

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY IN EAST ASIA

The 19th East Asian Social Policy
International Conference

14-15 September 2023

Sydney, Australia

280 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

(Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts Building)



Conference Organiser

EASP East Asian Social Policy

Conference Co-hosts

Lingnan 嶺南大學
University 香港 Hong Kong
Liberal Arts Education • Transformation For Life
博雅教育 成就一生

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

#1
UNI IN THE WORLD
2022 & 2023
TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS

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USERS' GUIDE

A hard copy of the brochure will not be provided. However, accessing the brochure digitally offers convenience. You can easily enlarge all pages on your digital device, including the characters within.

To facilitate smooth navigation through the document, here are some suggestions:

1. **Begin with the “Quick Navigation” (page 4) to identify session times, themes and locations you are interested in attending;**
2. **Select the relevant theme and use the search function in the PDF file to locate specific paper titles;**
3. **Use the paper title or the author’s name to search and locate the corresponding abstract;**
4. **The abstracts are organised in sequence based on the authors’ first names.**

Quick Navigation Day 1

Day 1 – 9:00am - 10:30am

Session 1-1 Social Services: Social and Professional Attitudes (Lingnan University Theatre – level 1)

Session 1-2 Demographic and Family Changes (Meeting Room - level 1)

Session 1-3 Social Security Restructuring (Boardroom - level 3)

Session 1-4 Old Age Care and Policy (Norman Selfe Room – level 3)

Session 1-5 Housing and Property Rights (Tom Keneally Centre – level 3)

Day 1 – 10:40am - 12:30pm

Opening Ceremony; Keynote Speeches 1 & 2 (Lingnan University Theatre – level 1)

Day 1 – 13:10pm - 14:40pm

Session 2-1 Rethinking Social Services Provision: Innovations and Cross-sectoral Collaborations (Lingnan University Theatre – level 1)

Session 2-2 Panel: Old and New Informal Employment in Japan: Challenges for Social Policy (Meeting Room - level 1)

Session 2-3 Inequality and Welfare State (Boardroom - level 3)

Session 2-4 Family and Work (Norman Selfe Room – level 3)

Session 2-5 Citizenship and Participation (Tom Keneally Centre - level 3)

Day 1 – 15:00pm - 16:30pm

Session 3-2 Panel: Deaths of Despair in Korea: Analysis and Policy Response (Meeting Room - level 1)

Session 3-3 Employment and Policy (Boardroom - level 3)

Session 3-4 Panel: The Welfare State from the Margins in Japan and South Korea (Norman Selfe Room)

Session 3-5 Gender and Labour Market (Tom Keneally Centre - level 3)

Day 1 – 16:40pm - 17:40pm

Book Launch (Tom Keneally Centre – level 3)

Day 1 – 6.30pm

Gala Dinner (Haymarket, Sydney)

Quick Navigation Day 2

Day 2 – 9:00am - 10:30am

Session 4-1 Panel: Protecting and Promoting Well-being across The Life Course (Lingnan University Theatre)

Session 4-2 Carers and Caregivers in Formal and Informal Sectors (Meeting Room - level 1)

Session 4-3 Work, Family and Policy (Boardroom - level 3)

Session 4-4 Disability and Work (Norman Selfe Room – level 3)

Day 2 – 10:40am - 11:40pm

Keynote Speech 3 (Lingnan University Theatre)

Day 2 – 12:40pm - 14:10pm

Session 5-1 Education (Lingnan University Theatre)

Session 5-2 Politics of Welfare Reforms (Meeting Room - level 1)

Session 5-3 Welfare State and Governance (Boardroom - level 3)

Day 2 – 14:30pm - 16:00pm

Session 6-1 Cultural Values and Families in East Asia (Lingnan University Theatre)

Session 6-2 Disasters, Crises and Responses (Meeting Room - level 1)

Session 6-3 Old Age and Protection (Boardroom - level 3)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The background is a gradient of green, from a lighter shade on the left to a darker shade on the right. Overlaid on this is a complex network of thin, light green lines connecting various sized, semi-transparent green circles of different shades. In the upper right quadrant, there is a white plus sign (+) and a white circle (o). The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and tech-oriented.

EASP 19th International Conference
Sydney 2023

Day 1

(Thursday 14 September 2023)

| | Activity | Space |
|---------------|---|---|
| 8:00 - 9:00 | Registration | Level 1 foyer |
| 9:00 - 10:30 | Paper Session 1 (5 parallel sessions) | Lingnan University Theatre & Meeting Room – Level 1 Boardroom, Norman Selfe Room & Tom Keneally Centre – Level 3 |
| 10:30 - 10:40 | Morning tea | Level 1 foyer |
| 10:40 - 12:30 | Opening ceremony & Keynote speeches 1&2 | Lingnan University Theatre |
| 12:30 - 13:10 | Lunch break | Level 1 foyer |
| 13:10 - 14:40 | Paper Session 2 (5 parallel sessions) | Lingnan University Theatre & Meeting Room – Level 1 Boardroom, Norman Selfe Room & Tom Keneally Centre – Level 3 |
| 14:40 - 15:00 | Afternoon tea | Level 1 foyer |
| 15:00 - 16:30 | Paper Session 3 (4 parallel sessions) | Meeting Room – Level 1 Boardroom, Norman Selfe Room & Tom Keneally Centre – Level 3 |
| 16:40 - 17:40 | Book launch | Tom Keneally Centre – Level 3 (capacity 40 pp sitting) |
| 18:30 - | Gala Dinner | Chinatown, Haymarket |

Day 2

(Friday 15 September 2023)

| | Activity | Space |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 9:00 - 10:30 | Paper Session 4 (4 parallel sessions) | Lingnan University Theatre & Meeting Room – Level 1 Boardroom & Norman Selfe Room – Level 3 |
| 10:30 - 10:40 | Morning tea | Level 1 foyer |
| 10:40 - 11:40 | Keynote speech 3 | Lingnan University Theatre |
| 11:40 - 12:40 | Lunch | Level 1 foyer |
| 12:40 - 14:10 | Paper Session 5 (3 parallel sessions) | Lingnan University Theatre & Meeting Room – Level 1 Boardroom – Level 3 |
| 14:10 - 14:30 | Afternoon tea | Level 1 foyer |
| 14:30 - 16:00 | Paper Session 6 (3 parallel sessions) | Lingnan University Theatre & Meeting Room – Level 1 Boardroom – Level 3 |

Keynote speakers

EASP 19TH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
SYDNEY 2023



**PROF. NAIM
KAPUCU**

Professor, University of
Central Florida



**DR. ELIZABETH
HILL**

Associate Professor, Sydney
University



**PROF. KYUNG-
SUP CHANG**

Professor, Seoul National
University

Prof. Naim Kapucu

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Bio: Dr. Naim Kapucu is Pegasus Professor of public administration and policy and former director of the School of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida (UCF). He is also joint faculty with the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs and the Center for Resilient, Intelligent and Sustainable Energy Systems. He is elected fellow of National Academy of Public Administration. Dr. Kapucu received his Ph.D. in Public and International Affairs from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs of the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Kapucu received Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award in Democratic Resilience jointly hosted by Flinders University and Carnegie Mellon University Australia. He currently serves as Associate Dean of Research and Innovation at the College of Community Innovation and Education at UCF (additional information is available at <https://ccie.ucf.edu/person/naim-kapucu/>).

Prof. Naim Kapucu



Title: Network governance for community resilience in urban areas

Abstract: As the scale and intensity of disasters continue to increase, building and enhancing resilience to disasters has become a critical policy and governance issue. Urban systems support the continuity of operations of governments and businesses, and are essential to the economy, society, and community resilience. The presentation will focus on institutional dimension of urban resilience and examine the interface between planning, policy, and governance to understand the resilience of urban communities. This is critical for our understanding of the role of governing interdependent systems in enhancing urban resilience to disasters. The presentation will also highlight the need to leverage collaborative leadership and organizational capacity to develop robust and connected networks to enhance community resilience in urban areas.

Dr. Elizabeth Hill



Bio: Elizabeth is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Economy at the University of Sydney. She is Deputy Director of the Gender Equality in Working Life (GEWL) Research Initiative, co-convenor of the Australian Work and Family Policy Roundtable and co-convenor of the Body@Work Project. As a leading researcher on the future of women, work and care in Australia and the Asian region, she has collaborated on research into gender equality, work and care with leading national and international institutions, including the International Labour Organisation and UN Women. Elizabeth's research focuses on how economic institutions shape women's paid work, unpaid care and the care workforce, especially as they evolve in response to the rapidly evolving dynamics of the global political economy. Elizabeth has served as a non-executive director on a number of non-profit Boards and is an experienced media commentator and advisor to government, unions, and business.

Dr. Elizabeth Hill



Title: Gender and the post-pandemic future of work

Abstract: This paper examines young workers' post-pandemic experience of work and aspirations for the future of work in three advanced market economies: Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom. Young people experienced great upheaval and disruption to their work and care lives during the pandemic, and the impact has been gendered. Using unique national survey data on young women and men's (16-40 years) experience of and attitudes to the future of work in the three focus countries, this paper will provide comparative insights on the gendered economic and social impact of the pandemic and implications for public policy. Comparative labour market and care regime analysis will highlight critical drivers of the post-pandemic future of work across the three countries and point to key policy challenges facing governments, employers and unions. Research findings highlight the essential role that policies to support gender equality in work and care play in building inclusive and productive post-pandemic economies.

Prof. Kyung-Sup Chang

Bio: Kyung-Sup Chang, a PhD from Brown University, is a SNU Distinguished Professor at Seoul National University, teaching sociology since 1991. His work has dealt with comparative modernity and liberalism (“compressed modernity”), political economy of social policy (“developmental liberalism”), Asian citizenship regimes (“transformative contributory rights”, “developmental citizenship”), transnational structuration of Asia (“Asia in Asianization”), etc.

His authored books include: *The Logic of Compressed Modernity* (Polity, 2022; Korean, Chinese, French, Arabic versions forthcoming); *Transformative Citizenship in South Korea: Politics of Transformative Contributory Rights* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022); *Developmental Liberalism in South Korea: Formation, Degeneration, and Transnationalization* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019); *The End of Tomorrow? Familial Liberalism and Social Reproduction Crisis* (in Korean; Jipmundang, 2018, 2023); *South Korea under Compressed Modernity: Familial Political Economy in Transition* (Routledge, 2010; Chinese version in 2023); *The Risk of Compressed Modernity* (Polity, forthcoming), etc.

His edited books include: *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social Theory, Volumes 1-5* (with Bryan S. Turner, et al., 2017); *Contested Citizenship in East Asia: Developmental Politics, National Unity, and Globalization* (with Bryan S. Turner, Routledge, 2012); *Developmental Politics in Transition: The Neoliberal Era and Beyond* (with Ben Fine and Linda Weiss, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); *Neoliberalization of South Korea: Economic Restructuring, Social Precarity, and Post-Developmental Democracy* (with Kim Se-Kyun, Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming); *Asianization of Asia* (with Kim Taekyoon and Lee Joonkoo, Routledge, forthcoming); etc.

Prof. Kyung-Sup Chang



Title: Transformative Contributory Risks? Citizenship in Developmental Risk Society

Abstract: The particular manners and intensities of South Korea's compressed economic development and social change have engendered a risk society with correspondingly particular risk characteristics. South Korea can be characterized as a complex risk society in which various risk factors and symptoms of developed, un(der)developed, slapdash, and compressive societies are present simultaneously and interactively. It is thus necessary to adopt the notion or concept of risk citizenship and elaborate on its practical (and possibly theoretical) characteristics in sociopolitical and other domains if we are to understand the unique (but perhaps not unprecedented) nature of such risk-accommodative political economy. South Koreans' subjection to multifarious risks, dangers, and threats are reasonably expectable from their country's multi-front, expeditious transformations and their personal, communal, and organizational lives situated in such transformations. Unless South Korea had pursued an exceptionally risk-averse line of developmental, institutional, and civilizational progresses, its citizens would not have been exempted from normally contingent risks from all modern activities. However, a systematic probing into the structural nature of South Korea as complex risk society leads to a revelation that virtually all categories of risks have practically reflected the pragmatic, strategic, and/or urgent efforts to expedite and aggrandize developmental, institutional, and/or civilizational purposes and utilities in the nation's particular historical and international contexts. Where risks are perceived, diagnosed, commanded, praised, and rewarded in terms of their probable or supposed transformative contributory quality, they cannot simply be prevented, avoided, minimized, or hedged in personal, familial, communal, industrial, and governmental activities. Where whatever transformative contributory risks are detected or promoted, we should explore their citizenship implications.



Photo by Danist Soh

SYDNEY 2023

Day One

Thursday, 14 September 2023
Program

Day 1 - 9:00am - 10:30am

| Lingnan University Theatre | |
|---|---|
| Session 1-1 Social Services: Social and Professional Attitudes | |
| Chair: Chikako Endo (Osaka University) | |
| Authors | Paper Title |
| Namie Nagamatsu (Kwansei Gakuin University) | Trust in Public Services for Needy Individuals During the Covid-19 Pandemic : Lesson from the Japanese Case |
| Qi Wang (Lingnan University) | Social Work Students' Attitude toward Online Social Work Services: A Q-methodology Study |
| Stefan Kuehner (Lingnan University) | Hong Kong children's views about their lives and well-being during the pandemic: Evidence from the Covid-19 Supplement of Children's Worlds |
| Aya Abe (Tokyo Metropolitan University) | Socially Perceived Necessities: Do they change over time? |

| Meeting Room - level 1 | |
|---|---|
| Session 1-2 Demographic and Family Changes | |
| Chair: Junko Yamashita (Bristol University) | |
| Authors | Paper Title |
| Kiwako Endo (Kinjo Gakuin University) Hiromi Tanaka (Osaka Metropolitan University) Kensuke Hashikawa (Kinjo Gakuin University) | Evaluating Japanese Family Policy: Review of "Outline of Measures for Society with Decreasing Birthrate" |
| Shuyun Fan (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) | What Family Policies Will Increase Young Adults' Fertility Intention: A Survey Experiment in Beijing and Shenzhen |
| Chuanqi Que (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) Haijing Dai (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) | Filial piety, intimacy and inter-generational contract: Understanding the family support to rural empty-nest older parents in China |
| Yufeng Wu (Northwest University China) | The north-south gap, high-quality development of social security and common prosperity |

Day 1 - 9:00am - 10:30am

Boardroom - level 3

Session 1-3 Social Security Restructuring

Chair: Bingqin Li (University of New South Wales)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|---|
| Eunjung Hwang (Chung-Ang University) | Refractions of de/familialization policy and complementary measures |
| Yong Moon Jung (Kyungnam University) | Creative destruction in social policy: Re-design of the modern income security system through Differential Universal Income |
| Qian Zhang (The University of Hong Kong) | Health financing designs and financial protection for low-income population in East Asia |
| Aeji Jang (Chung-ang University) Young Choi (Chung-ang University) | What is publicness in the long-term care insurance system?: Utilizing text network analysis |

Norman Selfe Room – level 3

Session 1-4 Old Age Care and Policy

Chair: Won Sub Kim (Korea University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|---|
| Bo Li (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) Jiahe Wang (Huazhong Agricultural University) Natasha Howard (National University of Singapore) Vincent W. P. Lee (Hong Kong Baptist University) Daniel Lai (Hong Kong Baptist University) | A power lens to reading community nursing delivery in urban China |
| Xue Bai (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) Kin Cheung (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) Calvin Luk (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) Jimmy C. K. Lee (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) | Health, workplace safety and intention to continue working among mid-age and older workers in Hong Kong |
| Yumi Shin (Seoul National University) Nanjoo Yang (Deagu University, Republic of Korea) | Can Older Women Achieve Aging in Place(AIP) |
| Junxi Qian (The University of Hong Kong) | Local development in Southwest China |

Day 1 - 9:00am - 10:30am

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|--|---|
| Tom Keneally Centre - level 3 | |
| Session 1-5 Housing and Property Rights | |
| Chair: Alex Jingwei He (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) | |
| Authors | Paper Title |
| Alan Morris (University of Technology) | Dire consequences: Waiting for social housing in three Australian states |
| Jinwei Hao (Shanghai University) Jin Zhu (The University of Hong Kong) Sian Thompson (University of New South Wales) | Surviving in the post-repatriation era: home-making strategies of homeless people in post-socialist China |
| Youqing Fan (Western Sydney University) Mengtao Gao (Yunnan Minzu University) Lanlan Bi (Yunnan Minzu University) Chyi Lin Lee (University of New South Wales) Guangbo Yin (National Bureau of Statistics Survey Office in Yunnan) | Land Rights, Resource Allocation and Urban Settlement Choices of Migrant Workers in Yunnan, Western China |

Day 1 – 10:40am - 12:30pm

| | |
|---|--|
| Lingnan University Theatre Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speeches | |
| Chair: Chikako Endo (Osaka University) | |
| Speaker | Topic |
| Kyung-Sup Chang (Seoul National University) | Transformative Contributory Risks? Citizenship in Developmental Risk Society |
| Elizabeth Hill (Sydney University) | Gender and the post-pandemic future of work |

Day 1 – 13:10pm - 14:40pm

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| Lingnan University Theatre | |
| Session 2-1 Rethinking Social Services Provision: Innovations and Cross-sectoral Collaborations | |
| Chair: Bingqin Li (University of New South Wales) | |
| Authors | Paper Title |
| Ka Ho Mok (Lingnan University) Zhuoyi Wen (Our Hong Kong Foundation) | Contracting Out Social Services in Three First-Tier China's Cities: Exploring 'Variation' through the Eyes of NGO Practitioners |
| Jeongmi Lim (Gyeongsang National University) Saeah Lim (Rikkyo University) | The Factors Affecting Wage Fairness Perception of Social Workers in Long-term Care Institution |
| Padmore Adusei Amoah (Lingnan University) Angela Y.M. Leung (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) Laurence Lloyd Parial (University of the Philippines, Manila) Yiran Li (University of New South Wales) | Non-governmental organisations as instrument for dementia literacy among ethnic minorities in Hong Kong |
| Bingqin Li (University of New South Wales) Ilan Kaz (University of New South Wales) Alan Morris (University of Technology Sydney) Youqing Fan (Western Sydney University) | NGOs as volunteer incubator: Community-based innovation in supporting older Chinese immigrants to overcome social isolation in Australia |

Day 1 – 13:10pm - 14:40pm

Meeting Room - level 1

Session 2-2 Panel: Old and New Informal Employment in Japan: Challenges for Social Policy

Chair: Yasuhiro Kamimura (Nagoya University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|---|
| Shuhei Naka (Meiji Gakuin University) | What Types of Workers Tend to be Excluded from the National Pension and Health Insurance Systems? |
| Kyoko Suzuki (The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training) | The Impact of Life Stages and Work Characteristics on the Well-being of Female Workers in Japan |
| Yasutaka Fukui (Nagoya University) | The Institutional Linkage between Employment Relations and Social Protection in Japan: The Recent Trend of Formalization of the Informal Employment |
| Tatsuya Shirahase (Kwansei Gakuin University) | Employment Issues in Neighborhoods with Concentration of Social Disadvantage: A Case Study of the kamagasaki, Osaka |

Boardroom - level 3

Session 2-3 Citizenship and Participation

Chair: Kiwako Endo (Kinjo Gakuin University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|--|
| Chenhong Peng (The University of Hong Kong) Julia Wang (National Taiwan University) | Welfare Stigma and Welfare Participation Decisions in Hong Kong |
| Seo Eun Oh (Yonsei University) | Does experience of discrimination moderate the relationship between income/employment insecurity and social isolation? |
| Sang Hun Lim (Kyunghee University) | At the border of work and welfare: the role of social economy organisations |
| Won Sub Kim (Korea University) | Improving Labor Policies through Policy Transfers in South-Korea |

Day 1 – 13:10pm - 14:40pm

Norman Selfe Room – level 3

Session 2-4 Family and Work

Chair: Pei-Yuen Tsai (National Chengchi University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|---|
| Geumsun Byun (Seoul Institute) Hyejin Ko (Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs) Mihee Park (Community Chest of Korea) | Buffer or burden? : changing effect of household poverty on living with parents among South Korean young adults |
| Feifei Tong (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) Qiaobing Wu (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) | The Impact of Social Policies on the Motherhood Practices of Rural-urban Migrant Mothers in China |
| Sayaka Terazawa (The University of Tokyo) | Balancing Fertility Treatment and Work in Japan: Focusing on Job Types |
| Yuko Tamiya (Kobe Gakuin University) Junko Yamashita (University of Bristol) | Lone-Mothers and the Role of Social Policy in Balancing Work and Care |

