

A Cyberseminar Series Exploring Family Change and Intergenerational Relationships

Strand 2 – Special Session on China

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Household formation and composition in China's ethnic minority populations: A case study of six Yunnan villages

The ethnic minority population in China are socially, culturally and economically heterogeneous. This is an interesting case study that addresses the differences in household formation and composition amongst the Miao and Yi ethnic minorities in selected villages of Yunnan province. Miao population is predominantly Christian and have relatively better social status than the Yi population. There is no clear explanation to why Yi population has higher divorce rates than Miao. The analysis relied on both quantitative and qualitative data and demonstrated evidence of ethnic differences in household formation and composition. The focus on cultural perspective to family formation is fine. However, the concepts are not fully explored from a methodological or operational perspective. More importantly, there is little discussion of the methodology which needs attention. However, there is definitely scope for further refinement of the analysis and writing.
