uljin Pinetree Agroforestry System in South Korea | MAK, Sau-wa Veronica, *Hong Kong Shue Yan University*  
| GU, Jin Hyuk, *NuriNet Regional Planning Institute*

Active Hope in the Anthropocene: An Ecovillage Experiment in Rural Hong Kong  
| CHOW, Kootyin, *Nam Chung Reed Blossom Community*

People Make Places: Rediscovering Hong Kong's Cultural Heritage through Placemaking  
| CHEUNG, Alan; CHEUNG, Yu Sze Stephanie, *One Bite Design Studio*

Art, Natural Imagery, Tourism: Ethnographic Findings from Art Festivals in Rural Japan  
| TU, Shiu Hong Simon, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Session 1F Venue: WLB205 Chair: JIANG, Jin**  
**Education and Social Mobility (1)**

Chinese Student Returnees and Domestic Employability: From A Bourdieusian Perspective on Field and Cultural Capital | PENG, Yinni, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Beyond Access: Unpacking the Digital Divide in Education – Evidence from Japan | XIE, Yilin, *The University of Tokyo*

Digital Divide or Digital Dividend? Evidence from Urban–Rural Income Gaps from 260 Chinese Cities (2008–2020)  
| CHEN, Junru, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Session 1G Venue: WLB207 Chair: CHEUNG, Ka Lok Adam**  
**Marriage, Work and Family (1)**

Love is in the Cloud: Otome Romance Games and Perceptions of Love and Marriage of Young Chinese Women  
| WONG, Ho Chun, *Lingnan University*

Beyond Behavior: Attitudinal Deinstitutionalization of Marriage among Highly-Educated Women in China  
| CHEN, Qingyang, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

College Education and Gender Attitudes in China: The Moderating Role of Economic Sectors  
| LI, Xinyu, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Measuring Long-term Changes in Gender Norms in People's Republic of China: Evidence from the People's Daily Newspaper 1950–2019 | CAO, Ji, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Session 1H Venue: WLB209 Chair: SAKAMOTO, Arthur**  
**Population and Demography (1)**

A Critical Review of Recent Reviews of Asian Americans | SAKAMOTO, Arthur, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Asian American Poverty: Myths, Realities, and Complexities | KIM, ChangHwan, *The University of Kansas*

Perceived Potential Childbearing and Mental Health: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in China  
| ZHU, Jiachen, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Building Household Financial Resilience in China: The Role of Extended Family Support  
| LEI, Zihui, *The University of Hong Kong*

**Session 1J Venue: WLB210 Chair: PATULNY, Roger Vincent**  
**Elder Loneliness**

Beyond Technology: Understanding Human-Robot Bonds in Addressing Elderly Loneliness  
| LOU, Vivian, *The University of Hong Kong*

One-year Longitudinal Outcomes on Reducing Loneliness in Older Adults: The HEAL-HOA Dual Randomised controlled trial | TANG, Foong Yee Vivien, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

Interventions to Reduce Loneliness among Chinese Older Adults: A Network Meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials and Quasi-experimental Studies | LI, Jia Jessica, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Elder AI Companionship in China's Rapidly Aging Society: Preliminary Results from a Scoping Review of AI Usage, Needs, Emotions and Care Implications | HE, Yutao Jacob; PATULNY, Roger Vincent, *Hong Kong Baptist University*



# Panel and Oral Presentation

## Session 2

Time

**3:30pm – 4:50pm**

**Session 2A** Venue: WLB104 Chair: CHAN, K.W. Anita  
**Chinese Masculinities in Flux**

Caring but in Control: Hybrid Masculinity and Neoliberal Pragmatism in Young Men's Intimate Talk  
| CHAN, K.W. Anita, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

Supporting #MeToo but Not Feminists: Dual Positioning and Moral Beliefs in Young Men's Masculinities  
| PENG, Xin, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Kindergarten Male Teachers as Sexual Threats in Mainland China: Childcare Giving Practices, Challenges and Navigation of Identities | CHEN, Jun Jimmy, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

**Session 2B** Venue: WLB109 Chair: LO, Po Yee Iris  
**Gender and Sexuality (2)**

Rethinking Intersectional Inequalities Encountered by Mistreated Older Women in Hong Kong: A Life Course Perspective | HE, Minying, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Navigating Gender Inequality: A Situated Framework for Understanding Transgender Employability in Neoliberal China | BI, Yidan, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Gender Differences in Emigration Aspirations in Singapore: The Role of Intergenerational Opportunity Structures, Socio-Political Climate, and Internet Access | ABREFA BUSIA, Kwaku, *Lingnan University*

Gender Differences in the Use of Social Capital of Sandwich Generation | LAM, Gigi, *Hong Kong Shue Yan University*

**Session 2C** Venue: WLB201 Chair: CHIU, Tuen Yi Jenny  
**Migration and Ethnic Minorities (2)**

The Establishment and Operation of Transnational Elder Care Network: Using Hong Kong as a Case Study  
| FUNG, Ka Yi, *Saint Francis University*

Migration Capital across Generations: The Role of Immigrant Parents in Onward Migration Intentions  
| CHOW, Cheng, *The University of Texas at Austin*

Bridging Discrepancies as Doing Intimacy: Intergenerational Dynamics in Migration Decision-making Process  
| WONG, Yu Yan Yanko, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong* | CHIU, Tuen Yi Jenny, *Lingnan University*

Migration and Family Formation: How do Migration and Education Experience Relate to Parenthood?  
| WU, Xingyun, *The University of Hong Kong*

**Session 2D** Venue: WLB202 Chair: MIAO, Jia  
**Health Inequalities and Disabilities (2)**

Gender Paradox, Gender Vulnerability, and Suicidality among South Korean Adolescents: A socio-ecological Investigation | KIM, Hyun-soo Harris, *Ewha Womans University*

Intergenerational Relationship Types and Mental Health Among Urban Older Adults in China  
| GE, Linghan, *The University of Hong Kong*

Childhood Bereavement and Later-life Cognitive Function: The Gendered Impact of Parental Death in China  
| YANG, Xingyue, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Child-Mother-Father Triads and Left-Behind Children's Emotional Health  
| SHIN, Hwajin, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Session 2E Venue: WLB203 Chair: ZHENG, Wenjuan**  
**Work and Organisations**

How Urban Diversity Emerges through Technological Innovation and Diversification: Evidence from Patent Data | MEYERHOFF-LIANG, Jan, *Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET Oxford)*

The Mutual Transformation of AI and Professional Work in Healthcare | CHEN, Yaru, *City University of Hong Kong*

Contests during Mergers and Acquisitions: Performance Disruption of Managers and Employees | XU, Yan Asa, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Gaming the Algorithm: How Hegemonic Algorithmic Control Fuels Worker Resistance in China's Platform Economy | SU, David, *UC Berkeley Sociology*

**Session 2F Venue: WLB205 Chair: SHEN, Wensong**  
**Education and Social Mobility (2)**

Do Women Benefit More from College? Changing College Wage Premium in Three Chinese Societies over Four Decades | XU, Duoduo, *University of Hong Kong*

Toward a Lost Generation? Intergenerational Progress and Inequality in Urban China | CHAI, Mengzhen, *University College London*

Equally Educated, Unequally Rewarded: Educational Mobility Brings Health Benefits for Rural First-Generation College Men – but Not Women | SHEN, Wensong, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Anxious and Adrift: Unveiling the Digital Voices of China's Highly Educated NEETs | JIANG, Jin, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Session 2G Venue: WLB207 Chair: CHAN, Kwok Shing**  
**Marriage, Work and Family (2)**

Is Marriage Good for You in the Times of Crisis? Marriage and Health Behaviors during the COVID-19 Pandemic in China | ZHANG, Chunxue, *The University of Hong Kong*

Bigger Housing or More Housing Units: Rural Family Strategies and Gender Inequality in Resettlement Communities in the Urbanizing Northwestern China | SONG, Jing, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Marital Status, Social Networks, and Perception of Old Age: A Study of Middle-Aged Chinese Adults in Hong Kong | LAI, Gina, *Hong Kong Shue Yan University and Hong Kong Baptist University*

Looking for Love? Male Sojourners' Search for Marriage Partners in 19th Century Hong Kong | GROVES, Julian M., *The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*

**Session 2H Venue: WLB209 Chair: CHEUNG, Ka Lok Adam**  
**Population and Demography (2)**

Divorce, Remarriage, and Fertility in Japan | RAYMO, James, *Princeton University*

Fertility Norms as a Unifying Framework: Coordinating Migration and Fertility Decisions in China's Internal Migration | YOU, Xijia, *University of Oxford*

Are Silicon Samples Feasible? Evidence from a Cross-National Factorial Survey Experiment on Fertility Intentions | LING, Wanying, *The University of Hong Kong*

Economic Burdens, Egalitarian Ideology, and Fertility Intentions in East Asia: Evidence from a Cross-National Vignette Survey | GUO, Ya, *University of Macau*

**Session 2J Venue: WLB210 Chair: FAYARD, Gregory**  
**Theory and Society**

A Cultural Study of Cultural Studies: Understandings of Contemporary China, 2014–2025 | LI, Pengfei, *Shanghai University*

A Pragmatist Framework for the Study of Reflective Cognition | BRETT, Gordon, *The University of Hong Kong*

Re-thinking Decolonization of Knowledge and Dismantling of Intellectual Imperialism: Focusing on Epistemic and Social Justice | SCHÖPF, Caroline M., *University of the Philippines Diliman*

Hotels, Habitus, and Liminality: An Analytic Autoethnography of Staycations in Pandemic Hong Kong | FEDOROV, Alexander, *The University of Hong Kong*

# Panel and Oral Presentation

## Session 3

Time

**5:00pm – 6:20pm**

**Session 3A Venue: WLB104 Chair: GHEORGHIU, Iulia**

**From Being to Becoming: Women's Creativity in the Face of Posthuman Uncertainty**

Gendered Resilience and Bodily Temporality in Urban China's ART Practices  
| DONG, Shenminghui, *Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

Reviving Nūshu (Women's Script): How Chinese Social Media is Asserting New Vitality into Women's Cultural Heritage and Rewriting | WANG, Yi, *Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

Emplotting Being in Changes: To What Extent is Eileen Chang's *The Book of Change* a Yijing?  
| XIE, Yuchen, *Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

Embodied Spectre: A Post-human Becoming in Han Kang's *The White Book*  
| LI, Yushan, *Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Session 3B Venue: WLB109 Chair: LO, Po Yee Iris**

**Gender and Sexuality (3)**

Caring Masculinities of Kindergarten Male Teachers in Mainland China: Practices, Identities and Challenges  
| CHEN, Jun, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

Second Shift for All Women? – Childcare and Working Hours of Female Professionals in Japan  
| LEE, Hansol, *The University of Shiga Prefecture*

Navigating Algorithmic Control: The Gendered Mobility of Female Gig Workers in China  
| HAO, Pu, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Imagining "Home" for Women in Hong Kong: A Case Study of the Oral History Project of "Gupo's" Yunzhen Tong  
| YANG, Chin Yi Gina, *Lingnan University*

Do Women Benefit from Breaking Boundaries in Academia? Interdisciplinary Research as an Intellectual Strategy in Male-Dominated Fields | LI, Yue, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Session 3C Venue: WLB201 Chair: PENG, Yinni**

**Migration and Ethnic Minorities (3)**

Home-benchmarked Social (Re)production: Education, Career, and Marriage among Professional Chinese Migrants in the West | HE, Zhongzhi, *Macau Millennium College*

The Impact of Place Identity on Immigrants' Health: Evidence from Mainland Chinese Immigrants in Hong Kong  
| ZHANG, Chunxue, *The University of Hong Kong*

Gaining or Draining? The Weekend Social Gatherings of Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong  
| LAI, Yingtong, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Race, Color, and Wealth Accumulation – Conceptualizing the Racial Identification Process for New Immigrants in the United States | REN, Chunhui, *Lingnan University*

**Session 3D Venue: WLB202 Chair: JIANG, Jin**

**Life Course Studies**

Reciprocity in Upward Intergenerational Support over the Life Course: Navigating Death, Inheritance, and Widowhood | KIM, Dahye, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Have we Neglected the Importance of Housing Conditions in Life Course Research on Health?  
| CHANDOLA, Tarani, *The University of Hong Kong*

Ageism in the Constructions of 'Old age' and 'Aging': Insights from a Focus Group Study of Higher Education Students in Hong Kong SAR | LAM, Beatrice, *Hong Kong Metropolitan University*

Act, Identity, and Relational Desistance among Hong Kong Youth: A Theoretical Pilot Study  
| LUI, Kylie, *The University of Hong Kong*

Session 3E Venue: WLB203 Chair: SHUM, Holy  
Social Media

Clicking Through Class and Gender: Mapping Cultural Taste on Chinese Social Media  
| MA, Wanze, *Zhejiang University*

From Parasocial Grief to Parasocial Relationship: The Mourning of Dr. Li Wenliang on Chinese Social Media  
| CHAN, Siu Han, *Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

The Dialogic Battle for Gender-affirming Healthcare on Social Media  
| ANDERSON, Karoline Anita, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

The Gendered Precarities in Social Media Entrepreneurship: A Qualitative Study of Chinese Female Social Media Blogger Entrepreneurs | LI, Lulu, *Lingnan University*

Session 3F Venue: WLB205 Chair: AU, Anson  
AI and Sociology

The Contested Future of Artificial Intelligence: A Sociological Contribution to the Debate on AI's Labor-enabling or-replacing Impacts | MEYERHOFF-LIANG, Jan, *Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET Oxford)*

Unlocking Labor Market Insights: A Hybrid LLM Method for Skill Extraction in Unstructured Job Ad Texts  
| TANG, Wei, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Assessing Instructor-AI Cooperation for Grading Essay-type Questions in an Introductory Sociology Course  
| OLIVOS, Francisco, *Lingnan University*

Generative Artificial Intelligence and Digital Ageism: Exploring the Construction of Age and Aging by Image-Generating AI | KAMELSKI, Tobias, *Lingnan University*

Session 3G Venue: WLB207 Chair: ZHANG, Zhuoni  
Marriage, Work and Family (3)

Developmental Trajectories of Children's Cognitive Outcomes in Single-parent Families  
| DENG, Fang, *Nanyang Technological University*

Who Bears the Burden of Precarious Work? Gendered Spillover Effects of Job Precarity on Couples' Well-being in China | DENG, Gezhi, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

Family Structure and Children's Diagnosed ADHD | DING, Xuejie, *The University of Hong Kong*

Session 3H Venue: WLB209 Chair: YUEN, Samson  
Political Sociology

Poverty, Precarity, and Social Mobility: Explaining Support for Left-Wing Populism in Japan  
| KWON, Aram, *Osaka University of Economics*

Contentious Publicness in the Automated State: Insights from Hong Kong  
| TING, Tin Yuet, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Divided by Pride: Partisan Narratives of Nationalism in Korean Presidential Commemorative Speeches  
| LEE, Jaemin, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

"I Feel Targeted because I'm Chinese": Dynamics of Ethno-nationalism, Geopolitical Grievance and Collective Mobilization at Border Crossings | FAYARD, Gregory, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

# Poster Presentation

Time

**2:00pm – 3:15pm**

Venue

**WLB 1/F, Exhibition Gallery**

## Poster Presentation

Advancing Age-Friendly City Frameworks: A Scoping Review of Implementation Strategies in Developing Regions  
| TIAN, Zhen, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Beyond Beauty Duty: The Innovative Appropriation of “Qi-Blood” Regimens in Traditional Chinese Medicine among Urban Women on Chinese Social Media | JIANG, Wenxin, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

Does the Community Offer Sufficient Services to Meet the Needs of Chinese Empty-nest Older Adults?  
| DAI, Shuting, *City University of Hong Kong*

From Blood to Birth: Exploring Views on Same-Sex Families and Reproductive Technologies in Singapore  
| TEO, Ting Wei, *Nanyang Technological University*

From Street Gangs to Syndicates: A Multidimensional Hierarchical Typology of Organized Criminal Groups in Mainland China and Hong Kong | CHEN, Ying, *Lingnan University*

From the Soil and Beyond: Agrarian Capitalization and the Divergent Empowerment Paths of Women in Agricultural Entrepreneurship | AN, Yufei, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

India and the U.S. are Differently Unequal: How Computer Science Careers Diverge by Gender  
| LIANG, Yuqi, *University of Oxford*

Left-Behind Status and Problematic Behaviors in Chinese Rural Children: The Mediating Role of Social Capital  
| LIU, Ying, *The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*

Negative Feedbacks Suppress Reputation in a Decentralized Online Market  
| HU, Xinyue, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Neighbourhood Service Utilization, Social Exchange, and Psychological Well-being: The Moderating Role of Emotional Closeness and Empty-Nest Status | DAI, Shuting, *City University of Hong Kong*

Observing Professional Gatherings as a Research Method: Evidence from Chinese Podcasting Conferences  
| HE, Yinjia, *The University of Hong Kong*

Patching and Mending the Life Course: The Construction of Career Adaptive Aspirations and Future Imaginaries among County-Town College Students | JIANG, Wenxin, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

Reconsidering Digital Labour: Chinese Pop Music Data Fans’ Perceptions of Value Creation  
| ZHAO, Yiru, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Sequenzo: A High-Efficiency Python Package for Social Sequence Analysis in the Era of Big Data  
| LIANG, Yuqi, *University of Oxford*

The Construction of Incel Identity and the Dissemination of Misogynistic Discourse on Baidu Tieba  
| WANG, Xinyue, *Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

The Nexus of Gender and Disability: How Filipino Women with Disabilities Construct Femininity through Professional Sports | ANCHA, Christelle Juin, *Kobe University*

The Trauma-Narrative-Driven Model of Collective Trauma Activation  
| GAN, Dan, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Unraveling the Problematic Test of Moderated Mediation Effect in Social Science Research: A Simulation Investigation on A Second Stage Model | QUAN, Yiqing, *The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Session 1A

Visual and Online Methods in Qualitative Sociology

CHIU, Tuen Yi Jenny

*Lingnan University*

**Visual and Online Methods in Qualitative Sociology:  
Innovations and Insights in Data Collection and Analysis**

Visual sociology offers unique insights into the complexities of social life by enabling the study of social phenomena through visual artefacts and media. While traditional quantitative and qualitative research methods have long served as the methodological pillars of sociology, both may overlook important nuances of lived experience that cannot be fully captured by numbers and words alone. The shift toward innovative visual methods addresses these gaps, providing powerful techniques for eliciting depth, capturing the multi-dimensionality of experience, and representing social realities in a more holistic manner through the collection and analysis of visual data.

This panel brings together four papers that showcase innovative visual methods, incorporating photographs, diagrams, material objects, and online media content to elicit rich, subjective experiences across diverse sociological contexts and domains. The studies examine intergenerational care using diagrammatic elicitation to capture perceptions and importance of care; family negotiations following sexual identity disclosure through narrative interviews with photo-elicitation to explore evolving family imaginaries; structural precarity by means of ethnographic analysis of everyday objects revealing embodied inequalities; and the dynamics of online rumor circulation during the pandemic, illustrating how online artefacts—both visual and textual—are best examined alongside traditional qualitative approaches.

Collectively, these papers demonstrate how visual and online methods expand qualitative inquiry by deepening data, broadening theoretical perspectives, and strengthening methodological rigor. They address challenges such as variability in participant-generated visuals, difficulty in capturing non-verbal imaginaries, ethical reflexivity, and abductive research design within digital contexts. By promoting these integrative approaches, the panel advances the methodological development of visual sociology and emphasizes the importance of harmonizing innovative visual and online methods with established qualitative and quantitative traditions to more fully understand and theorize contemporary social realities.

Session 1A

Visual and Online Methods in Qualitative Sociology

CHIU, Tuen Yi Jenny

*Lingnan University*

WONG, Yu Yan Yanko

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Diagrammatic Elicitation and Visualization of Care:**

#### **A Qualitative Study on Intergenerational Care Expectations and Arrangements**

##### **Abstract**

Although visual methods have gained traction in qualitative research, the use of graphic techniques—particularly diagrams—remains limited. Diagrammatic elicitation methods share key strengths with other visual approaches, and the distinctive features of diagrams make them powerful tools for systematically representing subjective experiences. Despite these advantages, diagrammatic elicitation poses analytical and comparative challenges due to variability in participants' graphics, which may hinder broader adoption and methodological development. To advance diagrammatic approaches in qualitative research, this article demonstrates how diagrammatic elicitation methods can be implemented to ensure robust data collection while overcoming methodological challenges deriving from participant-generated variation.

Drawing on data collected from 112 ageing parents and adult children in a study on migration decision-making and intergenerational care, we describe the design and implementation of a semi-structured and participant-led diagrammatic elicitation method that visualizes the scale, importance, and interrelationships among sources of old-age care. We discuss the design, practical implementation, and methodological considerations of using diagrams to elicit participants' subjective perceptions and expectations of care, and illustrate how diagrammatic elicitation can be embedded within theoretical frameworks to enhance data relevance and enable both within- and cross-case comparisons. Theoretically, this paper highlights the versatility of diagrams for investigating eldercare and broader care provision issues, enriching research in ageing, care, and social policy. Methodologically, it demonstrates the promising potential of diagrammatic elicitation for data collection and analysis, supporting both depth and rigor in qualitative inquiry.