Tom Keneally Centre - level 3

Session 2-5 Inequality and Welfare State

Chair: Alex Jingwei He (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|--|
| Nari Park (Chung-Ang University) Kyo-seong Kim (Chung-Ang University) | Universalism vs. Residualism : Evaluation of Alternative Income Maintenance Schemes in Korea |
| Gyu-Jin Hwang (University of Sydney) | Building Markets: Distributional Consequences of Social Policy in East Asia |
| Yun-young Kim (Gyeonggi Research Institute) | Job types and security paths after retirement: A comparative study across cohorts |
| Kuriko Watanabe (Kanagawa University) Mayu Fujii (Hokkaido University of Education) | How does survivors pension affect women's labor supply and standard of living? |

Day 1 – 15:00pm - 16:30pm

Meeting Room - level 1

Session 3-1 Panel: Deaths of Despair in Korea: Analysis and Policy Response

Chair: Ka Ho Mok (Lingnan University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|---|
| Seong Chul Lee (Sogang University) Jinyoung Moon (Sogang University) Youngmin Park (Sogang University) | A Meta-Analysis of Factors Influencing the Suicidal Ideation of the Elderly in Korea |
| Chong-Ryel Sang (Korea National University of Education) Youngmin Park (Sogang University) Sanghyeong Seo (Sogang University) | Research on Philosophical Concept of Despair |
| Jin Kwon (Ye-myung graduate university) | How does the Trend of Deaths of Despair appear in Korea? Analysis of Detailed Causes of Death and Demographic Characteristics |
| Hyeyoung Min (Sogang University) Kyungju Woo (Sogang University) | Latent Profiles of Social-Wellbeing: Examining the Socioeconomic Impact Factors and Differences in Suicidal Ideation |

Boardroom - level 3

Session 3-2 Employment and Policy

Chair: Chung-Yang Yeh (Soochow University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|---|
| Sungjun Park (Chung-Ang University) Jiwon KIM (Chung-Ang University) Sophia Seung-yoon LEE (Chung-Ang University) | Who Refuse to Be "Buffered"?: Segmented Young Workers and Their Social Investment Policy Preferences in South Korea |
| Hangjae Lee (University of York) | Technological development caused the changes in the minimum wage policy in Korea since 1988 |
| Shuting Zhang (Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences) | Power Geometry of Time-space Compression: Rural-origin migrants' differentiated citizenship in Chinese megacities |
| Huynh Quoc Tuan (National Dong Hwa University) | The gendered pandemic: The impact of Covid-19 in paid and unpaid work of Vietnamese immigrant women in Taiwan |

Day 1 – 15:00pm - 16:30pm

Norman Selfe Room – level 3

Session 3-3 Panel: The Welfare State From The Margins in Japan and South Korea

Chair: Yasuhiro Kamimura (Nagoya University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|---|
| Bo-Yung Kim (Yeungnam University) Young Jun Choi (Yonsei University) So Hyun Lim (Yonsei University) Seo Eun Oh (Yonsei University) Yun Young Kim (Jeonbuk National University) | Young Carers as Hidden and Neglected Citizens |
| Kyunghwan Kim (Kangwon National University) | The conditional inclusion of immigrants in Korea |
| Sachi Takaya (University of Tokyo) | Contesting from the margins: migrant women's claims to reproductive rights in Japan |
| Chikako Endo (Osaka University) | Countering marginalisation through work and care: the case of Worker Coops in Japan |

Tom Keneally Centre - level 3

Session 3-4 Gender and Labour Market

Chair: Sumika Yamane (Jissen Women's University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|--|
| Julie Vanderleyden (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) Hyojin Seo (KUL) Deborah De Moortel (VUB) Christophe Vanroelen (VUB) | Typological approach to labour market dualisation and its relation to health and well-being in South Korea |
| Gyu Hye Kim (Chung-Ang University) | The gender difference in the earnings effects of self-employed in South Korea |
| Heaen Oh (Sungkyunkwan University) | The Effect of Women's Labor Market Participation on Household Income Inequality |

Day 1 – 16:40pm - 17:40pm

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|--|--|
| Tom Keneally Centre – level 3 | |
| Book Launch | |
| Chair: Young Jun Choi (Yonsei University) | |
| Author | Book Title |
| Sophia Seung-yoon Lee (Chung-Ang University) | Varieties of Precarity: Melting Labour and the Failure to Protect Worker in the Korean Welfare State |
| Commentators | |
| Inhoe Ku (Seoul National University) | |
| Chung-Yang Yeh (Soochow University) | |
| John Hudson (York University) | |

Day Two

Friday, 15 September 2023
Program



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Ray chan

SYDNEY 2023

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Day 2 - 9:00am - 10:30am

Lingnan University Theatre

Session 4-1 Panel: Protecting and Promoting Well-being across The Life Course

Chair: Youqing Fan (Western Sydney University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|---|
| Ka Wai Maggie Lau (Lingnan University) Mary Zhang (University of Oxford) Kee Lee Chou (The Education University of Hong Kong) Kei Yan Poon (University of New South Wales) David Gordon (University of Bristol) | A multi-group mediation analysis of the impact of poverty on the language performance of Hong Kong preschool children |
| Cheng Shi (Lingnan University) Wing-kit Chan (Sun Yat-sen University) Jianwei Yang (Lingnan University, Wuhan Donghu University) | Choice of formal and informal care among community-dwelling older people with or without dementia under a long-term care insurance pilot program in China |
| Zhao Zhe (Huazhong Agricultural University) Genghua Huang (Lingnan University) | Estimating the efficiency of primary health care services and its determinants: Evidence from provincial panel data in China |
| Sachiko Horiguchi (Temple University, Japan Campus) Teppei Sekimizu (Meiji Gakuin University) Kiwako Endo (Kinjo Gakuin University) | Family-dependent social services and their impact on wellbeing in contemporary Japan: Insights and lessons from a comparative and qualitative hikikomori (social withdrawal) vignette study |

Meeting Room - level 1

Session 4-2 Carers and Caregivers in Formal and Informal Sectors

Chair: Bo-Yung Kim (Yeungnam University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|--|
| Hyun-Jung Kwon (Yongsan University), Jeongmin Lim (Sungkyunkwan University), Sally Ka-wing Lo (Caritas Institute of Higher Education) | The Effects of Wage Policy on the job quality of Long-term Care Sector in South Korea Policies for informal caregivers in Hong Kong: A review and an agenda |
| Qi Wang (Lingnan University) Shen Li (Nanjing Normal University) Zhao Jialin (Shanghai Normal University) Zhou Xiaochen (University of Hong Kong) Li Jia (Chinese University of Hong Kong) | The effectiveness of online mindfulness intervention for frontline social workers in China: A quasi-experimental study |
| Huynh Le Anh Huy (National Dong Hwa University) | Mothering in the pandemic: opportunities and challenges of Vietnamese mothers in Taiwan |

Day 2 - 9:00am - 10:30am

Boardroom - level 3

Session 4-3 Work, Family and Policy

Chair: Young Jun Choi (Yonsei University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|--|
| Tomoe Naito (Seikei University) | Balancing Work and Family: An Examination of the Impact of Work-Life Conflict on the Employment of Mothers in Japan |
| Yu Meng (Nanjing University) | What Explained the Childcare Service Restructuring in China?-A Event History Analysis Base on Evidence from Chinese 31 Provinces |
| Nan Yang (Liaoning University) Stefan Kühner (Lingnan University) Suping Bao (Liaoning University) | Social policy and fertility behaviours in northeast China: a factorial survey |
| Sung-Hee Lee (University of Derby) | How does universal free childcare operate in working mothers' childcare experience in South Korea? |

Norman Selfe Room – level 3

Session 4-4 Disability and Work

Chair: Yuko Tamiya (Kobe Gakuin University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|---|
| Yoshihiko Fukushima (Waseda University) | Job Carving and Employment of Persons with Disabilities |
| Shih-Jiunn Shi (National Taiwan University) Suet-Giin Soon (National Taiwan University) | From Deservingness to Rights: The Changing Paradigms of Disability Employment in Taiwan |
| Pei-Yuen Tsai (National Chengchi University) | The Application of 'Work Capacity' and 'Fictitious Income' in Social Assistance Act in Taiwan |

Day 2 – 10:40am - 11:40am

Lingnan University Theatre Keynote Speech

Chair: Padmore Adusei Amoah (Lingnan University)

| Speaker | Topic |
|---|--|
| Naim Kapucu (University of Central Florida) | Network governance for community resilience in urban areas |

Day 2 – 12:40pm - 14:10pm

Lingnan University Theatre

Session 5-1 Education

Chair: Ilan Kaz (University of New South Wales)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|--|
| So Hyun Lim (Yonsei University) | Breaking the NEET Cycle: The Impact of Employment Policy Awareness on NEET youth with low policy interest and educational level |
| Hyewon Park (Hitotsubashi University) | Meanings of Higher Education Policy in East Asia: Experiences in young people's Use of National Student Loan System in Korea and Japan |
| Qifan Ding (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) Qiaobing Wu (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) | Capitals in Shaping the Educational Expectation of Chinese Migrant Children: The Moderating Effect of Education Policy |

Day 2 – 12:40pm - 14:10pm

Meeting Room - level 1

Session 5-2 Politics of Welfare Reforms

Chair: Sophia Seung-yoon Lee (Chung-Ang University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|---|
| Sumika Yamane (Jissen Women's University) | The Neo-liberal Reform of Welfare States Sustained by Gender regime in Japan: The Logic of Marketisation of Home Care Services |
| John Hudson (University of York) Kit Colliver (University of York) | Exploring the links between punitiveness and the political economy of welfare: are criminal justice regimes a key dimension of varieties of capitalism in OECD countries? |
| Chung-Yang Yeh (Soochow University) You-Syue Liou (Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences) Yeun-Wen Ku (National Taiwan University) | The Politics of the 2018 Pension Retrenchment in Taiwan: Loud and Noisy, but Credit-Claiming |
| Alex Jingwei He (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) | The framing effect and policy feedback to welfare retrenchment: a survey experiment in China |

Boardroom - level 3

Session 5-3 Welfare State and Governance

Chair: Inhoe Ku (Seoul National University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|--|
| Bingqin Li (University of New South Wales) Lijie Fang (Renmin University) | Entrepreneurial welfare mix in community old age service in China |
| Kunio Urakawa (Kyushu University) Haruo Kondo (Seinan Gakuin University) Masaaki Irie (Kyushu University) | Impact of Debt Levels in Local Governments on Fiscal Spending Structure: Evidence from Japan |
| Jitsuda Limkriengkrai (Mahidol University) | Transforming Social Welfare in Thailand: The Challenges to Digital Government |
| Qiaobing Wu (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) | Social citizenship of migrants in urban China: Institutional and perceptual welfare boundaries |

Day 2 – 14:30pm - 16:00pm

| | |
|---|--|
| Lingnan University Theatre | |
| Session 6-1 Cultural Values and Families in East Asia | |
| Chair: Stefan Kuehner (Lingnan University) | |
| Authors | Paper Title |
| Julia Shu-Huah Wang (National Taiwan University) Ji Young Kang (Chungnam National University) Xi Zhao (Renmin University of China) Irene Y.H. Ng (National University of Singapore) Inhoe Ku (Seoul National University) Aya Abe (Tokyo Metropolitan University) Chenhong Peng (The University of Hong Kong) Kuan-Ju Chen (National Taiwan University) | Family Values in East Asian Social Safety Nets |
| Masato Shikata (Kwansei Gakuin University) | Intergenerational earnings mobility in Japan |
| Chien-Chou Hou (Chung Shan Medical University) | Challenges to Successful Cultural Care for Indigenous People in Indigenous Areas in Taiwan |

Day 2 – 14:30pm - 16:00pm

Meeting Room - level 1

Session 6-2 Disasters, Crises and Responses

Chair: Shih-Jiunn Shi (National Taiwan University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|--|--|
| Hyerim Lee (Seoul National University) Geumsun Byun (Seoul Institute) | The disproportionate impact of pandemic on Young adults: Work, social connection and emotional stress |
| Yukari Ito (Osaka University) | Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on family formation decision: A Japanese perspective |
| Natenapha Wailerdsak (Yabushita) (Thammasat University) | The 1997 Asian financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic: How emergencies and social policies affected Thailand's business sector |
| Sun Kyung Kang (Sogang University) JunHyeok Kang (eulji university) | The Process of Losing Meaning of Life in Alcoholocs |

Boardroom - level 3

Session 6-3 Old Age and Protection

Chair: Bo-Yung Kim (Yeungnam University)

| Authors | Paper Title |
|---|--|
| Jong-sung You (Gachon University) | Directions of Public Pension Reform to Accommodate the Extremely Ageing Population: The Case of South Korea |
| Sunghyun Ko (Chung-Ang University) Yeonjung Lee (Chung-Ang University) | How do baby boomers prepare for their old age in South Korea? A longitudinal study of the trajectories and patterns of financial readiness |
| Inhoe Ku (Seoul National University) Soohyun Kim (National Pension Service of Korea) Halim Yoon (Syracuse University) | The Effect of Social Pension on Old-age Poverty in South Korea |
| Yixuan Huang (University of New South Wales) Ilan Katz (University of New South Wales) Bingqin Li (University of New South Wales) | Navigating the Ageing Landscape in Australia: The Role and Potential of Intergenerational Programs |

Conference Venue

EASP 19TH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
SYDNEY 2023

Address: 280 Pitt Street, Sydney (Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts Building)

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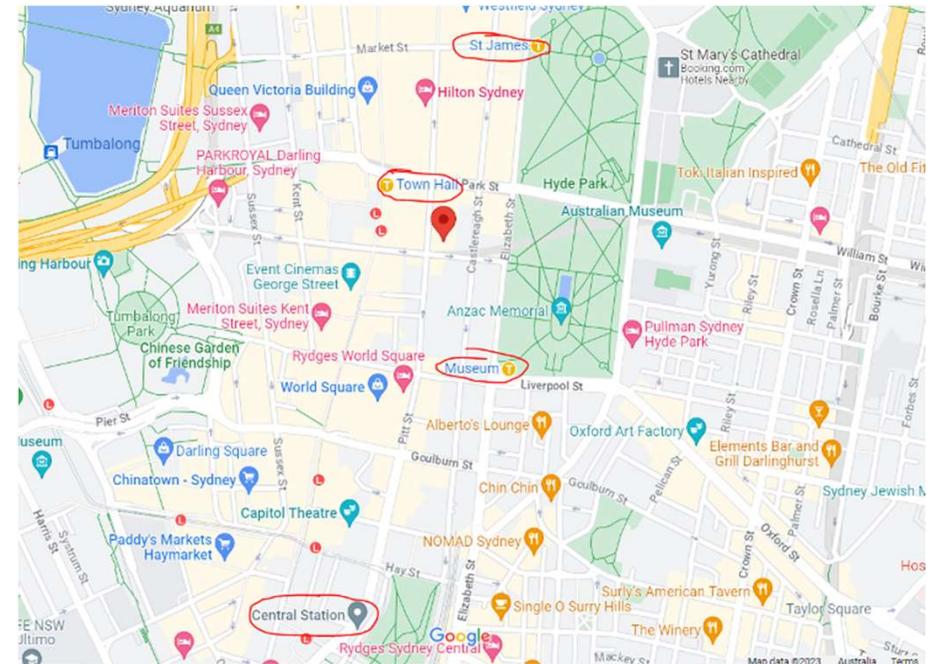
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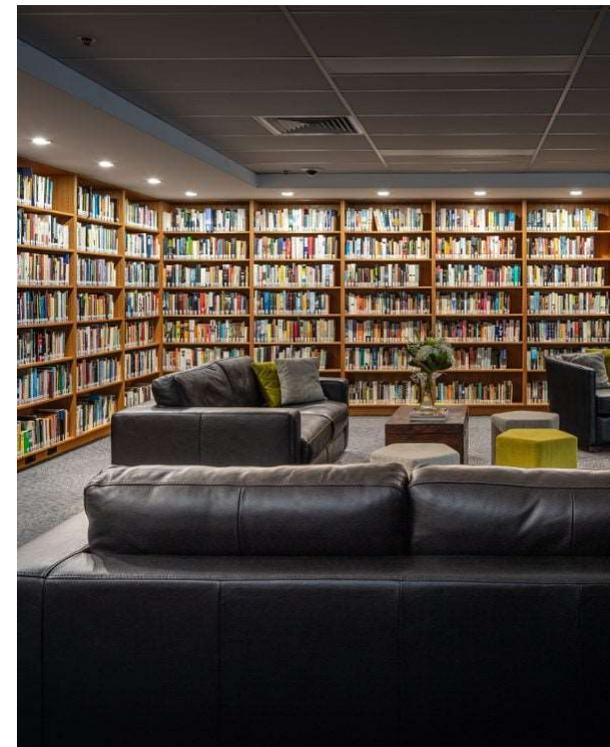
Lingnan University Theatre



Boardroom



Tom Keneally Centre



The Theatre and the Meeting Room are located on level 1; Boardroom, Norman Selfe Room and Tom Keneally Centre are on level 3. All rooms are equipped with projectors and screens. **If you will be presenting with slides, please kindly bring a USB drive with your files.**

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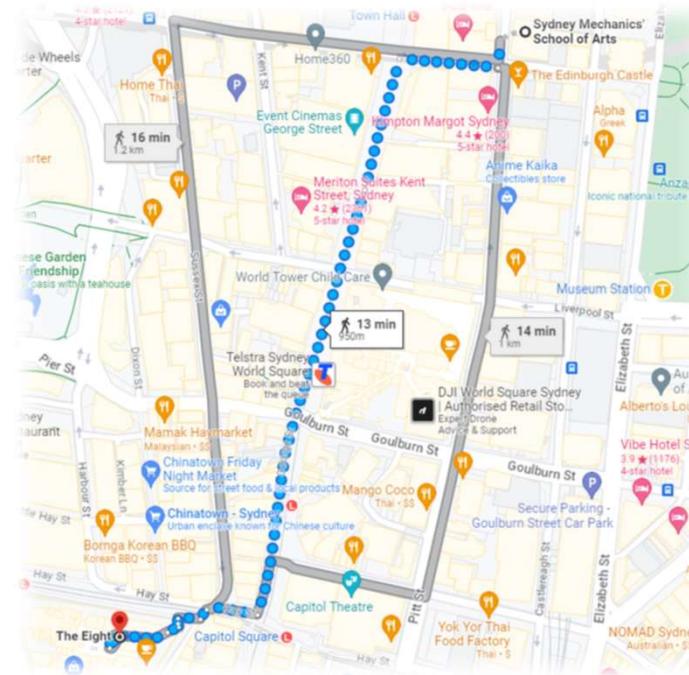
Gala Dinner

EASP 19TH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Time: 6.30pm 14th September 2023

Location: The Eight, Market City Level 3/13 Hay St, Haymarket NSW 2000

(less than 15-minute walk from the conference venue via George St)



PAPER ABSTRACTS

- + ● EASP 19th International Conference
- Sydney 2023

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Title

What is publicness in the long-term care insurance system? : Utilizing text network analysis

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify the publicness of the long-term care insurance system recognized in previous studies and to derive implications. So this study examines the existing studies about the publicness of the long-term care insurance system, utilizing text network analysis. As a result, the publicness of the long-term care insurance system recognized in previous studies is related to the following four. First, regardless of the service provider, citizens must receive high-quality services, and the government need to be fully financed. Second, the government should act as a quality of service regulator for providers. Third, at the central government level, the workers standards and treatment should be prepared. And local governments need to play an active and responsible role for keeping the standards. Fourth, national, non-profit, and public facilities should be built based on local demand. Finally, this paper presented policy suggestions to strengthen the publicness of the long-term care insurance system.

Keywords: The long-term care insurance system, Publicness, Strengthen the publicness, Text network analysis

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Title

The framing effect and policy feedback to welfare retrenchment: a survey experiment in China

Abstract

How do governments avoid political backlashes when they initiate welfare retrenchment reforms? Recent studies on comparative welfare reforms show framing strategies are widely used by leaders in both democracies and non-democracies to make unpopular welfare reform more palatable. Framing is the process by which an actor defines or characterizes a given issue. It is well known that policymakers resort to the power of ideas and language in shaping public opinions towards a given reform. Policy framing helps them promote new policies and smoothen opposition. Social welfare is one of the policy domains where strategic framing is of vital importance, given its salience and proximity to citizens. Welfare retrenchment arguably represents a highly formidable policy task in liberal democratic societies as voluminous research has noted policymakers' hesitation due to concerns of losing votes. Indeed, Pierson's seminal works have elucidated that institutional 'stickiness' and the unpopularity of retrenchment policies among voters makes welfare states resistant to major retrenchment.

