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Wan Chow Yuk Fan Centre for Interdisciplinary
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2021-2022 Wednesday Lunch Seminar Series

Productive engagement in later life: A person-centered approach

27 APR 2022 | 12:30pm - 2:00pm



Zoom Meeting ID: 976 4495 2274

Speaker: Dr. Grand Cheng

Productive engagement in later life, which signifies successful aging and is important to the welfare of family and society, warrants particular attention. However, existing studies tend to focus on only one productive activity, such as volunteering or caregiving, and overlook the fact that older persons perform multiple activities simultaneously. Few exceptions combine productive activities to form a composite score, but such a score only distinguishes individuals with no, single or multiple activity engagement. A trend in gerontology or the broader social sciences is adopting the person-centered approach, which uncovers distinct groups of people, each of which possesses a certain profile or combination of attributes. In this seminar, I will discuss my productive aging projects in Singapore and Hong Kong that are based on the person-centered approach. These investigations examine the antecedents of productive engagement with reference to the resource theory, and the outcomes of productive engagement in light of the role perspective. My research not only extends the understanding of social demography, but also outlines how efforts addressing productive engagement may eventually modulate well-being.

Dr Grand Cheng is a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. With a background in social psychology, he is interested in uncovering the social and behavioral correlates of physical, psychological, and cognitive health, particularly in the area of active and healthy aging. He has published gerontology papers in Aging & Mental Health, International Psychogeriatrics, Quality of Life Research, and Sleep. His latest publication appears in Social Science & Medicine.



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