Session 1A

Visual and Online Methods in Qualitative Sociology

LO, Po Yee Iris

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Using Narrative Interviews with Photo-elicitation to Explore Family Negotiations between Chinese LGB People and their Parents after Sexual Identity Disclosure**

**Abstract**

This article explores how the use of narrative interviews with photo-elicitation can deepen sensemaking in studies of family relations and sexuality. Specifically, the study combines narrative interviews with a participatory photo-elicitation method to examine how Chinese parents and their adult lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) children negotiate family ties after the adult child's sexual identity disclosure. During in-depth narrative interviews with 20 families in Hong Kong, the visual method allowed participants to anchor narratives within the socio-cultural and historical context and visually depict turning points, tensions, and evolving ties. Rather than treating these visual artefacts as transparent windows into authentic realities, they are analyzed as cultural constructions produced in dialogue with lived experiences, social norms, and expectations regarding gender, sexuality, and family. The photo-elicitation method, through which participants shared photos that represented their family *before* and *after* coming out, conveyed participants' family imaginaries (i.e., how they think and feel about 'family', such as unmet or reconciled familial expectations) and practices of intimacy (such as care, emotional support, or managing tensions). This visual approach foregrounds locally grounded knowledge and agency of people who have experienced challenging journeys, engaging participants as co-creators of meaning and knowledge.

LAI, Y.S. Ruby

*Lingnan University*

**All Things ‘Bright and Beautiful’:**

**Studying Structural Precarity through Everyday Objects**

**Abstract**

Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork and the literature on materialities, this study explores the use of objects in investigating the interplay of human agency and multifaceted inequalities, as well as the socio-material mechanisms that shapes these intersections. Focusing on the life stories of families living in subdivided units – housing units divided within a larger apartment, often characterized by inadequate or poor conditions – this study demonstrates how the examination of materials can deepen the understanding of housing precarity as every day, biographical, and socio-cultural processes. Building on in-depth interviews conducted with 72 adults and 41 teenagers, home visits and graphical documentation, this study centers on the use of objects in conducting ethnographic research on socio-economically disadvantaged groups. It inquires and addresses important and theoretically driven methodological questions: How can the objects of concern be identified? How can human-object relationships be investigated to reveal the often-hidden meanings engraved in objects? How can researchers document the affordance of objects and their varying manifestations in various contexts? How can researchers position and theorize objects in the analysis of structural level processes? What ethical concerns arise when studying private objects, and how should researchers address them? The findings show that objects are a vital arena for researchers to engage in multilevel analysis across individual, interpersonal, spatio-temporal, economic and socio-cultural dimensions of human experiences. The study argues that studying objects is a viable approach to substantiate and visualize conceptual and theoretical accounts of inequality and marginalization, bringing to light overlooked evidence that materializes individual resilience and resistance under the neoliberal housing regime.

Session 1A

Visual and Online Methods in Qualitative Sociology

YIP, Yui Fung Gary

*Lingnan University*

### **The Subjective Meanings of Online Rumors:**

#### **Some Empirical and Methodological Insights from an Online Ethnographic Case Study**

##### **Abstract**

Earlier scholars have suggested that computer-mediated communication (CMC), including online communication, represents a lesser form of interaction (e.g., Collins 2004). In recent years, however, social life has become increasingly integrated, with boundaries between face-to-face interaction and CMC growing ever more blurred. This shift has drawn rising attention to how both visual-based and non-visual-based social media platforms can be understood.

This presentation presents a case study of pandemic-related online rumors in Hong Kong. Based on a combination of online ethnographic content analysis and in-depth interviews, I revisit and discuss the contemporary relevance of the long-standing claims about the informativeness and pragmatic functions of rumors. Methodologically, I demonstrate that online user-generated content, such as images, emojis, emoticons, and text, can lead to a “thicker” interpretation when the researcher engages in direct exchanges with the audiences who “prosume” such content.

Overall, this presentation offers an interactionist take on how conventional qualitative methods, such as ethnography and interviews, can be productively combined with the analysis of both visual and textual online content. On the one hand, this approach helps researchers locate and make sense of the “small data” that reside in the virtual sphere. On the other hand, the collection of online content can, in an abductive manner, inform both the data-collection process and the broader research design.

Session 1B

Gender and Sexuality (1)

WONG, Chi Fung

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

## **Sexual Self-Experimentation in the Age of Platform and Algorithm:**

### **The Case of Sexfluencer/Wanghuang in Hong Kong**

#### **Abstract**

In the contemporary digital era, new social media platforms and algorithmic technologies have significantly shaped societal norms and everyday life. The advent and rising popularity of digital media platforms such as OnlyFans, Patreon and X (Twitter) have revolutionised the sex industry and adult entertainment. Its result is facilitating the commercialisation, accessibility, and monetisation of sexual content creation in cyberspace. This shift has given rise to a new form of digital sexual culture and identity, embodied in the phenomenon of sexfluencer/wanghuang—a sexual content creator who leverages their body and sexuality to produce and share sexually explicit or suggestive content online, often leveraging digital platforms for self-expression, presentation, performative visibility, and monetisation.

This paper employs an exploratory qualitative and grounded theory approach to investigate sexfluencers/wanghuangs in Hong Kong as a case study. Conducting semi-structured in-depth interviews with 20 sexfluencers, this study explores how the technological affordance of digital media platforms such as OnlyFans, Patreon, and X(Twitter) enables or constrains an individual to utilise new social media platforms as a means of reforming, reproducing, or reshaping norms of the body and sexuality. Specifically, the research findings will be presented on three key themes: (1) The Experiment of the Self, investigating how sexfluencers utilise digital media platforms as an agent of sexual self-experimentation to reshape the norms of body and sexuality, self-discovery and identity-construction within the algorithmically mediated digital environment. (2) Invisible Rules of Algorithms, focusing on how the algorithm's governance of the digital media platforms imposes implicit constraints on sexfluencers, enabling or affecting their digital presence. (3) The Politics of Social/New Media, addressing how sexfluencers/wanghaungs utilise strategies of digital migration and platform diversification to maintain their digital presence and identity, addressing the underlying risks of geopolitical tension, regional impacts, platform governance, legal and regulatory constraints, financial institutions' pressure and payment processing restrictions, etc.

Session 1B

Gender and Sexuality (1)

JIANG, Haotian

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Beyond Homosexism:**

#### **Side as a Fissure in the “Penetrative Matrix” and a Reinterpretation of Queer Theory**

##### **Abstract**

Ronald Hellman indicates that “homosexism” suggests a stigmatizing prejudice against non-penetrative sex. In the contemporary Chinese gay context, homosexuality has formed an absolute hegemony in which the top/bottom binary (referred to as 1/0 in Chinese) operates as a disciplinary system that labels all gay men and imposes corresponding role expectations. This study conducts in-depth interviews with 30 “sides” (men who identify as gay and do not engage in penetrative sex) to understand their experiences, feelings, and perspectives within this system. It explores how the people in this marginalized group, within a gay discursive structure dominated by the top/bottom narrative, interact with the top/bottom discursive system, understand and express their intimate preferences, construct their distinctive self-identities, respond to stereotypes and stigma, are seen and misread in everyday life and public discourse, among other dynamics. This study concludes that the hegemonic and disciplinary system built upon homosexuality replicates Judith Butler’s concept of the “heterosexual matrix” (the framework presupposed by mainstream gender discourse, which shapes the two biological sexes into a natural binary opposition structure that reinforces a heterosexual social order). I term this replication the “penetrative matrix”. Just as the heterosexual matrix codifies the two biological sexes into genders with corresponding labels, demands that desire be directed toward the opposite gender, and marginalizes queers, the penetrative matrix reinforces the two roles in anal sex into a binary, demands that desire be directed toward the opposite role, and marginalizes sides. This conclusion supplements and deepens queer theory, demonstrating that sides, as a marginalized group within a marginalized group, must reject and rebel against the penetrative matrix, in the same way the queer community as a whole must reject and rebel against the heterosexual matrix. Only then can a broader and purer sense of queer liberation be achieved.

Session 1B

Gender and Sexuality (1)

LIN, Zhensheng,

*The University of Hong Kong*

**Desires Across Borders:**

**How Sexual Habitus Mediates Geopolitical Tensions for Mainland Chinese Gay Migrants in Hong Kong**

**Abstract**

This study explores the ways mainland Chinese gay men integrate socially and sexually when migrating to Hong Kong. It pays particular attention to the role of sexual habitus, predispositions regarding sexual life formed through past experiences, in mediating geopolitical tensions with other gay men in Hong Kong. While Hong Kong affords greater inclusion and visibility towards gender and sexual minorities, mainland gay migrants still face double stigma as gay men and mainland immigrants in Hong Kong. Drawing on 22 qualitative interviews, this research analyzes how geopolitical dynamics shape these migrants' integration into Hong Kong's distinct sexual field and how their sexual habitus influences their adaptive strategies.

The findings identify four distinct yet interrelated approaches: downplaying stigmatized mainland sexual identity, making boundaries to distinguish from the Hong Kong sexual field, maintaining sexual practices through mainland resources, and selectively adopting local sexual norms. These strategies showcase how migrants' agency in negotiating sexual desires and preferences with geopolitical and border constraints. Ultimately, this study aims to contribute to scholarship on migration and sexuality by highlighting the intersecting role of sexual habitus and geopolitical stigma and how sexual minorities negotiate their sexual and national identities simultaneously in transnational contexts.

Session 1B

Gender and Sexuality (1)

BARABAS, Jona

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Words, Bodies, or Both?:**

#### **Exploring Transgender Identity Expression in Taiwanese Families**

##### **Abstract**

Amid rapidly evolving discourses on gender diversity in Sinophobe East Asia and across the globe, this paper asks: What are the motives and strategies accompanying transgender identity expression in contemporary Taiwanese families? Drawing on data from 30 in-depth interviews with Taiwanese transgender individuals, the paper examines how participants decide whether and how to express their gender identities through subjective and social negotiations while navigating shifting relational expectations and value systems.

As physical gender transitions are difficult to conceal, Western-originated research has long upheld autonomously oriented verbal identity disclosure to family, friends and coworkers as paramount to a transgender person's successful ability to live in their preferred gender role. Provincializing such discourses, I introduce two relationally anchored approaches to (trans)gender identity revelation evident in my data: verbal emergence, which frames verbal identity disclosure as a relational act aimed at sustaining family cohesion, and embodied emergence, which indicates physical alterations of personal gender expression while simultaneously avoiding verbal acknowledgment of these changes.

Within verbal emergence, a key motivation for disclosure was the perceived need to seek parental approval before initiating gender-affirming medical interventions. This reflects how enduring Confucianism-based notions of filial piety and parental authority over the child's body intertwine with globalized ideals of open self-expression. Within embodied emergence, a central argument for non-disclosure was the individual's aspiration toward greater gender-related autonomy through the mutual upholding of tacit silence around gender by both themselves and their family members. By highlighting these previously under-theorized transgender practices, this paper opens up new pathways for approaching the issue of family communication and gender diversity in East Asia and beyond, shedding light on how transgender lives are negotiated amid rapidly shifting cultural landscapes.



Session 1C

Migration and Ethnic Minorities (1)

SHUM, Chun-tat Terence

*Hong Kong Metropolitan University*

**The Embodied Waste Laborer: Value, Labor, and Community Resilience among Pakistani Workers in Hong Kong's Informal Street Market**

Abstract

This article investigates the everyday practices of Pakistani waste laborers working in Hong Kong's informal street market, with a particular focus on how value is created from discarded materials. By conceptualizing waste as latent value, the study examines how electronics, appliances, and household items—often considered worthless—are collected, sorted, and reintroduced into circulation through resale. These practices not only generate economic livelihood but also sustain cross-border informal networks that link Hong Kong with broader transnational flows of second-hand goods.

Drawing on in-depth interviews and participant observation, the article introduces the concept of the “embodied waste laborer” to capture how workers' bodies, skills, and social relations are central to the transformation of waste into marketable goods. This perspective highlights the laborers' agency in challenging structural constraints and social stigma, particularly those tied to ethnicity and occupation. While Pakistani workers are frequently marginalized in the city's labor market and subjected to negative stereotypes, their engagement with waste work reconfigures its meaning: from a marker of exclusion to a source of dignity, resourcefulness, and community resilience.

By foregrounding the lived experiences of waste laborers, this study contributes to broader debates on value, precarity, and urban marginality. It argues that rather than being passive subjects of economic vulnerability, these workers actively reimagine waste as a resource and assert their place in the urban economy. In doing so, they carve out spaces of belonging and economic survival within Hong Kong's unequal labor landscape.

Session 1C

Migration and Ethnic Minorities (1)

LAM, Ka Wang Kelvin

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Drivers and Trajectories of the Asylum–Migration Nexus:**

#### **Preliminary Findings from Migrant Domestic Workers Seeking Asylum in Hong Kong**

##### **Abstract**

The asylum–migration nexus refers to the complex and interconnected relationship between regular and forced migration. We examine this phenomenon in the case of migrant domestic workers claiming asylum in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is a popular work destination for migrant domestic workers, yet a proportion of them turn to claiming asylum after arriving and working in the city for some time. Although official data on this phenomenon are not available, a limited body of literature suggests this may be due to exploitation, abuse, debt, unexpected pregnancy, risk of persecution in their home countries, or a combination of these factors encountered by these workers. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon, we conducted 18 in-depth interviews with asylum seekers in Hong Kong who were previously employed as migrant domestic workers in the city, with the aim of systematically analysing the drivers and trajectories of their transition from migrant work to asylum claims. We use Causal Map to identify causal links from the interview data and integrate interview narratives to supplement these links with nuanced insights. We present preliminary findings from our ongoing data collection and discuss their theoretical and practical implications.

Session 1C

Migration and Ethnic Minorities (1)

MAN, Pui Kwan

*Hong Kong Shue Yan University*

**Perceived Discrimination of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Hong Kong:  
The Empowering Role of Refugee-led Organizations**

Abstract

Asylum seekers and refugees often experience diverse sources of discrimination, yet these experiences are seldom understood systematically. Furthermore, less is discussed on how they utilise platforms led by themselves to address these challenges. This study incorporates Burns' structural discrimination theory and Toomey's empowerment framework to systematically analyse how the asylum-seeking community in Hong Kong perceives the experience of discrimination and how they utilise the platform of the refugee-led organizations (RLOs) as a means of empowerment to combat discrimination. This study conducts 30 in-depth interviews with asylum seekers recruited by a Hong Kong RLO. The qualitative results show that the asylum seekers experienced both institutional and cultural discrimination, but the perceived level of discrimination was mild owing to robust social support. RLOs fulfil traditional roles as a 'provider' and 'liberator', as well as alternative roles as a 'catalyst', 'facilitator', 'ally', and 'advocate'. The study emphasizes the importance of the role of 'ally' in supporting marginalized asylum seekers and provides policy implications for fostering an inclusive environment for asylum seekers in the context of Hong Kong.

Session 1C

Migration and Ethnic Minorities (1)

GHEORGHIU, Iulia,

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Balancing Rapport and Boundaries in Research with Marginalized Communities**

#### **Abstract**

Qualitative researchers are enjoined to establish rapport and build trust with research participants in order to secure meaningful and valuable data. Thick description is a cherished concept and aspirational practice in qualitative research. And while it enables researchers to provide rich accounts of the social realities studied, it also conceals the challenges involved in establishing relationships as well as boundaries in research settings, especially when it comes to studying marginalized groups, as well as sensitive topics. This presentation relies on insights from research with asylum seekers and migrant sex workers in Hong Kong to reflect on the challenges involved in the research process with marginalized communities. Rather than a “how to” of working with marginalized communities, this presentation aims to highlight some of the potential problems encountered by early career researchers in the field, including power imbalances, finding a balance between establishing effective rapport, building trust in an effort to secure access but also setting and following boundaries between researcher and research participants. It includes reflections on straddling the line between defining boundaries and acceptable line-crossing when documenting practices on the limits of or outside legality. Finally, the guide also engages with the ambiguities of exiting the field and the ethical considerations and responsibilities of researchers around staying in touch with research participants and severing contact at the end of a research project.

CHEN, Xi,

*Lingnan University*

**Online and Offline Social Participation and its Gendered Effects on Subjective Well-being among Youth in Hong Kong**

**Abstract**

Social participation is an established social determinant of well-being among adolescents and young adults. However, the digitalization of social life provides presents both opportunities and potential risks for young people. This raises critical questions about how different forms of social engagement—spanning online versus offline and across collective, productive, and political domains—distinctly contribute to psychological well-being. Furthermore, it remains unclear whether these effects differ by gender. This study addresses these gaps by examining how different types of social participation affect life satisfaction and self-esteem, and whether these effects differ by gender. The data came from three waves of panel data from the Youth Identity Status Project (2020-2023), with a sample of 899 youth in Hong Kong (aged 15-24).

Our results show that not all forms of participation are equally beneficial. Engagement in structured online activities (both productive and collective activities), offline collective participation (interaction with friends), and offline informal participation (interaction with parents) were significant positive predictors of life satisfaction. In contrast, political participation (both online or offline) and formal community volunteering showed no significant association with life satisfaction. For self-esteem, only online productive and offline informal participation emerged as significant positive predictors. Furthermore, the relationship between social participation and life satisfaction is moderated by gender. The positive impact of productive online behavior was significantly stronger for males, while the benefits of offline interaction with parents were more pronounced for females. No such gender moderation was found for the predictors of self-esteem.

This study reveals that the link between social participation and well-being is highly specific and gendered. The findings highlight the importance of promoting structured online engagement and supportive offline communities. It also suggests that gender-sensitive approaches are needed to maximize the well-being benefits of social participation for all young people.

CHEN, Anqi

*Nanyang Technological University*

**Social Participation and Cognitive Function in Chinese Older Couples:  
Urban-Rural Variations in Partner Effects**

**Abstract**

**Objective:** Past research has established gender differences in the way spouses affect each other's health, but tends to overlook the role of contextual factors such as urban-rural residence. Urban and rural areas provide types of different opportunities for social participation, with married men and women mobilizing these resources differently for both their own and their partner's benefit. We examine such dynamics in social participation influence couples' cognitive function in the context of China.

**Methods:** The analytical sample comprised of couples where both spouses were 45 years of age and above (N=3,048) from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS). We rely on dyadic data from 2011 and 2020 to estimate an actor-partner interdependence model exploring the dyadic relationship between social participation and cognitive function within couples, as well as whether observed actor and partner effects differed by urban-rural residence.

**Results:** At the between-person level, individuals with higher average levels of informal social participation showed higher cognitive functioning for both husbands and wives across urban and rural settings. These between-person associations for formal participation were stronger in urban areas, particularly for wives. Significant partner effects emerged exclusively at the within-person level with urban-rural contrasts: urban wives' increased formal participation was positively associated with husbands' cognitive functioning ( $\beta = 0.296$ ,  $p < .01$ ), while rural husbands' increased informal participation was negatively associated with wives' cognitive functioning ( $\beta = -0.062$ ,  $p < .05$ ).

**Conclusion:** These findings demonstrate that dyadic interdependence patterns in couples' cognitive function vary significantly across contextual environments. Future research should examine the mechanisms underlying these variations and consider contextual factors when developing cognitive health interventions for older couples.

Session 1D

Health Inequalities and Disabilities (1)

MENG, Fei

*Lingnan University*

**Perceived Ageism, Macro-Level Sociopolitical Factors, and Subjective Well-Being:  
A Cross-National Study of Older Adults in 43 Societies**

Abstract

**Objectives:** Ageism against older adults is a global concern with significant implications for health and well-being. While the individual-level consequences of ageism are well-documented, the moderating role of structural sociopolitical factors remains underexplored. This study addresses these gaps by examining the relationship between perceived ageism and subjective well-being among older adults and investigating how macro-level sociopolitical conditions—such as economic conditions, political systems, and cultural values—moderate these effects.

**Methods:** This study utilizes data from Wave 6 of the World Values Survey, comprising 15,697 older adults (aged 55+) across 43 countries. Perceived ageism was measured by negative age-related stereotypes and perceived social status devaluation. Subjective well-being was assessed using life satisfaction and happiness. Macro-level sociopolitical moderators include Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, political stability, individualism, and long-term orientation.

**Results:** Perceived ageism was negatively associated with both life satisfaction and happiness, after adjusting for sociodemographic variables and macro-level sociopolitical factors. Higher GDP mitigated these adverse effects, suggesting that economic prosperity buffers against the negative impact of ageism. Conversely, political stability unexpectedly amplified the detrimental effects of ageism on subjective well-being. Additionally, long-term cultural orientation strengthened the negative association between age-related stereotypes and well-being, while individualism did not exhibit a significant moderating effect.

**Discussion:** These findings highlight the crucial role of structural conditions in shaping the well-being outcomes of ageism. By demonstrating how economic and political contexts influence the consequences of ageism, this study provides valuable insights for policymakers aiming to develop targeted interventions and policies that promote the well-being of older populations.



SUNG, Pildoo

*Hanyang University*

**Oral Health and Social Engagement Among Older Adults:  
A Gendered Story**

**Abstract**

Growing evidence supports the interdependence between oral health and social engagement in later life. However, the causal direction of this relationship, and potential gender differences therein, remains underexplored. This study, informed by the social determinants of health and health selection perspectives, examines gender-specific patterns in the reciprocal relationship between oral health and social engagement among older adults in South Korea. A random-intercept cross-lagged panel model was applied to data from 5,735 adults aged 55 years or older. These data were collected in the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging in 2018, 2020, and 2022. Oral health was assessed using the 12-item Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index and social engagement was measured by the frequency of participation in various formal activities. Significant bidirectional associations were identified between oral health and social engagement, with distinct gender-specific patterns. Among men, better oral health predicted subsequent social engagement, but not vice versa (a health selection effect). In contrast, among women, more frequent social engagement predicted better oral health, with no evidence of the reverse path (a social causation effect). These findings highlight gender-specific dynamics in later-life oral health and social engagement. For older men, oral health is a key enabler of social life, whereas social engagement is a crucial resource for maintaining oral health for older women. Tailored interventions that address oral health barriers to social engagement among men and leverage women's social pathways to oral health may help optimize healthy aging.