Yet, some studies have found that welfare retrenchment does not necessarily always lead to political backlash. The literature has documented a variety of framing strategies that are often used by policymakers, such as 'blame avoidance', 'justification', 'story of decline', 'compensation', 'redefining the issue', and 'credit-claiming'. In other words, there is a growing number of narrative strategies in policymakers' framing repertoire that help increase public acceptability of retrenchment policies.

This present study shifts scholarly attention away from western welfare states to China. We seized a great window of opportunity when the Chinese government initiated a public consultation on a proposed recalibration of the country's social health insurance scheme in 2020. This study seeks to examine how alternative policy framing affects individuals' attitudinal and behavioural reaction to a de facto welfare retrenchment in China. We explore the conditions under which policy framing can reduce opposition to retrenchment reforms. We consider two different framing strategies: policy framing that focuses on individuals' material self-interests, and policy framing that focuses on sociotropic considerations (i.e., how retrenchment reforms might benefit others in the society). We also examine whether policy framing effects varies by individuals' past policy experiences.

An electronic survey experiment was conducted in coastal Guangdong Province. We fielded the experiment before the actual implementation of the proposed health insurance reform; as such, it allows us to evaluate how the threat to changing the policy status quo might trigger shifts in favourability toward the policy reform as well as their preferences on redistribution. A total of 814 adult participants joined the experiment. Engaging with the policy feedback theory, this study reveals that alternative policy framing can trigger varying feedback effects in welfare retrenchment reforms. Policy framing highlighting self-interest considerations leads to greater acceptance of such reforms. We illustrate that policy feedback effects in hard welfare reforms are moderated by framing strategies.

Keywords: : retrenchment, welfare; policy feedback

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Title

Dire consequences: Waiting for social housing in three Australian states

Abstract

Although tens of thousands of households are on the waiting-list for social housing in Australia, little is known about how they experience waiting for social housing. Drawing on 75 interviews conducted with people on the waiting-list (waitees) in three Australian states, I examine the impact of waiting on waitees. I utilise the concept of triple precarity. Double precarity refers to the insecure employment and housing that a substantial proportion of low-income households are experiencing in the contemporary period. I argue that waitees experience triple precarity. Not only are waitees unemployed or intermittently employed and suffer from housing stress and insecurity, but they also have to endure endless waiting. This adds another challenging dimension to their already difficult lives. I show that besides the impacts of insecure housing and employment, waiting for social housing contributes to waitees' dire living circumstances and quality of life, difficulty finding employment and poor health. Waiting for social housing has emotional and material costs.

Keywords: Waiting list, social housing, precarity, impacts of waiting

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Title
Socially Perceived Necessities: Do they change over time?

Abstract
Since its inception, the material deprivation index has gained prominence as an alternative method to measure poverty. As opposed to income-based poverty measures which only capture resources available to sustain certain living standards, the material deprivation index directly measures the level of living standard and thus performs better in identifying the poor. It also has added advantages such as being able to measure individual, not household, living standard, and being fairly reliable and with fewer missing answers in surveys. However, it has one potential disadvantage in that its validity over time is not tested. The index uses a list of items, known as the socially perceived necessities, which are a list of items which at least a half of the general population view as a necessity for all individuals in their society. This list may change over time as lifestyles and values of people change, thus one item which was regarded as a necessity in one time period may no longer be regarded as a necessity in the next time period, or vice versa. This change in the perception of “what is necessary” may also occur in the composition of individuals who regard it as necessary. An item may lose or gain its importance over time in only one sector of the society. To analyse this change, the paper uses the surveys data in 2003, 2011 and 2022 in which the general population was asked about their perception of necessity. Such analysis is expected to shed a light on the robustness of socially perceived necessities, and consequently material deprivation index over time.

Keywords: Deprivation, Necessities, Poverty

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Title

The Entrepreneurial Welfare Mix: The Case of Community-Based Old Age Services in China

Abstract

Developing an old-age service system that can meet the fast-growing needs of the aging population is challenging. It is increasingly recognised that community-level services should be pivotal in providing services to older people. In this article, the authors use the Chinese experience and argue that because the state is not clear how such a system should look like, all actors behave like entrepreneurs who strategise, take risks and search for a viable “business model”. The research draws upon in-depth interviews and focus groups in six cities in China collected in 2015-2016 and follow-up interviews in one community in three cities in 2021. The findings show that the service system has evolved into a dynamic entrepreneurial welfare mix that actively embraces the market. This research contributes to the theoretical development of the welfare mix. The authors also raised possible issues with such a direction of change in the conclusion.

Keywords: Welfare mix, entrepreneurial, China, community-based, old age services

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Title

A power lens to reading community nursing delivery in urban China

Abstract

Community nurses remain understudied in research on interactional power, especially in China where community healthcare is an emerging practice. Grounded in French & Raven's typology of social power, this article conceptualises the power of community nurses in a Chinese urban context. Through thematic analysis of textual data from 26 semi-structured interviews and two additional focus group discussions with community nurses in Shenzhen, we identified six power varieties, i.e. indirect reward, indirect coercion, legitimate position, peer reference, field expertise, and caring information. We classified these powers trichotomously, as nurse-to-doctor, nurse-to-nurse, and nurse-to-patient, to show the potential influences nurses bring to healthcare relationships. Our analysis indicated nurses' exercise of some powers was constrained by two elements, i.e. doctor-nurse power polarity and patient prejudices against nursing, which together contributed to nurses' adverse power loss. These power adversities permeated the community health environment, contributing to healthcare delivery dysfunctions by undermining nurses' self-improvement, self-assurance, enthusiasm, and cooperation in care. Our analysis, using the insights of social power, develops a novel reading of community nursing delivery in urban China. We argue that nurse empowerment could promote community healthcare delivery. Role enhancement and pro-nursing policy development would reduce adverse power scenarios for community nurses and help convert their potential power resources into practical powers in support of patients' needs.

Keywords: China; community nursing; healthcare delivery; healthcare relationships; typology of social power

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Title

Young Carers as Hidden and Neglected Citizens

Abstract

As the role of family and employment, which traditionally served as substitutes for state welfare, has weakened, a newly vulnerable group is emerging in East Asia, the most prominent of which are young carers. A young carer refers to a child or young person who has the burden of caring a family member with problems such as disability, disease, mental health, or drug, at a time when they need to prepare for the future through education and employment. In the case of South Korea, a few incidents relating to young carers have been reported by the media and have become a social issue, but little is known about them and there are few related social policies. This study aims to estimate the number of young carers and analyse social risks and the constraints of institutional supports. For the analysis, we introduce the concept of active citizenship of Halvorsen et al. (2018) and investigate the level of the three sub-dimensions of active citizenship, i.e., security, autonomy, and influence in young carers. We conducted and 12 in-depth qualitative interview and trace trace how and why these hidden carers become excluded in social and public sphere and why they have taken full care responsibility in the current institutional context. We intend to reveal the mechanism by which a newly marginalised group emerges. Lastly, conclude by discussing policy implications for young carers and new excluded groups.

Keywords: Young Carer, Social Risks, Hidden Citizens, Social Policy, South Korea

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Young Jun Choi

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Title

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Abstract

As the role of family and employment, which traditionally served as substitutes for state welfare, has weakened, a newly vulnerable group is emerging in East Asia, the most prominent of which are young carers. A young carer refers to a child or young person who has the burden of caring a family member with problems such as disability, disease, mental health, or drug, at a time when they need to prepare for the future through education and employment. In the case of South Korea, a few incidents relating to young carers have been reported by the media and have become a social issue, but little is known about them and there are few related social policies. This study aims to estimate the number of young carers and analyse social risks and the constraints of institutional supports. For the analysis, we introduce the concept of active citizenship of Halvorsen et al. (2018) and investigate the level of the three sub-dimensions of active citizenship, i.e., security, autonomy, and influence in young carers. We conducted and 12 in-depth qualitative interview and trace trace how and why these hidden carers become excluded in social and public sphere and why they have taken full care responsibility in the current institutional context. We intend to reveal the mechanism by which a newly marginalised group emerges. Lastly, conclude by discussing policy implications for young carers and new excluded groups.

Keywords: Young Carer, Social Risks, Hidden Citizens, Social Policy, South Korea

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Title

Choice of formal and informal care among community-dwelling older people with or without dementia under a long-term care insurance pilot program in China

Abstract

Objective: This study examines the use of public-funded formal and informal care among community-dwelling long-term care insurance (LTCI) beneficiaries in China and how dementia differentiates the choice.

Methods: Using administrative data from a LTCI pilot scheme in Guangzhou (n=2,052), we conducted a multinomial logistic regression to examine the association between dementia and the choice of family caregiver, domestic helper, and care workers, controlling for demographics, living environment and intensity of paid care hours.

Results: Most LTCI beneficiaries chose a family caregiver (65%), followed by a domestic helper (21%) and a care worker (14%). After controlling for covariates, LTCI beneficiaries with dementia were more likely to choose care provided by a care worker (RRR: 1.4) or a living-in helper (RRR: 1.3) than a family caregiver.

Conclusion: Most LTCI beneficiaries chose to receive care from an informal caregiver, while those with dementia were more likely to choose to receive care from a formal than an informal carer. Our findings from the pilot scheme provides further insight into care recipients' service utilisation preferences and how dementia impacts these preferences. This should be considered in future policy and service provision.

Keywords: Community care; Dementia; Long-term care insurance; Family care; China

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Title

The impact of housing policy on the settlement intentions of rural-urban migrants in China: Revisiting the welfare magnet hypothesis

Abstract

Do generous welfare benefits attract and retain low-skilled migrants? Although the “welfare magnet hypothesis” has long been debated, rigorous empirical studies from non-Western contexts are very rare. As China enters a new phase of urbanisation, it has begun to adopt more inclusive policies to extend local social welfare to internal migrants. Combining the data from five waves of the China Migrants Dynamic Survey (CMDS) and city-level housing policy data constructed from original policy documents, this study examines the impact of housing policies on the long-term settlement intentions of rural-urban migrants in China. We find that housing policies do not affect migrants’ settlement intentions and housing outcomes (e.g., homeownership and rent-to-income ratios). It does, however, affect migrants’ sense of belonging to destination cities. Cities with greater housing policy efforts (citizenship-oriented approach) increase migrants’ sense of belonging more than their counterparts with less effort (residual approach and rental approach). This study not only contributes to a better understanding of welfare magnetism in a non-Western context, but also advances knowledge on how housing affects migrants’ settlement intentions. Moreover, it facilitates policymaking to further promote people-oriented urbanisation in China.

Keywords: housing policy; rural-urban migrants; settlement intention

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Title

Welfare stigma and low-income families' decisions to enter, stay, and leave the public assistance program

Abstract

This qualitative study examines how welfare stigma affects low-income people's entry, stay and exit from Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), the public assistance program in Hong Kong. In-depth interviews were conducted with 17 low-income people with children. First, we explore how the competing forces of anticipated stigma and the desperate need affect low-income families' decisions to participate in the CSSA program. Concerns about anticipated stigma are directed not only at the respondents, but also at their children. Second, we examine, once in the welfare system, how participants are forced to accept their status as welfare recipients and to live with and cope with the experienced stigma in their daily lives. The experienced stigma and the resulting emotional distress are higher and more nuanced for migrant recipients than for local recipients. Third, how are their decisions to leave the CSSA program influenced by the emotional distress of being on welfare and new opportunities for self-sufficiency (e.g., finding a job and getting a new breadwinner)? In addition, we found those who do not take up the CSSA program and those who leave the program take up the working subsidies, which provide them with less stigma and a greater sense of self-sufficiency. This study enriches the literature on welfare stigma by depicting and explaining how stigma affects the dynamics of welfare, not only for those who receive it, but also for those who choose to enter and those who choose to leave. Unlike other discredited attributes that have been stigmatized, such as mental illness, welfare status is an attribute that people can proactively choose to have or not have. This study highlights the importance of distinguishing discredited attributes that people can choose from those that they cannot in the stigma literature.

Keywords: Welfare stigma; public assistance; welfare dynamics

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Title

Challenges to Successful Cultural Care for Indigenous People in Indigenous Areas in Taiwan: A Review of Long-Term Care Policy

Abstract

Cultural care plays a crucial role in the long-term care of indigenous people in order to build cultural responsiveness to indigenous human dignity. Culturally based care factors are recognized as the main influence on human expressions related to health and well-being. Therefore, long-term care need to be culturally competent so that they can provide care for their receipts with respect to their cultural practices. This study aimed to identify key challenges to successful cultural care for indigenous people in indigenous areas in Taiwan. A qualitative research strategy was applied. We purportedly recruited 13 long-term care professionals from tribes of the indigenous area in Taichung City, Taiwan. Face-to-face interviews were conducted from April to October 2021. Qualitative content analysis was used to analyse the qualitative data. Eight themes related to the challenges emerged: Outmigration, Limitations in transportation and geographic location, Difficulties in regional dialects, Different religious beliefs, Long-term care services that were not provided by organisations in tribes, Organisational opposition and differentiation in indigenous area, ethnically mixed indigenous areas, and Difference in emphasis on quality. The findings highlight the need to provide enough resources for indigenous areas, strengthen human resources in long-term care, cultivate cultural competencies of the long-term caregiver act, build long-term care service with cultural expectations, establish partnerships with equal rights, build consensus on cultural care and learn from indigenous people.

Keywords: cultural care; long-term care policy; network collaboration; health and well-being; caregiver

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Title

Countering marginalisation through work and care: the case of Worker Coops in Japan

Abstract

The Worker Coop movement in Japan originated from protests by organised day labourers who became unemployed in the 1960s and 70s during the peak of rapid economic growth. These workers formed their own self-governed enterprises, which they developed as worker cooperatives. Today, they comprise a nation-wide network and are active especially in the fields of care and the inclusion of vulnerable workers. Worker cooperatives are considered quintessential examples of interstitial organisations designed to counter capitalistic social relations in the sphere of production through their one-person, one-vote decision-making procedures (Wright 2010). Based on the idea that institutionalised social processes structure social relations (Young 2011), this paper explores how contemporary Worker Coops in Japan seek to build collective practices that counter marginalisation. In particular, it focuses on their mandate to 'reflect the opinions of Coop members' in the running of their enterprises, which goes beyond implementing equal voting procedures.

This study analyses in-depth interviews with Coop members and activists, as well as documents published by the Japan Worker Cooperative Union, to reveal how collective practices by Worker Coops construct the conditions for diverse people—including those who are marginalised within dominant social structures—to exercise their agency to shape shared conditions with others. The paper further reflects on how these collective practices in the realms of work and care have implications for the wider society.

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Haijing Dai**Title****Filial piety, intimacy and inter-generational contract: Understanding the family support to rural empty-nest older parents in China****Abstract**

Due to massive internal migration and changing family ethics, the increasing empty-nest older parents in rural China faced many challenges in receiving family care. While state policies emphasized the responsibilities of adult children in providing adequate support to their older parents, it is urgent to understand how such family support can be developed and enhanced. Using data from CGSS 2018, this study explored how filial piety, intimacy and inter-generational contract might explain family support to rural empty-nest older parents and how these approaches interacted with each other. The results showed that parents' earlier investment, current care support and family intimacy could encourage children to provide more financial and care support, but children's recognition of filial piety could not. Meanwhile, children's recognition of filial piety and family intimacy promoted the inter-generational exchange, encouraging children to provide more financial and care support when they received their parents' earlier investment or current care support. Our findings suggested that inter-generational contract and family intimacy were efficient in achieving family support to rural empty-nest older parents, while filial piety lost its binding effect. Moreover, these three approaches were mutually reinforcing rather than contradictory. The policy implications for developing family support to rural empty-nest families were also discussed. Government should pay more attention to the inter-generational contract and family intimacy of rural empty-nest families, then collaborate these approaches to develop family support for empty-nest older parents.

Keywords: Family support, empty-nest older parents, filial piety, intimacy, inter-generational contract

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Title

The Politics of the 2018 Pension Retrenchment in Taiwan: Loud and Noisy, but Credit-Claiming

Abstract

According to the argument of the New Politics, pension reform (/retrenchment) is a politics of blame-avoidance and, therefore, politically impossible. However, the DPP (Democratic Progress Party) successfully launched the 2018 pension reform to reduce the pension benefits of public servants and teachers (including current beneficiaries) in Taiwan. Despite significant political risks, why did the DPP government want to launch the pension retrenchment? How did the DPP government manage the politics of pension reform, and what reforming strategy was adopted? This study aims to develop a theoretical framework entitled "Shaping and Managing Welfare Politics". This framework integrates public opinion and reform strategy to analyse the conditions under which public opinion is influential in shaping social policy outcomes, identifying the social cleavages that emerge in pension politics, and determining the reform strategies that are most effective in managing pension politics. Through the mixed method, quantitative data from the 2017 Social Image Survey and qualitative data from several interviews with interest groups and policymakers, we argue that the 2018 pension reform is a politics of loud but noisy. The DPP strategically made this issue loud to attract public support from private workers and local Taiwanese with a stronger sense of Taiwanese identity by arguing that pension retrenchment for public servants, teachers and military service members was for inter-classes (between private workers and public servants and teachers) and intergenerational justice. Therefore, the 2018 pension reform was considered an opportunity for credit claiming by the DPP.

Keywords: Loud, Noisy, credit-claiming, blame-avoidance, pension reform

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Title**Capitals in Shaping the Educational Expectation of Chinese Migrant Children: The Moderating Effect of Education Policy****Abstract**

With China's push for urbanisation, the number of rural residents migrating to urban areas for work has been increasing. An increasing number of migrants to cities tend to have their children living with them. The barrier for Chinese migrant children to receive compulsory education in urban cities has been gradually solved in recent years. The demand for high school education is now the bottom line for most of migrant children. Unlike compulsory education, high school education in China manifests a convergence process that can profoundly affect students' future decisions. This examination affects migrant children's future life trajectories. Previous studies just provided a general list of senior high school entrance examination policy development or classification of this kind of policy. This article fills a gap in the research on China's senior high school examination policy by classifying the policy into strict, medium, and loose levels and testing the moderating effect of education policy on the relationship between economic, cultural, social capital on educational expectation of Chinese migrant children. The China Education Panel Survey 2013-2014 (CEPS) was used in this research. A total of 2808 participants were selected from this dataset. Structural equation modelling (SEM) was used in this study to test the hypothesised models. Multiple-group analysis was adopted to explore the moderating role of the policy type. The study results showed that only the loose policy level affected the relationship between economic capital and the educational expectations of migrant children. The study identified no significant effects of the strictness of the policy level on the associations between cultural and social capital and migrant children's educational expectation. Finding shows policymakers the importance of lowering barriers to migrant children's access to urban senior high school education. In addition, improvement of admission and employment systems for migrant students from urban vocational schools is also needed.

Keywords: Chinese migrant children, Economic capital, Cultural capital, Social capital, Senior high school entrance examination policy

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Title

How does universal free childcare operate in working mothers' childcare experience in South Korea?

Abstract

Since 2013, universal free childcare for children aged 0-5 has been available in South Korea regardless of parents' income and employment. This paper is aimed at uncovering how the free childcare services interplay in working mothers' childcare experience. Based on primary qualitative research, the study reveals that, despite the free childcare, most of working mothers still have to rely on informal and/or private childcare arrangements due to the discrepancy between available childcare hours and their working hours. The dissatisfaction with the opening hours was more obvious among the private users, whereas a lack of emergency childcare was problematic for both public and private ones. These shortcomings in formal childcare provision have led to some working mothers changing their occupational arrangements, while sometimes experiencing a significant career interruption. I argue that the policy implementation should prioritise the reconciliation between working mothers' employment arrangements and their childcare experience. The aim of future enquiry should be to identify, the ways in which family work policies and institutions support working mothers need to change to ensure there is a balance in work and family responsibilities in South Korea. With regard to the future studies, this current study has involved addressing the equal sharing of the responsibility of childcare within the family, whose concern has been focused more on the impact on working mothers' experiences of childcare in South Korea than working fathers. Hence, future work should also consider gender equality, exploring to what extent the policy implementation of free childcare provision has encouraged equal sharing of childcare care between partners. [256 words].

Keywords: Universal free childcare, working mothers, reconciling family and work, childcare policy, South Korea

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Title

Refractions of De/Familialisation Policy and Complementary Measures

Abstract

Purpose: The objective of this study is to identify the policy refractions (genderisation and stratification) of de/familialisation policies, and to verify whether complementary measures can mitigate these effects. The expanded de/familialisation policy led to policy refractions that prevented de/familialisation of certain classes through social contextualisation. Women face double burden of caring and paid work, and men are excluded from familialisation. Such a situation leads to dualisation based on background. Complementary measures can be expected to mitigate genderisation, stratification, and intersectional inequality.

