

International Conference on  
Population and Development in Asia: Critical Issues for a Sustainable Future  
20 – 22 March 2006, Phuket, Thailand

## Abstract

### Trends and Prospects in Living Arrangements of the Korean Elderly

Cheong-Seok KIM  
Department of Sociology, Dongguk University, Korea

With the case of Korean society undergoing rapid, compressive social transformation, this study investigates changes of living arrangement in old age during the last decade. In doing so, the study reviews literature on the analysis of living arrangement at both the micro and macro level. The study models whether and how the household structure of Korean elderly would differ by their individual characteristics and change over time. The logit regression model analysis, using pooled data set of two nation wide surveys on the Korean elderly in 1994 and 2004, reveals that living apart from children among the elderly is affected by the availability of a spouse and children, economic resources and health status. The analysis shows that even after controlling for these variables at the individual level, separate residences have increased over time. The increase of separate residences is especially profound for urban residents and for elderly women. With the expectation that the elderly in future will have fewer children and higher level of income along with increasing preference toward independent living, the separate residence is predicted to become more prevalent. The study, in addition to delivering in-depth knowledge on the living arrangements of Korean elderly, hopes to provide challenging questions on data and methodology that researchers in the household structure in old age should take into consideration.

**Keywords:** *Household structure, Intergenerational relations, Determinants of coresidence, Independent living*

Dataset Used: Survey of the Living Status of Korean Elderly: Korea, 1994 & 2004.