**Sociology and Environment:**

**Conservation, Culture and Discourses of Nature in Asia**

This panel examines the relationship between sociology and the natural environment in an Asian context. Can sociology help us to tackle environmental problems? What can sociology tell us about the nature of the environment, the consequences of environmental risks, and the practices for enhancing environmental sustainability? This panel interrogates a long-standing narrative that traditional Asian agricultural systems promote a harmonious human-nature coexistence, asking how this ideal holds up under the pressures of the climate crisis, anthropocentrism, and neoliberal developmentalism. International financial institutions and progressive governments have promoted investment-oriented strategies that, while benefiting certain actors, often exacerbate ecological degradation and rural transformation. This context demands a nuanced sociological analysis that can connect local cultural practices to national political and global economic structures.

We propose that these "natures" can be studied through four interrelated lenses: 1. The sociology of environmental knowledge(s); 2. Social variations in the interpretation of nature; 3. The sociology of diverse forms of environmental damage; 4. Examinations of environmentalism as a social movement. This panel will explore these themes through diverse topics such as agricultural heritage conservation, art and food festivals, eco-tourism, land ownership, grassroots activism, and environmental (in)justice. We will analyze cultural mediums—from festivals, eco-tours to agricultural industrial park and eco-villages—to understand how aesthetic expressions and socio-cultural discourses about nature and heritage are shaped by, and in turn shape, societal power structures. Ultimately, we contend that nature is profoundly entangled with the social, political, and cultural. As these domains rapidly change, deciphering this relationship presents a complex but immensely fruitful area for sociological inquiry.

**Displacement by Conservation:**

**Land Enclosure and the Making of Agrarian Heritage in China**

KAN, Karita

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

**Commodifying and Decommodifying nature: A Case Study of Sustainable Tourism and the Uljin Pinetree Agroforestry System in South Korea**

MAK, Sau-wa Veronica

*Hong Kong Shue Yan University*

GU, Jin Hyuk

*NuriNet Regional Planning Institute*

**Active Hope in the Anthropocene:**

**An Ecovillage Experiment in Rural Hong Kong**

CHOW, Kootyin

*Nam Chung Reed Blossom Community*

**People Make Places: Rediscovering Hong Kong's**

**Cultural Heritage through Placemaking**

CHEUNG, Alan

CHEUNG, Yu Sze Stephanie

*One Bite Design Studio*

**Art, Natural Imagery, Tourism:**

**Ethnographic Findings from Art Festivals in Rural Japan**

TU, Shiu Hong Simon

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Session 1F

Education and Social Mobility (1)

PENG, Yinni

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Chinese Student Returnees and Domestic Employability:  
From A Bourdieusian Perspective on Field and Cultural Capital**

Abstract

Applying Bourdieu's concepts of field and cultural capital, my study examines the nuanced employability of Chinese student returnees and their strategies amid declining recognition of their overseas credentials in the changing field of the domestic labour market. Drawing on qualitative interview data from 100 Chinese student returnees, my study reveals that student returnees' employability has become more time-, place-, and institution-specific and is a dynamic, positional property embedded in their migratory trajectories, overseas education, and post-return job competition. As such, student returnees exercise agency and mobilise resources to negotiate their employability across several entangled fields. The findings challenge previous portrayals of student returnees as a homogenous group with unrealistic employment expectations. Instead, this study reveals that student returnees are aware of and strategically shape their nuanced employability in the domestic labour market.

Session 1F

Education and Social Mobility (1)

XIE, Yilin

*The University of Tokyo*

### **Beyond Access:**

### **Unpacking the Digital Divide in Education – Evidence from Japan**

#### **Abstract**

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency of addressing the digital divide in education, as school closures forced a global shift to online learning. In response, many governments accelerated educational digitalization by expanding ICT infrastructure and integrating digital tools into classrooms. Japan presents a compelling case with its GIGA School Program, which rapidly increased device-to-student ratios and Wi-Fi access nationwide. While these efforts have substantially addressed the first-level digital divide (accessibility), it remains unclear whether equal access to technology translates into equitable educational outcomes. This study investigates how socioeconomic disparities continue to shape students' access, use, and educational benefits from digital technologies in Japan's post-pandemic context. Drawing on Zhao and Kuang's (2025) three-levels of digital divide framework—comprising accessibility, capacity & usage, and outcomes within an educational setting. By modeling the pathways between access, usage capabilities, and learning outcomes, the study offers nuanced insights into the complex dynamics of digital inequality. The findings contribute to broader debates on whether ICT functions as a tool for inclusion or as a mechanism that reinforces existing educational disparities. It provides timely and significant empirical evidence from a digitally advanced yet socially stratified context, contributing to broader discussions on digital equity in education.

Session 1F

Education and Social Mobility (1)

CHEN, Junru

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Digital Divide or Digital Dividend?**

#### **Evidence from Urban–Rural Income Gaps from 260 Chinese Cities (2008–2020)**

##### **Abstract**

Urban-rural income inequality has long been the most salient structural contradiction in Chinese society. Grounded in the profound social transformation driven by digitalization, this paper uses a panel of 260 prefecture-level cities over 2008-2020 to test the central proposition of whether digitalization narrows or widens the urban-rural income gap (URIG). The findings are three-fold. (1) Digitalization exerts a significant U-shaped effect: in its early stage, higher digitalization reduces the URIG, yet once a critical threshold is crossed, further digitalization enlarges it. This result remains robust after replacing the dependent variable, and lagging the key variable; the Hansen threshold test further confirms a statistically significant threshold beyond which the gap switches from decreasing to increasing. (2) Heterogeneity analysis reveals a “scissors” divergence in average incomes between urban and rural: in the middle-to-late phase urban income growth significantly outpaces rural growth, so the digital dividend persists but accrues disproportionately to cities, thereby widening the gap. (3) Educational investment markedly moderates this U-shaped relationship: higher education spending shifts the turning point leftward and downward, underscoring that educational resources are pivotal to the inclusiveness of the digital dividend. Nevertheless, as digitalization deepens, both the digital dividend and complementary educational resources are increasingly monopolized by urban residents, accelerating the re-emergence of a digital divide. The policy implication is that while digitalization per se generates dividends, infrastructure-only strategies that neglect complementary human-capital investments make urban residents to appropriate the dividend faster, potentially exacerbating urban-rural inequality. Only a dual-wheel approach—combining “equal access to digital” with “equal access to capability”—can ensure shared digital dividends and advance common prosperity.

Session 1G

Marriage, Work and Family (1)

WONG, Ho Chun

*Lingnan University*

### **Love is in the Cloud:**

#### **Otome Romance Games and Perceptions of Love and Marriage of Young Chinese Women**

##### **Abstract**

Romance games for women, or Otome games, have been increasingly popular in China since 2017, amid the rapid decline of marriage rates since 2014. The literature suggests that the current trend in marriage is related to socioeconomic shift, urbanization, and better education, but the expansion of digital life is less discussed. While previous quantitative studies found that playing Otome games was associated with higher expectations in selecting partners and emphasis on the monetary and materialistic aspects in relationships, few examined the in-game experience and its implications. Thus, this study adopts a qualitative research framework to investigate how interactions with virtual ideal partners in Otome games shape perspectives of young Chinese women players. The concepts of Parasocial Interaction (PSI) and Parasocial Relationships (PSRs) offered the theoretical lens to analyse the intersection between the fantasies-constructed digital world and society offline. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 30 young Chinese women players to investigate their engagements with Otome game characters, storylines, and their perceptions of love and marriage. Findings suggest that Otome games provided an opportunity for players to reflect on the tensions in discovering their desired type of romantic relationship. First, PSRs in games let players experience an idealized relationship in a controllable virtual world, raising expectations in offline relationships while allowing players to reevaluate the practicality of those standards. Second, positive feedback from PSI in games enhanced emotional autonomy and self-identity, which helped players clarify their positions on gender roles. Nonetheless, it substituted some romantic desires and solidified beliefs on suitable types of partners. Third, Otome games facilitated the reimagination of marriage as a social institution in contemporary China. Players reflected on the intersection between gender, family, and self-realization in marriage. This study demonstrated how Otome games operated as a site for young women to negotiate their values on love and marriage.

Session 1G

Marriage, Work and Family (1)

CHEN, Qingyang,

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

**Beyond Behavior: Attitudinal Deinstitutionalization of  
Marriage among Highly-Educated Women in China**

**Abstract**

In recent decades, the Second Demographic Transition (SDT) has transformed many industrialized societies, marked by rising cohabitation, nonmarital childbearing, delayed marriage, and higher divorce rates. These trends have diminished the significance of marriage as a social institution, particularly among less-educated groups. Cherlin's thesis on the deinstitutionalization of marriage highlights both behavioral changes and shifts in attitudes and values that increasingly accept diverse family forms in the West. By contrast, East Asia has seen similar social and economic transformations, yet marriage and family lives remain relatively stable. Although there has been limited "deinstitutionalization" in marital and family behaviors, emerging research documents signs of shifting values regarding marriage and childbearing, especially among highly educated women. This points to a coexistence of emerging liberal attitudes and enduring traditional familism. However, the extent to which these value shifts reflect a subjective deinstitutionalization of marriage remains underexplored.

This study focuses on highly educated women in China—a group navigating egalitarian and individualistic influences within a familism, marriage-centered culture. We investigate whether these women display a subjective tendency toward the deinstitutionalization of marriage in a context of stable marital practices. Specifically, we ask: (1) Are their beliefs about marriage changing, particularly regarding its necessity, alternatives, and gender roles? (2) If so, what factors prevent these attitudinal shifts from translating into behavior? To address these questions, we use a mixed-methods approach, combining text analysis of Xiaohongshu social media posts (N=20) and comments (N=2500) with semi-structured interviews (N=16). Our study contributes to the literature by systematically documenting subjective change and offering in-depth qualitative insights into the attitude-behavior gap in societies where marriage and family practices remain largely unchanged.



Session 1G

Marriage, Work and Family (1)

LI, Xinyu

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

**College Education and Gender Attitudes in China:  
The Moderating Role of Economic Sectors**

**Abstract**

Although prior studies establish both correlational and causal relevance between college education and gender-role attitudes, it remains uncertain whether the liberalizing effect persists after entering the labor market. This study aims to fill this gap by examining whether the egalitarian impact of college education changes as individuals enter the labor market, and whether its magnitude varies across employment contexts. The paper addresses gender-role attitudes among 18- to 64-year-old urban workers across private and public employment sectors in the context of post-socialist China. Shaped by market-oriented reforms, China's labor market has sharply differentiated the state-owned and private sectors, providing a compelling and valuable research context. Using data from the 2010–2023 Chinese General Social Survey (N = 19,591), we examine how the dual-sector labor market moderates the effect of college education on gender attitudes. College education predicts more egalitarian attitudes, but this education effect is significantly smaller in the public sector and larger in the private sector. Accounting for job security and employment benefits reduces the public–private difference in the college effect by 21.6%, indicating that the weaker college effect observed in the state sector is partly attributable to its higher job security. In line with postmaterialist theory, the environmental and survival safety provided by stable, well-protected public employment fosters acceptance of gender-egalitarian ideals; this attenuates the attitudinal change usually linked to college education. This study makes two primary contributions to the literature. Firstly, it deepens understanding of the liberalizing effect of higher education by examining its changes in post-school institutional settings, thereby offering new evidence on the continuity and conditionality of educational impacts. Secondly, it supplements research on organizational premiums and structural effects and shows that the influence of employment organizations extends beyond objective stratification outcomes such as socioeconomic status to the formation of subjective values and ideology.

Session 1G

Marriage, Work and Family (1)

CAO, Ji

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Measuring Long-term Changes in Gender Norms in People's Republic of China:  
Evidence from the People's Daily Newspaper 1950-2019**

**Abstract**

This study investigates long-term changes in gender norms in modern China using computational text analysis of the People's Daily (Renmin Ribao) corpus from 1950 to 2019. Building on previous sociological literature that distinguishes gender norms into horizontal (role differentiation) and vertical (status hierarchy) dimensions, we adopt Kozlowski et al.'s (2019) word-embedding-based measurement to capture implicit gender bias in official discourse. Our analysis finds that while the overall discourse has become more masculine after the 1978 reform, an uneven transition of gender norms exists over time, providing richer characterization compared to existing survey-based studies. Specifically, along the horizontal dimension, discourse in the private sphere (family and caregiving) is strongly and persistently biased toward women, though female association with economic and homemaking responsibilities has declined since 1978. In the public sphere (work and education), while the corpus became increasingly feminized since the reform, gender essentialist differences persisted, with domains like the arts and non-manual occupations consistently being more feminine relative to science and manual work. Along the vertical dimension, surprisingly, although the competence domain became increasingly associated women, the leadership domain is persistently biased toward men. This divergence suggests that while women's increased competence has been generally acknowledged, substantive power and authority are still inherently framed as more masculine. Methodologically, this study introduces an innovative approach and data source to overcome traditional measurement biases. Substantively, it provides new evidence on the unique trajectory of gender norm evolution in China compared to Western countries.

Session 1H

Population and Demography (1)

SAKAMOTO, Arthur,

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **A Critical Review of Recent Reviews of Asian Americans**

#### **Abstract**

This presentation provides a critical review of recent research on Asian Americans with a focus on several chapters in Annual Review of Sociology. Limitations and problems are identified that obscure our understanding of Asia Americans in the contemporary era. Emphasizing the disadvantages of minority status and racial discrimination against Asian Americans does not analytically explain why they have higher socioeconomic attainments than White Americans.

Session 1H

Population and Demography (1)

KIM, ChangHwan

*The University of Kansas*

**Asian American Poverty:  
Myths, Realities, and Complexities**

Abstract

Despite the perception of Asian Americans as a model minority, studies highlight significant within-group disparities and high poverty among specific ethnic and immigrant subgroups. Using data from the 2010 to 2023 American Community Survey, excluding 2020, this study analyzes poverty among Asian American households, disaggregated by age, immigrant generation, and ethnicity. Poverty is assessed using four measures: official poverty, supplemental poverty, relative poverty, and a double poverty measure incorporating both income and imputed housing wealth. After adjusting for education, demographic covariates, and commuting zone fixed effects, most Asian American groups exhibit higher poverty rates than 1.5+ generation Whites. These disparities are especially pronounced among seniors, with Chinese and Korean Americans, both first-generation and 1.5+ generation, experiencing the highest poverty rates. The findings challenge explanations that attribute Asian American poverty mainly to low education or immigrant status. Apparent advantages in official poverty for some Asian ethnic groups largely reflect geographic concentration in affluent areas. The particularly high poverty among Korean American seniors suggests limited wealth accumulation and calls into question the adequacy of the model minority image. These results underscore the need for further, more nuanced, research on this topic.

Session 1H

Population and Demography (1)

ZHU, Jiachen

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Perceived Potential Childbearing and Mental Health:  
Evidence from a Natural Experiment in China**

Abstract

Having a child is a critical life course event with profound implications for mental health. While prior research has focused on actual childbearing, less attention has been paid to the mental health impact of potential fertility. Using data from the China Family Panel Studies (CFPS), this study employs a difference-in-differences design to examine the effect of heightened childbearing possibility triggered by China's Universal Two-Child Policy (UTCP). Baseline results indicate that reproductive-age individuals exposed to increased childbearing possibility under the UTCP experienced significant declines in mental health, affecting both men and women. Drawing on preference theory, prior research has suggested that family orientation significantly moderates relationship between fertility and well-being. Building on this literature, we consider both cross-influences between spouses and couple-based categories of dyadic family orientations, including gender role attitudes (GRA) and family obligation attitudes (FOA). Heterogeneity analyses show stronger negative effects among individuals with mixed GRA or whose partners hold traditional GRA, particularly for wives. For FOA, adverse impacts are greater when individuals or their partners hold traditional views, particularly among husbands. Further analyses reveal that the negative effects are significant when couples are either discordant in GRA or both are traditional, while for FOA, strong negative effects emerge when couples are either both modern or discordant. Using Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) to combine spouses' attitudes, we find that adverse treatment effects are concentrated in Class 2 (mixed couples) and Class 3 (mixed individuals with a very modern partner). These patterns suggest that GRA and FOA shape the effects of potential childbearing differently, and that both partners' attitudes and attitudinal discordance matter.

Overall, the findings show that the mental health effects of potential childbearing depend not only on whether spouses hold modern or traditional attitudes, but also on the alignment or misalignment of orientations within couples.

Session 1H

Population and Demography (1)

LEI, Zihui

*The University of Hong Kong*

## **Building Household Financial Resilience in China:**

### **The Role of Extended Family Support**

#### **Abstract**

Financial resilience refers to the ability to access and draw on internal and external resources to cope with financial adversity. Population aging is shifting much responsibility for retirement preparation and financial resilience from collective welfare systems onto individuals and households, a trend evidenced by rising retirement ages, the growth of defined-contribution pensions, and the retrenchment of tax-based support. Coupled with increasing exposure to economic shocks, climate disasters, and geopolitical conflict, building financial resilience has become critically important for household stability. Utilizing longitudinal data from the 2013-2019 waves of the China Household Finance Survey (CHFS), this study operationalizes financial resilience as the return of a household's annual per capita consumption expenditure to its pre-shock level following an adverse event. Our analysis focuses on a sample of 1,100 households that experienced a shock—including natural disaster, accident, major illness, and economic hardship—between 2014 and 2018. We employ stepwise regression to explore the influence of four sets of factors: demographic characteristics, resource endowments, attitudinal predispositions, and coping mechanisms. Our findings indicate that extended family networks—relatives outside the household—contribute to financial resilience by providing key resources (e.g., a history of financial transactions), supportive attitudes (e.g., participation in family rituals, a preference for borrowing from kin), and direct coping strategies (e.g., loans received during a shock). The magnitude of this association frequently exceeds that of traditional economic factors. This study contributes to the literature by constructing and applying an outcome-oriented measure of financial resilience that captures the dynamic process of recovery. The results highlight how extended family, as a form of social capital, constitutes a critical determinant of household resilience, offering comparative advantages over traditional economic and human capital.

Session 1J

Elder Loneliness

LOU, Vivian

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Beyond Technology:**

#### **Understanding Human-Robot Bonds in Addressing Elderly Loneliness**

##### **Abstract**

Loneliness has emerged as a critical global public health challenge, with the World Health Organization recognizing it as a growing epidemic that affects physical and mental health outcomes worldwide. As global aging accelerates, with more older adults living alone than ever before, the risk of social isolation and loneliness has reached unprecedented levels, particularly in urban Asian contexts like Hong Kong and Singapore where single-person households among seniors are rapidly increasing.

This presentation explores research on how social robots, specifically LOVOT, are addressing this critical issue of loneliness among single older adults in Hong Kong and Singapore. Drawing from three studies, this talk examines both quantitative and qualitative evidence showing how technology acceptance, meaningful interactions, and personal storytelling contribute to forming genuine human-robot bonds that can alleviate social isolation.

Research findings reveal that when there are opportunities, older adults could engage with social robots, naming them, creating narratives around them, and developing caring relationships that provide emotional support and companionship. Through phenomenological analysis and narrative frameworks, this presentation demonstrates how social robots can serve as effective interventions for loneliness while highlighting the importance of cultural considerations and personal connection in technology design for aging populations.

These findings offer promising solutions to a growing global crisis, suggesting that technology-mediated companionship could play a vital role in supporting the mental health and well-being of our aging population worldwide.

TANG, Foong Yee Vivien

*The Education University of Hong Kong*

**One-year Longitudinal Outcomes on Reducing Loneliness in Older Adults:  
The HEAL-HOA Dual Randomised Controlled Trial**

**Abstract**

Loneliness is increasingly recognized as a public health issue, however, the long-term effects of psychosocial interventions remains unclear. This study which focused on the long-term outcomes of older adults was conducted as part of the Helping Alleviate Loneliness in Hong Kong Older Adults (*HEAL-HOA*) dual randomized controlled was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Older adults ( $M_{age}=76.6$ ,  $SD_{age}=7.8$ ) who lived alone, felt lonely, faced financial difficulties, and were digitally excluded. The interventions consisted of behavioral activation (Tele-BA), mindfulness (Tele-MF), and befriending (Tele-BF, attention control). Each intervention comprised eight 30-minute, twice-weekly sessions delivered over the telephone and led by trained laypersons. These trained laypersons were older adult peers who also experienced loneliness. Outcomes were measured at baseline and at 1, 3, 6, and 12 months after the intervention. At the 12-month follow-up, both Tele-BA and Tele-MF showed reduction in loneliness compared to Tele-BF. Significant improvements were also observed in secondary measures such as sleep quality, life satisfaction, and psychological well-being. Social isolation at 6-month played a mediating role in the impact of Tele-BA and Tele-MF on loneliness at 12 months, with a larger increase in social networks associated with larger reductions in loneliness. This randomized controlled trial demonstrated that scalable telephone-based interventions are practical beyond the pandemic, with Tele-BA and Tele-MF as promising and effective method to reduce loneliness and enhance well-being among older adults. Future psychosocial interventions late-life loneliness should focus on addressing social isolation, as it mediates the long-term effects of Tele-BA and Tele-MF.



