

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FEMALE DEFICIT IN ASIA: TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES
5 – 7 December 2005, Furama City Centre, Singapore

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2005

08:00 – 08:30 Registration

08:30 – 09:15 Opening Ceremony

Chair: Gavin W. JONES

Asian MetaCentre and National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE

Brenda YEOH

Asian MetaCentre and National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE

Isabelle ATTANE

INED, FRANCE

09:15 – 13:00

Session 1: TRENDS AND DIFFERENTIALS IN GENDER DISCRIMINATION

General Discussant: Ena M. SINGH

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), INDIA

This session focuses on the trends and differentials observed at the national level in several Asian countries. Mortality trends and variations in the sex ratio at births over time are essential components to monitor the evolution of gender-based sex discrimination. Of particular importance to this session will be the studies of differentials observed across subpopulations (religious groups, regions, etc.) in specific countries.

Does Religion Matter? A Study of Regional Variations in Sex Ratio at Birth in Korea

Doo-Sub KIM and Yoo-Jean SONG

Hanyang University, KOREA

Discussant: Pernille GOOCH

Lund University, SWEDEN

Girl Child Survival in China: Past, Present and Prospect for the Future

LI Shuzhuo, JIANG Quanbao and WEI Yan

Xi'an Jiaotong University, CHINA; and

Marcus W. FELDMAN

Stanford University, USA

Discussant: Perianayagam AROKIASAMY

International Institute for Population Sciences, INDIA

Sex Ratios at Birth in Vietnam and Some Localities: Current Situation and Comments

DUNG Vo Anh, Phuong THI THU HUONG and NGUYEN Ngoc Huyen

Vietnam Commission for Population, Family and Children, VIETNAM; and

Le THANH SON

Hatay Provincial Commission for Population, Family and Children, VIETNAM

Discussant: CHEN Wei

People's University of China, CHINA

Son Preference, Female Demographic Deficit and Singapore's Fertility Transition

Elspeth F. GRAHAM

University of St Andrews, UK

Discussant: YUAN Xin

Nankai University, CHINA

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

The Masculinisation of the Sex Ratio in Indonesia

Tiodora Hadumaon SIAGIAN

Central Board of Statistics, INDONESIA; and

Dasvarma L. GOURANGA

Flinders University, AUSTRALIA

Discussant: Sutapa AGRAWAL

International Institute for Population Sciences, INDIA

Decreases in Male and Female Mortality and Missing Women in Bangladesh

Nurul ALAM

ICDDR,B: Centre for Health and Population Research, BANGLADESH;

Jeroen VAN GINNEKEN and Alinda BOSCH

Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), THE NETHERLANDS

Discussant: Pradeep Kumar BHARGAVA

JSS Institute of Economic Research, INDIA

A Sharp Increase in Sex Ratio at Birth in the Caucasus. Why? How?

France MESLE and Jacques VALLIN

INED, FRANCE; and

Irina BADURASHVILII,

Georgian Centre of Population Research, GEORGIA

Discussant: LE Bach Duong

Institute for Social Development Studies, VIETNAM

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 17:45

Session 2: METHODS AND MODELS

General Discussant: Gavin W. JONES

Asian MetaCentre and National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE

This session will be devoted to the presentation of methods and models used to estimate the intensity of female discrimination and its components. It will also examine the various models that can be used to account for observed variations in sex discrimination across regions, households or other measurement units.

Sex Ratios at Birth in China

CHEN Wei

People's University of China, CHINA

Discussant: Sayeed UNISA

International Institute for Population Sciences, INDIA

Sex Ratio of Reported Birth Between 1910 and 1969 in China

ZHOU Yun

Peking University, CHINA

ZHENG Zhenzhen

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, CHINA

Discussant: Irudaya RAJAN

Centre for Development Studies, INDIA

Proximate Determinants of Sex Ratio and its Regional Variations in India

Pradeep Kumar BHARGAVA and G.M HIREMATH

JSS Institute of Economic Research, INDIA

Discussant: WU Haixia

Xi'an Jiaotong University, CHINA

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee Break

Sex Ratio at Birth and Excess Female Child Mortality in India: Trends, Differentials and Regional Patterns

Perianayagam AROKIASAMY

International Institute for Population Sciences, INDIA

Discussant: Gouranga L. DASVARMA

Flinders University, AUSTRALIA

Factors Influencing the Use of Sex Selection Technologies and Sex Ratio at Birth in India

PN Mari BHAT

International Institute for Population Sciences, INDIA

Discussant: Marcus W. FELDMAN

Stanford University, USA

Spatial Regression and Determinants of Juvenile Sex Ratio in India

Christophe Z. GUILMOTO

Research Institute for Development (IRD), FRANCE

Discussant: William LAVELY

University of Washington, USA

18:30 Welcome Dinner

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2005

09:30 – 15:30

Session 3: LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

General Discussant: YANG Wen-Shan
Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Gender discrimination systems are better understood from their own local contexts. This session brings together various studies conducted at the local or regional levels focusing on specific areas in Asian countries where discrimination towards girls is rife. Methods used here combined statistical modelling from household and more qualitative observations techniques.

