

Filial Piety, Family Lineage, and Gender Differences in Migration Intention: A Case Study in Hong Kong

Filial piety and family lineage have long been suggested as important factors for understanding family dynamics in East Asia. While the female gender role has been changing, wives are still expected to play a crucial role in supporting the family, especially their husbands. Many studies have explored how filial piety, family lineage, and gender roles shape fertility patterns in East Asia. However, despite the substantial volume of migration from East Asia to other parts of the world and within the region, there is a lack of research on how these factors relate to migration patterns in East Asia. This research gap is surprising, considering that migration decisions are often made jointly by families. Yet, there is no study that explores how specifically having elderly parents and young children influence the migration intentions of husbands and wives.

The study aims to bridge this gap by combining the literature on migration and East Asian families to understand migration intention patterns among families in Hong Kong. Drawing on data from the 2021 Hong Kong General Social Survey, the study investigates how the age of the father and mother, as well as whether the father or mother is alive, are related to migration intentions. The analysis also examines how these factors are associated with the migration intentions of wives and husbands separately. The findings suggest that older age and having young children are linked to a lower likelihood of migration intention, with different patterns observed between husbands and wives. The implications of these findings will be discussed.