LI, Jia Jessica

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Interventions to Reduce Loneliness among Chinese Older Adults:**

#### **A Network Meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials and Quasi-experimental Studies**

##### **Abstract**

Loneliness is a prevalent phenomenon among older population and is closely related to a variety of health outcomes. This meta-analytic study investigates the effectiveness of different interventions in alleviating loneliness among Chinese older adults aged 50 years and above. We searched eight English databases, four Chinese databases, and grey literature. Thirty-four studies, including four randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and 30 quasi-experimental studies, were eventually included in the meta-analysis ( $n = 3843$ ). Quality appraisal indicated risks of bias in the included studies. The pooled effect size was large and significant (Hedge's  $g = 0.84$ , 95% CI [0.54, 1.15]), indicating the effectiveness of interventions in reducing loneliness. However, the effect size may be overestimated due to publication bias. Moderation analyses showed significant differences in effect sizes by study designs and regions of studies. Network meta-analysis (NMA) indicated that hybrid and psychological interventions appeared to be advantageous over others. In addition, group-based delivery modes can add extra benefits to the interventions. This study adds to the knowledge of the effectiveness of current interventions in reducing Chinese older people's loneliness. However, the findings need to be interpreted with caution due to the relatively low study quality, considerable heterogeneity, and publication bias. Despite the limitations, this study offers valuable insights for future research, practice, and policy-making in reducing older people's loneliness.

Session 1J

Elder Loneliness

PATULNY, Roger Vincent

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

HE, Yutao Jacob

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Elder AI Companionship in China's Rapidly Aging Society: Preliminary Results from a Scoping Review of AI Usage, Needs, Emotions and Care Implications**

#### **Abstract**

Ageing populations face acute risks of loneliness and social isolation, and in rapidly ageing societies such as China, policy responses now explicitly position artificial intelligence (AI) within the future care economy, exemplified by China's 2024 directive to integrate humanoid robots and AI into elder services by 2035 (Zou, 2025). Companion AIs—chatbots and social robots—already assist with healthcare, dementia, rehabilitation, and emotional support (Ahmed et al., 2024), and are valued for privacy, 24/7 availability, and help in managing social obligations. While some evidence shows embodied AI (robots) can reduce loneliness, other studies suggest disembodied AI (chatbots) can intensify it (Dong et al., 2025). We report on a work-in-progress scoping review to map existing literature on AI companionship amongst older Chinese adults. We investigate the roles and functions of AI companionship that address the needs of China's aging population, their emotional experiences, and the implications of these emotional interactions for mental health, well-being, and elder care. Preliminary findings suggest that the need for emotional support is the primary driver of AI companion tools use among the elderly, with some studies finding that positive experiences with AI companion interactions help alleviate older adults' anxiety, loneliness, and other negative emotions. We also tentatively identify a growing body of literature showing that AI companionship can elicit emotions ranging from positive experiences such as joy, safety, and fulfillment; neutral emotions such as indifference and boredom; and negative emotions such as anger, anxiety, concern, and suspicion. By consolidating insights across disciplines, this review provides a foundation for future empirical research and informs policy debates on whether and how AI companionship could complement human caregiving in China's rapidly aging society. We argue AI companionship will reshape future "emotional economies" and care practices by redistributing emotional labour between humans and machines, but culturally and technologically mediated differences risk producing uneven futures of care.

Session 2A

Chinese Masculinities in Flux

CHAN, K.W. Anita

*The Education University of Hong Kong*

### **Chinese Masculinities in Flux**

This panel brings together three empirical papers to explore the dynamic and contested nature of Chinese masculinities amid rapid social and cultural change. Together, they reveal how young and minority men in Chinese societies negotiate shifting gender expectations, adapt to new social realities, and challenge or reinforce traditional norms.

The first paper examines how young men in Hong Kong blend “caring” elements with persistent desires for dominance in intimate relationships, revealing the influence of neoliberal pragmatism and the fragility of hybrid masculinity. The second paper uncovers the paradoxical ways young men support #MeToo but resist feminism, showing how moral self-positioning shapes their attitudes and complicates efforts toward gender equality. The third paper turns to male kindergarten teachers in mainland China, highlighting how they navigate suspicion and perform “caring masculinities” to challenge gendered boundaries in a feminised profession.

Together, these studies illuminate the contradictions, anxieties, and possibilities of Chinese masculinities in flux—offering new insights into how men’s identities are being reimagined and contested in contemporary Chinese contexts.

Session 2A

Chinese Masculinities in Flux

CHAN, K.W. Anita

HUANG, Jinghui

*The Education University of Hong Kong*

**Caring but in Control: Hybrid Masculinity and Neoliberal Pragmatism  
in Young Men's Intimate Talk**

Abstract

In the past decade, young men's expressions of masculinities have undergone significant changes, prompting feminists to debate the nature and extent of these shifts. Among the emerging frameworks, hybrid masculinity has gained prominence, suggesting that men selectively adopt 'softened' or 'progressive' traits to adapt to changing gender norms, while preserving men's advantage. However, this concept has been primarily utilised in Western contexts, and its applicability to Chinese masculinities remains under-studied.

This paper draws on nine focus-group interviews with 48 male college students in Hong Kong to examine how young men construct masculinities in their talks about intimate relationships. We aim to refine the power maintenance framework by situating it within the socio-economic and cultural context of contemporary Hong Kong.

Findings reveal that a distinctive logic of 'neoliberal pragmatism' in their hybrid masculinity. While participants express support for women's independence and success, their reasoning is more driven by market logic—such as the necessity of dual-income households—rather than genuine belief in gender equality. Their narratives also expose the fragility and performative nature of hybrid masculinity. Although many advocates for men to be caring and emotionally expressive, they simultaneously exhibit class and power anxieties when their partners have higher socio-economic status or are sexually experienced. Most interviewees prefer to be the dominant sex in intimate relationships and avoid any perceived vulnerability in their partner choice.

This study makes two contributions. First, it extends the concept of hybrid masculinity by introducing 'neoliberal pragmatism' as a key driver, showing that men's power maintenance is not merely ideological but can have economic considerations. Second, it questions the efficacy of hybrid masculinity as a sustainable strategy, revealing young men's performative fragility and persistent desire for dominance in intimate relationships.

Session 2A

Chinese Masculinities in Flux

CHAN, K.W. Anita

*The Education University of Hong Kong*

PENG, Xin

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Supporting #MeToo but Not Feminists:**

#### **Dual Positioning and Moral Beliefs in Young Men's Masculinities**

##### **Abstract**

Understanding young men's perspectives on gender-related topics is crucial for advancing gender equality and addressing contemporary gender politics. While previous research often examines men's responses to #MeToo or feminism separately, less attention has been paid to how men negotiate their positions across these topics. This empirical gap limits our understanding of the contradictions and complexities in men's constructions of masculinities, especially in non-Western contexts.

Drawing on nine focus group interviews with 48 college men in Hong Kong, our study compares men's narratives about #MeToo and feminism to reveal a nuanced tension in their masculinities. We find that participants express strong support for the #MeToo movement and sympathy for victims of sexual violence, often grounded in the assertion that they themselves behave with propriety and moral conduct. However, these same participants show marked resentment toward feminists, particularly when feminist critiques challenge men's heterosexuality or sexual expression. Through our analysis, we identify a dual positioning within their narratives: men present themselves as "moral men" who act properly and do not see themselves as exerting power over women, and as "normal men" entitled to natural sexual desires. This self-perception as "moral, natural men" allows them to support individual victims while rejecting feminist critiques of structural gender inequality and male power.

Our comparative approach demonstrates that such contradictions in men's attitudes are best revealed when multiple gender-related topics are examined together. The findings highlight that men's resistance to feminism is not only rooted in defense of privilege, but also in moral beliefs that render feminism unnecessary in their view. By foregrounding the role of moral self-positioning in the construction of masculinities, our study offers new insights for gender studies and suggests directions for more effective engagement with young men on issues of gender equality.

CHEN, Jun Jimmy

*The Education University of Hong Kong*

**Kindergarten Male Teachers as Sexual Threats in Mainland China:  
Childcare Giving Practices, Challenges and Navigation of Identities**

**Abstract**

Gendered segregation is a significant driver of workplace inequality. The Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) is a typical illustration of men being a minority. Over the past twenty years, despite efforts to recruit more male teachers into ECEC, gender imbalance persists. A substantial body of literature has found that sexual danger suspicion has been one key threat that discourages male teachers from providing childcare in ECEC, and even prompts some to exit the profession. Understanding how male teachers navigate sexual threats is important, as their strategies illuminate the potential to challenge gender norms and the possibility of promoting equality in a gender-atypical profession.

In China, gender segregation remains stark in ECEC, where men's participation is persistently low and often complicated by fears of sexual threat. This study investigates how Chinese male kindergarten teachers actively negotiate these suspicions while performing childcare duties in a job culturally constructed as 'women's work'. Drawing on 30 semi-structured interviews with male teachers and principals and classroom observations, I document the various barriers that male teachers encounter and their navigation strategies.

Findings show that male kindergarten teachers are routinely subject to physical taboos and spatial segregation when interacting with young girls. The physical and social boundaries are often reinforced through formal policies, division of labour, and environmental design. However, some male teachers respond by performing 'caring masculinities': they uphold care values in early childhood education, reflect on their roles as fathers, and reconsider career ambitions when encountering sexual threat concerns. These navigation strategies broaden our understanding of minority men's experiences in gender atypical jobs, revealing how men's caring work can destabilise gender norms. By illuminating how male teachers actively respond to and resist gendered norms and sexual suspicion, this paper also offers insights for building a gender-inclusive work environment in feminised professions.

Session 2B

Gender and Sexuality (2)

HE, Minying

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

### **Rethinking Intersectional Inequalities Encountered by Mistreated Older Women in Hong Kong: A Life Course Perspective**

#### **Abstract**

Older women who have experienced elder mistreatment confront multidimensional inequalities, which are associated with their age, gender and socioeconomic status. However, little is known about how these disparities are exacerbated when women adopt multiple identities throughout their lives. Through the lens of intersectionality and life course perspective, their needs can be better comprehended when various types of oppression are identified. Fifteen older women who were mistreated but chose to stay in the abusive relationships were invited to semi-structured in-depth interviews. Interviews lasted from 90 to 180 minutes. An inductive thematic analysis was adopted. Four major themes were generated from the narratives. Theme 1: As wives and mothers, mistreated older women bear the routine burden of caring for their husbands (day-to-day care in early years, worries about their cognitive declines as they age), act as kin-keepers, and shoulder children's demands (early child care and revolving-door for grown-ups). Theme 2: Profound loss of dignity and respect is experienced when they face declining physical or mental capacities, diminishing resources, and pervasive discrimination. Theme 3: Throughout their lives, they have limited agency and face constant struggles due to denied education opportunities, roles as primary family caregivers, homemakers, breadwinners, and welfare applicants. Theme 4: Marginalisation fuels deep resentment and sadness, leading them to mask their vulnerabilities through emotional distancing, when they desperately crave recognition for their unseen sacrifices. In conclusion, raised within traditional Chinese family-centric culture, where home comes first, they are obedient and self-sacrificing; yet, the surging tide of feminist thoughts within the patriarchy, while prompting them to respect their children's freedom, paradoxically deepens their own self-imposed constraints and oppression. Dedicated listeners, complementary support beyond conventional social welfare, psychological counselling integrated with routine care, and economic empowerment initiatives are potentially helpful for mistreated older women.

Session 2B

Gender and Sexuality (2)

BI, Yidan

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Navigating Gender Inequality:**

#### **A Situated Framework for Understanding Transgender Employability in Neoliberal China**

##### **Abstract**

This article examines the employment experiences of transgender men in China through the lens of situated transgressiveness. Drawing on 31 in-depth interviews, it proposes a three-dimensional analytical framework to understand how trans men negotiate gender legibility and employability across relational, organizational, and structural contexts. At the relational level, participants employed strategic ambiguity to manage everyday interactions with HR personnel and coworkers, selectively disclosing or withholding gender-related information. At the organizational level, industry-specific cultural scripts shaped the acceptability of gender nonconformity, with creative and tech sectors offering greater flexibility than state-affiliated or manual labor settings. At the structural level, neoliberal reforms and the expansion of gig economies enabled flexible, entrepreneurial labor while intensifying precarity for those lacking normative identification or presentation.

These findings demonstrate that transmasculine employability is deeply contingent upon interpersonal expectations, institutional norms, and market logics, which are intertwined with China's evolving socio-political and economic conditions. Rather than expressing a fixed identity, transgender men engage in constant calibration to negotiate recognition, safety, and survival. The article contributes to a growing body of scholarship on trans labor by foregrounding the context-specific strategies, affective labor, and structural costs of employability under authoritarian capitalism.



Session 2B

Gender and Sexuality (2)

ABREFA BUSIA, Kwaku

*Lingnan University*

### **Gender Differences in Emigration Aspirations in Singapore:**

#### **The Role of Intergenerational Opportunity Structures, Socio-Political Climate, and Internet Access**

##### **Abstract**

This study examines the impact of intergenerational opportunity structures, socio-political climate, and internet accessibility on emigration aspirations in Singapore, with a particular focus on gender differences. Using data from the fifth wave of the Asian Barometer Survey (2020), the analysis draws on a sample of 825 respondents. Emigration aspiration is measured by the willingness to live in another country, while key predictors include perceptions of opportunity relative to one's parents' generation, income distribution fairness, and satisfaction with democracy, controlling for various socio-demographic factors. Results from multivariate models indicate that individuals who perceive fewer opportunities compared to their parents, view income distribution as unfair, and are dissatisfied with democratic processes are significantly more likely to aspire to emigrate. Age negatively correlates with emigration aspiration, whereas higher education levels and more frequent internet use correspond to increased aspiration. Gender-stratified analyses reveal nuanced differences: intergenerational opportunity perception significantly affects females but not males, while perceptions of income inequality predict emigration aspirations among males only. Dissatisfaction with democracy consistently predicts aspirations across genders. The negative impact of age is stronger among males. Additionally, employment status influences male but not female emigration aspirations. These findings underscore the complex interplay of structural, political, and technological factors that shape migration intentions in Singapore, highlighting the salience of considering gender-specific experiences and perceptions when examining emigration motivations. Our study contributes to broader discourses on migration, social mobility, and political attitudes.

Session 2B

Gender and Sexuality (2)

LAM, Gigi

*Hong Kong Shue Yan University*

### **Gender Differences in the Use of Social Capital of Sandwich Generation**

#### **Abstract**

The sandwich generation refers to individuals who simultaneously care for children and parents or grandparents. This study explores how they utilize social capital at various levels to manage their responsibilities and examines potential gender differences within this group. Ten participants, aged 35-50, who care for both children and elderly family members, were interviewed. The data was analyzed thematically and coded based on bonding, bridging, and linking social capital.

The findings revealed that significant support comes from parents, in-laws, and maids, while broader support from siblings, peers, and neighborhoods is limited. Religious groups were identified as a key source of emotional and spiritual support. Participants valued pre-nursery and kindergarten services but expressed concerns about the government's unequal allocation of childcare and long-term care resources.

While the sandwich generation is not strictly gender-specific, differences emerged in the likelihood of being full-time dual carers, the amount of time devoted to care, and the use of social capital to cope with competing demands. The study concludes with recommendations for future research and policy development.

FUNG, Ka Yi,

*Saint Francis University*

**The Establishment and Operation of Transnational Elder Care Network:  
Using Hong Kong as a Case Study**

**Abstract**

This qualitative study explores the formation and functioning of transnational elder care networks, using Hong Kong as a case study. Drawing on the concepts of inscription and the economy of recognition, the research is based on interviews with 39 Hong Kong migrants who relocated to the UK within the past five years, and 13 parents whose children migrated to the UK since 2017. Among them, three pairs consist of both parent and child.

Two preliminary findings emerge. First, both migrant children and their parents in Hong Kong have developed distinct strategies to care for one another across borders. For the children, although physical proximity is lost, communication with parents has become more frequent through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). They engage in casual conversations, offer virtual assistance, and often invite their parents to visit the UK to explore the possibility of relocation. For parents, caring for their children means not becoming a burden. They strive to maintain good health and independence, supported by Hong Kong's social welfare system. Some actively participate in elderly centres to expand their social lives, demonstrating to their children that they are well and self-sufficient. All parents interviewed had visited the UK, primarily to understand their children's lives firsthand, which helped alleviate their worries. Even when facing health issues, many choose not to inform their children, believing it would only cause unnecessary concern.

Second, the operation of this transnational care network has strengthened parent-child relationships. Both parties recognize and appreciate each other's efforts. Despite feelings of helplessness and uncertainty about aging, parents value their children's frequent contact and invitations to the UK. Migrant children, in turn, appreciate their parents' openness to ICT and their courage in supporting migration. These mutual affirmations have fostered a closer and more emotionally connected relationship than before.

CHOW, Cheng,

*The University of Texas at Austin*

**Migration Capital across Generations:**

**The Role of Immigrant Parents in Onward Migration Intentions**

**Abstract**

Migration is increasingly recognized as a multi-step and intergenerational process, rather than a linear movement between origin and destination. While first-generation immigrants (G1) often accumulate migration-related capital to enable subsequent moves, less attention has been paid to how this capital is transmitted across generations and how immigrant parents shape their children's future migration trajectories. This study examines the role of immigration history and parental background in shaping onward migration intentions among residents of Hong Kong, a global city and key migration hub in Asia. Using original survey data of 3,500 Chinese residents aged 18–50, collected through Respondent-Driven Sampling, we employ sequential logit models to distinguish between general migration intentions and onward migration intentions. The analysis highlights two central findings. First, second-generation immigrants (G2) exhibit significantly higher likelihoods of onward migration intentions than G1 immigrants, suggesting the enduring effects of inherited migration capital. Second, the number of immigrant parents matters: while having one immigrant parent is positively associated with general migration intentions, having two immigrant parents is strongly linked to onward migration intentions. These findings underscore the intergenerational transmission of migration capital, where parental migration experiences, networks, and cultural resources shape their children's propensity to envision mobility as a feasible life strategy. This study contributes to the growing literature on onward migration by extending the focus beyond individual migrants to intergenerational processes. It demonstrates that family-based migration capital and immigrant parental background play a crucial role in shaping mobility orientations across generations. By situating Hong Kong within broader comparative debates on social mobility and migration, the study offers insights into how inherited resources reproduce or transform migration patterns in a changing global landscape.

WONG, Yu Yan Yanko

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

CHIU, Tuen Yi Jenny

*Lingnan University*

**Bridging Discrepancies as Doing Intimacy:  
Intergenerational Dynamics in Migration Decision-making Process**

Abstract

Despite a growing body of scholarship on intergenerational relations, existing research has predominantly examined family dynamics through the lenses of solidarity, conflict, or ambivalence. Yet, the processes through which different generations negotiate and manage discrepancies—particularly in migration decision-making—remain relatively understudied. Addressing this gap, this paper leverages migration decision-making as a strategic analytical window to examine the complex dynamics and management of intergenerational discrepancies. Rather than viewing intergenerational negotiation as static and one-off, this study conceptualizes these interactions as ongoing, contested, and relational processes within families.

Drawing on in-depth interviews and visual data collected from 45 dyads (90 participants total) of migrant and non-migrant ageing parents and adult children in Hong Kong families (2023–2025), the study investigates how intergenerational dyads navigate divergent migration views and preferences. Findings reveal that dyads marked by differing political views or stronger emotional bonds are more likely to experience pronounced discrepancies in migration perspectives. Three principal management strategies are identified: coercive, persuasive, and passive. Distinct patterns of discrepancy management emerge: those in dependent intergenerational care relationships—especially single-parent families—tend to use coercive strategies, while more independent and egalitarian families favor persuasion and open communication; however, generations with existing conflicts often remain passive and disengaged, with each strategy resulting in divergent impacts on intergenerational relationships.

Importantly, rather than serving as a way to reach consensus, bridging intergenerational discrepancies emerges as an affective and emotional practice to maintain intergenerational relationship amid competing individual and familial interests. Theoretically, this study advances scholarship on intergenerational care relations, family dynamics, and the “intimate turn” in contemporary family sociology. Methodologically, this study underscores the value of intergenerational dyadic data for capturing nuanced family dynamics and negotiations. Practically, it provides insights for service provision targeting migrant families and older adults in both sending and receiving societies.

WU, Xingyun

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Migration and Family Formation:**

#### **How do Migration and Education Experience Relate to Parenthood?**

##### **Abstract**

This study investigates the relationship between parenthood patterns and the experience of migration and education to better understand migration and family formation in Hong Kong. Through a unique lens of education locations, the paper examines how it relates to socialization and adaptation of immigrants to local socio-demographic systems, as well as the disruption of childbearing upon arrival in Hong Kong. Drawing data from the Hong Kong General Social Survey (2024/2025) with an analytic sample of individuals aged 25-60 ( $N = 3,749$ ), this study identifies five distinct groups by county/region of origin, immigration generation, and education experience and inspects disparities with weighted statistics and linear probability modelling.