Vulnerable Daughters in a Modernizing Society: From 'Son Preference' to 'Daughter Discrimination' in Modern India

T.V. SEKHER

Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), INDIA; and
Neelambar HATTI
Lund University, SWEDEN

Discussant: Nurul ALAM

ICDDR,B: Centre for Health and Population Research, BANGLADESH

Traditions in Transformations: Gender Bias among the Nairs of Kerala

Shreeniwas SUDHA

University of North Carolina, USA;

Sunil KHANNA

Oregon State University, USA;

Irudaya RAJAN

Centre for Development Studies, INDIA; and

Roma SRIVASTAVA

University of North Carolina, USA

Discussant: ZHOU Yun

Peking University, CHINA

Discrimination from Conception to Childhood: A Study of Girl Child in Rural Haryana, India

Sutapa AGRAWAL

International Institute for Population Sciences, INDIA

Discussant: ZHENG Zhenzhen

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, CHINA

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

Sex Selective Abortion, Hidden Girls, or Infanticide? Explaining the Female Deficit in a Chinese County

William LAVELY

University of Washington, USA

Discussant: Leela VISARIA

Gujarat Institute of Development Research, INDIA

Missing Girls, Land and Population Controls in Rural China

Laurel BOSSEN
McGill University, CANADA

Discussant: Doo-Sub KIM
Hanyang University, Korea

Social Network and Son Preference of Rural-Urban Migrants in China: A Study in Shenzhen

LI Shuzhuo and WU Haixia
Xi'an Jiaotong University, CHINA; and
Marcus W. FELDMAN
Stanford University, USA

Discussant: Elspeth F. GRAHAM
University of St. Andrews, UK

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Measuring Sex Selective Abortions in India: Evidences from Haryana

Sayeed UNISA, Sucharita PUJARI and R. USHA
International Institute for Population Sciences, INDIA

Discussant: Irina BADURASHVILI
Georgian Centre of Population Research, GEORGIA

Uncertainty and Discrimination: Family Structure and Declining Child Sex Ratios in Rural India

Matthias LARSEN
Göteborg University, SWEDEN;
Pernille GOOCH and Neelambar HATTI
Lund University, SWEDEN

Discussant: Jacques VERON
INED, FRANCE

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2005

09:00 – 10:15

Publication Committee Meeting (members only)

10:15 – 13:00

Session 4: IMPACT OF GENDER IMBALANCES

General Discussant: William LAVELY
University of Washington, USA

This session is devoted to the exploration of various consequences of gender imbalances on local society. A specific focus of this session is on the estimation of future demographic disequilibrium that is likely to affect the marriage markets as women become scarce. Matrimonial migrations will also be examined in relation to the growing deficit of women.

High Sex Ratio at Birth and Female Deficit in China

YUAN Xin
Nankai University, CHINA; and
Edward Jow-Ching TU
Hong Kong University, HONG KONG SAR

Discussant: T.V. SEKHER
Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), INDIA

Son Preference and the Marriage Squeeze in China—An Integrated Analysis of the First Marriage and Remarriage Market

LI Shuzhuo and JIANG Quanbao
Xi'an Jiaotong University, CHINA;
Isabelle ATTANE
INED, FRANCE; and
Marcus W. FELDMAN
Stanford University, USA

Discussant: Jacques VERON
INED, FRANCE

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

Transnational Migration, Marriage and Trafficking at the China-Vietnam Border

LE Bach Duong
Institute for Social Development Studies, VIETNAM;
Daniele BELANGER
University of Western Ontario, CANADA; and
KHUAT Thu Hong
Institute for Social Development Studies, VIETNAM

Discussant: Laurel BOSSEN
McGill University, CANADA

Marriage Migration between Vietnam and Taiwan: A View from Vietnam

Hong Xoan NGUYEN THI and Graeme HUGO
University of Adelaide, AUSTRALIA

Discussant: Tiodora Hadumaon SIAGIAN
Central Board of Statistics, INDONESIA

Gender Imbalances and the Twisted Marriage Market in Taiwan

YANG Wen-Shan and LIU Ying-ying Tiffany
Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, and
Research Center for Social Sciences and Humanities, TAIWAN

Discussant: Jeroen VAN GINNEKEN
Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), THE NETHERLANDS

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 17:30

Session 5: POLICY ASPECTS AND ROUND TABLE

General Discussant: Kumud SHARMA
Centre for Women's Development Studies, INDIA

This final session will serve as a conclusion to the conference. Contributions examine ethical issues related to sex selection as well as the policy response to the growing sex ratios among children, including local campaigns to fight gender-based discrimination, national policies and their impact on discriminatory behaviour.

Female Deficit in India: Role of Prevention of Sex Selective Abortion Act

Leela VISARIA
Gujarat Institute of Development Research, INDIA

Interventions to Balance Sex Ratio at Birth in Rural China

ZHENG Zhenzhen
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, CHINA

Pre-Natal Sex Selection in India: Case Study of a Policy Advocacy Initiative

Ena M. SINGH
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), INDIA

Open Discussion

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

Round Table: Synthesis and Perspectives

Isabelle ATTANE and Christophe Z. GUILMOTO (global synthesis)
PN Mari BHAT (synthesis and perspectives for South Asia)
LI Shuzhuo (synthesis and perspectives for China)
Gavin W. JONES (synthesis and perspectives for Southeast Asia)

17:30 – 18:00 Closing Ceremony