Method: The composite index of de/familialisation policies and complementary measures of 23 OECD countries was examined, and the effects of the policies on the implementation of de/familialisation were investigated. De/familialisation at the individual-level was used as a dependent variable. The hierarchical generalized linear model was adopted.

Results: First, examination of whether the effect of the defamilialisation policy is refracted by 'gender and class' revealed stratification. Second, familialisation policies were more likely to promote homecare for women and for the low-income class. Furthermore, the effects of complementary measures that can alleviate the policy refraction were examined. Third, the moderating effect of 'gender×class' on complementary measures for defamilialisation was verified. When the affordability of childcare service is high and labour market instability is low, the possibility of low-income women entering the labour market increases. Fourth, the moderating effect of 'gender×class' on complementary measures for familialisation was also significant. Complementary measures have mitigated genderisation by facilitating the redistribution of caring between men and women.

Conclusions: First, institutional strategies such as the daddy-quota, flexible/reduced working hours are needed to support men. Also, It is necessary to refer to companies as active caring agents. Second, dual labour market structure should be considered in the policy agenda. Third, based on the perspective of simultaneous pursuit of distribution and recognition, the de/familialisation policy should operate organically within a single framework.

Keywords: De/familialisation Policy, Policy Refraction, Complementary Measures, Genderisation, Stratification

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Title

The impact of social policies on the motherhood practices of rural-urban migrant mothers in China

Abstract

As China continues to improve its labour laws, social insurance, and household registration policies, more and more migrant workers are bringing their children to cities. Because most policies require social insurance, this welfare tends to benefit more formally employed male migrant workers and their families, while excluding those who do not pay social insurance. This includes migrant mothers who are unemployed due to childbirth and childrearing. Based on field research in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, this study finds that because of social policy constraints, migrant families face significant challenges at different stages of their children's development. Migrant mothers usually make compromises and sacrifices to meet these challenges when they perform their maternal duties. First, due to the complexity of the reimbursement process in maternity policies, most families choose to pay for their maternity expenses and return to their hometowns to give birth; second, faced with the heavy burden of raising children, many migrant mothers lose their full-time jobs; third, limited educational resources and policy biases prevent a large proportion of children from attending public schools. The economic pressure and poorer teaching quality of private schools push some mothers to return to their hometowns to accompany their children. Overall, while policy improvements have reduced family separation, they have significantly impacted women. They increase the motherhood penalty and financial pressures on women, pushing them further into the ranks of the unemployed, who lack social security. In other words, while policy reforms have helped alleviate the duality between urban and rural policies, they exacerbate the welfare gap between the genders and reinforce the gender division of labour.

Keywords: Motherhood, Social Policy, Rural-urban migration

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Title

Buffer or burden? : changing effect of household poverty on living with parents among South Korean young adults

Abstract

In this paper, we seek to shed light on the impact of parental economic status on young adults' transition to independence. Living with parents can act as a buffer against the risk of poverty during the transition to independence for young adults, and young people who received sufficient financial support from their parents transitioned to independence more quickly than their peers and lowered the associated poverty risk. However, it is unclear how the transition timing and the economic status of young adults with economically disadvantaged parents differ. We use the Korea Welfare Panel Survey to investigate whether the time taken for young adults to achieve independence differs based on the economic status of their parents and whether the economic status of parents impacts the post-independence poverty of young adult children differently. Panel analysis is employed to track young people born between 1987 and 1993 for ten years from the age of 18, observing changes in household type based on the parental household's economic status. Our findings show that the attainment of independence by young adults is determined differently based on the economic conditions of their parental household. These findings have important implications for policymakers in Korea regarding low birth rates and young adult policies.

Keywords: Young adulthood, Living arrangement, Poverty among young adults, Transition inequality, Parental home independence

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Title
The gender difference in the income of self-employed in South Korea

Abstract

This study aims to discuss differences in the earnings effects of self-employment (own-account workers and employers) by gender in South Korea through a fixed-effects model analysis. Although South Korea has already been analysed for its internationally high gender wage gap in dependent employment, there has been limited empirical analysis of the factors that explain the gender earnings differences in self-employment which are similar to that of dependent employment. Therefore, this study reviews existing debates on self-employment's gendered aspects and analyzes the gender earnings differences in self-employment based on household and individual data from the 2009 (12th) to 2020 (23rd) waves of the Korean Labour and Income Panel Study (KLIPS), focusing on the employees and the self-employed aged 15-64 in each survey year. Furthermore, I will use STATA 14.0 to estimate a labour income function using pooled OLS and fixed-effects models to analyse the earnings effects of self-employment by gender and to understand what factors may explain these effects, focusing on occupational class and employment status. Specifically, this study aims to identify female- or male-dominated occupations among the self-employed to analyse gender differences in earnings effects. Also, this study considers differences in working hours, earnings, and employment relationships among the self-employed in terms of employment status.

Keywords: Self-employment, Gender, Earnings, Fixed-effects model, South Korea

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Title

Building Markets: Distributional Consequences of Social Policy in East Asia

Abstract

This presentation is based on the newly published book of the same title. It examines the institutional configuration of social policy in the major economies of East Asia, notably, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. Its primary challenge is to explain why and how these countries have developed their own brand of redistributive strategies despite a substantial antagonism between social policy and economic policy that was invariably resolved by subordinating the former to the latter. It investigates various strategies of building as well as taming capitalism and discusses the extent to which social policy designs have addressed both old and new social risks.

It shows that there is a considerable degree of variations both in terms of the means by which social risks are managed and in terms of the extent to which redistributive actions are carried out. Surprisingly, there also appears to be substantial redistributive components built into the social policy institutions in East Asia. However, these components are different from the standard model of welfare states as they were not so much about redistributing income and risk against the brutality of capitalism. They were much more about redistributing opportunity in favour of capitalism. The redistributive intent built into the social policy institutions were fundamentally different in that their primary objectives were neither social protection nor income maintenance. Whereas these were the two core aims of all welfare states that were established to correct market failure and tame capitalism, social policy institutions in East Asia were formed with the intention to build markets and nurture capitalism.

Keywords: East Asia, Redistribution, Capitalism, Social Risks, Markets

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Title

The Effect of Women's Labour Market Participation on Household Income Inequality

Abstract

The unexpected outbreak of COVID-19 has brought significant changes to individuals and society worldwide, and South Korea is no exception. To slow down the spread of the Corona virus, the government implemented measures such as social distancing and limiting business hours. As in other countries, the COVID-19 outbreak has had a disproportionate effect on women's employment in Korea, causing more women than men to lose their jobs and income. According to the fact that women's labour force participation has decreased, their income is expected to negatively affect the distribution of family income more significantly than before. However, previous research on the impact of women's earnings on income inequality provides mixed evidence. Therefore, it is unclear whether such participation actually reduces family income inequality as an important part of social inequality.

Given the above study context, this study examines married women's labour market participation and household income inequality, focusing on the incomes of households with a husband and a wife. As this study analyses the COVID 19 period, it can shed light on the effects of the economic recession.

Keywords: household income inequality, women's labour market participation, Covid-19, precarious work

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Title

Exploring the Contemporary Care Crisis in Taiwan from the Perspective of the Work-Family Conflict of Home Care Workers under the Pandemic

Abstract

Since the outbreak of Covid 19, governments have closed schools and daycare centres on a large scale under the principle of social distancing. The task of childcare and long-term care, which has been outsourced, has returned to the family. The transformation not only increases the burden of domestic care for women but also affects their employment situation. The situation faced by paid home care workers is relatively more difficult than that by other workers. On the one hand, as essential workers, care workers face the explosive demand for care workforce during the pandemic; they cannot resolve the work-family conflicts through “work from home” or the use of pandemic prevention and care leave like some white-collar workers. On the other hand, home care workers' frequent physical contact with clients during the pandemic also increases their risk of contracting the disease. Moreover, most home care workers adopt an atypical employment pattern. They do not have the basic salary guarantee provided by a fixed employer, so they must absorb the risk of loss of work income during the epidemic. During the pandemic, it has also left home care workers in a dilemma between health and financial security.

In this article, I will analyse the qualitative interviews with home care workers to present their labour difficulties and conflicts between work and family during the pandemic. I will argue that the above problems encountered by care workers during the pandemic reflect the long-standing care crisis in Taiwan before the pandemic: in the case of the low development of the public care service system, people's care needs are highly dependent on the family system, although there is a care service system outside the family, the home care workers within the system are trapped in the precarious situation of employment instability and insufficient labour security. All the addressed issues make it difficult for paid care work to be a decent job vacancy to maintain the working-family balance. The pandemic has amplified such difficulty.

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Mothering in the pandemic: opportunities and challenges of Vietnamese mothers in Taiwan

Abstract

As COVID-19 hits the globe in 2020, it has affected every aspect of social life and has disturbed the rhythm of the lives of households. In which, the parenting of parents is also greatly affected when they have to deal with job loss, salary reduction and have to take care of children during the pandemic. For Asian women, especially Vietnamese mothers in Taiwan, the discourse about mothering by these immigrant mothers is often overlooked and the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have made it disappear altogether. Using qualitative research, in-depth interviews with 14 Vietnamese mothers, this study examines Vietnamese mothers' perceptions in Taiwan about what opportunities and challenges COVID-19 has brought to their mothering compared to the pre-pandemic period. The study found that despite financial difficulties and limited information technology abilities leading to they did not know how to help their children for learning at home, the pandemic helps these mothers have more time to spend with their children and improve themselves as a good mother, which is beyond their expectations when the pandemic unfolds. This immigrant study contributes to research on mothering by showing that Vietnamese mothers have flexibly turned challenges into opportunities as a strategy for the mothering of immigrant mothers during the pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19, mothering, challenges and opportunities, Vietnamese mothers, Taiwan

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The gendered pandemic: The impact of Covid-19 in paid and unpaid work of Vietnamese immigrant women in Taiwan.

Abstract

The impact of crises is not limited to any gender; they exacerbate gender and socioeconomic inequalities. The covid pandemic has aggravated the disadvantaged situation of women in society as they face job loss and focus on unpaid work more, or they have to try to balance care and work, especially working mothers. The closure of educational institutions during covid has robbed them of access to childcare support in the institutions, which has significantly impacted paid and unpaid work of parents, especially mothers. Immigrant women are often seen as a vulnerable group in society, and when the covid epidemic occurs, they are also the ones who suffer the most. Many countries have implemented policies to reduce the damage of the epidemic of gender inequality in work and family. However, the difference in implementation and cultural infrastructure that the policies have implemented have strengths and limitations. This study uses the lens of intersectionality to understand the changes in the work and family of Vietnamese women in Taiwan and discuss the policy to support this group during the pandemic. Through in-depth interviews with 12 Vietnamese women in Eastern Taiwan, the article affirms that covid-19 has set the stage for the return of gender inequality in unpaid work, which was well negotiated before the covid-19 outbreak. The article suggests a policy of gender inclusion that puts women at the centre to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, especially immigrant women.

Keywords: pandemic, inequality, immigrant women, Vietnamese immigrant women, paid and unpaid work

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Title

Decision on Undertaking Financial Weakness to Pursue Higher Education in East Asia: Through Comparison of Perceptions on the National Students Loan Users between Korea and Japan

Abstract

In East Asia, where higher education has been massively popularized, supports for young adults has expanded not only in terms of employment supports, but also assistances for students' living conditions. One of the most noticeable trends since the 2000s has been the expansion of loan-type assistance program (National Student Loan System) that provide public supports for college students' tuition and living expenses.

In Korea and Japan, the number of students using NSL has increased since the 2000s, meaning students make the choice to go to college without demanding other type of financial supports such as the implementation of grant-type financial supports and free / low-cost university education. In particular, the massification of higher education has led to a decline in the benefits of receiving undergraduate degree in East Asian societies, and college education no longer be advantage for students as it once did in the past.

It remains unclear how young adults perceive their own choice to enter college with their financial vulnerability. Therefore, this paper attempts to clarify how the choice entering college is accepted by individuals in a society where higher education has become popular by investigating how NSL users in Korea and Japan perceive their decision on undertaking financial weakness in order to pursue higher education. It offers important implications for developing societies in South and Southeast Asia.

Keywords: higher education, youth policy, student loan, debt aversion

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Title**Latent Profiles of Social-Wellbeing: Examining the Socioeconomic Impact Factors and Differences in Suicidal Ideation****Abstract**

This study classified the latent profiles depending on the level of social well-being and investigated the influence of related impact factors and differences in suicidal ideation. The analysis used the data samples of 2,446 young adults from the 2021 Korea Social Integration Survey. As a result, the five different sub-types of social well-being emerged, to name, depressive-distrust group (1.2%), unfair-distrust group (2.7%), mid-wellbeing group(37.2%), optimistic-trust group(47.6%), and unhealthy-isolation group(11.3%). The result from multinomial logit analysis showed that socioeconomic factors (gender, age, spouse status, work, level of economic stability, and perception of social status) were significant determinants of latent profiles. The level of suicidal ideation in "the depressive-distrust group" and "the unhealthy-isolation group" was higher than that of other types, and "the unfair-distrust group" was higher than "the optimistic-trust group". This study identified that the level of social wellbeing appears in different types. In addition, this study examined the impact factors related to the latent profiles and showed that the levels of suicide ideation are different depending on the social well-being profile. This study has implications for effective social intervention measures to reduce suicidal ideation.

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Title

The Effects of Wage Policy on the job quality of Long-term Care Sector in South Korea

Abstract

Background. Although Long-term care (LTC) workers provide a crucial service for the elderly, their job quality is evaluated as low and unstable.

The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of wage regulation policies (i.e., the Policy Rule for Long-Term Care Insurance) on the job quality in nursing homes and home-based care (i.e., zero-hour contracts).

Methods. Data on 1421 nursing home workers and 720 home-based personal care workers were extracted from the 2019 Long-term care Status Survey and were analysed using OLS and logistic regression.

Results. First, in nursing homes, other allowances (family allowances) and financial incentives have a significant association with the employment quality. However, those with better conditions (younger and higher education workforce) are more likely to leave LTC settings. Second, in home care, legal allowances (weekly holidays, etc.), social insurance, and ownership (more public/non-profit) were found to be meaningful in terms of employment quality. This shows the need for supply regulation through ownership in LTC sectors.

Conclusion. The wage regulation policy had a significant impact to some extent, but young and high-quality workers with college degrees were not encouraged to work in LTC jobs.

Keywords: Long-Term Care Insurance, wage policies, job quality, Long-term care (LTC) workers

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Title

Investigating path dependency in familialistic welfare states: the aftermath of Covid19 and women's employment in Italy and South Korea

Abstract

Family-oriented welfare systems in Southern Europe and East Asia share in common a long-standing tradition of depending on families for social care functions, which also affected their demographic structure, with later and fewer marriages and declining childbirths. (Saraceno, 2016; Leon, Migliavacca, 2013, Yang, Estevez-Abe, Choi, 2016; Hong & Lee, 2021). Yet, during the past ten years, governments differed in their work-family reconciliation policies. Italy is akin to a case of "policy drift", where social investment received little attention from policymakers, whereas South Korea managed to invest considerably in childcare services and family allowances during the past decade, despite still relying heavily on private care providers. In this sense, whilst both welfare states share a long-standing tradition of familialism, they nevertheless followed a different policy path for a sustained period of time before Covid19 hit the globe in 2020.

Is this different policy legacy associated to patterns of women's participation to the labour market in the aftermath of Covid19?

This paper engages in a comparison of these two familialistic welfare states through a comparative case study analysis. The two countries under scrutiny represent an interesting combination in that they are similar in terms of social expectations regarding gender responsibilities, family care and limited employment opportunities for women, yet they differ on their policy reforms from the past decade, i.e. family policies and the specific policy interventions taken in response to the pandemic. This paper aims to examine how national policies and family coping strategies have combined in response to the pandemic emergency, resulting in different employment patterns for women of different educational and skill levels. Through a comparative institutional analysis of their respective family and anti-pandemic policies, the use of official data from OECD databases national statistical offices (ISTAT - Italian Institute of Statistics, and KOSTAT - Statistics Korea), and descriptive analyses on female employment type and quality drawn from two waves of the Italian PLUS data (2018 and 2021) and the Korean KLoWF data (2018 and 2020), we examine the ways in which different social policy reforms in these two countries might have played a role in the subsequent development of women's employment in the aftermath of the Covid19 pandemic.

Keywords: women's employment, family policy, labour market, Covid19, comparative case study

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Title

The Effect of Social Pension on Old-age Poverty in South Korea

Abstract

This study examines the effects of a non-contributory old-age pension program, called the Basic Pension Scheme, on income and consumption poverty among older adults in South Korea. Research interests in social pension programs have been ignited by a few pioneering studies. Case & Deaton (1998) and Duflo (2003) found the positive effects of a large cash transfer on the well-being of older people and their families in South Africa. Since then, the literature shows that social pension programs have significant effects on the lives of older people across countries in Latin America and other regions. Lately, a second generation of social pension programs has provided a small cash transfer to the elderly in some East Asian countries including Korea. This study investigates the case of the Korean social pension program implemented for the last fifteen years to see whether a small cash transfer has a beneficial effect on old-age poverty among older people.

This study uses a nationally representative survey data, called the Household Income and Expenditure Survey. We apply a difference-in-differences event study design to capture the net effect for those affected by exogenous changes in the program. We provide some evidence that the social pension program reduces income and consumption poverty. Results show that the poverty reducing effects are concentrated on older elderly people. A supplementary analysis based on a regression discontinuity design provides some evidence that the program consistently reduces poverty rates among younger elderly people. Our findings may be better understood in relation to unique institutional features of the Korean social pension or the particular socio-economic milieu surrounding older Koreans. We discuss implications for the future direction of the social pension in Korea and provide lessons for old-age income support in other East Asian countries.

Keywords: old-age poverty, social pension, non-contributory old-age pension, event study design, difference-in-differences

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Title

The Factors Affecting Wage Fairness Perception of Social Workers in Long-term Care Institution

Abstract

Along with the introduction of the long-term care insurance system for the elderly, Korea has also seen a rapid expansion of infrastructure. However, despite quantitative increase in the number of long-term care worker, the low wages, poor working conditions, and high turnover rate of care worker have been a persistent problem, and a solution is needed to improve the quality of long-term care services. In order to solve the problem of wages for care worker, it is important to increase the amount of objective wages and to make sure that worker recognize that compensation is appropriate for their work. Care worker turnover may occur because of high wages (Lim et al., 2020), but it also occurs when they receive less wage or compensation compared to the hard work, i.e., when their perception of fairness of wages is low (Kwon et al., 2018).

This study examines the factors that influence the perception of wage fairness among social workers in long-term care institutions. We used 2,332 social workers working in long-term care institutions nationwide from the 2017 social workers' working environment survey data. The research method utilized multiple regression analysis. The analysis revealed a tendency to recognize that the lower the age and education level, the fairer the wage received. The number of overtime hours worked, hazardous experience, job satisfaction, satisfaction with promotion opportunities, satisfaction with job benefits, and monthly salary were also found to affect wage fairness. Among these, dangerous experiences on the job, promotion opportunities, and satisfaction with job benefits had a greater impact on social workers' perception of wage fairness than did monthly wages amount. This suggests that in approaching low wage policies for social workers in long-term care institutions, policy approaches that improve the working environment can be as important as those that increase total wages.

Keywords: long-term care, worker, perception, wage fairness

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Title

Research on Philosophical Concept of Despair

Abstract

Despair is an existential experience for humans. Not like animals, humans in nature relate to the world with their minds, they can be easily overwhelmed by despairs, and despairs are everywhere in human society. The point is how to move beyond despair and find new hope. If a person's life is entirely troubled with despair, he or she cannot find any values or meanings for his/her lives. Therefore, the research questions are; what are the possible conditions for moving forward hopes beyond despair?, how can they be realized?, and how to implement them?

This study aims to philosophically explore the nature and manifestation of despair across a person's existential life to capture the point at which the philosophical paradox of 'no hope without despair' works. For this purpose, this study philosophically explores the human conditions that lead to despair. One of the human conditions under scrutiny is anxiety. Existential philosophy connects existential anxiety with dislike, depression, and despair, and we need to review the philosophical concepts of these feelings. Secondly, it is necessary to examine the philosophical concepts such as Kierkegaard's 'self' and 'self-relationship', in that paradoxically, we can reach to a true existence only when we totally surrender ourselves to despair. In addition, it is necessary to scrutinize the despair, implicit in the concepts of Jaspers' 'extreme situation (Grenzsituation)' and the conditions necessary to overcome the despair.

Kierkegaard defines despair as fatal disease to death. Despair, in this understanding, is both an important chance and a task for human existence. Despair is an extreme situation, as is examined by Jaspers, but it is only through this situation, the path to true existence opens. In this respect, this study has important implications for the study of 'deaths of despair'.