Results showed that within three groups of Hong Kong-born, no significant disparities were found among (1) the Hong Kong natives with Hong Kong education only ( $n = 1,516$ , 49.5% in parenthood), (2) the second-generation immigrants with Hong Kong education only ( $n = 1,255$ , 56.9% in parenthood), and (3) those ever receiving education elsewhere ( $n = 245$ , 51.6% in parenthood), suggesting strong socialization effect of early life stages. In contrast, the non-Hong Kong-born were significantly more likely to be in parenthood than the Hong Kong-born. The non-Hong Kong-born (4) who received their secondary education in Hong Kong ( $n = 393$ , 61.1% in parenthood) were significantly less likely to be in parenthood than (5) their counterparts receiving secondary education elsewhere ( $n = 340$ , 83.4% in parenthood). This suggests adaptation of the former group into the local demographic patterns. However, the latter group showed a lowered chance for additional childbearing upon arrival in Hong Kong, conditioning on all socio-demographic characteristics, which implies the disruption effect of migration. These findings reveal the socialization, adaptation, and disruption effects of migration on families, pointing to important policy implications for supporting Hong Kong families in transition into parenthood.

KIM, Hyun-soo Harris

*Ewha Womans University*

**Gender Paradox, Gender Vulnerability, and Suicidality among South Korean Adolescents:  
A socio-ecological Investigation**

**Abstract**

Our research investigates factors associated with suicidality among adolescents in South Korea, a country with one of the highest suicide rates among OECD countries. In doing so, we take a socio-ecological perspective that considers key explanatory mechanisms across micro (psychological distress), meso (school context), and macro (regional youth suicide rate) units of analysis. Specifically, we focus on gender as a powerful social structure that drives the unequal dynamics and outcomes of suicidality among Korean youths. Research shows that, *ceteris paribus*, girls are more vulnerable to suicide ideation, plan, and attempt. At the same time, according to the concept of gender paradox, boys are more prone to die from lethal self-harm. In view of this, we ask the following set of questions. First, to what extent does gender moderate the relationship between psychopathology (generalized anxiety disorder, i.e., GAD) and suicidality? Second, does attending same-sex school provide a buffer against suicide for girls? And third, does youth suicide rate shape the magnitude of the link between GAD and suicidality differently for boys and girls? By drawing on data from the Korean Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2020 – 2023) fielded during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, we empirically probe these questions. Using alternative analytic strategies—namely, mixed-effects modeling with random intercepts/slopes and OLS regression with region and time fixed effects adjusting for time-invariant heterogeneity—we find that the associational strengths between GAD and the three dimensions of suicide are more pronounced among girls. Results also indicate that for girls attending same-sex school provide protection against suicide plan and attempt during the pandemic. Lastly, our models demonstrate a significant three-way interaction: the residential-level youth suicide rate amplifies the magnitude of the relationship between psychological distress and suicidality. And this relationship was statistically significant only for the female gender.

Session 2D

Health Inequalities and Disabilities (2)

GE, Linghan

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Intergenerational Relationship Types and Mental Health Among Urban Older Adults in China**

#### **Abstract**

With China's urbanization, intergenerational relationship types and their associations with older adults' mental health are critical yet understudied. Previous research on intergenerational relationship types emphasizes objective indicators, overlooking subjective evaluations and parental expectations. Using data from a survey of older adults in five cities in 2019 (N=1,199), this study employs Latent Class Analysis to identify five types: Mutual Harmony (34.7%), Emotional Bonding (32.3%), Expectation Gap (15.2%), Moderate Support (10.8%), and Relationship Detachment (7.0%). Regression analyses show that, compared to Mutual Harmony, Emotional Bonding is linked to higher happiness and lower depression/anxiety, while other types exhibit lower happiness and higher depression, anxiety, and loneliness. Women in the Expectation Gap type experience greater mental health impacts from unmet parental expectations; higher-educated individuals show lower happiness in Emotional Bonding and Expectation Gap due to elevated expectations, but reduced depression/anxiety in Moderate Support. This study reveals the complexity of intergenerational relationships under China's "expectation-driven" and filial piety culture, and provides new perspectives on family interventions for older adults.



Session 2D

Health Inequalities and Disabilities (2)

YANG, Xingyue

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Childhood Bereavement and Later-life Cognitive Function:**

#### **The Gendered Impact of Parental Death in China**

##### **Abstract**

This study examines the long-term impact of childhood parental death on late-life cognitive functioning and its variation by gender and hukou background. Using four waves of China's longitudinal survey data, the analysis draws on 45,597 observations from 19,765 adults aged 60 and above. Random-effects OLS and growth-curve models estimate the effects of losing a mother or father before age 10 on cognitive aging in later life. Results show that the death of either parent in childhood is significantly associated with poorer cognitive functioning, net of demographic, socioeconomic, and health factors, and that parental bereavement accelerates cognitive decline relative to those with both parents alive. While the effect of maternal loss does not vary by gender or hukou, paternal loss exhibits substantial heterogeneity: it has no significant impact on men's cognition but predicts lower cognitive functioning among women and a steeper cognitive decline among urban residents. These findings suggest that paternal death in childhood may deprive urban families of key economic and social capital and reinforce resource allocation toward sons, which may further disadvantage daughters in cognitive development. While previous research has emphasized the stronger impact of childhood maternal loss, most studies were conducted in contexts with relatively equal gender opportunities. This study, based on cohorts born in a society marked by son preference and male privilege, reveals that early paternal death imposes lasting cognitive costs on women, likely through compounded deprivation of family and social resources.

Session 2D

Health Inequalities and Disabilities (2)

SHIN, Hwajin

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Child–Mother–Father Triads and Left-Behind Children’s Emotional Health**

#### **Abstract**

Parental migration is perceived as disruptive to children’s emotional well-being, yet evidence remains inconsistent, suggesting that context mediates outcomes. This study adopts a triadic child–mother–father (CMF) perspective as the primary locus of influence to examine how family context protects or jeopardizes children when parents migrate. Drawing on family social network data from the Philippines and Indonesia, results show that cohesive CMF triads, marked by supportive bonds across all three dyads, are associated with lower psychological distress for children. In contrast, conflict or ambivalence in any dyad, especially between parents, significantly increases mental health risks. Once relationship quality is considered, parental migration status alone does not predict negative outcomes. However, maternal migration emerges as a relational vulnerability that undermines father–child ties and spousal cohesion, indirectly exposing children to greater risk of emotional distress. These findings underscore that patterns of family interactions explain variations in children’s well-being more effectively than physical absence of parents following migration.

MEYERHOFF-LIANG, Jan

*Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET Oxford)*

## **How Urban Diversity Emerges through Technological Innovation and Diversification: Evidence from Patent Data**

### **Abstract**

How can left behind regions catch up with economically advanced urban areas? This study examines how urban regions can diversify into industries that create long-term innovation opportunities, thereby expanding their potential for future diversification.

Existing research shows that regions typically diversify into industries that are technologically related to their current industrial structure, as measured by the density of related patent classes. Such relatedness can be measured using patent data, from which we construct patent networks that indicate how strongly patent classes are interlinked. A limitation, however, is that opportunities for diversification are not evenly distributed: some regions face fewer possibilities, and some patent classes offer far greater diversification potential than others.

Recent studies address this issue by focusing on the recombination potential of technology classes, measured through their centrality in the knowledge graph. The idea is that entering patent classes with high potential for recombination opens more future pathways for diversification. My paper builds on this by applying the recombination potential concept to analyze industrial diversification in European metropolitan areas.

We test whether European regions' entry into new patent classes depends on their relatedness density, and whether this also holds for patent classes with high knowledge-entry potential. The results show that relatedness density significantly increases the likelihood of diversification, but this effect weakens when focusing only on classes in the top quartile of knowledge-entry potential. This suggests that entry into high-potential classes may depend less on relatedness and more on other factors, such as the availability of skilled inventors, institutional support, or investment incentives.

Finally, we discuss extending this research design to Chinese metropolitan areas, where inland provinces in the west (e.g., Gansu, Guizhou, Yunnan, and Qinghai) and the northeastern "Rust Belt" (Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning) have struggled to match the innovation and prosperity of coastal hubs.

CHEN, Yaru

*City University of Hong Kong*

## **The Mutual Transformation of AI and Professional Work in Healthcare**

### **Abstract**

Much scholarship on technological innovation and work has focused on automation's effects on routine, lower-skilled jobs, with limited attention to artificial intelligence (AI) and professional work. Existing studies often depict professionals as passive, with AI framed as deskilling, substitution, or erosion of autonomy. This perspective overlooks how professional identity, legitimacy, and jurisdiction are contested under technological change. Professions not only adapt to AI but also influence and reshape it through feedback, organizational adaptation, and daily practices. Professional authority is therefore not simply diminished but renegotiated and, at times, reinforced in broader struggles over power and expertise. Examining AI adoption requires a two-way perspective: how AI transforms professionals, and how professionals, in turn, transform AI.

The study draws on the sociology of professions, particularly debates on autonomy, jurisdiction, and the co-construction of expertise and technology. AI is conceptualized as a socially embedded innovation shaped by professional groups. Professionals mediate adoption not just by resisting or embracing AI but also by influencing its design, implementation, and integration into organizational routines. Their interpretations and adjustments can redirect innovation trajectories, embedding AI in ways that reflect professional norms and strategies of jurisdictional control. Methodologically, the research employs a qualitative case study to trace the "adoption journey" of AI over time, foregrounding the sociological dimension of AI adoption as part of broader struggles over identity and authority.

Empirically, the study examines the case of an AI system being introduced into clinical practice. It explores how AI alters diagnostic routines, redistributes decision-making, and challenges professional jurisdictions, while also showing how doctors reshape the technology by providing feedback, tailoring its use to clinical judgment, and embedding it in workflows that protect professional values. The study illuminates conditions under which professionals adopt or resist innovation, the strategies used to defend jurisdiction, and the organizational consequences, advancing debates on professions and technological change.

Session 2E

Work and Organisations

XU, Yan Asa

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

**Contests during Mergers and Acquisitions:  
Performance Disruption of Managers and Employees**

**Abstract**

Current research in organizational sociology has extensively documented the forms and potential causes of integration failures following corporate mergers, yet paid limited attention to the lived experience and dynamic patterns underlying synergy failures between incoming managers and remaining employees. Drawing on Goffman's theory of self-presentation, this study investigates how managers and employees engage in tensions and confrontation during mergers and acquisitions (M&A). Based on the author's seven-month participatory observation conducted throughout the pre- and post-merger phases at a new energy start-up in Guangdong, China, this study reveals that post-merger tensions and conflicts can be conceptualized as mutual disruptions of front-stage performances between merging managers and merged employees: managers' unconscious performance of "faux pas" and employees' deliberate "scene-creating" each bring into the shared front stage what ought to remain strictly concealed in the backstage—namely, the newcomers' sense of insecurity and the subordinates' repressed discontent. The emergence of confrontation stems from employees' perception that managers' unintentional "social gaffes" constitute an abuse and rupture of face collaboration, prompting them to attempt to break the current definition of the situation and recreate or sustain the performance of surface harmony with multiple forms of daily resistance.

Session 2E

Work and Organisations

SU, David

*UC Berkeley Sociology*

## **Gaming the Algorithm: How Hegemonic Algorithmic Control Fuels Worker Resistance in China's Platform Economy**

### **Abstract**

Existing scholarship often portrays algorithmic control as a “digital cage” that suppresses gig workers’ collective resistance. This paper argues instead that the intensification of real-time performance evaluation and gamification has produced a new work regime of hegemonic algorithmic control—one that paradoxically strengthens workers’ structural power. Unlike despotic control, which relies on coercion, hegemonic control secures consent through selective rewards, data-driven evaluation, and game-like features.

Drawing on three months of fieldwork and 65 interviews with food-delivery and ride-hailing workers in Dongguan and Shanwei, I trace strike waves since 2018. I show that gamification created a class of “elite players” with “game capital” who master platform rules and tactics. These workers do not passively comply; they actively game the system, bolstering collective leverage through three mechanisms. First, they manipulate algorithms for material advantage. By coordinating order acceptance, workers simulate shortages that push platforms to raise rates. Others exploit blind spots—logging in from low-demand areas to rest without penalty. Second, they deceive algorithms while evading detection. Food-delivery workers co-play routes despite prohibitions, while drivers alter geolocation, take private orders, and multitask across apps to maximize bonuses. Third, they override system flaws with human expertise. During peak demand, managers rely on elite players to resolve backlogs and minimize losses. Their algorithmic fluency makes them indispensable and costly to replace, leverage made visible in strikes where delivery could not resume without them.

The findings reveal a contradiction at the heart of platform capitalism: efforts to maximize efficiency and atomize labor simultaneously cultivate new repertoires of worker knowledge and coordination. By highlighting how workers repurpose disciplinary algorithms as tools of resistance, this paper offers a framework for understanding how collective action can emerge from within the logics of platform control itself.

Session 2F

Education and Social Mobility (2)

XU, Duoduo

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Do Women Benefit More from College?**

#### **Changing College Wage Premium in Three Chinese Societies over Four Decades**

##### **Abstract**

Across the globe, women have increasingly outpaced men in college enrollment amid higher education expansion. A commonly cited explanation is that women receive higher labor-market returns to a college degree. Yet it remains unclear how the gender difference in the college wage premium has evolved as women have now surpassed men in college attainment in many countries. Drawing on multiple waves of census and large-scale survey data spanning more than four decades, we track trends in the college wage premium for men and women in three Chinese societies: urban mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. All three experienced massive higher education expansion and marked increases in women's college attainment, but they exhibit divergent trajectories in the relative female college premium over time. Our comparative analysis documents substantial heterogeneity across settings and periods, underscoring that women's relative wage gains from college are contingent on institutional and labor market contexts. We conclude by discussing the social and policy implications of these findings.

CHAI, Mengzhen

*University College London*

## **Toward a Lost Generation?**

### **Intergenerational Progress and Inequality in Urban China**

#### **Abstract**

The promise of intergenerational progress—that each generation should be better off than the last at the same ages—has long underpinned the legitimacy of the social contract. Yet in many advanced economies this foundation has eroded. Millennials today face stagnating wages, declining homeownership, and deteriorating living standards compared to predecessors. They have emerged as structurally disadvantaged cohorts marked by lasting “scarring effects.” This breakdown strikes at the foundations of the social contract, creating profound tensions over intergenerational fairness. Against this backdrop of Western generational crisis, this study asks whether Chinese millennials, despite the country’s reform-era miracle, are beginning to follow the same path.

Drawing on nationally representative data from 1988–2018 and adopting a life course perspective, this study applies a two-stage analytical framework. The Age-Period-Cohort Trended (APCT) model evaluates intergenerational progress by assessing whether younger cohorts outperform predecessors at the same ages. The Age-Period-Cohort Detrended (APCD) model diagnoses inequality by removing long-term period trends and showing how reform benefits have been unevenly distributed across cohorts, producing structural advantages and disadvantages. Analysis focuses on three domains: labour income, housing attainment, and net labour income after housing costs.

Results reveal a generational paradox: younger cohorts are increasingly income-rich but asset-poor, while older cohorts are asset-rich but income-poor. In the labour market, millennials are clear winners. At the same ages, they record the highest absolute earnings of any cohort. Even after removing long-term economic growth trends, they remain advantaged, with cohort-specific income levels that consistently exceed the general population average. This shows that millennials disproportionately benefited from reform. Yet this narrative fractures once housing is considered. Housing attainment peaked among transitional cohorts but declined sharply for those born after 1980, particularly in Beijing and Shanghai. When housing costs are deducted, millennials’ apparent income advantage disappears—and in metropolitan areas even reverses into disadvantage. After removing long-term trends, analysis further shows that millennials occupy disadvantaged positions in asset-based life chances, with disadvantages intensifying among younger cohorts.

Labour market success no longer guarantees housing security or asset accumulation. Despite higher earnings, Chinese millennials increasingly resemble their Western peers in facing asset-based exclusion. And amid mounting economic uncertainty, even their income progress may prove fragile—raising pressing questions about whether they represent China’s emerging “lost generation.”



Session 2F

Education and Social Mobility (2)

SHEN, Wensong

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Equally Educated, Unequally Rewarded:**

#### **Educational Mobility Brings Health Benefits for Rural First-Generation College Men – but Not Women**

##### **Abstract**

With the global trend of educational expansion, more traditionally disadvantaged groups (e.g., rural and/or female students) have become first-generation college graduates, achieving educational mobility. Yet, whether this mobility brings wellbeing benefits remains unclear. The existing literature on first-generation college students, mobility and wellbeing, and education and wellbeing is fragmented and offers conflicting insights. This study addresses these gaps by examining (1) the overall wellbeing benefits for rural-origin first-generation college graduates, (2) gender differences in these benefits, and (3) the role of parental expectations in explaining the possible gender differences.

China's recent transformations—urbanization, educational expansion, and advances in gender equality—provide an ideal case for this investigation. Using structural equation models (SEM), this study analyzes a 15-year longitudinal dataset from the Gansu Survey of Children and Families (GSCF 2000, 2004, 2015).

Findings indicate that rural-origin first-generation college graduates experience wellbeing benefits, such as better subjective health and lower depression levels, compared to their non-college-educated peers from similar backgrounds. However, these benefits are observed only among men, not women. Additionally, the gender difference in wellbeing benefits is evident primarily among individuals whose parents did not hold college expectations. These findings challenge mainstream theories like the fundamental cause theory and resource substitution theory concerning education, wellbeing, and gender. They also enrich the literature on social mobility by highlighting the varied wellbeing outcomes across heterogeneous groups and contexts, extending beyond the classical status attainment, social comparison, and dissociative hypotheses on the wellbeing impacts of social mobility, and urging for more research on first-generation college students/graduates.

JIANG, Jin  
*Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Anxious and Adrift:**

**Unveiling the Digital Voices of China's Highly Educated NEETs**

**Abstract**

Recent media in China has highlighted the rise of ‘full-time children’—youth who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and are financially dependent on parents. This group is expected to shrink due to educational expansion, which provides youth with enhanced opportunities for employment. However, China has seen a growing cohort of college-educated NEETs, a group largely overlooked in earlier studies focusing on lower-educated NEETs. Since this group is neither studying nor employed, traditional methods of locating them through schools or labour markets are ineffective.

This study examines the experiences, aspirations, and perceptions of these highly educated NEETs by analyzing their discussions on a major Chinese forum. Using a large language model, this study performed topic modeling and sentiment analysis on a dataset of over 50,000 posts and one million replies from NEET-related discussion groups (2020–2024). Analysis identified eight key topics: employment pressure and job search challenges, career planning and transition, academic pressure and studying abroad, workplace stress and challenges, family and life stress, social and emotional struggles, psychological stress and personal growth, and health and self-management. Sentiment analysis reveals that over 75% of discussions were negative. Employment pressure and job search challenges have been a prominent theme and emerged as the most discussed topic in 2024. In contrast, academic pressure, a major theme in 2020, declined sharply after 2022 and became one of the least-discussed topics by 2024. Psychological stress, though less frequently discussed, exhibited the highest proportion of negative sentiment.

This study contributes to the literature by shedding light on the under-researched phenomenon of highly educated NEETs, revealing their unique challenges and emotional struggles. It also demonstrates the value of online forum data and computational methods for studying hard-to-reach populations, advancing understanding of youth unemployment and mental well-being in the digital age.

Session 2G

Marriage, Work and Family (2)

ZHANG, Chunxue

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Is Marriage Good for You in the Times of Crisis?**

#### **Marriage and Health Behaviors during the COVID-19 Pandemic in China**

##### **Abstract**

A large body of work has examined the effects of crises on health behaviors, but relatively little is known about how marriage influences those behaviors during times of crisis. This is an important limitation in light of decades of research demonstrating linkages between marriage and better health (behaviors) and gender differences in both the magnitude and explanations for this relationship, with more pronounced benefits accruing to men. It is thus surprising that efforts to understand how the health benefits of marriage may be accentuated or attenuated in times of crisis (e.g., war, disaster, pandemic) are extremely limited despite good theoretical reasons to expect moderating influences (in both directions). To address this limitation, we analyze longitudinal survey data from 2010-2022, and detailed COVID-19 mitigation policy data from 2020 to 2022 to investigate the health benefits of marriage in China during the pre-pandemic period (2010 to 2018) and to examine if and how COVID-19 mitigation policies influenced this relationship during the pandemic (2020 to 2022). Preliminary results from individual-level fixed-effects regression models that account for health-related selection into marriage show that marriage is associated with more health-compromising behaviors among men, with no comparable association for women during the pre-pandemic period. During the pandemic (2020-2022), marriage is positively associated with overweight or obesity, plausibly reflecting heightened role strain and reduced opportunities for physical activities amid closures. Our study sheds new light on how crisis shapes the benefits of marriage in one relatively gender-inegalitarian society.

Session 2G

Marriage, Work and Family (2)

SONG, Jing

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Bigger Housing or More Housing Units:**

**Rural Family Strategies and Gender Inequality in Resettlement Communities in the  
Urbanizing Northwestern China**

**Abstract**

China's urbanization has led to the relocation of rural families in resettlement communities, but less attention has been paid to the family's housing management strategies in this rural-to-urban transition. This study draws on survey and interview data from several resettlement communities in an expanding city in Ningxia, Northwestern China, and examines how rural families have weighed diverse housing needs and balanced their desires to have bigger housing or more housing units. The findings suggest that the male-dominated property system has been reproduced in the resettlement communities. Parents with multiple sons faced a pressure to guarantee every son to have an individual home upon marriage. For parents without such pressure, they might cash in part of their floor space to deal with financial difficulties or prepare monetary gifts for their daughters. Rural families with daughters only were more likely to opt for bigger housing than more housing units, sometimes to serve the mutual desire of co-residence and sometimes to avoid the transition of housing into their daughters' marital property. This study sheds light on why and how the post-development family housing management strategies have reinforced and revised gender inequality patterns in rural China.

