Population ageing is one of the mega trends of the 21st century. It is a key driver of economic and social transformations as societies with a growing number and share of older adults are making efforts to maintain economic competitiveness and social vibrancy. In the developed world, population ageing is part of the larger post-industrial challenges that catalyse changes to employment, retirement and welfare state institutions.

In emerging economies, population ageing is taking place in a context where the welfare state has yet to be fully built and development remains a priority, which results in a wider range of challenges. This is particularly the case for China where the challenge of “growing rich before growing old” is amplified by its continental size, large internal disparities and compressed demographic transition.

China has come halfway through its economic and social modernisation. It is about to reach high-income levels, but has yet to become a developed economy; it is urbanising rapidly, but rural roots remain strong; education levels are rapidly improving, with the country becoming a technological leader in some areas, while overall productivity remains low; women are increasingly postponing marriage, but are not forgoing it; traditional care for the elderly is in flux, but has yet to disappear. The still malleable economic and social structures, along with more abundant resources than before, give China more options for tackling the challenges of population ageing and conducting numerous experiments in all aspects of ageing policies. How China addresses the multiple dimensions of ageing will determine its future growth rate, the health of its public finances, the shape of its families and villages, and even its politics.

Much will also depend on how China shifts to reap the second demographic dividend from higher social investment and productivity. In the past three decades, China has benefitted much from the first demographic dividend, but the favourable conditions—an extended period of falling child dependency ratio, low level of aged dependency ratio and growing number and share of working age population—are rapidly disappearing. At the same time, technology could compensate for the anticipated decline in the labour force and help extend the working life of the elderly, if they are tech savvy enough.

Big events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and US-China decoupling are compounding China’s population ageing challenges. Overall, China is a fertile ground for researchers to explore how its quest for modernisation plays out amidst rapid population ageing, how economic and social innovations come about, how life courses are re-organised and how ageing norms are re-formulated.

This web-based conference invites leading scholars in economics, sociology, demography and public policy to present findings on their state-of-the-art research on the intersection of economy, technology,
society and population ageing, with a focus on China or global trends. They will shed light on questions such as:

- What are the broad patterns of ageing in China or globally, and how are they likely to change over the coming decades?
- How does population ageing affect labour supply, savings rates, investment and human capital development?
- Whether and to what extent population aging has facilitated changes in growth and in industrial structure?
- What does population ageing mean for innovation and productivity?
- How does population ageing impact government’s fiscal capacity and financial sustainability of the pension and health-care systems?
- What are the key policy options to counter the negative effects and promote the positive effects of ageing?
- How does population ageing affect intergenerational reciprocity and social cohesion?
- How does population ageing influence social resilience and engagement?
- What effects does ageing have on family structure, living arrangements and care provision?
- What social innovations—institutional or technological—are needed to address the challenges of health care, social care, social isolation and so on?
- How does population ageing impact the welfare mix of state, market and family?

The conference would prospectively result in a conference volume or a special issue and will be the basis for a multi-year research programme that EAI in collaboration with partner institutions plans to develop.

*Registration prior to the conference is required.*

*Please register at*

https://nus-sg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4Cr34SBjSoqnH_PK6L4S1g.

*For updates of the programme, please visit*

https://research.nus.edu.sg/eai/2020/11/12/international-conference-on/.

*Thank you.*
Opening Session

30 November 2020
8:30 am - 9:00 am (Singapore time)

Welcome Remarks

Prof Bert Hofman
Director, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Prof Zhang Yi
Director, National Institute of Social Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Prof Wang Tianfu
Vice Dean, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University

9:00 am - 10:00 am (Singapore time)

Keynote Speech

Moderated by
Prof Bert Hofman
Director, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Introduction by
Dr Teh Kok Peng
Chairman, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Keynote Speech by
Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies, Singapore

Panel 1 : Global Trends in Ageing and Economic Impacts

30 November 2020
10:10 am - 11:40 am (Singapore time)

Moderated by
Dr Sarah Tong
Senior Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

1. Global Demographic Change and Economic Impacts
   Prof David Canning
   Richard Saltonstall Professor of Population Sciences, and Professor of Economics and International Health, Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA
2. **Ageing, Technology and the Labor Market**  
   **Prof John Piggott**  
   Scientia Professor, Director of ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research, Business School, University of New South Wales, Australia;  
   **Mr Rafal Chomik (co-author)**  
   Senior Research Fellow, ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research, University of New South Wales, Australia  

3. **Are Asia’s Demographic Dividends Disappearing?**  
   **Prof Andrew Mason**  
   Adjunct Senior Fellow, East-West Center; Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Hawaii-Manoa  