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Title

How does the Trend of Deaths of Despair Appear in Korea? Analysis of Detailed Causes of Death and Demographic Characteristics.

Abstract

After the concept of the deaths of despair was presented in the studies of Deaton and Case, studies analysing the phenomenon and trend of the deaths of despair were conducted in various countries. This study examines how the trend of despair deaths is affecting Korea in terms of mortality. Unfortunately, South Korea has the stigma of being the country with the highest suicide rate, and the suicide rate is high for all age groups, especially the elderly, middle-aged, and young. According to the concept of death by despair, various levels of cumulative deprivation, starting with economic instability, lead to alcohol addiction, drug misuse, and suicide. There are various explanations for Korea's high suicide rate. However, let's look at what trends are shown when we look at death rates not only from suicide but also from alcohol and drugs. For this purpose, the data to be used in this study is the statistical data on causes of death provided by the National Statistical Office of Korea. The analysis period is from 1997 to 2021. This includes both the IMF economic crisis in the late 1990s and the global economic crisis in the early 2000s in Korea.

In the United States, the concept of the deaths of despair begins with race and education as key demographic and socioeconomic axes. However, in the case of Korea, it is difficult to apply the concept of race. Based on this, the frequency and rate of deaths by age group will be examined, and additional analysis will be conducted by dividing the cause of death into internal factors (diseases such as cancer) and external factors (alcohol, drugs, suicide) of deaths.

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Title

Surviving in the post-repatriation era: Home-making strategies of homeless people in post-socialist China

Abstract

While Chinese people are technically guaranteed a place to live through the hukou system, homelessness is still an issue in China. Our paper aims to explore the home-making strategies of homeless people in the context of China's homelessness policy transition from repatriation to assistance in the post-socialist era, using in-depth interviews with homeless people and others interacting with them in Shanghai's high-prestige downtown area. Drawing on Giddens' structuration theory, we find that homeless people work to create a sense of home through: 1) avoiding the government service centres where freedom, privacy and social contact are restricted; 2) adapting their routines to rigid place management in the daytime and benefitting from strict security at night; and 3) tactically utilising surrounding spaces and facilities to carry out daily activities and develop a sense of home and control. Government assistance through the service centres is inadequate and may even be diametrically opposed to homemaking, highlighting room for improvement in government homelessness policies.

Keywords: homelessness; home-making strategies; government control and assistance; adaptive strategies; post-socialist China

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Title

Transforming Social Welfare in Thailand: The Challenges to Digital Government

Abstract

Thai government undergoes the current trend to digital Thailand however the government challenges in applying the concept of digital government to some government agencies which bring to the misunderstanding of the right direction and plans to digital government. Digital Government Capability Areas are as follows: Citizen-centric & Service-oriented (Personalized, Seamless and Proactive); Smart & High Performance (Data-driven, Agile, Lean, Automated and Innovative); and Open & Connected (Traceable and Participative). Government of Thailand spends a lot of money to support social welfare to people through their life cycle, from birth to death. Separate departments and ministries manage social welfare without data sharing across them. The limitations in social welfare payment are (1) information is separated in many of involved welfare agencies (2) if the welfare information undelivered to the public, some not get the welfare (3) need to contact several agencies in person to receive the social welfare (4) difficult to monitor and evaluate the social welfare projects (5) people may misuse the social welfare they get (6) unable to prevent the risk of social welfare payment duplication.

The research objectives are as follows: to explore Thai social welfare in the context of digital government; to study the National Strategic Plans concerning to social welfare in digital government; and to study and analyse Leading Practices and adapt to Thai context. Transforming Social Welfare in Thailand will change from “Conventional Social Welfare Service” (Registration in Person, Separated Social Welfare and Cash) to “Integrated & Proactive Social Welfare Service” (One Citizen One Social Record, Mobile Registration, Personalized Services, and e-Payment via One Card). Developing social welfare system will support the access of people and increase the efficiency and transparency.

Keywords: social welfare, digital government, citizen centric, innovation, e-payment

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Title

Exploring the links between punitiveness and the political economy of welfare: are criminal justice regimes a key dimension of varieties of capitalism in OECD countries?

Abstract

The argument that high-income democratic countries with established welfare states cluster into distinct types that reflect long-run institutional differences in political economy is a longstanding feature of the comparative social policy literature. The field of comparative criminology is less well-developed, but leading contributors have suggested that cross-national variations in penal policy may follow a similar path. Notably, Lacey et al (2018) have articulated an explanatory framework for understanding penal trends through a political economy lens that incorporates social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions and is loosely rooted in the varieties of capitalism literature. We review their framework and operationalise its key concepts into empirically testable measures, using them to classify institutional and policy frameworks in 22 OECD countries, including Japan and Korea. Drawing on data covering a 25-year time period and using fuzzy set comparative qualitative analysis (QCA) we then explore the extent to which key institutional features identified in the political economy literature can help explain cross-national differences in penal punitiveness. We find the degree of punitiveness strongly overlaps with the common varieties of capitalism groupings. Accordingly, we conclude there is indeed much to be gained in considering cross-national variations in criminal justice policy alongside other institutional features commonly examined in the comparative political economy of welfare literature.

Keywords: Varieties of capitalism; welfare regimes; criminal justice; penal policy; comparative political economy; QCA.

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Title

Directions of Public Pension Reform to Accommodate the Extremely Ageing Population: The Case of South Korea

Abstract

Population ageing is considered a grave threat to financial sustainability of public pension system in many countries. The speed of population ageing is particularly high in South Korea. The country's total fertility rate recorded 0.78 in 2022, far lower than the replacement level of 2.1 and the lowest in the world. The old-age dependency ratio (the ratio of the population aged 65 and over to the population aged between 18 and 64) in the country is projected to surpass 100 per cent by 2070, reaching 104.4 per cent. The effective ratio of pensioners to contributors in South Korea is expected to surpass 100 per cent in 2050 and reach 158.2 per cent in 2070. It is hard to imagine any viable pension system in which two workers should support more than three pensioners.

One possible solution might be to raise the pensionable age. Even if South Korea raises the pensionable age to 70, however, the old-age to working-age ratio is projected to be around 76.8 percent and the effective ratio of pensioners to contributors around 115.6 per cent in 2070. The remaining life expectancy at age 65 is projected to be 21.53 years for both sexes in that year. In order to have a viable pension system with such a demographic structure, we have to find a way to make most of the population aged between 18 and 69 be employed and to let many of the pensioners work as well. This will require pension reform as well as labour market reform to promote active ageing. In addition, we have to make sure that every person with earned income contributes to the public pension system. This paper will discuss these issues and make some innovative policy proposals to solve these difficult problems.

Keywords: population ageing, pension reform, active ageing,

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Title**Family Values in East Asian Social Safety Nets****Abstract**

East Asian welfare systems are unanimously described as a regime with a strong emphasis for families to provide welfare, so families should be self-sufficient and meet family members' welfare needs. There is relatively less consensus regarding the extent to which these family values are embodied in welfare policies across East Asian societies. Existing East Asian welfare literature on this topic mainly focused on investigating family values in care policies, including childcare policies and elderly care systems. Little is known about how family values are embedded in social safety nets, namely policies targeting low-income families. Understanding the degree to which social safety nets support childrearing and marriage is important as East Asian societies face similar demographic challenges, such as low fertility rate and the dissolution of marriage institutions and are dire to explore policy solutions to avert these trends. Scrutinizing family values in social safety nets not only can further contribute to the conceptualisation of welfare systems in East Asia but also, and it can also offer governments evidence to review their policy design to help pursue their vision for the society. In this study, we use a model family approach to collect income packaging data for more than 60 hypothetical family profiles, which vary in income levels (from no earnings, one earner, to two earners) and family compositions (e.g., childless adult(s), single parents, and two-parent families). Income packages include information on labour income, welfare benefits, tax and social security contributions, and the cost of services. Welfare benefits encompass collecting the amounts of social assistance benefits, food subsidy, housing subsidy, child benefits, childcare subsidy, education subsidy, fertility subsidy, medical subsidy, transportation subsidy, utility subsidy, work subsidy, and other subsidies.

We collected such data in 2019, 2020, and 2021 in mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan. We further calculated and contrasted how the six East Asian societies differ in supporting childrearing, supporting single parenting, and incentivizing marriage in their welfare benefit design. Specifically, we examined the support for childrearing by comparing benefit generosity between childless adults and parents with children across societies. We investigated the marital values by contrasting benefit generosity between single and married families. We further dissect the findings by families with lower and higher earnings.

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Title

Typological approach to labour market dualisation and its relation to health and well-being in South Korea

Abstract

Labour market dualisation has been a salient issue in South Korea after social, political, and economic developments in the '90s. This has led to examination of the erosion of standard employment, in favour of (new) non-standard forms of work, which are often argued to be of a more precarious nature and related to detrimental health and well-being consequences. Dualisation theories also suggest that certain socio-demographic groups and economic strata (gender, age, occupational class etc.) are likely to align with more (de-)standardised forms of employment.

The aims of the study therefore are twofold. We examined the nature and scope of standard and non-standard employment amongst employees in Korea by applying a typological, multidimensional Employment Quality perspective. Secondly, we tested whether a social gradient was present in terms of health and well-being indicators (mental well-being, subjective general health, and work-life balance) according to different types of employment. Data of the Korean Working Conditions Survey (KWCS) was used; latent class cluster analysis was administered for the first objective, and logistic regression was applied for the second objective.

Whilst dualisation theory points to a dichotomy of the labour market (insiders versus outsiders), our (preliminary) results indicate a more fine-grained distinction of employment arrangements with six various types identified. These types have a distinct configuration of the Employment Quality features. Linking the various employment arrangements to the health and well-being indicators shows that there is indeed a social gradient present: the SER-like arrangement overall has the most advantageous association with all three health and well-being outcomes. Furthermore, the employment arrangements with more precarious features show the most detrimental health and well-being outcomes.

Keywords: Labour market dualisation; Employment quality; Work-related health and well-being; Latent class analysis

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Between empowerment and disempowerment: The lack of place-based development in Southwest China

Abstract

This paper focuses on indigenous development in Lugu Lake, Southwest China, which is inhabited by the ethnic Mosuo people. Through the dual lenses of land and labour, we pay special attention to the transition from grassroots development initiatives to heavy dependence on exogenous capital and entrepreneurs. Since the 1990s, the region has undergone a rapid transition towards market economic practices, as indigenous people and entrepreneurs from the outside alike capitalise on the scenic nature and Mosuo ethnic cultures for tourism development. Tourism development was kicked off spontaneously and intentionally by local community leaders in the 1990s, and outside entrepreneurs (almost all of which are of the Han, China's ethnic majority) started to throng into the region in the late 2000s, who soon assumed a dominant role in the local tourism economy, displacing economic activities directly organised by local people. In this process, while local people are partly empowered because they amass considerable wealth by leasing lands to outside entrepreneurs, and through incomes from waged labour, they are simultaneously relegated to a marginal position, as economic development and the betterment of "hard" infrastructure has not been accompanied by the introduction of "soft" infrastructure, in terms of education, social capital, and cultural knowledge, that enables local people to participate directly in the local economic transition. Drawing on the recent call in geography and regional studies for place-based approach to development for people in peripheral regions, the presentation appeals for state policies that focus on the endogenous potentials of local communities and intervene in capacity building at the local scale.

Keywords: Indigenous people; economic development; soft infrastructure; place-based development

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Title: Contracting Out Social Services in Three First-Tier China's Cities: Exploring 'Variation' through the Eyes of NGO Practitioners

Abstract

In the last two decades, the Chinese government has made serious attempts to enhance social provision by contracting out social services. Empirical evidence suggests that openness and flexibility of resource allocation gradually decrease from Guangzhou in southern China to Beijing in northern China, amongst China's three first-tier cities. This study further reveals that state–non-governmental organisation (NGO) relations vary not only across geographical locations but also amongst service sectors governed by government departments and mass organisations. The varied state–NGO relations across geographical locations and service sectors manifest the complexity of the state–NGO collaboration under China's fragmented authoritarian governance system. Different local circumstances and diverse considerations of local officials involving vertical and horizontal lines of authority accounted for the variations and complexity from the eyes of NGO practitioners.

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Title

A multi-group mediation analysis of the impact of poverty on the language performance of Hong Kong preschool children

Abstract

Empirical studies have shown relations between childhood poverty and adverse outcomes of physical and mental health, cognitive ability, poor academic achievement and income in adulthood. However, previous studies have suggested that positive parenting and income effect through family resources (e.g., home literacy environment) have the potential to mediate the effects of poverty on child development. It is, therefore, critical to assess what mediates the income effect on children's cognitive achievement.

Empirical studies demonstrate the mediating effect of parental investment on child cognitive development. The accessibility to cognitively stimulating materials (e.g., books and educational toys) and educationally enriching activities (e.g., reading, visiting the library) has consistently been predictive of children's cognitive and academic functioning. It has been well-documented that family characteristics largely influence children's cognitive development. However, most studies on parents' role in child cognitive development predominantly focused on mother-child interactions. Previous studies have identified reasons for extending father involvement in child cognitive development studies, such as new beliefs about parental roles amid socioeconomic changes and policy implications of paternal involvement in child cognitive and language development. Therefore, this article aims to examine the mediating effect of parental investment on child language development and assess the differences between maternal and paternal involvement in child language development in Hong Kong particularly.

In addition to the 'investment' theories, the impact of income on child development outcomes can also be explained via a family stress model. Low-income families may experience economic strains, such as limited access to necessities and difficulties in bill payments. Unstable work and income loss can lead to economic hardship. Parents with low incomes may also be unable to engage in cognitively stimulating activities with their children. Parents' non-monetary capacities, such as emotional well-being and interactions with children, are related to child developmental outcomes. This article, therefore, aims to examine the mediating effect of parental distress on child language development in the context of Hong Kong.

In light of the existing literature, we made three predictions. First, we hypothesise that parental investment positively mediates family SES and child language development. Second, we assume parental distress negatively mediates family SES and child language development. Third, we expect that there will be maternal and paternal differences in the involvement in child language development. The analysis is based on a cross-sectional study of 167 preschool children (36 to 47 months) who completed a neurocognitive assessment with their self-administered parent questionnaire. The neurocognitive assessment was adopted to assess the language functions of preschool children. Neuropsychology Second Edition (NEPSY-II) and Hong Kong Comprehensive Assessment Scales for Preschool Children (HKCAS-P) were adopted to assess the languages (both in Cantonese and English) of preschool children aged 36 to 47 months. A structured questionnaire was self-administered by parents to understand their SES, parental investment and parental distress. Four groups of path analysis models were examined in this study using AMOS v28. Group 1 examined the impact of parental language-related investment on child Chinese performance, followed by the impact on English performance (Group 2). Likewise, Groups 3 and 4 examined the impact of parental non-language-related investment on Chinese and English performance. Implications of these findings for policy and practice and priorities for future research will also be discussed.

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Title

The Impact of Life Stages and Work Characteristics on the Well-being of Female Workers in Japan

Abstract

Wages and social protections are generally better for employed workers than for the self-employed in Japan. There is also a significant disparity between standard and nonstandard workers among employed workers, with standard employment having much better working conditions than nonstandard employment. Therefore, women in nonstandard employment and self-employment earn lower wages and have less social protection than women in standard employment. However, the subjective well-being of female workers in nonstandard or self-employment has been known to be higher than that of standard female workers. This has led to a justification of the significant disparities between standard and nonstandard workers and delayed tackling the problem. Relying on subjective satisfaction does not adequately address the problem.

This paper will analyze why subjective well-being for nonstandard workers and self-employment workers is higher than that for standard workers among women, despite unfavourable working conditions, based on a survey focusing on self-employment workers. The study will examine the impact of their life stages and work characteristics. It will also consider how we should assess their well-being from more objective and multi-dimensional perspectives. Self-employment can be a promising option for female workers in Japan, given the large gender disparities in the employment sector. This paper discusses how we could create a fairer and more rewarding environment for female workers in Japan.

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Title

Improving Labour Rights through Coercionary Policy Transfers in South-Korea

Abstract

This study is founded on a discussion about the role and the mechanism of policy transfer in labour policies and investigates the impact of international organisations on labour reforms in Korea. The majority of studies claim that, after the East Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s, Korea dismantled strict state regulations on labour relations in favour of business. In contrast, this study argues that, even during the Neoliberal era, labour-friendly policy reforms were implemented in order to strengthen basic labour rights. It was mainly international factors that drove these reforms, not domestic ones. Case studies included in this study deal with adjusting labour relations laws to international labour standards. Korea, which had joined international organisations (including the International Labour Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and extended free trade agreements, faced pressure to adopt ILO basic labour standards. In particular, the trade-labour linkage system adopted by the OECD and the EU has played a decisive role in Korea's acceptance of international standards for unionisation, collective bargaining, and strike rights. Moreover, this study demonstrates through a number of failed reforms that also domestic factors, especially tripartite agreements, have a significant impact on the success of acceptance of international labour standards.

Keywords: Labour Policies, ILO, Core Labour Standard, South Korea, Trade-labour linkage

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Title

Evaluating Japanese Family Policy: Review of “Outline of Measures for Society with Decreasing Birthrate”

Abstract

The number of children born in Japan has been declining since the 1970s and by the 90s the Japanese government stated that the country was now “a society with a decreasing birthrate”. Despite such awareness, the latest statistics showed that the number of births for the year 2022 was fewer than 800,000 which is the lowest number since the government started compiling statistics on births in 1899. A low birthrate, combined with an aging society, has made family policy a much-discussed issue. The government has enacted legislations and released the policy paper “Outline of Measures for Society with Decreasing Birthrate” every 5 years since 2004. However, these policy interventions have proven ineffective with three critical issues: ambiguous policy goals, inconsistency in policies and targets, and a lack of a robust framework for policy evaluation. To understand the core of Japanese family policy this paper critically analyses the 4th “Outline of Measures for Society with Decreasing Birthrate” released in 2020. In the policy paper, 101 policies are stated as “the most important policies” within the five areas of support: creating environments that give hope to the age group of making families; meeting the diverse needs of families with children; implementing policies taking account of the situations of each local area into consideration; creating a warm society for marriage/pregnancy/childbirth/childrearing; and make good use of new resources including technology.

Keywords: Family policy, Demography, Policy evaluation, Japan

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Title**Impact of Debt Levels in Local Governments on Fiscal Spending Structure: Evidence from Japan****Abstract**

In Japan, local government mergers progressed during the 2000s, leading to local debt reduction and management in many municipalities. In light of major changes experienced by local governments, this study uses Japanese prefectural data collected since the 2000s to examine the degree to which local government debt levels are related to specific welfare-related expenditures for civil welfare, specifically social welfare, elderly welfare, child welfare, and public assistance.

Some earlier studies specifically examine the relation between financial soundness and expenditure structures of local governments (e.g. Fisher, 2015; Ando, 2017). Fisher (2015) uses panel data of 17 US states during 1998–2010 to investigate US state debt level effects on expenses on social welfare, finding that increased debt does not directly affect social welfare expense amounts. However, it indirectly affects reduced welfare expenditure through rising interest rates of local bonds. For Japan, Ando (2017) clarifies that municipalities with a high financial stability index have increased subsidisation for child medical expenses, but few reports describe concrete investigations of causal relations between local government debt levels and public welfare outlays.

Our study, by applying econometric analyses such as the panel threshold regression model and GMM model, verifies whether the Fisher hypothesis presented above applies to Japan, or not. Estimation results suggest that local government debt affects specific welfare expenditures such as child welfare expenses. However, effects on expenditures for social welfare and education show the opposite trend: in many municipalities, both increased local debt and increased expenditure items occurred together.

Keywords: fiscal spending; local government debt; social welfare; welfare expenditure

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Title

How additional benefit for survivor's pension recipients affects on their labour supply

Abstract

This paper investigates how additional benefit for survivor's pension recipients affects on their labour supply. In Japan, there are two-tier survivor's pension, one is basic survivor's pension and the other one is employee's survivor's pension in Japan. Also, women have an eligibility to receive the additional benefit of middle-aged widows if they meet the following 4 conditions; she has the eligibility to receive employee's survivor's pension; she is aged between 40 and 64; her husband died when she is aged between 40 and 64; and she doesn't have children aged under 18.

In many developed countries, survivors pension benefits for family without children have changed from unlimited period payment to limited period payment according to increasing of women's labour supply. However, in Japan, employee's survivor's pension is still unlimited period payment regardless of their income. Few empirical studies have been done on whether survivor's pension should be limited the payment of period those who doesn't have children. In order to show some implication for reform of survivor's pension, we analysis how it is effects on labour supply using micro-data of "Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of Pensioners" run by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. We focus on the additional benefit to identify the causal effects on the employment behavior of survivors' pension recipients.