Session 2G

Marriage, Work and Family (2)

LAI, Gina

*Hong Kong Shue Yan University and Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Marital Status, Social Networks, and Perception of Old Age:**

#### **A Study of Middle-Aged Chinese Adults in Hong Kong**

##### **Abstract**

Family is often considered as an important source of old-age support in both Western and Chinese societies. Especially, the trend of population aging has generated great concerns for sustainable elderly care and support to be provided by the government, and subsequently, given rise to the concept of “aging in place”, which encourages older adults to utilize family and community resources, and middle-aged adults to plan early for old age. In societies that prioritize marriage and family formation, single people are often assumed to have fewer social connections and less social support from their married counterparts. Yet, empirical studies show that while single people might report fewer confidants compared to those who are married, they often compensate with broader friendship networks and higher involvement in community and civic activities. Never-married adults’ perception of old age and the association with social networks is less understood.

To address the research gap, the present paper examines the social network structure and relations between married and never-married adults, and the impact of social networks on their perceived ability to meet old-age needs. Data for analysis were collected through a territory-wide sample survey of 1304 Chinese adults aged between 40 and 59 in Hong Kong, of which 802 are never-married. Bivariate results show significant marital status differences in social network structure and relations, and perceived ability to meet old-age needs. The impact of social networks on perceived ability to meet old-age needs also varies by marital status.

Session 2G

Marriage, Work and Family (2)

GROVES, Julian M.

*The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*

### **Looking for Love?**

#### **Male Sojourners' Search for Marriage Partners in 19th Century Hong Kong**

##### **Abstract**

Whereas much has been written about “left behind” wives during the Chinese diaspora of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, relatively less is known about the lives of single sojourning men from the Chinese mainland during this period. Drawing on archives from the Po Leung Kuk, an organisation that conducted a matchmaking service, we analyse a sample of 1328 applications by male sojourners seeking marriage partners in Hong Kong. Using both quantitative and qualitative data, we ask: under what circumstances did these men seek marriage partners in Hong Kong? In what social networks were they embedded. What were their expectations of married life? What determined whether these matches would be successful?

Session 2H

Population and Demography (2)

RAYMO, James

*Princeton University*

### **Divorce, Remarriage, and Fertility in Japan**

#### **Abstract**

The role of later and less marriage in ultra-low fertility in East Asian societies is well-established but one striking omission in this research is attention to divorce and remarriage. Our goal in this paper is to address this limitation by quantifying the impact of divorce and remarriage on fertility in Japan. Japan is a particularly interesting setting given its long history of low fertility, low and declining rates of first marriage, relatively high rates of divorce, and a growing prevalence of remarriage. The fertility dampening impact of divorce and the theoretically and empirically ambiguous relationship between remarriage and fertility have been widely studied in Western countries, but this is the first study to directly examine these relationships in an East Asian context. We use counterfactual tools to quantify the contributions of divorce, remarriage, and childbearing within higher-order marriages to overall fertility (as measured by period TFR). We use data from the 14th, 15th, and 16th National Fertility Surveys, conducted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in 2010, 2015, and 2021, respectively. Using all person-month observations that fall within a given window of calendar time, we calculate TFR as the weighted sum of age-specific, marital status-specific fertility rates. Making sequential counterfactual assumptions about the availability of divorce and remarriage as life options, we show that divorce reduces TFR by up to 5% whereas remarriage and subsequent childbearing increases TFR by 6-10% (relative to counterfactual worlds in which divorce and remarriage, respectively, were not possible). Given the central policy focus on addressing the causes and consequences of low fertility in East Asia, we hope that this examination of the fertility consequences of divorce and remarriage will translate into more attention to these increasingly common components of marriage behavior.

Session 2H

Population and Demography (2)

YOU, Xijia

*University of Oxford*

### **Fertility Norms as a Unifying Framework:**

#### **Coordinating Migration and Fertility Decisions in China's Internal Migration**

##### **Abstract**

Migration and fertility are two fundamental demographic processes of the twenty-first century. Yet scholarship has long treated them as sequential and fragmented – assuming that migration occurs first and subsequently influences fertility behaviour, while dividing explanations across disparate theories and time horizons. This study advances a paradigm shift: rather than viewing migration as a cause of fertility change, it conceptualises migration and fertility as mutually constituted domains of life planning.

Drawing on 66 life-story interviews with migrants and non-migrants in Shenzhen, the research develops a unified framework of fertility norms to reinterpret the five classical migration-fertility theories. Through this lens, the analysis shows that selection, disruption, and adaptation operate as norm-mediated processes – through strategic destination choice, weakened enforcement at a distance, and the integration of urban norms – alongside socialisation and assimilation, which have always centred on normative transmission. Seen together, these mechanisms reveal how individuals actively coordinate migration and fertility as interdependent projects within their biographical trajectories.

The significance of this integration extends beyond the Chinese case. In the world's largest internal migration combined with one of its steepest fertility declines, China offers a critical vantage point for rethinking how demographic futures are actively shaped through normative environments. For Hong Kong and East Asia – societies simultaneously grappling with low fertility, rapid urbanisation, and ageing – the findings highlight how demographic outcomes are not merely structural consequences but are dynamically produced through cultural negotiation and individual agency. By bridging fragmented theories and foregrounding the role of norms, this research provides a new foundation for understanding demographic change in low-fertility futures.



Session 2H

Population and Demography (2)

LING, Wanying

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Are Silicon Samples Feasible?**

#### **Evidence from a Cross-National Factorial Survey Experiment on Fertility Intentions**

##### **Abstract**

Generative artificial intelligence, represented by large language models, offers new possibilities for sociological research, yet whether it can approximate human survey responses remains contested. Using a cross-national factorial survey experiment on fertility intentions, we compare responses from human respondents with those from silicon samples generated by large language models (GPT-4o, Claude 3.5 Sonnet, DeepSeek-V3, Qwen-Plus) in different scenarios and across Chinese and English contexts. These models produce internally consistent and context-sensitive patterns that partially mirror human responses. However, model-specific deviations persist: some models systematically overstate the estimated effects of financial burden, family and workplace support, and perceived social values on fertility intentions, with variation by nation and language contexts. These findings suggest that large language models have clear potential as a complementary data source, but they are not yet substitutes for human samples due to systematic biases and limitations in effect-size accuracy.

Session 2H

Population and Demography (2)

GUO, Ya,

*University of Macau*

**Economic Burdens, Egalitarian Ideology, and Fertility Intentions in East Asia:  
Evidence from a Cross-National Vignette Survey**

**Abstract**

The study aims to investigate the effects of economic burdens, egalitarian ideology, and their interaction on fertility intentions across East Asian countries. A population-based vignette survey experiment was conducted in China, Japan, and South Korea. Conditional logit and random-effects models were employed to estimate the impact of the economic costs of raising children and egalitarian beliefs. The findings reveal that both material abundance and egalitarian ideology increase families' fertility intentions; however, economic burdens of childcare play a more significant role in shaping decisions in all three countries. Furthermore, when interacting with gender equity—such as equal division of housework and the presence or absence of equal job opportunities for women and men—economic burdens consistently emerge as a critical factor influencing families' fertility intentions.

Session 2J

Theory and Society

LI, Pengfei

*Shanghai University*

**A Cultural Study of Cultural Studies:  
Understandings of Contemporary China, 2014-2025**

Abstract

One of the core themes of cultural studies is the intimate relationship between culture and society, i.e., how cultural phenomena reflect, deflect and even reshape the social structure or at least part of it. By examining and analyzing 37 theses written by master's graduates from the only cultural studies department in mainland China, this paper points out two significant changes of understandings of contemporary China—and perhaps even the nature of contemporary China itself—from the 2010s to the mid 2020s. First, while criticizing the dominant culture has been the main paradigm of cultural studies worldwide, being it in the developed/capitalistic West or in the less developed societies, what the dominant culture in contemporary China is became increasingly vaguer amidst the published theses in the last decade. Second, while 8 out of the 18 theses published in and before 2019 discussed the situation and/or resistance of the disadvantaged groups—the migrant workers or the children of the migrant workers, only 3 out of the 19 theses published in and after 2020 focused on the non-urban subjects.

Based on these main changes revealed by the thoughts of the Chinese youths themselves, I argue that not only has China become an predominantly urban society facing urban problems as its prevailing social problems, understandings of contemporary China have also been clouded by urban issues, whether in the field of cultural studies or in the larger fields of social sciences. That said, a holistic understanding of China, emphasizing the urban (urban youths, urban culture, urban economy, etc.) while neglecting the rural (migrant workers, the remaining villagers, etc.), may not be sufficient to portray the nature of today's China and its possible future trajectories.

Session 2J

Theory and Society

BRETT, Gordon

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **A Pragmatist Framework for the Study of Reflective Cognition**

#### **Abstract**

This article advances dual-process theory (DPT) by developing a pragmatist framework for the study of reflective cognition. While dual-process models were introduced to sociology via Bourdieusian practice theory, Bourdieusian DPT has proven inadequate for theorizing reflective cognition and action, with sociologists looking to pragmatism as an alternative. To support these efforts, I provide a synthetic, elemental account of the pragmatist theory of reflection, delineating reflective cognition's defining characteristics, core components, its relationship with non-reflective cognition, and its interindividual variation. I then outline the merits of the pragmatist theory of reflection for dual-process research, arguing that it addresses major limitations of Bourdieusian DPT, has broad interdisciplinary support, provides advantages in terms of conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement, and offers sociology a novel research agenda. Overall, I argue that pragmatism provides a robust framework to enhance the study of reflective cognition and is a valuable, if not superior, theoretical alternative for dual-process research. I conclude by extending the implications of this framework to research on education and culture.

Session 2J

Theory and Society

SCHÖPF, Caroline M.

*University of the Philippines Diliman*

**Re-thinking Decolonization of Knowledge and Dismantling of Intellectual Imperialism:  
Focusing on Epistemic and Social Justice**

**Abstract**

This article discusses some important issues in current decolonization efforts: (1) Current decolonization efforts are mainly led by privileged, Global North-based scholars, when they should be spearheaded by the most marginalized scholars on the planet and by scholars facing multiple axes of oppression. Scholars holding privilege should focus on supporting roles. (2) Decolonization should put dismantling the global power structures erected by colonialism front and center. (3) Decolonization should much greater focus on social justice and activism. (4) Decolonization should dismantle the global academic power structures that center the views of the Global North and silence Global South critiques, so that the voice of the Global South can be heard loud and clear. (5) A focus on epistemic justice may help to focus on intersecting axes of oppression. (6) We must recognize that most oppressed groups are still almost completely excluded from knowledge production. A focus on epistemic and social justice makes it important to recognize and center knowledges produced by non-academics. (7) This calls for re-thinking the ways academia currently reviews and evaluate knowledge from an epistemic justice lens. (8) There should be a greater focus on how biased, Eurocentric knowledge translates into biased policy-making, which in turn deepens the coloniality of power and facilitates control and exploitation of the Global South. (9) The decolonization project should place the human and ecological cost of colonization and neocolonialism at its center. Reparations and true social justice for everyone on the planet must be at the heart of decolonization.

Session 2J

Theory and Society

FEDOROV, Alexander

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Hotels, Habitus, and Liminality:**

#### **An Analytic Autoethnography of Staycations in Pandemic Hong Kong**

##### **Abstract**

This paper examines staycations in Hong Kong during COVID-19 as a reconfiguration of leisure habitus. Drawing on 19 months of analytic autoethnography across 49 hotels and informed by Bourdieu's concept of habitus, the study shows how residents adapted outward-facing hospitality infrastructures to localized consumption amid border controls. Hotels became liminal settings—neither fully domestic nor international, neither home nor travel—where practices of leisure, luxury, and escape were renegotiated under urban density, strict quarantine policies (including the Designated Quarantine Hotel Scheme), and surplus room capacity.

The ethnography combines participant observation with informal conversations with staff and guests, including long-term residents, across stays ranging from a single night to several months and spanning budget to luxury properties. I revisited 11 venues to assess their reliability as “bases” and developed a set of preferred hotels suited to long-term continuity.

The analysis situates staycations within broader sociological debates on leisure and adaptation, showing that Hong Kong's hotel sector during COVID-19 was not merely engaged in short-term crisis management but underwent a structural reorientation toward domestic demand. This shift redefined hotels' role in urban life: from global gateways to local refuges. It identifies three dynamics: (a) the sector's transformation into a “quarantine metropolis,” (b) hotels as liminal settings bridging home and travel, and (c) the cultural reinvention of staycations.

The study argues that staycations in Hong Kong exemplify a habitus in flux: dispositions adapt under disruption as hotels operate as liminal infrastructures for resilience and experimentation. While rooted in Hong Kong, the findings have broader implications for how global cities recalibrate leisure and hospitality when international mobility collapses.

**From Being to Becoming:**

**Women's Creativity in the Face of Posthuman Uncertainty**

This panel explores how women's creativity responds to the uncertainty during the posthuman epoch. In a world where stable definitions and traditional categories of the human dissolve, posthumanism challenges fixed notions of identity, order, and progress (Wolfe, 2010). Yet viewed through an optimistic lens, posthumanism is not about the human as a static being, but as a generative becoming. Existence is itself a process of creation.

Within this framework, the four papers explore how literature, technology, and cultural practice become sites where women negotiate meaning in a fluid world. The first reads Eileen Chang's *The Book of Change* as a literary Yijing, where memory is emplotted into an ever-shifting cosmology of self-meaning-making. The second explores the digital revival of Nüshu, illustrating how social media serves as a platform to reclaim and reanimate women's cultural heritage in resistance to existential erasure. The third investigates Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) in urban China, framing the female body as a posthuman assemblage resisting reproductive and temporal normalization. The fourth analyzes Han Kang's *The White Book*, where mourning gives rise to a posthuman subject entangled with the presence of the dead.

Together, these inquiries outline an archaeology of the future, one shaped by a female-centered posthumanism rooted in resilience, memory, and the innovative redefinition of existence. There is no absolute truth, no predetermined direction. Instead, through acts of recollection and recovery, women find the strength to imagine and shape open-ended futures built on possibility, creativity, and becoming.

Session 3A

From Being to Becoming: Women's Creativity in the Face of Posthuman Uncertainty

DONG, Shenminghui

*Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Gendered Resilience and Bodily Temporality in Urban China's ART Practices**

#### **Abstract**

Since the Chinese government implemented the "Three-child" policy in 2021, the policy has not only failed to significantly increase the birth rate but has also highlighted the diversification and uncertainty of birth patterns. At the same time, assisted reproductive technology has developed rapidly in China, particularly among urban middle-class and upper-middle-class women. This paper aims to use assisted reproductive technology (ART) as the entry point to examine how women navigate the pressures of reproductive timing, the risks of bodily aging, and society's ongoing expectations regarding marriage and motherhood.

This research focuses on middle-class and upper-middle-class women in Chinese cities who use ART, employing a combination of in-depth interviews and participatory observation for field research. In this study, ART is not viewed as a mere external technological intervention but is understood as part of a more complex posthuman assemblage. Women's bodies, medical technologies, and state reproductive discourses are intertwined within this assemblage, collectively shaping the meaning of reproductive resilience, rendering it a dynamic process co-generated by multiple human and non-human actors.

In the ever-changing context of biopolitics in contemporary China, the research subjects use ART practices to create a form of bodily temporality that resists discipline. They use technological means to counteract the power discourse of the "biological clock" and the "maternal patriarchy timeline" embedded in the marriage track and social expectations. In this negotiation, women not only expand their imagination of the future, but also reveal a new form of resilience that transcends the individual and integrates institutions and materiality.



Session 3A

From Being to Becoming: Women's Creativity in the Face of Posthuman Uncertainty

WANG, Yi

*Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Reviving Nüshu (Women's Script): How Chinese Social Media is Asserting  
New Vitality into Women's Cultural Heritage and Rewriting**

Abstract

In recent years, Nüshu (Women's Script), a unique form of intangible cultural heritage that was historically used by women in Jiangyong County, China, has experienced a significant resurgence on Chinese social media platforms. While it's historically marginalized within the context of Authorized Heritage Discourse (AHD), Nüshu has been overlooked by mainstream heritage narratives, which are often dominated by patriarchal perspectives. This revival, which is largely facilitated by social media platforms, marks a pivotal shift in reflecting how cultural heritage in the digital era is gendered, discussed, and celebrated.

Applying the Gendered Heritage theory, this research explores how Chinese social media platforms, particularly RED (Xiaohongshu), challenge and reconstruct traditional gendered heritage narratives, while making historically marginalized women's cultural practices and legacies now centered and widely discussed. Combined with the method of Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MDA), this study analyzes the convergence of visual elements such as photos and videos of Nüshu writings, written narratives, and user interactions including likes and comments on RED. It further investigates how these multimodal forms contribute to the redefinition of cultural heritage and gender identity while enabling the revitalization of women's cultural legacies in contemporary contexts.

The current findings highlight that social media platforms now serve as active arenas for gendered re-negotiation, where women's cultural heritage is reclaimed, valued, and transformed. In doing so, this paper highlights the role of social media in reshaping heritage discourse, promoting a more inclusive representation of gender in cultural narratives, and contributing to the empowerment of women's cultural identities in the digital age.

Session 3A

From Being to Becoming: Women's Creativity in the Face of Posthuman Uncertainty

XIE, Yuchen

*Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Emplotting Being in Changes: To What Extent is Eileen Chang's  
The Book of Change a Yijing?**

Abstract

This essay interprets Eileen Chang's autobiographical novel *The Book of Change* through the lenses of Yijing cosmology and Paul Ricoeur's narrative theory. I explore how Chang's title, drawn from the Chinese classic Yijing, reflects themes of yin-yang duality and perpetual transformation amid familial tension, wartime trauma, and cultural displacement. Drawing on Ricoeur's concept of emplotment, I argue that Chang structures her memories into a coherent narrative that expresses profound metaphysical ideas about time, change, and impermanence. Her work not only serves as a literary memoir but also as a philosophical engagement with transition and uncertainty.

Following a literature review on Eileen Chang scholarship, this paper will clarify the rationale for interpreting *The Book of Change* through the lens of Yijing philosophy, and how Paul Ricoeur's narrative theory helps bridge philosophical and literary horizons. The paper will then explore: (1) the philosophy of yin-yang and constant changes in Yijing; and (2) a close reading of *The Book of Change* and its embodiment of Yijing thought. This interdisciplinary study bridges literary and philosophical genres, showing how literature serves as a medium for philosophical insight and deepens understanding of human existence.

## Session 3A

### From Being to Becoming: Women's Creativity in the Face of Posthuman Uncertainty

LI, Yushan

*Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

#### **Embodied Spectre: A Post-human Becoming in Han Kang's *The White Book***

##### Abstract

This paper explores Han Kang's *The White Book*, proposing the core thesis of "Posthuman as Creating" to investigate how the narrator undergoes a transformative process of post-human subjectivity through her embodied entanglement with the spectre of her deceased sister. The paper unfolds its argument across three interconnected layers: First, Relative as Being. The absence of the sister forms the existential foundation for the narrator's being. In *The White Book*, the narrator's belief in survival stems from the mission to extend the deceased's life through Being-with in the world. Therefore, the dead paradoxically makes her alive. This concept challenges the traditional ontological assumption that the subject precedes relationships as an independent entity, revealing a relative ontology of posthuman subjectivity. Second, Mourning as Becoming. Building upon the rejection of the autonomous subject, the narrator's mourning does not seek closure but leads her toward entanglement. In *The White Book*, she carries the perspective of the deceased as she gazes upon the world in remembrance. Her subjectivity is permeated and constituted by the dead, generating a posthuman subjectivity where the living and the spectre coexist. Third, Embodying as Affirming. In *The White Book*, the spectre symbolizes the "white"(purity) in a violent world. Through Han Kang's embodiment of the spectre, she extends this white while harboring a reverence for the sacredness of life. This posthuman recomposition of bonds is not a reactive response to shared threats, but rather an affirmative bond that safeguards the shared purity, thus generating a new mode of connection. Ultimately, *The White Book* demonstrates that posthuman subjectivity is not a transcendent sublimation, but rather a creative process rooted in loss and emotional entanglement: the spectre is not a mere remnant of the past or a rapture, but a constitutive force of the entangled and ethical subject.

Session 3B

Gender and Sexuality (3)

CHEN, Jun

*The Education University of Hong Kong*

**Caring Masculinities of Kindergarten Male Teachers in Mainland China:  
Practices, Identities and Challenges**

Abstract

Gender segregation at work contributes to women's lower level of income and inferior social status globally. In China as well as in many countries, the low proportion of male teachers in early childhood education has been a public concern. However, while male teachers' participation is expected to challenge the historically fixed role of females, existing studies have often reported opposite findings. This study, drawing on the insights from Chinese masculinities studies alongside the critical studies on men and masculinities, examines the childcare giving practices of male kindergarten teachers in mainland China and the challenges and dilemmas they face. 30 semi-structured interviews with kindergarten male teachers and principals, and two class observations were conducted. The findings indicate that male teachers' negotiation of masculinities at work intersected with their class, migration, and family background, and they actively co-worked with the kindergartens and female colleagues to maintain body distance and space distance with kindergarten girls, facing the males as sexual danger discourse in childcare giving. The findings also show that male PE teachers in Chinese kindergartens encountered a "glass escalator" even though they paradoxically have PE specialists, a position dominated by males, as an alternative to stay away from childcare. This study broadens the current discussion of kindergarten male teachers by unveiling the paradoxes, difficulties, and masculinity strategies arising when they provide childcare in post-socialist China. It also widens and refreshes the current understanding of the devalued situation of early childhood education in the Chinese context.

