

A Cyberseminar Series Exploring Family Change and Intergenerational Relationships

Strand 2 – Special Session on China

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Living arrangement and psychological well-being of elders in China

This is an interesting and well written paper based on data from the China Family Panel Survey. The analysis tests the conventional hypothesis of intergenerational relations and living arrangement. The findings are policy relevant. The key message is that elderly couples living with children have relatively better mental health status than those without a spouse. The research hypotheses are sound and clearly articulated. It would be useful to see a discussion on the pathways or mechanisms through which living arrangement effect on old people's mental health. There is little reflection on extended families or interaction of elderly with their children and their siblings. The results disaggregated by residence (Table 4) need further attention in the discussion, especially the non-significant variables in urban areas. Is there any correlation between income and education (years of schooling)? The specific finding highlighting the distance factor and gender effect is particularly striking.