Our results show that there is no effect of the additional benefit on current employment income and employment probability. In other words, any labour outcome isn't statistically significant different whether or not she is receiving the additional benefit.

Keywords: survivor's pension, labour supply, middle-aged women

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Title

“I’m Here, but I’m There”: How Vietnamese Migrant Care Workers Reconcile Paid Jobs and Family Care Amidst COVID-19

Abstract

Amidst COVID-19, nursing homes are considered the most vulnerable place, which organises care for the elderly, identified as the population with high risks. Under such context, the Taiwanese government and nursing home managers prioritise pandemic prevention and the elderly’s well-being. However, the care workers in nurse homes have received little attention and are neglected by the policy.

Migrant care workers are the pillar of long-term care labour in Taiwan. They provide primary care labour in both home and institutional settings. Among institutional migrant care workers, Vietnamese workers are the dominant group. Through interviews with 22 Vietnamese workers, the research investigates how the outbreak of COVID-19 affects their paid jobs and family life transnationally, in both host society and home country.

The research findings demonstrate, first, Vietnamese care workers have experienced the transformation of their paid care work. Their workload has increased, their mobility and rights are restricted, and their well-being is negatively impacted, resulting from the uncertain pandemic risks and policy amidst COVID-19. Second, the Vietnamese workers are not only concerned about themselves in Taiwan but participate actively in exchanging care with their families, staying behind during the pandemic. They organise and provide care at a distance through remittances, using ICTs (information and communication technologies), and coordination with other family members or relatives. Third, the findings shed light on the relational characteristic of care work. The Vietnamese workers’ well-being is bound to the elderly cared for by them and their stay-behind families. Based on our research, we argue that the Taiwanese government and employers must provide sufficient support for migrant care workers to reconcile their paid work and family care amidst the global crisis, COVID-19 and after pandemic.

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Title**Changing Intergenerational Income Elasticity in Japan****Abstract**

This research examines intergenerational income elasticity (IGE) in Japan and its recent changes. The higher the IGE, the stronger the correlation between parental and child income and the more unequal the society. Previous research by Lefranc et al. (2014) found that the IGE for both sons and daughters in Japan was around 0.35, which is considered intermediate by international standards. However, their data was collected before the late 1990s, a period during which income inequality in Japan was increasing. To investigate changes in intergenerational mobility, this study uses data from two repeated cross-sectional surveys conducted in Japan: the National Survey of Social Stratification and Social Mobility (SSM) and the Japanese General Social Surveys (JGSS). The study maps the SSM to the JGSS to estimate the IGE by cohort for three age groups: around 50 years, around 40 years, and around 30 years.

The study finds that the IGE at around 40 years of age ranges from 0.36 to 0.37, which is consistent with Lefranc et al.'s findings. Additionally, the research confirms that intergenerational mobility in Japan is slightly lower than the average among OECD countries. However, the IGE increases with age, indicating that intergenerational mobility declines as individuals age. This increase in IGE as the son's age increases is likely due to within-age income inequality increasing with age. While the differences in the IGE by cohort are not evident at around 40 and 50 years old, the IGE increases in the younger cohort at around 30 years old, indicating a decline in intergenerational mobility in recent years. This trend may be attributed to the structure of the income distribution with age and the persistence of income inequality throughout life in Japan.

Keywords: Income mobility, Income inequality

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Title

Secure but Depressed? Welfare Participation and Mental Health in Hong Kong

Abstract

Social science studies have long debated whether social assistance bringing economic security to recipients may also ensure mental well-being. However, the causal relationship between welfare participation and mental health remains controversial and difficult to tackle due to endogeneity issues. Using panel data from the Hong Kong Panel Study of Social Dynamics (HKPSSD), this study aimed to answer the following questions: In a residual welfare state, does welfare participation improve or worsen recipients' mental health? How does the effect differ by gender and across age groups? We adopted the propensity score matching method and the fixed-effects model to address the endogeneity issues. The results show that participation in the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) increases depression amongst recipients, and the effect differs by gender and age. Only men show higher levels of depression after receiving CSSA. The effect of CSSA participation on depression is greater for older than other age groups. The findings suggest that appropriate policies and services should be effected to eliminate welfare stigma and address welfare recipients' mental health issues.

Keywords: Social assistance, Depression, Residual welfare state, Welfare stigma, Hong Kong

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Title**Trust in Public Services for Needy Individuals During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Lesson from the Japanese case****Abstract**

In Japan, the transmission of Covid-19 resulted in a plethora of individuals experiencing significant job loss, reduced income, and accompanying hardships. In this context, the activation policies implemented by local governments proved to be vital in saving the lives of the underprivileged. Furthermore, the government initiated a series of temporary support programs, intended to be executed by local government offices, which resulted in a rapid surge in the number of consultations.

In this study, we aim to explore how counselling offices were accessed by service users, as well as their assessment of the services provided. Utilizing the analytical framework of street-level bureaucracy (Lipsky 2010), we scrutinize the existence of trust and mistrust in the relationship between service users and caseworkers. Drawing on data collected from service users in Toyonaka City during the period between February 2021 and March 2023, we endeavour to identify the factors that led to the development of trust and mistrust.

Our findings indicate that, firstly, caseworkers acted as a protective barrier against the pressures exerted by work-first policy arrangements, which often failed to cater to the needs of users. In this regard, the flexible interpretation and representation of policy arrangements by caseworkers instilled trust in the users. Secondly, caseworker evaluations of the situation, needs, and rights of individual service users often clashed with the users' own understanding, leading to what we refer to as a "categorisation dilemma" that led to mistrust. Lastly, caseworkers can establish trust by upholding the autonomy of the users. Given the limited comprehensive policies and the dearth of decent employment opportunities in the labour market, many users face persistent challenges that cannot be easily resolved. Therefore, caseworkers play a crucial role in motivating users to continue to move forward.

Keywords: Self-Reliance Support for Needy Persons, Street-Level Bureaucracy

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Title

Social policy and fertility behaviours in northeast China: a factorial survey

Abstract

Despite recent policy changes, birth rates in northeast China have declined, falling below the replacement level. The ensuing accelerated demographic transition has led to a debate regarding the efficacy of working family support and how it may affect fertility and childrearing decisions. To shed light on this issue, a quasi-experimental survey was conducted in the region to explore the effects of social policies on fertility intentions from three perspectives, including defamilisation, decommmodification, and degenderisation policy. The findings suggest that while generous working family support policies are necessary, they are not sufficient to influence fertility behaviour. Instead, socioeconomic conditions, family structures, working conditions, and broader social policies all significantly shape fertility decisions. We recommended that policymakers adopt a more comprehensive approach focusing on institutional complementarity rather than relying solely on family-focused policies. This study highlights the complex nature of fertility intentions in contemporary China and emphasizes the need for a more refined approach to policy reform in this area.

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Title

Universalism vs. Residualism : Evaluation of Alternative Income Maintenance Schemes in Korea

Abstract

This article examines the past, present, and future of income maintenance scheme in Korea. Historically, the income security system has developed on work-centred social insurance with supplementary social assistance, based on the premise of full employment. The current system has achieved formal completeness and contributed in part to reducing poverty and income inequality. However, it has demonstrated limitations by failing to respond to the qualitative change of capitalism, and various alternatives are being proposed as the issue of blind spots in social insurance coverage has emerged. Representatively, universal Basic Income that aims for equality and residual Safety Income that aims for efficiency are being widely discussed. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effects of Basic Income and the Safety Income, which are emerging as two main alternative income security systems. Using Household Finances and Living Conditions Survey data (2019-2021), this study analyses and compares poverty and inequality reduction effects of the two alternatives with the current income maintenance scheme. The results indicate that Basic Income A of KRW 300,000 per month, Basic Income B of KRW 250,000 per quarter, and the Safety Income that replaces current cash benefits and provides 50% of the difference between standard income and household income have more positive outcomes than the current scheme. Basic Income A and the Safety Income showed similar absolute poverty alleviation effect, however, Basic Income A had a greater effect on reducing relative poverty and income inequality. Although it can be judged that the Safety Income is more cost-effective when limited to absolute poverty, Basic Income is confirmed to more target-effective in addressing relative poverty and inequality. Therefore, as an alternative to managing incongruity the income maintenance scheme due to changes in production methods and labour markets, a universal basic income above a certain threshold seems to be an appropriate solution.

Keywords: Income Maintenance, Alternative Income Security, Poverty and Income Inequality, Basic Income, Negative Income Tax

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Title

The 1997 Asian financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic: How emergencies and social policies affected Thailand's business sector

Abstract

This study is organized into four sections, the first of which examines causes and consequences of the socioeconomic crisis affecting Thailand's business sector during the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. How social inequities worsened in Thailand is studied in the context of expanding trade, investment, and labour globalisation, urban and middle-class growth, and cross-industry expansion of cutting-edge technology.

The second section examines Thailand's response to the crises through social policies: 1) strengthening the financial sector by adopting international standards for commercial bank debt reports and an Anglo-American corporate governance system for listed companies; 2) post-crises social security system and labour law reform to address employment and unemployment issues; and 3) private and national health insurance policies. These culminated in the sufficiency economy concept, followed by bio-circular-green (BCG) economy.

The third section discusses effects of the crises on the business sector to determine which companies have declared bankruptcy. What new businesses are emerging as a result of crisis adaptation and the aforementioned social policies?

Ultimately, businesses were impacted by the economic downturn, but new ventures may benefit in different ways. What steps should be implemented to lessen inequalities and promote sustainable development? In the next decade, Thailand will be a super-aged society showing indications of societal strength (basic welfare state), including financial stability, decent work, and good health.

Keywords: 1997 Asian financial crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, Emergencies, Social policies, Business sector, Thailand

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Title

Non-governmental organisations as instrument for dementia literacy among ethnic minorities in Hong Kong

Abstract

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have historically played a critical role in social policy and health service in pluralistic health systems globally. However, their role in promoting mental health literacy and especially among racialised minority groups in East Asia, is largely overlooked. This paper charts the nuances of how NGOs in Hong Kong are complementing efforts to enhance dementia literacy of ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong. Researching dementia literacy is important given the growing incidence of dementia and the rapid population ageing in Hong Kong. Data were derived through phenomenological qualitative research using semi-structured focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Participants comprised thirty-eight older adults and caregivers from Nepal, India and Pakistan. A thematic analysis technique was employed to analyse the data. It was found that NGOs were a critical source of all kinds of health information, including dementia. Also, NGOs played significant roles in whether and how some racial minorities sought help for diagnosed and suspected dementia conditions. Additionally, NGOs served as a bridge between clinical services and ethnic minority households in need of dementia care. Reliance on NGOs for dementia literacy support was apparently due to trust in the services offered. Unfortunately, resource constraints meant that support from NGOs was insufficient relative to the dementia literacy needs of the ethnic minorities. These findings underscore the instrumental role of NGOs in protecting dementia literacy and the need to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration to enable them to deliver comprehensive and sustainable services to ethnic minorities.

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Title

The Application of 'Work Capacity' and 'Fictitious Income' in Social Assistance Act in Taiwan

Abstract

The Social Assistance Act in Taiwan presupposes the principle of 'work ethics'. Therefore, if applicants are regarded as 'people with work capacity but not in employment', a 'fictitious income' (normally statutory minimum wage) will be counted into their income in the process of means-test even if they actually do not have any income. The aim of this system is to encourage employment and avoid welfare dependency. However, it also makes some people without job and income cannot be entitled to the welfare of social assistance.

This paper explores the application of the idea of 'work capacity' and how the regulations of 'work capacity' and 'fictitious income' affect the rights and interests of financial disadvantaged people. Moreover, it investigates the working patterns of these financial disadvantaged people and reasons why some people with 'work capacity' are in fact unable to work.

This study collects data with the methods of document analysis and semi-structured in-depth interviews. It firstly analyses administrative appeal decisions and Court's judgments related to this issue to understand the patterns of disputes. Second, this study interviews organisations that provide services for financially disadvantaged people to understand their experiences and difficulties in helping these people to work or apply for social assistance benefits. Moreover, this study also investigates the opinions of these organisations towards the institutions of 'work capacity' and 'fictitious income' of Social Assistant Act in Taiwan.

The results of this paper can show how social assistance and employment service workers, social administration organisations and the court apply Social Assistant Act and respond to difficulties in implementation. It can help to understand the implementation of social assistance policy in Taiwan and facilitate the reconsideration of 'work capacity' in social assistance policies.

Keywords: social assistance, work capacity, fictitious income, work ethics, Taiwan

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Title

The effectiveness of online mindfulness intervention for frontline social workers in China: A quasi-experimental study

Abstract

Background: During the COVID-19 pandemic, social workers in China must be on the front lines of addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, which may result in high levels of psychological distress and burnout. Mindfulness interventions have been identified as an effective method for promoting wellbeing in response to these obstacles. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of an online mindfulness intervention in reducing burnout among Chinese social workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Method: This study employs a quasi-experimental design. In Shanghai, frontline social workers had the option of joining either the intervention group (online mindfulness intervention) or the control group (self-help mindfulness instruction). The primary outcome was burnout, while secondary outcomes included positive and negative affect, mindfulness level, and daily spiritual experience.

Results: In total, 142 (80.3% female; average age = 37.54; standard deviation = 6.90) and 66 (75.8% female; average age = 36.91; standard deviation = 6.28) social workers joined the intervention and control groups, respectively. After eight weeks of mindfulness practice, the intervention group demonstrated a significant reduction in burnout (cohen's $d=-0.21$), whereas the control group's burnout score increased significantly (cohen's $d=0.27$). Moreover, only the intervention group significantly reduced negative affect. In the meantime, both the intervention group and the control group demonstrated significant increases in mindfulness and daily spiritual experience.

Discussion: This study's findings suggest that online mindfulness practice is an effective intervention for reducing burnout and negative affect among frontline social workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants who engaged in any type of mindfulness practice can have improvement on their level of mindfulness and daily spiritual experience. These results suggest that mindfulness practice, especially the online mindfulness practice may be a useful tool for promoting social workers' mental health and well-being.

Keywords: social worker, healthcare, mental health, mindfulness, quasi-experimental study

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Title

Social Work Students' Attitude toward Online Social Work Services: A Q-methodology Study

Abstract

Background/Objectives: Despite the widespread introduction of online social work services in China during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is still in its infancy. This study aimed to determine how social work students perceive the use of online methods for social work counselling and service delivery.

Methodology/Statistical Analysis: This qualitative study explored the attitudes of social work students toward online services in May 2022 using the Q method. Social work students in Shanghai, China were asked to respond to 73 Q statements regarding the advantages and disadvantages of providing social work services online using the simple HTMLQ platform. The participants ranked the online quasi-normal distribution grid's statements from strongly agree (6) to strongly disagree (-6).

Results: In this study, a total of 39 social work students (76.92% women, mean [SD] age: 22.14 (0.48)) participated. Three distinct characteristics were identified. The first group was classified as "supporters" because they advocate for the use of online social work services and believe that the new technology can help more individuals gain access to social work services. The second group was classified as "opponents" because they believe that social workers and clients may both encounter problems, such as distractions and a lack of sufficient knowledge and skills. In addition, this group of students believes it may be difficult to implement online social work services in rural China due to the digital divide. The third group was classified as "neutral," as they recognize the benefits of using online social work services, such as time and cost savings, but are also concerned about issues related to online services, such as privacy and ethical concerns.

Discussion: The findings of this qualitative study indicate that students have varying perspectives on online social work services. More trainings and educations may help students feel more confident about delivering online social work services and promote online social work services so that more individuals have convenient access to social work services.

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Title

Health financing designs and financial protection for low-income population in East Asia

Abstract

Ill health and the resulting financial loss are major reasons for household impoverishment. Over the past decades, many countries have reformed their health financing system and enhanced financial protection for low-income populations. Prior studies focused on comparing the whole financing system or social health insurance scheme across countries and paid much less attention to the financing scheme targeting the poor (e.g., medical financial assistance). The configuration of multiple health financing schemes is still understudied. This study contributes to the comparison of health financing systems by exploring the policy design of both social health insurance scheme and medical financial assistance scheme from the perspective of welfare eligibility, population coverage, benefit generosity, and policy outcomes (catastrophic health spending and impoverishing health spending) in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Singapore through the model family approach and country/regional-level statistics. We found that health financing schemes in Hong Kong and Taiwan are more generous, with high population coverage and lenient welfare eligibility. Japan provides lenient welfare eligibility and offers moderate social health insurance benefits and generous medical financial assistance. Mainland China and South Korea are less generous in providing benefits and have moderate welfare eligibility and population coverage. Singapore has moderate population coverage but provides strict eligibility and limited benefits for the low-income population. Health financing schemes in six societies reduce the financial burden to varying degrees. Hong Kong and Taiwan are the best at providing financial protection for the low-income population. Singapore lags behind other societies and plays a limited role in mitigating financial risks. Our findings reveal the heterogeneities in health financing designs and levels of financial protection for the low-income population in East Asian societies. This study furthers the understanding in healthcare systems in East Asia and provides evidence for governments to reform their health policy.

Keywords: Health financing, East Asia, financial protection, low-income population

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Title**Social Citizenship of Migrants in Urban China: Institutional and Perceptual Welfare Boundary****Abstract**

Despite the recent reform of household registration system (hukou) in China which has tried to make welfare programs more inclusive for all citizens regardless of their hukou status, it is phenomenal that migrants in the urban cities are still living on the periphery and faced with various barriers to access welfare benefits. What persistently creates the barriers for migrants to social welfare in urban cities? This study addresses this question by introducing a new conceptual construct, welfare boundary, which refers to the mechanism by which social citizenship rights are distinguished between insiders and outsiders based on spatial differences. It delineates a compromised threshold resulting from the conflict between the universal rights of all citizens in a society and the limited resources for welfare provision in a particular place. Taking into account migrants' subjective experiences of welfare access, it further identifies two forms of welfare boundary – institutional (derived from policies) and perceptual (derived from migrants' own experiences), and the two forms may or may not coincide. Drawing upon qualitative data collected through focus group interviews with 27 rural-to-urban migrants (aged between 20-59) in southern China where a great many migrants are concentrated, this study elaborates on the two forms of welfare boundary through understanding from the migrants' own perspectives that how welfare boundary is defined, where welfare boundary exists, how it is manifested, perceived and experienced by migrants and their families, and how they cope and negotiate with the welfare boundaries. This research contributes to our understanding of China's current mobility regime characterized by differential inclusion in the context of ongoing reform and development. It also informs policymakers of whether efforts should be directed onto policy reform to lower the institutional welfare boundary for migrants or onto policy communication and education to adjust migrants' perceptual welfare boundary.

Keywords: Social Citizenship; Welfare Boundary; Migrants; China

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Title

Family-dependent social services and their impact on wellbeing in contemporary Japan: Insights and lessons from a comparative and qualitative hikikomori (social withdrawal) vignette study

Abstract

Social policy implications influence wellbeing of individuals and family, and this is particularly relevant in the case of jobless/isolated individuals and their families. In the Japanese context, these issues have been discussed under the cultural category of hikikomori since the 2000s. Hikikomori often refers to prolonged isolation of an adult-age child who remains dependent on their parents. The dependency is known to extend to a few decades, creating the so-called “80-50 problem” of parents in their 80s sheltering their child in their 50s, with anxieties looming about whether their child can survive after their imminent death. Our interdisciplinary research team including a sociologist, a social policy researcher, and an anthropologist, have uncovered the relationships between this form of isolation and the family-dependent nature of the Japanese welfare system using qualitative methods. Since 2021, we have been collecting narratives of social workers and other professionals related to social services in Japan, the UK, Germany and Sweden, eliciting responses to a three-phase vignette —spanning a few decades—of a typical “80-50” hikikomori case of a socially isolated male living with his parents in Japan. This paper will contextualise these narratives from professionals in social services in Japan vis-à-vis those in the U.K., Germany and Sweden where this form of social isolation may often be considered relatively “uncommon”. Relying on a primarily anthropological approach, we will highlight how availability and/or lack of social services impact wellbeing of not only individuals and families in joblessness and/or isolation at the level of practice.

Keywords: Hikikomori, social service, wellbeing, family dependency

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Title

Policies for informal caregivers in Hong Kong: A review and an agenda

Abstract

In recent years, informal family long-term caregiving has become an appealing policy topic in Hong Kong. However, the literature and statistics on caregivers in Hong Kong are limited. Collecting appropriate and accurate caregiver statistics in Hong Kong is difficult because there are no official longitudinal statistical data on informal caregiving. The Hong Kong Government released a long-awaited commissioned report in 2022 on the caregivers of the elderly and persons with disabilities. It is timely to gauge the views of the policy stakeholders accordingly.