LEE, Hansol

*The University of Shiga Prefecture*

## **Second Shift for All Women?**

### **— Childcare and Working Hours of Female Professionals in Japan**

#### **Abstract**

The current study investigates how childcare responsibilities shape women's professional careers in Japan, focusing on hours worked. Even in modern societies where the majority of women engage in paid work, gendered divisions of labor persist (Hochschild and Machung 1989), leaving women with disproportionately greater family responsibilities than men. Meanwhile, professional workers are expected to prioritize work life over family life (Coser 1974). This double burden from work and family may therefore generate greater role conflict for women than men, with this conflict being most pronounced among professional women. However, the previous literature provides only limited evidence on how parental responsibilities—a factor that constrains time and energy resources—shape men and women's professional work lives differently. Furthermore, little is known about how women's careers interact with maternal responsibilities depending on their occupational status.

Against this background, this study analyzes how female professionals mitigate the role conflict during the child-rearing period. Specifically, it tests whether female professionals with preschool children (children under age 6) are more likely to reduce working hours than their male counterparts and non-professional women. Additionally, it addresses whether female professionals with preschool children tend to maintain working hours to pursue consistent career development. To address the hypotheses, the study applies OLS regression models with individual cluster-robust standard errors to JGSS-LCS panel datasets from Japan. This study leverages Japan as a compelling case: a society where cultural expectations of diligent work and traditional gender norms create unique challenges for professional women. Therefore, this study can offer insights into how female professionals in advanced economies navigate work-life conflicts. Given the increasing salience of gender equity, the study potentially deepens our understanding of how occupational resources support women in building stable career pathways.

Session 3B

Gender and Sexuality (3)

HAO, Pu

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Navigating Algorithmic Control:**

#### **The Gendered Mobility of Female Gig Workers in China**

##### **Abstract**

Mobility—the ability to move between locations—is a critical means of accessing opportunity but is fundamentally gendered. Globally, women’s mobility is often more constrained, characterized by shorter journeys and a greater reliance on walking and public transit due to societal norms and safety concerns. These gendered constraints have historically excluded women from mobility-intensive professions like delivery and transportation. The rise of gig platforms, however, has prompted a significant increase in female participation in these sectors in China.

This study investigates the experiences of female gig workers on ride-sharing and delivery platforms in five major Chinese cities. While these platforms market themselves as gender-agnostic and offer women flexible entry into the workforce, they often embed and perpetuate gender biases through algorithmic management. Mechanisms like dispatch and ranking systems can favor traditionally masculine traits, creating gender pay gaps and exacerbating health and safety risks for women.

Using a mixed-methods approach, this paper explores how female gig workers navigate algorithmic control while managing migration, family responsibilities, and daily spatial practices. Our analysis, situated within China’s patriarchal social context and lack of platform regulation, reveals a triple marginalization: female workers are marginalized from mobility (in access to opportunities), in mobility (during their work journeys), and by mobility (through the algorithmic systems that govern it). The findings advocate for gender-conscious platform design and regulation to mitigate bias, enhance safety, and address the disproportionate adverse outcomes women face in the gig economy.

Session 3B

Gender and Sexuality (3)

YANG, Chin Yi Gina

*Lingnan University*

### **Imagining “Home” for Women in Hong Kong:**

#### **A Case Study of the Oral History Project of “Gupo’s” Yunzhen Tong**

##### **Abstract**

This study challenges and reframes traditional notions of "home" by examining how contemporary Hong Kong women actively imagine and construct it through a cultural heritage co-production project. Centered on the oral history project of Nanchong's Gupo House, where the author served as a co-author and community facilitator, this research integrates critical heritage studies and a feminist cultural heritage lens. It employs an ethnographic methodology, incorporating data from participatory observation, interviews, and discourse analysis.

The paper argues that this project transforms a historical site from a symbol of social marginalization into a dynamic platform for feminist discourse and community formation. Findings reveal that community-based dialogues and collective discourse offer a vital space for contemporary women to articulate their desires, fostering a collective identity that extends beyond traditional familial structures. The narratives address pressing contemporary issues, including the need for co-living spaces and supportive networks in a neoliberal context. These dialogues also brought to light participants' concerns with internal conflict, their inquiries into diverse identities including sexualities, and a shared desire for social networks to mitigate loneliness—particularly among caregivers—which fueled a collective sense of hope and empowerment for feminist action.

Ultimately, this research posits that "home" for women in modern Hong Kong is not merely a physical space but a mental and collective sphere liberated from gendered norms. By illuminating how engaged heritage praxis can facilitate social justice and empowerment, this study contributes to feminist scholarship and advocates for a more inclusive and relevant representation of history that resonates with contemporary societal challenges.

LI, Yue

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Do Women Benefit from Breaking Boundaries in Academia?**

#### **Interdisciplinary Research as an Intellectual Strategy in Male-Dominated Fields**

##### **Abstract**

This study explores the intersectionality of gender and interdisciplinary research (IDR) in shaping scientific recognition, emphasizing IDR as an intellectual strategy to challenge male-dominant paradigms. Drawing from the sociology of knowledge, feminist standpoint theory, and the concept of boundary work, this study conceptualizes IDR as a strategic act of 'boundary crossing.' This behavior allows female researchers, often positioned as 'outsiders within,' to challenge established norms and carve out innovative niches in a competitive academic environment. Employing a bibliometric analysis on 6.9 million publications from the Microsoft Academic Graph (2000-2009), this study seeks to answer two central questions: First, under what kind of disciplinary environments are female scholars more likely to conduct IDR? Second, does this strategy pay off? That is, do women who engage in IDR benefit in terms of citation returns, or are their interdisciplinary endeavors still discounted by academia? Answering these questions will provide crucial insights into academic inequality and the mechanisms through which it is challenged or reproduced in interdisciplinary endeavors. The regression models yield three central findings. First, we find that female scholars' propensity for IDR is highly heterogeneous, being significantly more pronounced in the *problem-driven culture of applied sciences*. Second, our findings support the Amelioration Hypothesis, revealing a conditional "citation premium" for women's interdisciplinary work that is magnified in *the male-dominated fields*. Third, the study uncovers distinct temporal dynamics of IDR's impact: the relationship with citations shifts from a short-term inverted U-shape to a long-term U-shape, indicating that highly novel, distant-IDR research requires a longer incubation period for its academic value to be fully recognized. These findings contribute to the understanding of how IDR serves as both a pathway for innovation and a strategy for navigating systemic academic inequalities.



Session 3C

Migration and Ethnic Minorities (3)

HE, Zhongzhi

*Macau Millennium College*

**Home-benchmarked Social (Re)production:**

**Education, Career, and Marriage among Professional Chinese Migrants in the West**

**Abstract**

This paper examines how highly skilled Chinese migrants in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom navigate transnational mobility and local embeddedness through strategies of social class (re)production. Unlike earlier generations of Chinese migrants who engaged in manual labour or small businesses, these young professionals, working in multinational corporations, universities and the public sector, forge distinct forms of privilege and belonging. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with 24 informants, we theorize home-benchmarked class consciousness as transnational status arbitration, whereby education, career and marriage choices convert destination-acquired capital into origin-validated symbolic status, sustained by emotional/flexible citizenship ties. Despite their integration into Western professional fields, they continue to aspire to a *ren shang ren* identity (literally, “people superior to others”) recognised within Chinese society. Their achievements abroad are often validated not locally, but by family, peers and wider public in China, underlying the transnational negotiation of meritocracy, recognition and elite status. By foregrounding the tension between global mobility and enduring local attachments, this study highlights how professional Chinese migrants construct selective rootedness and transnational elite identities. In doing so, it challenges conventional framings of ‘expat’ or ‘integration’ and sheds light on the intersection of migration, privilege and transnational class-making.

Session 3C

Migration and Ethnic Minorities (3)

ZHANG, Chunxue

*The University of Hong Kong*

**The Impact of Place Identity on Immigrants' Health:  
Evidence from Mainland Chinese Immigrants in Hong Kong**

Abstract

Despite the rapid growth of international migration within East and Southeast Asia, the health of migrants from the same region at their destinations has received relatively little attention. This represents a notable gap in the scholarship on regional migration, despite the considerable volume of studies on this topic in high-income Western countries. Given that societies in East Asia share similar cultural backgrounds, examining the health of migrants from the same region at their destinations help identify factors that might otherwise be overlooked. This study takes a first step toward filling this research gap by exploring the relationship between place identity and migrant health among migrants from mainland China residing in Hong Kong. Drawing on insights from both assimilation and transnational perspectives, we investigate the associations between destination- and origin-based place identities and physical and mental health. Using data from the Hong Kong General Social Survey 2024, preliminary results from OLS regression models indicate that recognition of the importance of Hong Kong identity is positively associated with physical health, while recognition of Chinese identity correlates positively with psychological health. By addressing both physical and mental health simultaneously, this study offers one of the first comprehensive portraits of health adaptation in East Asia and highlights the complexity of understanding this topic within the region.

LAI, Yingtong

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

### **Gaining or Draining?**

#### **The Weekend Social Gatherings of Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong**

##### **Abstract**

The importance of weekend social gatherings on promoting the psychological well-being of migrant domestic workers has been well documented by existing studies. Under the live-in rule in many destinations, migrant domestic workers are required to both reside and work in their employer's home, which makes them vulnerable to social isolation, mobility restrictions, inadequate privacy, and workplace exploitation. By going out and socializing with their friends and compatriots who take up the same job at the destination during their rest days, migrant domestic workers can free themselves from the confined workplace environment, recover from stressful work situations, and seek necessary support and resources from the network. Although these benefits have been frequently lauded, risks of the weekend social gatherings remain under-studied. Particularly, as migrant domestic workers may interact with and get exposed to fellows who are faced with similar work-related challenges, they may be drained by repeated worries or involvement in the problems. Using survey data of 1,892 migrant domestic workers collected based on a grid of gathering locations on Sundays in Hong Kong, this study identifies various indicators of support or stress within the gatherings and evaluates their impact on the psychological well-being of the participants. Results show that a larger number of participants from the same home province and a gathering location with social services concentrated are associated with a better mental health state of respondents, while the prevalence of exploitative experiences by employers is related to a worse mental health state. The findings suggest that weekend social gatherings can represent both a gain or drain for the well-being of migrant domestic workers, which underscores the complexity of their role in shaping the health outcomes for this migrant community.

Session 3C

Migration and Ethnic Minorities (3)

REN, Chunhui

*Lingnan University*

**Race, Color, and Wealth Accumulation – Conceptualizing the Racial Identification Process  
for New Immigrants in the United States**

**Abstract**

With growing immigration from around the world, social scientists have observed a shift in U.S. racial identification dynamics, which features an increasing significance of skin color as a phenotypical trait over rigidly defined genotypical categories. When conceptualizing immigrants' skin color implications, however, prior research remains confined to the country's bi-racial tradition. This study introduces an immigrant-specific conceptual framework that draws on a two-step cognitive process to explain how U.S. institutions evaluate immigrants' ethno-racial identity. In the first step – genotypical categorization, immigrants are quickly assigned to one of the established ethno-racial categories ranked by proximity to Whiteness. In the second step – phenotypical differentiation, skin tone is further assessed within each category, operating conditionally based on its underlying motivation, such as Whiteness expansion or Blackness alienation. Using data from the New Immigrant Survey, we test this framework in the context of immigrant wealth accumulation. The findings reveal that, consistent with genotypical categorization, White and Black immigrants experience the most and least wealth growth upon obtaining U.S. permanent residency. Furthermore, skin tone effects occur only among White immigrants, suggesting that phenotypical differentiation functions as a mechanism of Whiteness expansion. These findings help enhance our understanding of immigrant assimilation and offer critical insights into the ongoing evolution of U.S. racial dynamics.

Session 3D

Life Course Studies

KIM, Dahye

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

**Reciprocity in Upward Intergenerational Support over the Life Course:  
Navigating Death, Inheritance, and Widowhood**

**Abstract**

**Objectives:** Reciprocity is central to understanding support exchanges between parents and children across the life course. While earlier parental financial transfers to children often predict greater upward support in later life, little is known about whether lump-sum transfers at a parent's death (i.e., inheritance) influence children's support for the surviving parent. This study examines whether inheritance distribution affects adult children's support for widowed mothers, applying a reciprocity framework to test direct, relative, and anticipatory reciprocity.

**Methods:** Using Waves 1–9 of the Korean Longitudinal Study of Ageing, we analyzed 1,151 adult children of 316 widowed mothers in South Korea whose late husbands left any inheritance. Key predictors included each child's inheritance receipt, their share relative to siblings, and whether mothers inherited the full estate. Multilevel models estimated the effects of these inheritance measures and their interactions with mothers' functional impairment on upward support in early widowhood, measured as structural (coresidence), instrumental, and financial support. Interactions with the child's gender were also examined.

**Results:** Larger inheritance shares to a child were associated with a higher likelihood of coresidence and greater financial support to widowed mothers in early widowhood. Relative inheritance, compared to siblings' shares, was more predictive than receipt alone. Sons who received inheritance were less likely than daughters to coreside with widowed mothers. When mothers inherited the full estate, children were more likely to provide caregiving, but only when mothers had functional impairments.

**Implications:** These findings support reciprocity as a mechanism in intergenerational exchanges and highlight the understudied role of inheritance distribution in shaping post-widowhood support. Relative reciprocity appears more influential than direct reciprocity, while anticipatory reciprocity operates primarily under conditions of health decline. Inheritance patterns within families not only redistribute resources but also influence the dynamics of parent–child relationships in later life.

Session 3D

Life Course Studies

CHANDOLA, Tarani

*The University of Hong Kong*

## **Have we Neglected the Importance of Housing Conditions in Life Course Research on Health?**

### **Abstract**

Life course research on housing conditions and health has declined in recent years relative to neighbourhood effects. Improved housing is rarely prioritised in public health narratives on environmental health. However, as most of our day is spent at home, a lack of research on the accumulation over the life course of health risks due to home hazards is puzzling. Moreover, a focus on traditional housing hazards, such as lead paint, water intrusion and poor ventilation may have diminished research on other housing conditions such as home modifications and utilities/services for improving health. This talk highlights findings from three research studies on housing modifications and housing conditions in relation to disability and health among older adults living in the US, Europe, Hong Kong and mainland China.

Using longitudinal data from HRS, SHARE and ELSA, the research finds that housing modifications (such as installing ramps and rails) substantially reduced the number of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) problems over a period of 18 years, among over 90,000 older adults who were initially free from mobility impairments. Using cross-sectional data from Hong Kong, we show how housing modifications enabled caregivers of 2,960 older adults with physically disabling conditions to have better mental health than caregivers of older adults with similar conditions living in non-modified houses. Using longitudinal data from 8,423 older adults in CHARLS, we find that improvements in the physical housing environment and access to household utilities (i.e., gas, water, electricity, telephone and internet) was associated with lower ADL and higher lung function. Additionally, the protective effect of increased housing utilities was particularly marked among older adults living in homes with no or few utilities at baseline.

Improvements in the quality of housing and reducing home hazards cannot be ignored in life course research on environmental and public health.

Session 3D

Life Course Studies

LAM, Beatrice

*Hong Kong Metropolitan University*

### **Ageism in the Constructions of ‘Old age’ and ‘Aging’:**

#### **Insights from a Focus Group Study of Higher Education Students in Hong Kong SAR**

##### **Abstract**

Governments and the civil society are committed to promote older adults’ active and meaningful participation in society. It is less understood how young people think about older adults in these societies, and how ready they are to participate in an age-integrated society. This warrants attention in a context like Hong Kong, where the number of higher education graduates entering professions and industries that serve older adults continues to rise.

Ageism can be expressed in different forms, and it can manifest at different levels. While researchers have sought to measure explicit and implicit forms of ageism and to ascertain the relationships between ageism and social outcomes, the study presented in this paper understands ageism as the complex, often negative construction of old age. The findings are drawn from a focus group study. 65 higher education students coming from different disciplinary backgrounds from a local higher education institution were recruited for focus group interviews during the period 2022-2023. Findings capture understandings of ‘ageing’ and ‘old age’ in biomedical terms but also in terms of the perceived dependency of older adults. Findings also shed light on the contexts of intergenerational interactions that inform how young people make sense of older adults and their social world in general. Implications are discussed. (Note: An abstract derived from the same study was accepted by HKSA 2024 conference but was withdrawn last-minute because of unexpected circumstances. The abstract above is not the same as the one submitted in 2024).

Session 3D

Life Course Studies

LUI, Kylie

*The University of Hong Kong*

## **Act, Identity, and Relational Desistance among Hong Kong Youth:**

### **A Theoretical Pilot Study**

#### **Abstract**

This pilot study proposes a theoretical model for JC Project ReBond, a three-year intervention program, to support desistance among Hong Kong residents with two or fewer prior sentences in both custodial and community settings. The model integrates the three desistance dimensions: act, identity, and relational desistance (Nugent 2016), to foster sustainable behavioral change. Act desistance is supported through structured activities engaging significant others, such as family members, mentors, and close peers, to reinforce pro-social behaviors and reduce institutional infractions. Identity desistance is facilitated by personalized coaching sessions that challenge criminogenic self-narratives and cultivate alternative self-concepts connected to education, employment, and community participation. Relational desistance emphasizes social recognition by pairing participants with mentors who have navigated their own desistance journeys, offering peer support and modeling, while community partnerships with employers and service providers rebuild trust and social capital.

Adaptations for the Hong Kong context involve refining program materials to resonate with local social dynamics, ensuring activities reflect participants' relational networks and urban living realities. The theoretical contribution of this pilot lies in adapting Western desistance constructs to Hong Kong's context—where individuals balance strong family obligations with personal ambitions—emphasizing support from significant others, whether family, mentors, or peers, rather than presuming purely familial or traditional cultural mechanisms. Anticipated challenges include balancing individual transformation with collective expectations, securing meaningful recognition across micro- and meso-level relationships, and adjusting institutional practices that limit ex-offender inclusion. By articulating a contextually grounded, three-dimensional desistance framework, this study offers insights for scalable desistance programming within local justice systems.



Session 3E

Social Media

MA, Wanze

*Zhejiang University*

## **Clicking Through Class and Gender: Mapping Cultural Taste on Chinese Social Media**

### **Abstract**

This study examines the relationship between cultural taste, social class, and gender in contemporary China, using large-scale digital trace data from Weibo. Drawing on competing theories of cultural stratification—homology (Bourdieuian perspective), omnivorousness, and individualization—we develop empirical tests based on a novel proxy for class: smartphone price, inferred from the device information displayed on posts. Cultural taste is inferred from users' followership patterns, with cultural omnivorousness measured by both breadth and composition (simultaneous interest in both highbrow and popular culture).

Our results offer strong support for the omnivorousness hypothesis: individuals with higher social class show greater cultural breadth and are more likely to engage with both elite and popular cultural fields. However, social class does not significantly predict preferences for specific types of culture (e.g., highbrow vs. popular), offering little support for the homology model. This suggests that class explains how much culture individuals consume (in terms of variety), but not what specific forms of culture they prefer. More notably, gender emerges as a stronger predictor than class. Across models, male users consistently demonstrate significantly higher levels of cultural omnivorousness than female users, both in breadth and in highbrow–lowbrow composition.

This research represents the first large-scale analysis of class–taste relationships in China based on social media behavior, offering an alternative to traditional survey-based approaches and addressing issues of self-reporting bias and behavioral authenticity. We introduce and validate a novel proxy for class—smartphone price—using national survey data, providing a new methodological solution to the challenge of class measurement in Chinese social media. The study also highlights the importance of gender over class in shaping cultural preferences in China's digital age.

Session 3E

Social Media

CHAN, Siu Han

*Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University*

**From Parasocial Grief to Parasocial Relationship:**

**The Mourning of Dr. Li Wenliang on Chinese Social Media**

**Abstract**

This study examines the digital mourning practices surrounding Dr. Li Wenliang's death and the emergence of parasocial grieving relationships on the Chinese social media platform Weibo. Dr. Li, the physician who warned about the outbreak of COVID-19 but was rebuked for spreading rumours, became a focal point for collective grief and resistance following his death in February 2020. Through qualitative analysis of Weibo posts, comments, and memorial practices, this research explores how users developed emotional attachments to Dr. Li despite never knowing him personally, creating what Horton and Wohl termed "parasocial relationships." The findings reveal that digital mourning on Weibo transcended traditional grief boundaries, with users engaging in ongoing conversations with the deceased through direct posts to his account, sharing personal struggles, and seeking guidance. These practices demonstrate how social media platforms facilitate new forms of collective memory and mourning that blur the lines between public and private grief. The study contributes to understanding how parasocial relationships extend beyond entertainment figures to include public figures who embody shared values and social resistance. This research illuminates the sociological implications of digital grief cultures and their role in processing collective trauma in uncertain times.

