



Department of Sociology

Seminar

Rural Vitalization, Population Aging and Toilet Revolution

Speaker: Dr. FENG Qiushi
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Abstract

Rural development has been a long pursuit of China, and the recent national initiative of rural vitalization highlights the goal towards the strong agriculture, beautiful villages and well-off farmers by the year of 2050. However, population aging is becoming a major demographic challenge for this national plan. By 2050, about 60% rural residents would be over the age 65, among which about a half will be over the age 80. To illustrate the value of introducing the perspective of population aging in rural vitalization, we focus on the recent movement of toilet revolution. We empirically estimated the toileting disability in Activities of Daily Living (ADL) in Chinese older adults, described the major pattern of toileting of Chinese rural seniors, and then analyzed how environment, especially built environment, affects toileting activities. We additionally studied the bathing activities of rural older adults as well, which is another major type of disability in old ages. Based on empirical findings, we propose that the improvement of infrastructure and facilitate for toileting in rural China should prioritize needs of older adults, and further call for the plan of rural vitalization to better integrate the perspective of population aging.

Biography

Dr. Feng Qiushi received his degree from Duke University and is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is the Deputy Director of the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) and Convenor of the Global Studies Program in NUS. His research fields include aging and health, population studies, and economic sociology. His papers were published in some major academic journals, such as *the Lancet*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. He is Associate Editor of *Asian Population Studies*, Associate Editor of *BMC Geriatrics*, and Co-editor of the book series of *Advance in Studies of Aging and Health*. He serves on the editorial board for *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Journal of Aging and Health*, and *Research on Aging*. His research has been funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE), and Singapore National Medical Research Council (NMRC), and NUS Global Asia Institute (GAI).

Remarks: Students who would like to apply for CCL please **register via SLES in advance and access the Zoom Link via the HKBU account ONLY** (i.e. @life.hkbu.edu.hk). Otherwise, attendance would not be counted.