This paper aims to inform the research and policy gaps in Hong Kong by the following measures:

1. Reviewing the government policies and services related to informal caregivers;
2. Analysing the current issues;
3. Discussing the possible policy directions for supporting informal caregivers.

This paper uses qualitative methods (archival policy review) to review the existing carer policies and collect the experience and views of the caregivers and frontline workers utilising the concept of 'informal conversation' (Swin and King, 2022).

With the data collected between 2018-2022, this paper investigates the issues related to informal caregivers and discusses the possible directions for caregiver policies and services.

Keywords: Informal caregivers; carer policy; caregivers; Hong Kong.

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Title

Balancing Fertility Treatment and Work in Japan: Focusing on the Job Type

Abstract

The number of assisted reproductive technology procedures in developed countries continues to increase. Japan has the highest total number of assisted reproductive technology cycles per year in the world. In April 2022, insurance coverage for fertility treatment, including assisted reproductive technology, were covered in Japan. The use of fertility treatment, including assisted reproductive technology, may further increase as insurance coverage for fertility treatment reduces the financial burden on individuals. Meanwhile, looking at the labour market, with the prevalence of fertility treatment, Japan is facing the issue of "balancing fertility treatment and work," i.e., the difficulty of continuing to work because of fertility treatment. Previous studies on women's employment in Japan have focused on retirement at marriage and childbirth in the context of the M-shaped curve in rates of female workforce participation. However, with the tide toward later marriage and childbearing, the trend of childbearing through fertility treatment is expected to increase further, and "balancing fertility treatment and work" will be an important part of the discussion regarding continuous employment of women. This presentation discusses the issue of "balancing fertility treatment and work" in Japan through an analysis of a questionnaire survey conducted by the author, focusing on the variable of job type. The paper will then examine in what ways "balancing fertility treatment and work" is similar to and in what ways it differs from "balancing childcare and work" in previous studies of women's employment.

Keywords: Women's employment, Job type, Fertility treatment, Work life balance

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Does experience of discrimination moderate the relationship between income/employment insecurity and social isolation?

Abstract

Social isolation has become a growing concern due to its problematic impacts on quality of life. While earlier literature primarily focused on elderly or disabled people who may have limited opportunities for social activities, it should be noted that an increasing number of people are at risk of being socially disconnected in modern society not simply because of age or physical capabilities, but due to various factors, such as poor socioeconomic status. Recent studies further emphasize the multidimensional causes of social isolation, stating that social isolation occurs as a result of a series of accumulated experience of failures and losses in both personal and societal contexts. It implies that while insecurity of personal condition increases the vulnerability of social isolation, the impact would be moderated by their social experience. That is, along with personal conditions, the experience of exclusion of being rejected, devalued, and ignored from society, may aggravate the risk of social isolation.

This study aims to investigate the relationship between insecurity, such as precarious employment or unstable income, and social isolation, as well as the moderating effect of negative social experience. Focusing on the experience of discrimination, which represents the negative social experience of being rejected and excluded based on social categories, this study complements previous literature by empirically analysing how 'discriminated and precarious individuals' become more prone to social isolation. Using data from the 'Inequality and Citizen Participation Survey' conducted by IWSR in 2022 with Korean citizens, this research examines whether insecurity increases the risk of social isolation and how the effect is moderated by the experience of discrimination. The findings show that being in an insecure situation increases the risk of social isolation. Moreover, the threat of insecurity is amplified when precarious individuals have experienced discrimination due to their poor status.

Policy implication can be drawn from this study that social policy that aim to reduce insecurity would help prevent social isolation, particularly for those who have experienced discrimination. Along with strengthening social policy, this study also highlights the need for a shift in social attitudes that promotes the social recognition and inclusion of those in precarious situations.

Keywords: Social isolation, Insecurity, Discrimination

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Title

A Meta-Analysis of Factors Influencing the Suicidal Ideation of the Elderly in Korea

Abstract

It is widely accepted that Korea is the fastest ageing society. The ratio of aged population was 16.5% in 2021 and will increase to more than 20% by 2025. Korea is now quickly moving to supra-aged society. In addition to the fast-ageing population, Korea records the highest suicide rate of the elderly in the world. In 2021, the suicide rate of the elderly was 46.6, around three times as high as the average of OECD countries.

In this regard, this study aims to identify the explanatory factors of suicidal ideation and duly suggests policy measures against suicidal ideation of the elderly in Korea. For this purpose, we systematically collect and statistically analyse quantitative data of the suicidal ideation of the elderly in Korea, using various statistical methods.

We have two research questions: First, “what is the tendency of papers on the suicidal ideation of the elderly after South Korea entered the aging society stage?”, and “what are the effect sizes of factors on the suicidal ideation of the elderly? Of 517 research papers published, 82 were selected for our research and put them to the meta-analysis with the STATA 17 version.

The tentative conclusion of our analysis is that individual system (emotional psychology including depression) has the biggest effect size on the suicidal ideation of the elderly in Korea, and it is in line with the previous(meta) studies that verify the individual system(depression) factors have bigger effect size than family and social system. Based on this analysis, the study suggests policy proposals for customized social services and case management for vulnerable aged people with high social isolation and depression risk.

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Title

Precarious workers and their social reproduction during the COVID-19 pandemic in Taiwan

Abstract

Precarious labour poses a threat of insecurity for workers in today's globalized capitalist society. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has hit these atypical workers, forcing them to respond more flexibly in their work, private life, and reproductive labour.

According to the official statistics, the Covid has reshaped the configuration of the world of work. Among the workers in Taiwan, the number of atypical workers has continued to decline since 2020. These precarious workers include those who work for part-time jobs, fixed-term contracts, outsourced contracts, or are self-employed. Among them, the numbers of male workers are more than females. Concerning the reasons for engaging in atypical labour, one-fifth of these precarious workers cannot find full-time or formal jobs, but 15% are also for their preference. Moreover, these workers usually lack the social security possessed by the employees with stable contracts. Encountering the epidemic, these workers risk losing economic and social security or even their jobs and falling into poverty. However, these precarious workers may also simultaneously have the responsibility of family caregivers. Based on the survey data of "Paid Job, Family Care and Gender Amidst COVID-19" conducted by Awakening Foundation and supplemented by qualitative interviews, this research would like to find out how these precarious workers, faced with the threat of flexibility and precarity, experience the tension between their productive and reproductive activities? Furthermore, what kind of support do they need or lack to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic?

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Title

From Deservingness to Rights: The Changing Paradigms of Disability Employment in Taiwan

Abstract

This article attempts to explain the changing paradigm of disability employment within Taiwan's welfare state development context in the past four decades. In 2014, although it is not a member of the United Nations, Taiwan domesticated the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), aiming to ensure the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities on an equal basis with others. Since employment is acknowledged as an effective inclusion conduit, studies focusing on explaining the low labour participation have been widely conducted. Nevertheless, these studies primarily highlight the multi-dimensional discrimination practices and attitudes towards people with disabilities, failing to examine the changing paradigms of disability employment institution systematically. Despite the comprehensive framework of disability models, this study departs from the institutional perspective, examining the changing paradigms from the 1980s till nowadays. Through analysing the legislative bulletins and interviews with key persons, including policymakers, central and local governments, and Disabled People Organisation (DPOs), this article attempts to show how globalisation, post-industrialisation and the diffusion of ideas by international organisations have affected the disability employment institution, and how the state and civil society have responded to the pressures and changes. It argues that since 1990, law amendments have set their goal to promote the participation of people with disabilities. Institutional purposes and policy tools adopted over the past four decades have shown that the state is gradually aligning its paradigm from regarding people with disabilities as deserving to enhance their participation in the labour market. However, the disability employment quota system is deeply embedded in the disability employment institution; despite the endeavour of governments and DPOs to introduce a series of vocational training, redesign or rehabilitation, these programmes benefit mostly those already participating in the labour market. Employment opportunities and working conditions remain insufficient and meagre.

Keywords: Disability employment quota system; inclusion; developmental welfare state; institution, Taiwan

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Title**Making new institutional and space exclusions: Rural-origin migrants' differentiated citizenship in Chinese megacities during the post-covid period****Abstract**

The scholarly lens on the rural-origin migrants' citizenship in China was closely related to the dichotomic social welfare system defined by the Household Registration system (hukou system) (Chan, 1994; Whyte, 1996; Knight and Song, 1999; Solinger, 1999; Chan, 2009). Then, after a series of intensive hukou reforms, the government alleged that the discrepancy between rural and urban citizenships was going to an end, for which the 'Suggestions on Further Promote hukou Reforms' released in July 2014 was widely acknowledged as a milestone. However, more scholarly questioning came after. Shedding light on the local hukou policies reform and differentiated migrants' entitlements in cities, many scholars noticed and analysed the 'localisation of Chinese citizenship' and practices of 'migrant selection' systems across China's main megacities (Zhang, 2012; Shi, 2012; Young, 2013; Woodman, 2016; Zhang, 2018; Dong and Goodburn, 2020). Rural-origin migrants' substantive citizenship is increasingly linked to their age, education attainment, income, and professional skills, suggesting an establishment of a more localised, multilayer, and exclusive citizenship regime. As a result, rural-origin migrants in the same city may be channelled to differentiated citizenships, even though they are labelled as the same group, the ones holding rural hukou.

Under such circumstances, taking Chengdu, the biggest city in Western China, as an instance, this paper will scrutinise rural-origin migrants' differentiated citizenship and relevant practices. Besides examining the local migrant-related policies before and after the pandemic, this paper also analyses the empirical data (2018-2021) across three immigration communities with different residential characteristics, that is, Flower Town (urban villages), Western Park (labour dormitory community), and Tianfu (talent introduction apartments). According to the analyses, this paper argues that 'the right to the city' (Lefebvre, 1996; Mitchell, 2003; Harvey, 2008) extensively discussed before is likely only accessible to immigrant talents rather than the disadvantaged ones today. Moreover, the economic regression and plights in the job market caused by the pandemic are exacerbating the abovementioned phenomena, creating more inequalities and exclusions. Furthermore, this paper discusses the links between migrants' differentiated citizenship and relevant space performance. According to the study, immigrants' increasingly significant differentiation in urban citizenship makes them more difficult to upper move their residential types. Such empirical findings suggest the making of 'power geometry of time-space compression' critically discussed by Harvey (1989, 1990) and Massey (1991, 1994), which can contribute useful insights to understand the current landscape of rural-origin immigrants' urban citizenship in Chinese megacities.

Keywords: Rural-origin migrants, differentiated citizenship, local citizenship, space theory, Chinese citizenship regime

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Title**What Family Policies Will Increase Young Adults' Fertility Intention: A Survey Experiment in Beijing and Shenzhen****Abstract**

Global states endure challenges from a constantly low fertility rate which will decline from 2.4 to 1.9 this century (United Nations, 2020). Direct birth subsidy, tax exemption, maternity leave, parental leave, and childcare support are the top five family policies believed and used to stimulate people's fertility intentions and behaviours (Bergsvik et al., 2021). Developing countries like China are also undergoing low fertility rates and seeking policy solutions. The fertility rate of China dropped to a record low in 2021 (1.3), which is 0.2 lower than the alert line (National Bureau of Statistics, 2022). Facing the increasing cost of raising children, a significant proportion of young Chinese people show no fertility intention, which worsens the situation (Wang et al., 2016).

Utilizing a multi-factorial vignette design, this study estimates the effect of five proposed family policies on fertility intentions (measured as the number of children respondents intend to have) after reversing the One-child Policy. Through a full factorial design including five policy factors on two levels, the researcher creates eight survey sets, each with four hypothetical policy scenarios. The study recruited a sample of 1,000 respondents aged 18 to 24 from Beijing and Shenzhen and generated a total of 8,000 respondent-vignette cases.

The results show that the direct birth subsidy and free childcare provision can effectively increase young adults' fertility intention in China. However, tax exemption, extended maternity leave, and extended parental leave have no significant effect. In addition, there are two other significant findings: 1) young adults residing in Beijing are more likely to be motivated by direct birth transfer, whereas those in Shenzhen are affected by childcare support more; 2) females report higher fertility intentions when receiving direct birth subsidy; in contrast, males identifying childcare support express greater fertility intentions.

Keywords: Survey Experiment; Fertility Intention of Chinese Young Adults; Family Policy; Cash Subsidy on Newborns; Childcare Services

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Title

Gender Analysis of Transformation of Paid Work and Un/Paid Care Practice under the COVID-19 Pandemic in Taiwan

Abstract

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 12, 2020. The pandemic and the accompanying control measures affect not only public health and economic development but also social aspects in general, care and paid work conflict in specific. When the government implements pandemic-related control measures, formal care resources, including schools, childcare centres, long-term care facilities, and related community care resources, are forced to shut down. On the one hand, it leaves people with care needs (including children, the elderly, the sick, and people with disabilities) suddenly facing care shortages; on the other hand, it challenges the family caregivers' jobs' stabilities and continuity.

The Awakening Foundation, one of the leading feminist groups in Taiwan, conducts the survey to analyse the situation of care deficit and the impact on un/paid care and paid work conflicts of COVID-19 in general and essential care workers in specific from a gender perspective. In addition to the personal information, the survey data compares the employment status and work conditions, caregiving and domestic work conditions, personal satisfaction with time use, and partner's involvement in work and family care before and after the pandemic. We argue that proposing feminist care policy agendas is essential based on the findings.

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Title

Breaking the NEET Cycle: The Impact of Employment Policy Awareness on NEET youth with low policy interest and educational level

Abstract

The escalating prevalence of NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) youth is a growing global concern with far-reaching implications for individuals and societies at large. Korea has made progress in developing employment policies targeting this demographic; however, the insufficient promotion of these measures has resulted in a notable lack of awareness among Korean youth. The importance of policy awareness cannot be underestimated – it can potentially elevate achievement by fostering autonomy and competence within the beneficiary group, as suggested by Self-Determination Theory (SDT). This study hypothesizes that the impact of employment policy awareness may be particularly substantial among NEET youth who demonstrate lower levels of education and policy interest. To substantiate this hypothesis, logistic regression analysis was applied to 393 Korean young people aged 19-34. The data was derived from the 19th (2016) and 20th (2017) iterations of the Korean Labor Income Study (KLIPS), conducted by the Korea Labor Institute. The analysis identified a positive correlation between policy awareness and an increased odds ratio for transitioning out from NEET status, thereby emphasizing the crucial role of policy promotion. However, no significant impact was observed among NEET youth demonstrating higher levels of education or policy interest. This implies that to effectively confront the issue of NEET youth, interventions need to be tailored according to varying characteristics within this demographic as well as their specific policy needs. Unlike previous studies that have primarily focused on direct engagement with policies themselves, this research is significant in highlighting how even policy awareness can significantly enhance their effectiveness.

Keywords: NEET youth; NEET transition; youth unemployment; policy awareness; policy promotion; policy interest

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Title

Hong Kong children's views about their lives and well-being during the pandemic: Evidence from the Covid-19 Supplement of Children's Worlds

Abstract

Since the first coronavirus cluster was reported in December 2019, few families with children have managed to avoid the impacts of economic lockdowns, travel restrictions, school closures, and other public health measures on their everyday lives. Several studies have captured children's experiences during the pandemic, but few focus specifically on children's views on their lives and well-being. This presentation summarises the quantitative evidence from an online survey (n = 414) conducted in Hong Kong as part of the 'Covid-19 Supplement of Children's Worlds: The International Survey of Children's Well-Being'. Based on a unique questionnaire covering children's exposure to Covid-19 in their families and the pandemic's impact on their school life and relationships, it discusses changes in Hong Kong children's views about their lives and well-being. Using this empirical evidence, the presentation develops relevant descriptive and multivariate analyses for policymakers, NGO practitioners, schools and parents on potentially mitigating the negative impacts of future public health crises on child well-being.

Keywords: Well-being; children; Covid-19; Hong Kong

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Title

The Neo-liberal Reform of Welfare States Sustained by Gender regime in Japan: The Logic of Marketisation of Home Care Services

Abstract

In this study, I will elucidate how neo liberal reform has been sustained by gender regime in Japanese society, analysing the discourse which advocated the marketisation policy over 30 years. While there was public care service based on selectivism, the universal elderly care service system had been established by the marketisation reform of the elderly care system during 1990s. In 1990s there was the logic that outsourcing the care service to private providers is more cost efficient than public service. While public service was regarded as non-efficient, this logic can be justified as long as there were married female workers motivated to offer relational altruistic care despite low wages in the private and volunteer sectors.

In 2000, the government has started Long-Term Care Insurance System (LTCI), based on the idea of quasi-market where competitions through the choice of the elderly enhance the quality of care. However, the providers are required to offer the good quality of service by hiring well-motivated female workers, since the fee that the government set is so low. In reality, the government has succeeded in making an efficient market through female workers.

The recent reform of LTCI, which requires the “time and task based” care services, demotivated female workers due to few emotional and financial reward. There is a short supply of care service because of labour shortage and bankrupt of care providers, in Japan where foreign workers do not fill the lack of labour supply, and the pandemic also accelerated this situation. the universal care service system for the elderly is becoming a mere shell.

Now, the new logic of marketisation policy, which does not focus on choice and competition, encourages business to target well-off people who have purchasing power. It also includes power couples who are part of new gender regime.

Keywords: Neo liberal reform, gender regime, LTCI in Japan

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Title**The process of losing meaning of life in alcoholics****Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to explore the process of alcoholics losing their meaning in life. To achieve this goal, we collected several memoirs of alcohol addiction from Alcoholics Anonymous in South Korea, and finally we selected 37 cases revealing specific the process of addiction and loss of hope. The collected data were analyzed using a qualitative case study methods, and the analysis focused on identifying each stage of the process of alcoholism. As a result, the process of losing the meaning of life for alcoholics was divided into seven stages as follows: “① Drinking → ② Dependence (addiction) → ③ Problems (biological, social, economic) → ④ Psychological pain (self-pity, anger, loneliness) → ⑤ Choosing alcohol as a solution → ⑥ Despair (desperation, self-harm) → ⑦ Road to death (drinking) or Road to life (stop drinking)”. In particular, when support systems such as family members, social workers, and self-help groups (A.A.) worked at the stage of despair, addicts stopped drinking and went on the road to life. On the other hand, if the support system doesn't work, addicts are headed to death again, choosing alcohol as a way out of despair. In some cases, they were aware of the drinking problem on their own and entered the path of recovery, but the recovery was mostly related to the support system. Based on these findings, this study concludes with practice and theory implications.

Keywords: Case Study, Alcoholics, Meaning of Life, Despair

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Title

Who Refuse to Be "Buffered"? Segmented Young Workers and Their Social Investment Policy Preferences in South Korea

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to first analyse how young workers are segmented into subgroups by their labour market status and then to analyse the preferences of each group for social investment policies. Disadvantages in the labour market experienced by young people persist and accumulate throughout their career trajectories. Employment disadvantage is a problem of low mobility, which is entrenched in 'bad quality' jobs. One of the reasons for this is that those who first enter low-skilled jobs will find it harder to upgrade their skills and enter into a 'good quality job'. Since better jobs also guarantee better skills improvement, the need for employment policies such as a 'social investment strategy' has gained attention. Against this background, it is important to analyse the link between the labour market status of young workers and their preference for social investment policies.

Existing dual labour market theory is a dichotomous approach that divides workers into insiders and outsiders of the labour market and classifies them mainly by their work status. However, there are different statuses of young workers in the South Korean labour market. Young workers' labour market status can be composed of their level of skills, income, firm size, employment relationship and mandatory social insurance coverage. In order to identify the different subtypes of young workers' labour market statuses, we conduct a Latent Class Analysis using Korean Labour and Income Panel Study(KLIPS) 19th. Then, we investigate the detailed policy preference of the 'social investment strategy'; stock, flow, and buffer (Hemerijck, 2018) using logistic regression analysis. However, in order to fully reflect the dual labour market situation in Korea, 'flow' is analysed by separating the employment policies of large companies and SMEs. Based on our analysis, we draw implications for more coordinated policies for the youth in Korea.

Keywords: Labour Market Dualisation; Social Investment Policy; Latent Class Analysis.

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Title

Balancing Work and Family: An Examination of the Impact of Work-Life Conflict on the Employment of Mothers in Japan

Abstract

This study seeks to conduct a quantitative analysis of the impact of work-life conflict, which arises from balancing work and household responsibilities, on mothers' employment in Japan. Presently, in Japan, dual-earner households exceed one-earner households, with this trend gaining momentum since 1997 when the former surpassed the latter (Cabinet Office [2015]). Nevertheless, mothers continue to shoulder most household chores and child-rearing responsibilities in individual households. Consequently, many of them struggle to achieve a satisfactory work-life balance. This can be attributed to the extended working hours of male full-time employees, as there is a tendency in Japan to minimize full-time employment to mitigate layoffs and ensure lifetime employment during recessions (Yashiro 1997). This adjustment of labour input is achieved by increasing the working hours per worker during economic booms and reducing them during recessions (Yashiro 1997).

