



香港浸會大學  
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



社會科學院  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



聯通課程  
Co-curricular Learning

# Department of Sociology

## Seminar

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### Intimacy Lost or Autonomy Gained? Spousal Migration and Left-Behind Wives' Subjective Well-Being in Rural China

Date : 26 October 2018 (Friday)  
Time : 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Venue: Room 1045, Academic and Administration Bldg.,  
15 Baptist University Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon  
Language: English

#### Abstract

Using data from 2010, 2012 and 2014 China Family Panel Studies (CFPS), this study first examined the effect of spousal migration on left-behind spouses' psychological well-being, and then it was advanced by testing the mechanisms which could potentially explain the influence of spousal migration on left-behind spouses' psychological well-being. Propensity Score Matching (PSM) methods and selection modelling [cuhk1] have been used to test the robustness. The results show that prolonged spousal separation increased depressive symptom of left-behind spouses, and the detrimental consequences on left-behind spouses' psychological well-being can be explained by the reduced level of emotional intimacy between husband and wife, and partially explained by women becoming the master of the household. Considering that being the master of the household is accompanied by elevated stress levels associated with increasing family responsibilities, further examination showed that economic resources can buffer the negative effect associated with being the master of the household when spousal migrate. However, we did not find that time use is an effective mechanism to link spousal migration and left-behind spouses' well-being.

#### Biographical note

Yuying Tong, born in Mainland China, received her PhD degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and now is an associate professor in department of sociology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her main research interest is in social demography, which covers areas such as migration and immigration, gender, family and life course. She has published in the mainstream sociology and population journals such as American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Science Research and Demography. Her current on-going research topics include following aspects. 1). Integration of immigrants/migrants in the host society. She has examined migrants or immigrants' integration in both internal and international migration context. 2). Consequences of rural to urban migration to rural sending communities, in which she has examined migration and the gender implication in household livelihood strategy and economic outcome as well as left-behind persons' well-being. 3). the third area is family and life course in China and other East-Asia area.

\*\*\*\*\* ALL ARE WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*

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