

A Cyberseminar Series Exploring Family Change and Intergenerational Relationships

Strand 2 – Special Session on China

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Support for the elderly afforded by children's family living separated from parents in China rural areas: a study in seven provinces

This is an interesting and timely analysis. The findings have policy implications in contemporary China where family size continues to shrink and social security for old people is not good enough. The outcome variables address both psychosocial and economic dimensions of elderly care. The sections are well-developed and nicely structured. The paper would benefit from a discussion on the economic needs and emotional wellbeing of old people. The results show that parents living alone receive the lowest financial support. However, there is no reflection on the direction of wealth flow, for example from old aged parents to their adult children and grand children. The paper needs more discussion on the nature of living arrangements and social networks of old people. The weak effect of gender of children on elderly support is interesting but needs further data exploration. It would be interesting to see the random effects at the household and province levels taking into account of the data structure and multistage cluster design sample. To what extent the findings from the 2010 survey complement with evidence from other related studies? The paper presents some convincing arguments and inferences in the discussion section.