Conversely, in exchange for lifetime employment, workers are required to work according to their companies' schedules. In such a work environment, it is challenging for mothers to obtain company understanding and flexible working hours for the benefit of their families. Consequently, some mothers may leave the labour market to secure sufficient time for household duties. In contrast, others may opt for non-regular employment, which provides relatively shorter working hours but entails poor wages and benefits.

Given the Japanese labour market background, this study primarily focuses on the subjective perception of whether mothers feel burdened by the need to balance work with household chores and child-rearing. Furthermore, this study examines the share of unpaid work or intrahousehold production (Becker [1965], Hochschild & Manchung [1989]), such as housework and child-rearing. It evaluates how these factors influence women's work behaviour.

Keywords: work-life balance, unpaid work, women's employment, labour input, Japan

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Title

Workplace Safety, Health and Retention in Workforce amongst the Older People in Hong Kong

Abstract

The ageing population has an impact on the labour force. Many countries have proposed to increase the retirement age to supplement the shrinking size of the younger labour market. However, changes in physical functioning and cognitive abilities in older persons may affect their ability to work and their safety and health at work. This study aims to explore the related factors affecting Hong Kong older employees' willingness to stay in the workforce, including workplace safety and health issues, and to propose feasible solutions to promote continuous employment for the older people.

A quantitative telephone survey was conducted in Hong Kong between October 2019 and September 2021. A total of 1225 employees aged 40 or above were successfully interviewed. The results indicate that one's mental health status is a direct factor leading to their intention to stay in the workforce. Meanwhile, the workers' self-rated physical health status is an indirect factor associated with their intention to remain in the workforce via their self-rated work ability and safety of the work environment. The results indicate that older workers' mental and physical health may not be the primary factors determining their intention to stay in the workforce. Instead, their perceptions of their work ability and the safety of the work environment are more critical factors.

It is recommended that there should be enhancements to public health policy and healthcare services to support older workers' physical and mental well-being. Age-friendly work environments and arrangements may also help enhance their work ability, ultimately increasing their chances of remaining in the workforce in old age.

Keywords: Hong Kong, Older Workers, Workplace Safety, Employee Retention, Occupational Health

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Title

The Institutional Linkage between Employment Relations and Social Protection in Japan: The Recent Trend of Formalisation of the Informal Employment

Abstract

We clarify the characteristics of employment relations and social protection in Japanese society and point out that the nexus between regular employment and social security has been a structural background for the social construction of informal employment with inadequate social protection. We then evaluate the trend toward formalisation of informal employment that has been developing in recent years. In Japan, it is not the job but the performance of his/her company and the employment status (or the membership within the company) that determine employment stability and wages. Japanese firms treat workers differently by dividing them into regular employees, who are core employees, and non-regular employees, who are peripheral employees. The wage level of regular employees is dependent on the attributes of the company and evaluation of individual potential ability in the firm's internal labour market, while the wage level of non-regular employees is determined by the job and the external labour market criteria. While firms in Europe and the United States determine workers' positions and wages according to the social evaluation of the job, Japanese firms have applied two different criteria for determining workers' positions and wages based on employment status. Labour laws and social insurance coverage in Japan correspond closely to this membership-based employment system. For many years, social insurance for employees has assumed full-time employment (mostly male heads of households) as the standard target of social protection. However, with the diversification of employment patterns, these legal systems with formal employment specifications have come to be seen as a driver in the social construction of informal employment. In recent years, there has been a series of reforms to formalize informal employment.

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Title

What Types of Workers Tend to be Excluded from the National Pension and Health Insurance Systems?

Abstract

Atypical ways of working are becoming more diverse with the digitalisation of the economy. The diversification of work styles in Japan increases the risk of falling out of the universal pensions and health insurance system, and the vulnerability of the social security system has been highlighted once again by the COVID-19 crisis. This paper explores the factors that make people more likely to drop out of the national pension and health insurance systems, focusing on non-regular and self-employed workers. The analysis is based on an original dataset of non-regular workers and various types of self-employed workers (gig workers, platform workers, digitized self-employed workers, etc.). The survey was conducted by our research members (February 2023), targeting men and women aged 25 to 69 residing throughout Japan. The sample for the survey was monitors owned by a private online survey company. The questionnaires were distributed according to the population composition based on the national census. The sample size was 5,800 self-employed workers and 1,100 non-regular workers. The main explained variables are nonpayment of national pension and health insurance premiums. The explanatory variables are various types of informal employment. Based on the results of our analysis, we consider future social policy from the perspective of informality.

Tatsuya Shirahase

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Title

Employment Issues in Neighborhoods with Concentration of Social Disadvantage: A Case Study of the kamagasaki, Osaka

Kamagasaki, located in the inner city of Osaka, has historically been an area of concentrated poverty. In the mid-1990s, Kamagasaki became overflowing with homeless people due to the severe recession. In response to the crisis, public and private sector support was expanded. In this way, "multi-layered safety nets" were formed, and Kamagasaki developed into a "service hub".

Kamagasaki used to be Japan's largest day labour market, attracting many people from all over the country. However, with the spread of the internet in the 21st century, the employment patterns of day labourers have changed dramatically. Consequently, many aged day labourers have been receiving public assistance. In addition, multi-layered safety nets have led to an influx of needy people.

Currently, the welfare rate in Kamagasaki is 40%, which is extremely high. The city government is confused by the excessively high welfare rate. In the past, the influx of needy people into Kamagasaki was encompassed by the day labour market. However, with the day labour market shrinking, it is difficult to match them with suitable jobs.

The city government has begun to strengthen employment support for welfare recipients since 2019. Ideally, the best way for precarious people to make stable livelihoods is to find formal, full-time jobs. However, de-industrialisation has made employment more flexible, and finding formal, full-time jobs is hard.

Some researchers regard the enhancement of employment support for welfare recipients as "evil workfare" that reproduces precarious employment. Though this is certainly true, employment is an important means of preventing social isolation. More necessary is to create jobs that are commensurate with their abilities. In some cases, it does not have to be full-time; part-time may be preferable. Thus, increasing decent jobs while keeping the social security system fully functioning is a realistic inclusion strategy.

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Title

An NGO as a volunteer incubator: Community-based innovation in supporting older Chinese immigrants to overcome social isolation in Australia

Abstract

The number of older immigrants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) is growing faster than English-speaking older people born in Australia. Existing studies have shown that the CALD older people are often underrepresented in social services, such as healthcare, disability and old age care. They are also more likely to be socially isolated because of the language and cultural barrier. The governments, especially local councils have made efforts to reach out to the CALD communities. However, the difficulties for the CALD population to be socially integrated as well as equally serviced are still major challenges for Australian society. These challenges highlight the need for enhanced community development among the CALD population, in particular among the older population.

In this research, we focus on an under-researched model of community volunteering which has been practiced by Chinese Australian Services Society Ltd. (*Huaren Fuwu She* 華人服務社, here in after as "CASS") for more than a decade. The central question for this research is: **how has CASS managed its volunteer activities to allow continuous contribution from and to the Chinese community?**

The project produced an in-depth analysis of the CASS Community Volunteer Model. The research findings include three main parts:

1. The changing nature of volunteering in CASS.
2. The governing structure and approach of CASS Community Volunteer Model.
3. The outcomes of the CASS Community Volunteer Model.

Keywords: older immigrants, CALD, social isolation, volunteering, community development

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Title

Navigating the Ageing Landscape in Australia: The Role and Potential of Intergenerational Programs

Abstract

Like many developed nations, Australia faces pressing challenges associated with an ageing population, with critical issues encompassing mental and physical health disorders. Under this landscape, Intergenerational Programs, as the World Health Organization proposed, are emerging as pivotal strategies internationally. These initiatives, fostering shared activities among seniors, youth, and children, are increasingly raised across countries worldwide. Nevertheless, the exploration and application of such programs within the Australian context still need to be studied.

This presentation delves into the current state and latent potential of intergenerational programs in Australia, concentrating on their ability to facilitate successful ageing. It offers an exhaustive analysis of current programs and their impacts. While intergenerational programs are increasingly recognised as a promising approach to ageing-related concerns, their effects on successful ageing in Australia still need to be further investigation. This investigation probes the various dimensions of intergenerational programs across sectors such as education, community development, and health. It reveals their crucial role in nurturing cross generations' positive social and emotional bonds.

Intergenerational programs bear the potential to confer numerous benefits conducive to successful ageing, including enhanced physical and mental well-being, increased social support, and the maintenance of cognitive function. Nonetheless, the finding also showed a void in the regulatory guidelines and strategic planning for intergenerational interactions in the Australian community, which significantly inhibits the potential of these programs. This shortcoming, combined with other pressing factors like program accessibility, adequate funding, and the dissolution of entrenched cultural and social barriers, notably hampers the effectiveness of these programs.

In conclusion, this presentation underscores the urgent need for, and potential benefits of, intergenerational programs in facilitating successful ageing in Australia. It calls for an augmentation of opportunities, funding, resources, and a collective endeavour to surmount societal and cultural obstacles. By fully unlocking the potential of intergenerational practices, Australia can adeptly navigate the complexities of an ageing population, fostering enriching intergenerational interactions. This ongoing study thus aspires to provide a roadmap for maximising the societal and individual benefits of ageing within the Australian context.

whole abstract to be added

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Title

Creative destruction in social policy: Re-design of the modern income security system through Differential Universal Income

Abstract

Like other countries, contemporary Korean income security system based public assistance and social insurance programs faces grave challenges, which include an expansion of population groups outside the system, inadequacy of income replacement, doubt over the redistributive effects of the system, and the financial unsustainability of the system itself. In search of a shift in income security paradigm, diverse alternative policy ideas such as Basic Income, Participation Income, Capital Grant, and Negative Income Tax have been presented and experimented. However, discussion of alternative income security system is in a stalemate due to two frameworks where two opposing logics collide head-on: selectivism versus universalism and securability versus sustainability. Some new policy ideas are needed to break the deadlock and to make a step forward in the discussion.

This study introduces the concept and the potentials of Differential Universal Income (DUI). In short, DUI is a universal payment that considers financial capacity of the citizens. The model of DUI is made up of basic rate and reduction rate, and the amount of payment decreases with income. As a universal entitlement, DUI produces no blind spots in social security. It has a potential to eliminate poverty in a cost-efficient manner. It can be designed so that it either partially supplements or radically replaces the whole income security system.

Industrial innovation calls for social innovation, and DUI was conceived as a future-proofing income security system. It is not merely a kind payment or a patchwork prescription to fix the errors in the current system. It is suggested as a policy regime against structural inequality, which is being accelerated by structural changes in the newly defined post-industrial economy. It involves reforms in the redistribution governance such as taxation and social security administration. It is hoped that this study contributes to reactivate and expand discussions about how to redesign the modern income security system.

Keywords: Differential Universal Income, alternative income security system, social innovation, South Korea

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Job Carving and Employment of Persons with Disabilities

Abstract

There is a growing worldwide concern to build inclusive societies in which persons with disabilities can actively participate and contribute to society. The most effective way for adults with disabilities to participate in society is to enable persons with disabilities to get a job, work, earn an income and stand on their own feet. In addition to the aspect of social participation of individuals with disabilities, employment of persons with disabilities will be more important for society in the future. Developed countries, such as OECD countries, are facing declining birth-rates and an ageing population. This implies that the working population will decrease while the non-working population will increase. However, there are no countries where the level of labour participation and employment rates of persons with disabilities are comparable to those of non-disabled persons. This is because it is generally believed that the labour productivity of disabled people is lower than that of non-disabled people and thus the person with disabilities cannot contribute to the firm's profit. The paper uses a theoretical model to present that employing persons with disabilities may increase aggregate production and the level of social welfare. More precisely, the paper compares an economy in which production is carried out only by non-disabled workers (EE economy) with an economy in which both disabled and non-disabled workers are engaged in production (IE economy). The paper shows that, under certain conditions, wages, aggregate employment, aggregate production and the level of social welfare are all higher in an economy where disabled and non-disabled workers are engaged in productive (IE economy) than in an economy where only non-disabled workers are employed and production takes place (EE economy).

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of migrant workers' land rights in rural hometowns on their urban settlement choices in western China using cross-sectional data from the 2015 and 2021 Yunnan Migrant Workers Urban Integration Survey. We focus on "migratory bird" migrant workers, who move between urban and rural areas, and the importance of land rights in the region with fast-growing migrant worker numbers. Controlling for other variables, we find rural land rights significantly influence workers' willingness to return to hometowns. Migrant workers in western China maintain dual identities, preferring to work in urban areas while keeping rural land as assets and income sources. Older migrant workers in smaller cities tend to drift between urban and rural areas without permanent settlement, confirming the role of land right ownership. Policymakers should consider rural land rights in urban settlement policies, promoting flexibility in land use rights transfer and reforms for balanced urbanization and land use efficiency.

Keywords: land rights; farm land; homestead; migrant workers; urban settlement; Yunnan Province; China.

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Title

What Explains the Childcare Service Restructuring in China?: A Event History Analysis Based on evidence from Chinese 31 Provinces

Abstract

This article discusses the Policy diffusion of childcare services for children aged 0-3 years in China. Demographic change is one of the biggest social risks in the 21st century. China is a country with a large population, but it is currently facing an unprecedented high level of ageing and a low fertility rate. In parallel with the adjustment of the fertility policy, the Chinese government has requested local governments to improve the relevant fertility support policy, childcare services for aged 0-3 have been rapidly developed. By the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan, there will be 4.5 childcare units for every 1,000 people under the age of three. The local governments are committed to speeding up the development of childcare services. This paper attempts to situate the relevant theories of policy diffusion into the Chinese policy context to explain China's diffusion of childcare service from the approach of "strong version" of the industrialism theory, political economy explanation and policy diffusion theory. To test the hypothesis, this article uses data from the China Statistical Yearbook for various years, Chinese provincial and conducts the event history analysis (EHA) of 31 Chinese provincial jurisdictions from 2016 to 2022. The conclusion of this article explains the policy logic of the welfare reforms in China.

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Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on family formation decision: A Japanese perspective

Abstract

The number of births in Japan in 2022 hit a record low for the seventh consecutive year, falling below 800,000. There were less than 1/3 the number of births in 2022 compared with 1949, when the country recorded the highest number of births. In addition to the decrease in the number of childbearing generations, the economic, employment and social anxieties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are believed to have contributed to the reluctance to conceive and give birth.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, postponing fertility treatment was recommended by the government. However, little is known about the impact of COVID-19 on families who were forced to suspend infertility treatment and postpone parenthood goals during the pandemic. Our aim in this study was to examine the impact of COVID-19 on family formation in childless families.

We conducted two separate surveys before and after the pandemic on web-based platforms and collected data from 20–40-year-old anonymous married and childless participants. Our data covered demographic, socioeconomic and health parameters such as prior infertility treatment and health condition. We used the two-group, two-period difference-in-difference analysis with participants living in a prefecture subject to an emergency declaration due to COVID-19 as a treatment group and the others as a control group. We assessed the impact on the desire to have children by comparing pre- and post-pandemic data.

Keywords: Family formation, COVID-19, Childbearing generations, Infertility treatment, Postponing parenthood

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Title

Lone-Mothers and the Role of Social Policy in Balancing Work and Care

Abstract

This paper assesses the current economic and time poverty faced by lone-mothers and their children and the effectiveness of social policies in preventing both types of poverty across ten OECD countries. Lone-mother households are at high risk of poverty due to their female-headed and dependent children. The most effective way for lone-mothers to avoid poverty is through employment, but this may reduce childcare time, leading to a trade-off between care and work. Emphasizing care can result in economic poverty, while prioritizing work can cause time poverty. From the child's perspective, this trade-off is one of either being sacrificed time with parents in order to avoid economic poverty, or being exposed to economic poverty in order to ensure time with parents. Research has suggested that mothers' parenting time impacts children's long-term development and educational attainment. If this is the case, then the shorter parenting time of lone-mothers has the inherent problem that it may disadvantage children growing up in mother-child households. The role of the welfare state is vital in overcoming this trade-off and ensuring that both lone-mothers and their children are spared economic and time poverty. There are two possible approaches to this role. One is to provide more generous support in terms of income security. Part-time work can be combined with childcare, and income security protects them from economic poverty. Another is to improve childcare services. If these are adequate and affordable, lone-mothers will likely have more time to spend on paid work, increasing their chances of avoiding economic poverty. Reduced parenting time due to lone-mothers working more can have negative impacts on children, but high-quality childcare services can help mitigate the disadvantage. The paper provides these detailed policy analyses of the ten countries by illuminating the relationship between time and economic poverty and social policy impacts on them.

Keywords: Lone-mothers and poverty, Trade-off between care and work, Analysis of time-use data

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Title

Can Older Women Achieve Aging in Place(AIP) in Korea? Gender Differences in the Transition from Community-Based to Institutional Long-term Care in Korea

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyse the transition of long-term care services from a gender perspective. Previous studies on the transitions of long-term care services report that family care resources and economic resources have an important influence on long-term care facility admission. In general, older women are known to lack family care resources and economic resources. Previous studies could not empirically show whether the transitions of long-term care services and their influencing factors differ according to gender. Accordingly, This study verified whether the transition from home to facility differs according to gender by using administrative data from the National Health Insurance (NHI) and applying event history analysis method. Considering that many variables affecting the transition of long-term care services were time-varying variables, a discrete-time hazard model was used. In addition, a competing-risks model was applied to identify how the effects of factors affecting the transition to facility services were different in each transition by dividing the transition to a long-term care facility and the transition to a long-term care hospital. As a result, this research confirmed that it is difficult for older women to stay in the community while using long-term care services. Therefore, it was suggested that it is necessary to establish a gender-sensitive community care system.

Keywords: Gender Differences, Administrative Data of the National Health Insurance(NHI), Event History Analysis and Transition of Long-Term Care Services

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Title

Job types and security paths after retirement: A comparative study across cohorts

Abstract

The rapid aging of the population has led to an increase in spending on welfare for the elderly, which has put financial pressure on welfare states. Western European countries are reforming their pension systems and actively encouraging the participation of the elderly in the labour market in order to respond to the financial pressure on welfare states caused by aging and globalisation. South Korea has a less developed old-age income security system, with a high elderly poverty rate and many elderly people continuing to work for income. The labour force participation rate for South Koreans aged 65 and older increased from 29.7 percent in 2010 to 36.3 percent in 2021 and continues to rise. Many seniors want to work after retirement, but the quality of the main jobs they work in is very low.

Meanwhile, the 65+ population is heterogeneous in terms of health, education, and income levels, making it difficult to view them as a single group. In addition, the composition of the population in their 50s and 70s is changing very rapidly, meaning that the 60s of 5-10 years ago, the 60s of today, and the 60s of 5-10 years from now are unlikely to be described by the same characteristics.

This study aims to compare the pathways of change in job type and security in retirement across cohorts. Using the Aging Research Panel and the Employment of Older Adults Panel, we analyse how job type changes and job security changes in retirement, and how job type and job security vary by pre-retirement labour market status. We will also analyse how these job changes take different paths in the historical labour market of manufacturing and the current labour market of services. In the Korean society, where the need for the elderly to participate in economic activities is increasing due to the aging of the population, the decline of the working population, and the financial burden on the welfare state, we hope to find policy alternatives to strengthen the employment security of the elderly in the future.

Keywords: job security, elderly labour market, labour market policy, precarious workers

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In the latest Research Assessment Exercise 2020, conducted by Hong Kong's University Grants Committee based on international benchmarks, LU's research in humanities, social sciences and business were classified as "World Leading" (4 star) and "Internationally Excellent" (3 star); and came first or second among all public universities in terms of the percentage of "World Leading" research work in Accountancy, Sociology & Anthropology, Social Work & Social Policy, and Philosophy. We are excited to share more about our University, various programmes, and research with you during the conference! We wish you an enjoyable conference!



Western Sydney University

Western Sydney University, a renowned institution in Australia known for its commitment to providing top-tier education and research opportunities. Explore our School of Business, an integral part of the university, designed to empower students with practical skills and knowledge tailored for the ever-evolving business world. Our School of Business offers a comprehensive selection of programs spanning diverse disciplines including finance, marketing, management, and international business. By fostering innovation and industry engagement, the School of Business at Western Sydney University prepares students for prosperous careers and meaningful contributions within the global business landscape. Join us at the conference to learn more about our institution's invaluable contributions to East Asian social policy and beyond.

