



Department of Sociology
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Understanding Ethnic Variations in Health among Chinese Older Adults

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Abstract

Using data from China's censuses, this study documents and explores ethnic variations in self-rated health among Chinese older than 60. Findings show that minorities' group-level dissimilarity from the Han majority, prefecture-level ethnic residential concentrations, and the number of high schools per thousand individuals are negatively associated with health. On the other hand, prefecture-level GDP per capita positively predicts health. Additionally, in prefectures with high levels of ethnic residential concentrations and higher per-capita GDP, the negative associations between dissimilarity to the Han and health are stronger. However, in prefectures where the distributions of ethnic groups were more heterogeneous, the negative associations between dissimilarity to the Han and health were mitigated. This study highlights the importance of accounting for intra-ethnic diversity and interactions between cultural and socioeconomic contexts when unpacking ethnic variations in health.



Biography

Prof. Zheng Mu is an assistant professor at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the National University of Singapore. Her general research interests focus on trends, social determinants, and consequences of marriage and family behaviors, with a focus on how marriage and family have served as inequality-generating mechanisms. Her ongoing research projects examine how migration, ethnicity, gender, and interactions between ideational and socioeconomic contexts shape individuals' time use patterns, family experiences, and well-being in China and Singapore.

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