

## SESSION 2030 (PAPER)

### ECONOMICS OF LATER LIFE AND RETIREMENT

#### CAREGIVING AND PREPARATION FOR RETIREMENT

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Saving for retirement should begin with the first job, but preparation with respect to determining a specific retirement age and plans for post-retirement life, generally occurs closer to the retirement date. However, among those who provide care for family or close friends who are elderly and/or have disabilities, retirement preparation may take a back seat to more pressing current concerns. While we know quite a lot about patterns of saving for retirement and the factors that influence those patterns, we know little about retirement expectations and patterns of thinking about and planning for the broader retirement experience, particularly among caregivers. This paper uses data from the 2008-2016 rounds of the nationally-representative 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth to examine retirement expectations and five areas of retirement preparation (reading, using a computer app, consulting a financial planner, calculating income, or attending meetings) among employed adults (ages 51-59 in 2016) who are or are not providing care for someone in or out of their household. Longitudinal analysis finds significantly lower retirement preparation among adults caring for someone inside versus outside the household, as well as significantly lower preparation activities among female versus male caregivers. Caregiving influences employment and, in turn, the types of retirement accounts held by men and women. Although caregiving is associated with decreased retirement savings among both men and women who have pension accounts, retirement preparation activities in 2008 and 2012 are associated with higher retirement savings in 2016.

#### LONG-TERM POVERTY, SPATIAL DISADVANTAGE, AND MULTIPLE EXCLUSIONS IN LATER LIFE: A CASE IN SHANGHAI

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Objectives: This study aimed to examine the associations among three types of cumulative disadvantages: long term poverty, spatial disadvantage, and multiple exclusions using a Cumulative dis/advantage (CDA) and life course perspective. Method: A sample of 419 Chinese adults aged 60 and older from three communities in Shanghai completed a structured questionnaire. Multiple exclusions were measured by variables related to material resources, housing conditions, social relations, civic activities, basic services, and neighbourhood factors. Hierarchical regression was implemented by SPSS 25 and moderation analysis was performed with the SPSS macro PROCESS from Hayes (2013). Results: 39% of respondents reported that they experienced multiple exclusions and one in five respondents report often or most time living in poverty. Regression analysis indicated that

experience long-term poverty and length of living in the same neighbourhood is positively associated with multiple exclusions in later life and these associations are not attenuated by demographics, and health factors. But, moderation analysis showed the length of living in the same neighbourhood has significant moderating effect on the relationship between long term poverty and multiple exclusions, particularly for older adults living in the same neighbourhood for more than 30 years. Discussion: The study findings illustrate the need to consider not only life course risks such as long-term poverty but also spatial disadvantages in addressing multiple social exclusions among older Chinese adults.

#### PATTERNS OF WEALTH TRAJECTORY IN LATER LIFE: CRITICAL PERIOD, ACCUMULATION, AND SOCIAL MOBILITY MODELS

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Wealth, an important financial cushion for older adults to buffer economic stress, requires a longer time to accumulate and develop in one's course of life. However, little is known about the trajectories of wealth in later life, and how the life course socioeconomic status (SES) may contribute to the development of wealth at old-age. This study investigated longitudinal patterns of wealth trajectory and whether SES across the life course affects these trajectories using critical period, accumulation, and social mobility models. Using data from 16,189 adults aged 51 and older from the 2004-2014 Health and Retirement Study, a growth mixture model was used to explore distinct wealth trajectories. Impacts of life course models were studied using multinomial logistic regression. Results showed that four heterogeneous latent classes of wealth were identified: Stable high (reference group), Low and increasing, Stable low, and High but decline. Disadvantaged adulthood SES, accumulated exposure to socioeconomic risks, and downward or persistent socioeconomic disadvantage over the life course were associated with Stable low, Low and increasing, and High but decline, supporting all three life course mechanisms on wealth development in later life. Evidence suggests that wealth development is heterogeneous across individuals, and a strong gradient effect of life-course SES on wealth trajectories are clearly observed. Programs and policies should address the effects of life course on wealth development to strengthen the economic well-being in later life.

#### THE ROLE OF SECURED AND UNSECURED DEBT IN RETIREMENT PLANNING AMONG PRE-RETIRES

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The retirement landscape is transformed by the shifting of risk and responsibility to individuals, who are increasingly responsible for their retirement security. Many factors lead to indebted and overleveraged American households. Specifically, nearly 40% of Americans approaching retirement are heavily indebted. Understanding the role of secured and unsecured debt in retirement planning becomes an urgent concern because