

Topic: Werk (Work) the motherland: Decolonizing queer utopias

Presenter: John Andrew G. EVANGELISTA

Utilizing ethnographic observations and epistemic interviews, my project chronicles nationalist aspirations in the queer rights movement in the Philippines. Queer rights activists in the country demand for anti-discrimination policies, welfare expansion, and cultural transformation. Mobilizing progressive ideological frames, they decolonize these demands, first, by insisting that queer justice belongs in collective life rather than in the consumerist market where sexual identities are treated as profitable commodities. They further decolonize their claims by referencing what they imagine as the history of gender malleability in the archipelago and by modeling their notion of queer futures after progress in similarly situated postcolonial nation-states. For many of these advocates, to decolonize is a tactical decision as they confront a predominantly conservative population and a powerful religious class that treats queerness as foreign imposition. Thus, in this small archipelagic nation, I argue that there emerge forms of activism that decolonize queer justice both as an ideological standpoint and a tactical approach to claims-making.

Topic: The Impact of Living Alone on Optimal Aging in China

Presenter: Linghan GE

Abstract: While numerous studies have examined the effects of living alone on different domains of health, researchers have virtually ignored the possible link between living alone and optimal aging. We used data from the 2018 wave of China Family Panel Studies to construct a multidimensional measurement of optimal aging, incorporating three distinct definitions. We examined the relationship between living alone and optimal aging among Chinese people aged 50 and above and explored the moderation effect of age, family income, exercise participation, and smoking behaviour. Regression models showed that living alone is associated with lower odds of optimal aging, and this negative relationship was more pronounced among those aged 50 to 69, with lower family income, exercising less, and smoking. These results emphasize the negative impact of living alone on optimizing older people's lives, and early intervention, adequate financial support, and healthy lifestyles are key to addressing the challenges.

**Topic: Penalize Female Occupations or Penalize Female Workers?
Impacts of Overwork on Gender Pay Inequalities**

Presenter: Jiao GUO

Women are often excluded from the emerging premium associated with overwork, because they still bear a higher burden of family responsibilities and are less likely to extend their work hours compared to men. Past research has extensively studied how individual overwork behavior contributed to the wage gap between individual men and women. However, limited attention has been given to structural gender disparities: occupations with a normative expectation of overwork, often dominated by men, enjoy greater rewards compared to other occupations. Using data from the U.S. Census (1980–2000) and the American Community Survey (ACS) (2001–2017), this study explores how overwork is associated with gender pay disparities at both the occupational level (i.e., female-dominated versus male-dominated occupations) and the individual level (i.e., female versus male workers within the same occupation), and how these two mechanisms contribute to the total gender wage gap. Results from multilevel models reveal that the occupational work norm, particularly normative overwork, is a significant factor that has widened the gap between female-dominated and male-dominated occupations over the past four decades. In contrast, individual overwork has had relatively limited influence on the within-occupation gender wage gap, even in professions such as law and business that value long work hours. Further counterfactual simulations confirm that the first mechanism is the primary driver of the total gender wage gap. Specifically, adjusting rewards associated with occupational overwork norms to 1980 levels would decrease the total gender wage gap by an additional 23.6 percent, a substantially larger impact compared to the 9.7 percent reduction achieved by fixing returns to individual overwork within occupations at 1980 levels. This study suggests the structural impact of overwork on widening the gap across gender-typed occupations and consequently enhances our understanding of how overwork impedes the narrowing of the gender wage gap.