ANDERSON, Karoline Anita

*The Education University of Hong Kong*

### **The Dialogic Battle for Gender-affirming Healthcare on Social Media**

#### **Abstract**

Social media has become an incubator for conservative ideologies, yet it also acts as a public forum for contesting oppression. Gender-affirming healthcare, a critical resource for transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) populations, has faced increasing public scrutiny since the inauguration of President Trump, suggesting an acceleration in conservative ideologies. Habermas' theory of communicative action states that overarching systems, like the government and media, colonize the lifeworld. This can manifest as dialogic strategies that distort communication to seek individual goals rather than foster mutual understanding. The present study merges the theory of communicative action and critical discourse analysis to identify strategies and frames used to undermine communicative action, or the fostering of mutual understanding, in online dialogue on TGD populations' right to access gender-affirming healthcare. Drawing from an online political forum on a popular social media site, the study analyzes 283 comments, across 13 dialogic threads. The forum stipulates the practice of "good faith" intergroup dialogue and invites forum members to present topics of discussion related to U.S. politics. A discussion on TGD individuals' right to access gender-affirming healthcare, posed shortly after Trump's inauguration in January 2025, was chosen as the data collection site. The results illustrate conservative commenters' strategic attempts to (1) redefine the TGD lifeworld as abnormal and immoral, (2) position TGD populations as an existential threat, (3) control how information is shared and perceived, and (4) undermine the knower to discredit their knowledge and life experiences. The results have significant theoretical and practical implications for identifying changes in discourse and social activities and advocating for healthcare rights across populations.

LI, Lulu

*Lingnan University*

**The Gendered Precarities in Social Media Entrepreneurship:  
A Qualitative Study of Chinese Female Social Media Blogger Entrepreneurs**

**Abstract**

In recent years, the rise of the digital economy worldwide and the precarities in the labour market have driven the rapid development of social media entrepreneurship. However, despite the high proportion of female, the gendered experiences of female social media entrepreneurs in terms of job (in)security in running a business on social media platforms, and precarities in career development are still understudied. Moreover, since women entrepreneurs' experiences at work are also influenced by the culture and economic contexts of a society, a regional focus is necessary to understand the work precarities in the digital economy era.

This qualitative study examines the experiences of Chinese female social media blogger entrepreneurs. It explores how they navigate the empowerment brought by the digital economy and the precarities they encounter in social media entrepreneurial work. Based on in-depth interviews with 39 female bloggers who run businesses on the widely used platform RedNote, this study addresses the issue of gendered opportunities and constraints in the digital economy.

The findings suggest that embracing the digital economy could dissolve some gendered constraints for female entrepreneurs in traditional entrepreneurship. With the lower entry level and beneficial policies, female blogger entrepreneurs can start up businesses with fewer limitations. However, various precarities brought about by social media entrepreneurial work are also shaping Chinese female bloggers' career. The unstable income and rising platform capitalism increasingly contribute to job insecurity for female blogger entrepreneurs. However, some female entrepreneurs can be exempt from such obstacles when they have more resources or backup career plans in place.

The study presents a complex picture of social media entrepreneurship in the context of China's growing market insecurity, rapidly evolving digital economy, and stratified social classes. The findings highlight that the gendered precarities in social media entrepreneurship intersect with women's socioeconomic status and social media capitalism.

Session 3F

AI and Sociology

MEYERHOFF-LIANG, Jan

*Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET Oxford)*

**The Contested Future of Artificial Intelligence: A Sociological Contribution to the debate on AI's Labor-enabling or -replacing impacts**

Abstract

This paper contributes to the sociology of technology by analyzing the social forces shaping artificial intelligence (AI) development. It argues that the trajectory of AI is influenced not only by technical feasibility and economic incentives but also by the expectations and visions held by entrepreneurs and investors. Many of these imagined futures of AI revolve around automation, raising concerns about job displacement. Given that technological change is socially constructed, if AI business models are driven by the goal of automation and labor replacement, entrepreneurs' imagined futures could become self-fulfilling prophecies.

To examine this hypothesis, the study investigates whether different AI business models, as reflected in Chinese AI companies' mission statements, are associated with varying levels of job creation. The study employs topic modeling on firm descriptions from Chinese AI firms collected in 2020 and 2024 to classify AI business models based on their mission statements, which reflect their imagined futures. It reveals significant changes over time, with newer emphases on high-precision communication, industrial automation, and smart city technologies.

The empirical analysis shows that only AI applications in data-driven healthcare significantly correlate with employment growth, whereas autonomous driving and automation topics do not. This suggests variation in AI's labor impact depending on the imagined futures held by firms. The paper concludes that the future of AI should not be left solely to market forces but may require active industrial policies to guide its development toward socially beneficial applications, such as job creation, education, healthcare, and sustainability.

TANG, Wei

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Unlocking Labor Market Insights:**

#### **A Hybrid LLM Method for Skill Extraction in Unstructured Job Ad Texts**

##### **Abstract**

Skill Extraction (SE) from online scraped job ads advances the sociological analysis of skills from occupational level to job level, unlocking vast potential for comprehending labor market dynamics. Nevertheless, SE constitutes an Extreme Multi-Label Text Classification (XMTC) problem, as it requires mapping unstructured lengthy job ads (each typically associated with numerous skill labels) to large-scale skill ontologies. Currently, there remains a lack of exploration into SE on large-scale ontologies, such as the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) scheme, which comprises 13,939 labels. The main challenges involve processing lengthy inputs and accurately performing complex classification tasks, which necessitates extensive computational resources and annotation efforts.

To tackle the aforementioned challenges, we propose a novel method utilizing Retrieval-Augmented Large Language Models (RA-LLMs) to customize and narrow the label space for each job ad, thereby reducing the complexity of the classification. Furthermore, we introduce a multi-agent LLM architecture comprising multiple fine-tuned LLM-agents, each specialized in knowledge base construction, data augmentation, and classification. This design standardizes output formats to enable direct and automated downstream application, while simultaneously enhancing accuracy throughout the entire processing pipeline. Finally, we experimented with various retrieval, data augmentation, and generation strategies to further enhance the proposed method.

Our research is among the earliest attempts to apply LLM-based SE method to unstructured job ad datasets on ESCO ontology, enabling granular job-level analysis of skill requirements in the labor market. Compared to prior ESCO-based SE studies, our method achieves competitive performance across multiple benchmark datasets while requiring significantly lower annotation efforts. In contrast to other LLM-based SE methods, our approach can handle more complex tasks with extreme label span and excessive inputs, while eliminating the need for additional parsing for downstream sociological analysis.

Session 3F

AI and Sociology

OLIVOS, Francisco

*Lingnan University*

## **Assessing Instructor-AI Cooperation for Grading Essay-type Questions in an Introductory Sociology Course**

### **Abstract**

By solving kinds of problems previously reserved for humans (McCarthy et al. 1955), educational experts have asserted that artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized education (Popenici and Kerr 2017; Wang et al. 2024). In this study, we examined the potential of instructor-AI collaboration in the assessment of essay-type questions. Using handwritten exams from an introductory sociology course, we analyzed (1) the similarity between human and GPT image-to-text transcriptions and (2) the consistency between human and GPT scoring of students' answers. The results reveal a high degree of similarity between human and GPT transcriptions, with GPT-4o-mini slightly outperforming GPT-4o. Furthermore, the analysis indicates a high level of consistency between human graders and the GPT models when template answers are provided.

Session 3F

AI and Sociology

KAMELSKI, Tobias

*Lingnan University*

**Generative Artificial Intelligence and Digital Ageism: Exploring the Construction of Age and Aging by Image-Generating AI**

**Abstract**

Since 2022, the increased attention to and public accessibility of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) has become essential for knowledge acquisition on digital platforms. GenAI for image generation is trained on large datasets but remains socially situated in the biases of its creators as well as the inherent limitations and biases of the training data used. Existing research has pointed out that AI models display gender and racial biases. However, the visual construction of age through GenAI models remains unexplored. This paper conducts a documentary image interpretation of 200 images of aged individuals to analyze the visual construction of age across different AI models. The results show different constructions of age between the models DALL·E and Stable Diffusion, ranging from an uncanny idealism to the fragility of age.



DENG, Fang

*Nanyang Technological University*

### **Developmental Trajectories of Children's Cognitive Outcomes in Single-parent Families**

#### **Abstract**

In China, the growth of single-parent families is the result of parental divorce and migration. Research on the relationship between single-parent family structure and child developmental outcomes has primarily focused on left-behind children in rural contexts, and a few have investigated divorced families. However, the comparison between divorced and migration-based single-parent families remains a gap in the literature. This study examines how children's cognitive development trajectories differ by the types of single-parent family structure and what factors drive these variations. By doing so, the study utilizes three waves of the China Family Panel Studies (2010 – 2018). Growth curve models were used to examine the trajectories of children's cognitive development. Results first revealed that compared with those from intact families, children living in divorced single-parent families have a lower cognitive level, whereas those living in migration-based single-parent families have a higher cognitive level. Children from migration-based single-parent families demonstrate a faster growth rate in cognitive trajectories. However, the rate of cognitive growth is not significantly different for children from divorced single-parent and intact families. Finally, the study found that family income level and children's gender moderate children's cognitive outcome trajectories in different ways, suggesting that the influential mechanisms may depend on the types of single-parent families. Overall, this study underscores that parents' decisions (divorce or migration) are linked to children's development, demonstrating that family structure intersects with gender and family income to shape unequal cognitive growth trajectories.

Session 3G

Marriage, Work and Family (3)

DENG, Gezhi

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

### **Who Bears the Burden of Precarious Work?**

#### **Gendered Spillover Effects of Job Precarity on Couples' Well-being in China**

##### **Abstract**

In recent decades, work and family life have become increasingly intertwined, with work spilling over into individual well-being and crossing over to partners. However, the association between job precarity and the subjective well-being of couples remains understudied, especially in China, where traditional gender norms coexist with high female labor force participation. Drawing on resource-based and gender-asymmetry perspectives, this study examines how job precarity spills over into the subjective well-being of married individuals and crosses over to their partners. Using nationally representative data from the China Family Panel Studies (2014–2022), it employs generalized structural equation modeling within the Actor–Partner Interdependence Model to analyze more than 18,000 couples. We conceptualize job precarity through two dimensions capturing visible and hidden forms of employment precarity: (1) manifest precarity (lack of contract or insurance) and (2) latent precarity (atypical working hours). Results reveal distinct patterns in both dimensions. Manifest precarity demonstrates a gender-neutral pattern; it is consistently associated with the well-being of both spouses, underscoring the material security provided by dual-earner households amid economic uncertainty. By contrast, latent precarity exhibits gendered asymmetries. Husbands' overwork correlates with lower well-being for their wives but not themselves, while wives' overwork links only to their own diminished well-being, leaving their spouses unaffected. This finding reflects women's intensified dual burden of paid work and unpaid care, positioning latent precarity as a personal stressor and relational outcome of entrenched gender norms. This study offers valuable insights for understanding precarity's consequences in China, with implications for other East Asian societies.

DING, Xuejie

*The University of Hong Kong*

### **Family Structure and Children's Diagnosed ADHD**

#### **Abstract**

Family structure plays a critical role in shaping children's cognitive development, particularly their capacity to sustain attention and regulate behavior. This study investigates the association between family structure and children's likelihood of being diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) at age nine. Drawing on the framework of Family Stress Theory, we address three interrelated questions: (1) whether parental separation increases the risk of ADHD, (2) whether maternal wellbeing mediates this association, and (3) whether maternal education differentiates these patterns across the social spectrum. We use data from the Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study and apply logistic regression models combined with the Karlson–Holm–Breen (KHB) decomposition method to clarify the mediating role of maternal wellbeing. Our findings show that children with separated parents face significantly elevated risks of ADHD compared to those in intact families. Maternal wellbeing emerges as a key mediator, accounting for a substantial share of the association between family separation and ADHD diagnoses. This underscores how stressors experienced by mothers translate into developmental risks for children. Finally, we examine maternal education to explore whether socioeconomic resources buffer or amplify these risks. While higher education is generally associated with more favorable child outcomes, our results suggest distinct differences in how education interacts with family separation and wellbeing in shaping children's ADHD risk. Taken together, this study highlights the adverse consequences of parental separation on child mental health and identifies maternal wellbeing as a crucial pathway linking family disruption to ADHD diagnoses. These findings emphasize the importance of supporting maternal mental health and wellbeing as part of broader interventions to mitigate the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage.

Session 3H

Political Sociology

KWON, Aram

*Osaka University of Economics*

**Poverty, Precarity, and Social Mobility:  
Explaining Support for Left-Wing Populism in Japan**

Abstract

The rise of Reiwa Shinsengumi has introduced new perspectives into debates on Japanese politics in the 2020s. Often described as a left-wing populist, the party distinguishes itself from established left-wing parties by emphasizing redistribution rather than questions of national identity. Although socioeconomic disadvantage and class mobility are frequently assumed to shape support for such parties, the specific mechanisms and constituencies behind Reiwa Shinsengumi remain underexplored. The study investigates how intergenerational educational mobility and experiences of poverty influence support for the party. Drawing on the 2022 Survey of Three Major Metropolitan Areas, in which 570 out of 43,820 respondents expressed support for Reiwa Shinsengumi, we apply the diagonal reference model to analyze the determinants. The findings indicate that supporters are characterized by 1) an underrepresentation of university graduates, 2) a strong influence of both origin and current class, and 3) lower household income and subjective social status. Moreover, both poverty experience and perceptions of poverty are significantly associated with support, whereas the direction of social mobility does not exhibit a significant effect. These results highlight that the emerging base of left-wing populism in Japan is linked to impoverished experiences and class origins.

Session 3H

Political Sociology

TING, Tin Yuet

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

### **Contentious Publicness in the Automated State:**

#### **Insights from Hong Kong**

##### **Abstract**

The integration of AI and big data into urban governance has not only shaped contemporary governance practices but also sparked significant public debates. Although scholars increasingly recognize the importance of citizen involvement in AI- and data-driven governance, there remains a gap in understanding how societal attitudes toward datafication influence patterns of public engagement and resistance, especially as the relationship between the state and the public becomes intense. This study investigates the ways in which grassroots interpretations and narratives surrounding AI and big data have fueled contentious forms of publicness in Hong Kong, focusing on three cases that emerged after an intense wave of political contention. Its findings reveal that seemingly routine applications of AI and data technologies in the city have become flashpoints for public dispute, giving rise to diverse forms of AI and data resistance within a context of widespread institutional mistrust. This study argues that revisiting the concept of folk theorization casts new light on the complex and often overlooked tensions between digital citizenship and the expanding reach of automated governance, with important implications for future urban development and change.

Session 3H

Political Sociology

LEE, Jaemin

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

### **Divided by Pride:**

#### **Partisan Narratives of Nationalism in Korean Presidential Commemorative Speeches**

##### **Abstract**

Nationalism is often portrayed as a unifying force, yet it can also divide citizens by fostering competing visions of the nation. While recent computational studies have measured nationalist rhetoric in political speech, they have tended to focus on inclusion criteria or pride intensity, overlooking qualitative orientations in how national pride is constructed. This omission limits understanding of how nationalism can function as a driver of political polarization.

Building on the concept of nationalist polarization — the structuring of partisan competition around divergent nationalist visions — this study examines how such divides can manifest at the micro-linguistic level. We analyze all official South Korean presidential speeches delivered on major commemorative occasions between 1949 and 2024, ritualized events where leaders articulate national identity, valorize historical episodes, and project future trajectories. Drawing on theories of nationalism and linguistic research on tense and aspect, we distinguish retrospective pride (celebrating completed struggles and resilience) from prospective pride (projecting future achievements and progress).

Past-tense subject–verb–object (S–V–O) triplets were extracted using theory-driven seed verbs expanded via word-embedding similarity. Ambiguous pronouns and demonstratives were resolved by reviewing the original sentence context with a large language model to ensure accurate referent identification. Objects were coded into five categories: Sovereignty & Security, Cultural Heritage & Tradition, Democracy & Rights, Economic Development & Global Standing, and Challenges & Adversities.

We evaluate whether patterns in verb orientation and object emphasis vary systematically by partisan affiliation. The findings contribute to research on nationalism and political polarization by demonstrating how partisan variation in temporal framing and thematic focus can be identified through fine-grained linguistic analysis of ceremonial political rhetoric.

Session 3H

Political Sociology

FAYARD, Gregory

*Hong Kong Baptist University*

**“I Feel Targeted because I'm Chinese”:**

**Dynamics of Ethno-nationalism, Geopolitical Grievance and Collective Mobilization at  
Border Crossings**

Abstract

One of the chief features of the global political landscape is the national border. Because they putatively separate distinct, sovereign territories, borders are powerful mediators of belongingness, national hierarchies and political emotions, particularly feelings about global status and collective dignity. Most studies of border crossing usually take the perspective of a powerful technocratic state, treating the travelers as docile, passive bodies that are sorted, stereotyped and classified without any substantive recourse. Using content analysis of over 200 social media posts on Little Red Book from mainland Chinese involving international border crossings, we show how Chinese travelers resist border examinations and perceived injustices through deployment of counter-narratives and geopolitical discourses built around national victimhood. Ethno-racially, Chinese perceive their mistreatments principally in reference to the ostensible higher deference granted to White [Europeans] by border agents and a shared sense of injury based on border processes seemingly reserved only for those with Chinese passports. Additionally, we show that social media discussion of border indignities allows for channeling collective anger, leading to organized grassroots actions against offending actors in cases involving South Korea and Indonesia. Through these mobilizations, Chinese both adopt the long humiliation narrative in Chinese history and use it as a springboard to counter discrimination and recover their national esteem. Thus, Chinese travelers use digital technologies to carry out their own informal policing of the border—replete with its own system of classifications, stereotypes, and national performances.

# Getting to The Conference Venue

## HO SIN HANG CAMPUS (HSHC)

### 善衡校園

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 區樹洪教室            | Au Shue Hung Classroom                                    |
| 2 區樹洪平台花園          | Au Shue Hung Terrace Garden                               |
| 3 區樹洪樓*            | Au Shue Hung Building (ASH)*                              |
| 4 星島樓*             | Sing Tao Building (STB)*                                  |
| 5 大學會堂 / 呂明才中心     | Academic Community Hall (ACH)/ Lui Ming Choi Centre (LMC) |
| 6 基督教教育中心          | Christian Education Centre (CEC)                          |
| 7 溫仁才大樓 (西翼)       | Oen Hall Building (West Wing) (OEOW)                      |
| 8 溫仁才大樓 (主樓)       | Oen Hall Building (Main Building) (OEM)                   |
| 9 溫仁才大樓 (東翼)       | Oen Hall Building (East Wing) (OEE)                       |
| 10 道濟民科學大樓         | Cha Chi-ming Science Tower (SCT)                          |
| 11 邵逸夫大樓           | Sir Run Run Shaw Building (RRS)                           |
| 12 方樹泉圖書館 / 方樹泉停車場 | Fong Shu Chuen Library (FSC)/ Fong Shu Chuen Car Park     |
| 13 楊瑞生紀念館          | Yeung Shui Sang Building (YSS)                            |
| 14 蒙民偉廣場 (五樓)      | William M.W. Mong Courtyard (Level 5)                     |
| 15 文藝學園            | Man Lung Garden   |
| 16 偉倫體育中心          | Wai Hang Sports Centre (WHS)                              |
| 17 紹邦樓             | Shiu Pong Hall (SPH)                                      |
| 18 建新中心            | Franki Centre (FRC)                                       |

\*A common room code AST is adopted to all the rooms in these two buildings  
此兩座大樓的房間編號英文字母均為AST

## SHAW CAMPUS (SHAW)

### 逸夫校園

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 19 逸夫行政樓    | Shaw Tower (SWT)   |
| 20 區樹洪紀念圖書館 | Au Shue Hung Memorial Library (AML)                      |
| 21 永隆銀行商學大樓 | The Wing Lung Bank Building for Business Studies (WLB)   |
| 22 林護國際會議中心 | Lam Woo International Conference Centre                  |
| 23 思賢樓      | David C. Lam Building (DLB)                              |
| 24 郭鍾寶女士    | Madam Kwok Chung Bo Fun Sports and Cultural Centre (SCC) |
| 25 聯校運動中心   | Joint Sports Centre (JSC)                                |

## BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ROAD CAMPUS (BURC)

### 浸會大學道校園

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 26 吳多泰博士國際中心            | Dr. Ng Tor Tai International House (NTT)   |
| 27 教學及行政大樓              | Academic and Administration Building (AAB)   |
| 28 賽馬會師生活動中心 / 陳瑞槐夫人胡尹桂 | Jockey Club Academic Community Centre (ACC)/ Madam Chan Wu Wan Kwai School of Continuing Education Tower (SCE) |
| 29 賽馬會中醫藥學院大樓           | Jockey Club School of Chinese Medicine Building (SCM)  |
| 30 學生宿舍                 | Student Residence Halls (SRH)  |
| 31 李兆基傳理視藝樓 / 停車場       | Lee Shau Kee Communication and Visual Arts Building (CVA)/ Car Park  |

## JOCKEY CLUB CAMPUS OF CREATIVITY (JC<sup>3</sup>) 賽馬會創意校園

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 32 賽馬會創意校園 / 舍堂村 | Jockey Club Campus of Creativity (JC <sup>3</sup> ) / Village Care (VC) |
|------------------|---|

## LEGEND 圖例

- |         |                           |
|---------|---------------------------|
| ▲ 行人出入口 | Pedestrian Entrance/ Exit |
| 🚗 車輛出入口 | Vehicular Entrance/ Exit  |
| 🚌 公共巴士站 | Bus Stop                  |
| 🚏 公共小巴站 | Public Light Bus Stop     |
| 🚉 港鐵站   | MTR Station               |
| P 停車場   | Car Park                  |



**Lam Woo International Conference Centre, HKBU**  
香港浸會大學 林護國際會議中心

📍 55 Renfrew Road, Kowloon Tong



The image features a white background with a central rectangular area containing horizontal grey lines for writing. This central area is bordered by a thick purple band at the bottom. The corners and edges of the page are decorated with overlapping circles in shades of purple and yellow. The title 'Personal Notes' is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font at the top left of the lined area.



**For More  
Information**

