



The Department of Anthropology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

presents a seminar

by

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on

Post-Patriarchal Intergenerationality and Neo-Familism in Contemporary China

Wednesday, 18 December 2019

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 12 Humanities Building

New Asia College, CUHK

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. First come first served.

Focusing on the structural changes in family life, especially the inversion of patriarchal order of intergenerational relations, I put forward the notion of post-patriarchal intergenerationality (后父权代际性) as a conceptual tool that may capture the latest family changes and explain the return of the vertical parents-children relationship as the axis of family relations. I also argue that post-intergenerationality is part and parcel of the emergent neo-familism, which clearly manifests itself in four facets: grandchild-centered multigenerational family group, intergenerational intimacy, materialistic pursuit for family happiness, and the tension between individual interest and familial interest. Neo-familism can be examined at the levels of public discourse and social practice on one hand and constructed as a new research framework on the other hand. I conclude the presentation by exploring the theoretical and methodological implications of the neo-familism approach, focusing on the conceptual tools of intergenerational integration of personhood, familial emotionality (*qinqing*) and intimate power, improvisation and ad hoc household configuration, and the intersectionality of intra-family relations.

Yunxiang Yan is professor of anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of *The Flow of Gifts: Reciprocity and Social Networks in a Chinese Village* (Stanford University Press, 1996), *Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village, 1949-1999* (Stanford University Press, 2003), and *The Individualization of Chinese Society* (Berg publishers, 2009). His research interests include family and kinship, social change, the individual and individualization, and the impact of cultural globalization.

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME