

Proposal to Asian Population Association Scientific Group

Theme: Projection of Households and Living Arrangements in Asia

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Rationale

Households and living arrangements are changing rapidly around the world, prominently featured by the decline of traditional households of three-generation coresidence and the rise of one-person households. Furthermore, the universal demographic transition and the strong call for sustainable development have highlighted the urgent need for scientifically forecasting the future changes of households and living arrangements. Among numerous issues related to household changes, living arrangement of older adults stands out as a salient topic. This is especially true in Singapore and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries as well as many other Asian nations, in which most older adults rely on family members in later life. While the future changes of household and living arrangement have been extensively studied in certain countries such as the United States and China, little is known about the changes in household structure in the context of Singapore, and many other Asian nations.

In 2019, an APA scientific group was established under the theme of projecting households and living arrangements in Asia. With the support of APA, this group organized two international conferences, respectively in Beijing in 2019 (120 participants of 15 countries) and Singapore in 2022 (240 participants of 23 countries). These conferences have promoted the research in this field and also provided methodological trainings for the interested participants. Dr. Jorge H. Bravo, Chief of Population Policies and Development Branch Population of UNPD, gave keynote speeches for the two conferences above, highlighting the value of this line of research.

Given the academic and practical significance of projecting household and living arrangements in Asia, we would like to continue this Scientific Group to facilitate projections of future households and living arrangements in Asia. We think, with the support of APA, this group will become a major platform to facilitate the projections of households and living arrangements in Asia.

Team

We propose to the following core members in this scientific group. The group members include both senior and junior scholars and come from four different countries. They have participated the previous conferences of the Scientific Group and are committed to work as a research team to conduct household projections in Asia.

Title	Name	Affiliation	Country
Associate Professor	Feng Qiushi (Chair)	Department of Sociology & CFPR, NUS	Singapore
Professor	Jean W Yeung	Department of Sociology & CFPR, NUS	Singapore
Professor	Aris Ananta	Universitas Indonesia	Indonesia
Dr.	Reiko Hayashi	National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS)	Japan
Dr.	Wang Zhenglian	China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC)	China
Dr.	Joelle Fong	LKY School of Public Policy, NUS	Singapore

Activity Plan

The group has applied for the research grant from the Singapore government to forecast household and living arrangement in six countries in Asia. These include four major ASEAN countries namely Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, as well as India and Japan. This project has three specific goals: 1) methodologically, we will introduce the advanced ProFamy method to the six Asian countries to validate its use, and to further develop the DemoRates method to facilitate the estimation of standard schedules needed for the household and living arrangement projections; 2) theoretically, we will explore how household transformation will be unfolding under the heterogeneous contexts of Asia, and further examine how these future scenarios of household and related socioeconomic changes would be affected by various demographic and social factors; 3) practically, we will provide policy and business suggestions for ASEAN nations in the face of future demographic changes, based on the detailed forecasts of households by type/size, old-age living arrangement as well as demands in eldercare service and home-based energy.

Moreover, following the Beijing and Singapore conferences, the group plans to hold the 3rd International Conference and Training Workshop on Household and Living Arrangement Projections for Informed Decision-Making in 2024. The conference is planned to host about 20-30 international scholars as presenters and to provide a method-training workshop. We may need to seek financial support from APA to support this conference.

Expected output

We expect the scientific group will become a major platform of academic cooperation for household projections in Asia. We expect the research project and the conference as proposed will effectively facilitate this line of research and help to build a solid research network in Asia. We also plan to publish a series of papers and/or a special issue on projection of households and living arrangements in Asian with the use of the ProFamy method.