International Symposium and Wisdom Practice Session on Family Caregiving: Policy, Research and Practice cum 20th Anniversary Celebration of Sau Po Centre on Ageing, HKU

Biography and Abstract

![Professor Iris Chi](image)

Professor Iris Chi
Founding Director, Sau Po Centre on Ageing, HKU;
Golden Age Association Frances Wu Chair for Chinese Elderly,
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

About the Speaker

Professor Iris Chi is the Chinese-American Golden Age Association/Frances Wu Chair for the Chinese Elderly at the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California (USC). She is also a senior scientist at the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging. Professor Chi has been awarded as a Fellow of interRAI, the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, the Gerontological Society of America, and the American Academy of Social Welfare and Social Work.

Abstract

Policy and Programs for Supporting Caregivers in the United States

After thirty-five years of advocacy, the United States (US) has made some progress in policy and programs for supporting the caregivers. Every state now has some level of caregiver provision through a mix of funds. While it is agreed the caregiver policy in US has achieved some success, the current caregiver support programs are still far from meeting the actual needs of caregivers. The US has yet to develop a national strategy or initiative that clearly addresses the diverse needs of caregivers, who are the most important source of care for older people. This paper will present the current caregiver policy and programs in US and propose a new caregiver agenda to address the demographic and political challenges in the country.
About the Speaker

Dr. Liew Tau Ming is a consultant geriatric psychiatrist at the Institute of Mental Health, Singapore. He has an interest in dementia care and mental health of the older persons. He is currently a research fellow of the National Medical Research Council Singapore, and holds two national research grants to conduct a cohort study related to dementia caregiving. Dr. Liew teaches medical students at National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), as well lectures at NTU’s Master of Science in Applied Gerontology.

Abstract

Family Caregiving in Dementia Care: Translating Research into Practice

Over the last few decades, a large volume of research publications has become available in the area of dementia caregiving. While such research productivity is encouraging and reflects the rightful emphasis on family caregiving, the sheer volume of the literature can often be overwhelming (and sometimes confusing) to non-researchers who wish to translate the evidence into useful practices or policies. To address this issue, we adopted several less-conventional methods (such as the multi-method approach and network meta-analysis) to derive a simplified tool to guide the prevention of caregiver depression in dementia care, as well as to quantify the effect-sizes of different combinations of intervention. The derived tool can be useful for gap-analysis and resource-planning in current dementia services; while the pooled effect-sizes can inform the best practices in implementing caregiver interventions.
About the Speaker

Dr. Masaya Shimmei is the certified social worker. Received his Ph.D. in social work from the Tampere University, Finland. He currently acts as a research fellow at the Institute for Future Engineering and the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology. His main research interest focuses on comparative old age policies and its learning process among different welfare states. As a social activity, he takes part in support activities for single carers working in precarious condition.

Abstract

Carers Divided? Contemporary Japanese Carers Struggling with Family Norms and Fragmented Formal Support Measures

Japanese carers are divided. This division is considered as a result of a double bind situation surrounding contemporary Japanese carers, who are struggling between family norms and fragmented social institutions. Japanese formal support for carers is biased toward carers whose in secured work, leaving carers with precarious work behind. These carers hamper sound social participation, even marriage. Fragmentation of support, namely work-place support measures and community care services require carers to work as “care managers” by themselves. Under such circumstances, what are the necessary factors to prevent carers isolation? What should be done to recognise carers as a subjective social actor in Japan? The presentation aims to locate current Japanese carers status and issues from both international comparative perspective and information obtained in actual local engagements with these vulnerable carers.
About the Speaker

Professor Jill Manthorpe is Professor of Social Work and Director of the NIHR Health and Social Care Workforce Research Unit at King’s College London and Associate Director of the NIHR School for Social Care Research. Professor Manthorpe has undertaken many studies of care practice and policy including those of carers. Her current studies include the impact on carers of England’s new Care Act legislation, the effectiveness and models of respite or short-break care, and of decision making about moves to long-term care for people with dementia. She is SR Nathan Visiting Professor at the University of Singapore and has a visiting chair at the University of Melbourne.

Abstract

Steps to Carer Friendliness in the United Kingdom

Caring is about relationships – between the people giving and receiving care and support. But there are important other relationships at play, such as the role of the law in assuring carers’ rights, social recognition of carers, employers’ and educationalists’ support for carers, and professionals’ interactions with carers. This presentation discusses recent developments in carers’ support in the UK, one of the first countries in the world to recognise the status of family carers. Since then, policy and practice have developed direct support interventions and also indirect interventions. Examples of these and their effectiveness will be discussed. There is increasing interest in the United Kingdom in multi-dimensional support for carers and in enabling carers to direct or personalise their own support. Social recognition of carers is also high in public policy ambitions with the aim that ‘carer friendliness’ will address some of the disadvantages and stresses of caring.