**Panel 2 : New Dynamics in Ageing and Social Challenges**  

**30 November 2020**  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Singapore time)  

Moderated by  
Assoc Prof James Crabtree  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore  

4. **Future Directions in the Sociology of Ageing**  
   **Prof Linda Waite**  
   George Herbert Mead Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology, Senior Fellow at NORC, University of Chicago, USA  

5. **Trends, Challenges, and Research in Aging and Elderly Care in Asia**  
   **Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung**  
   Provost-Chair Professor, Department of Sociology; Director, Centre for Family and Population Research, National University of Singapore  

6. **Death, Dying and Bereavement in the COVID-19 Era: Challenges for Research, Policy and Practice**  
   **Prof Deborah Carr**  
   Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Boston University, USA  

**Panel 3 : Population Ageing and Implications for Public Policy**  

**1 December 2020**  
9:00 am - 11:00 am (Singapore time)  

Moderated by  
Prof Wang Tianfu  
Vice Dean, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University  

7. **Social Capital and Ageing**  
   **Prof Cathleen Cagney**  
   Professor of Sociology, Senior Fellow and Director of Population Research Center at NORC, University of Chicago; Director, University of Chicago Yuen Center, Hong Kong
8. Ageing and Public Health from the Lens of COVID-19
   Prof Winnie Yip
   Professor, Practice of International Health Policy and Economics, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health; Director, China Health Partnership, Harvard University, USA

9. The Ageing of China’s Population in Future Years
   Prof Zhang Yi
   Professor and Director, National Institute of Social Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

10. Living Arrangement and Health in China
    Prof Ming Wen
    Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Utah, USA

Panel 4: Emerging Trends of Ageing in China

1 December 2020
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (Singapore time)

Moderated by
Prof Zhang Yi
Director, National Institute of Social Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

11. Healthy Ageing in China
    Prof Zhao Yaohui
    Professor, China Center for Economic Research, Peking University, China

12. Ageing Society and Community Based Services in China
    Prof Li Bingqin
    SHARP Professor and Director of Chinese Social Policy Program, University of New South Wales, Australia

13. Rural Vitalization, Population Ageing and Toilet Revolution in China
    Assoc Prof Feng Qiushi
    Associate Professor, Department of Sociology; Deputy Director, Centre for Family and Population Research, National University of Singapore

1 December 2020
8:10 pm - 9:10 pm (Singapore time)

Keynote Speech

Moderated by
Prof Zhang Yi
Dean, National Institute of Social Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

A Tale of Two Turning Points: Should China Worry about its Next Population Hinge?
Prof Cai Fang
Vice-President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Panel 5: Social Changes Amidst Population Ageing in China

2 December 2020
9:00 am - 10:30 am

Moderated by
Prof Bert Hofman
Director, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

14. New Dynamics of Ageing and Long-term Care in the Context of Family Life in China
   Prof Merrill Silverstein
   Marjorie Cantor Professor of Aging Studies, Professor of Sociology and Human Development and Family Science, Syracuse University, USA

15. Presentation title to be determined
   Prof Wang Tianfu
   Professor, Department of Sociology; Vice Dean, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University

16. The Profile of China’s Ageing Cohorts
   EAI Sociology Team
   Dr Zhao Litao, Senior Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore
   Dr Qian Jiwei, Senior Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore
   Dr Shan Wei, Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Panel 6: Socioeconomic Impacts of Population Ageing

2 December 2020
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Singapore time)

Moderated by
Dr Elena Glinskaya
Lead Economist, Social Protection and Jobs, The World Bank

17. Social Transformations of Population Ageing
   Prof Sarah Harper
   Clore Professor of Gerontology, University of Oxford and Fellow at University College; Founding Director of Oxford Institute of Population Ageing

18. Ageing, Labour Market and Retirement
   Mr Philip O’Keefe
   Lead Economist, Social Protection and Labor Global Practice, The World Bank

19. The Economic Demography Transition Lens: Lessons from China
   Dr Lauren Johnston
   Research Associate, SOAS China Institute, UK
Panel 7: China's Population Ageing and Implications

3 December 2020
9:00 am - 10:30 am (Singapore time)

Moderated by
Prof Christine Wong
Visiting Research Professor, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

   Prof Zuo Xuejin
   Professor, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

21. Aged Care Financing in China
   Dr Elena Glinskaya
   Lead Economist, Social Protection and Jobs, The World Bank

22. Presentation title to be determined
   EAI Economics Team
   Dr Sarah Tong, Senior Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore
   Dr Li Yao, Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

End of Conference

Registration prior to the conference is required.
Please register at https://nus-sg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4Cr34SBjSoqnH_PK6L4S1g.

For updates of the programme, please visit https://research.nus.edu.sg/eai/2020/11/12/international-conference-on/.
Thank you.