

Joe Leung (Honk Kong University)

Conference Series

16 October 2019, 9.00 to 12.00

EHESS, Room A07_46 (54 bd Raspail 75006 Paris)

Doctoral seminar

Organized in collaboration with the French Academic Network on Asian Studies (GIS Asie)

Registration: communication@gis-reseau-asie.org

17 October 2019, 15.00 to 17.00

EHESS, Room 2 (105 bd Raspail 75006 Paris)

Pension Reform in China: The Role of the World Bank

In the EHESS seminar “Current Research in Socio-Economics”.

Similar to other international organizations, the World Bank has started to engage with China in the 1980s by offering loans, technical support and consultancy in pilot projects in economic, environmental, poverty alleviation and social protection development. Yet the partnership was marked by the minimal use of “conditionality” in promoting the World Bank traditional agenda of privatization and austerity. Apparently, China has learned from the Bank in setting up of a multi-pillar and hybrid pension system in the 1980s and 1990s. According to the Bank, the relationship was described as “unique and successful”. Critical success factors included continuous dialogue and persuasion, introducing international good practices and technologies, and capacity building programmes. By offering “friendly advice”, Bank’s influences are “indirect through knowledge sharing, collaborative partnership, rather than the imposition of solutions”. Key challenges of building up a sustainable and effective pension system include improving coverage, replacement rates and investment returns, as well as covering deficits.

18 October 2019, 9.00 to 12.00

EHESS, Room AS1_08 (54 bd Raspail 75006 Paris)

Ageing Society and Long-term Care

In the framework of the workshop organized by FFJ, “European & Asian Perspectives on Welfare Issues”.

China is facing the demographic transition of rapid society ageing, largely due to the One-child policy implemented in 1980. Key features include its middle-income economy (ageing society without being rich), the large size of its ageing population, rapid ageing speed, and significant regional, gender and rural-urban differences. While the needs for long-term care have been escalating, social care services have largely remained under-developed. The service gaps have been aggravated by the rapid eroding informal family care. Recent policy reforms include the piloting of long-term insurance, facilitating privately-operated homes for the aged, and government purchase of services on community-based care. Besides building up a financially sustainable LTC system, a comprehensive regulatory framework is required to assure service quality (professional workforce, measurement of needs,

standardization of service inputs, information management, outcome evaluation, and monitoring of service providers) and the integration of hospital-based health care and social care in the community.

Full programme: http://ffj.ehess.fr/upload/Actualites/Events/2019/2019-10-18_FFJ_WelfareIssues.pdf

21 October 2019, 15.00 to 17.00

EHESS, Room A07_51 (54 bd Raspail 75006 Paris)

The Fourth Turning Point: Becoming a Welfare State?

Seminar organized by CCJ.

China now is a world economic and political power. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, China has experienced three turning points. The first turning point was the building up of the centrally planned economy which promised its people with an egalitarian "iron rice bowl" in social protection. In the second turning point, the market-oriented and pluralistic economic reform after 1978 had eroded the traditional social security system, and more people had become vulnerable to contingencies with insecure protection. For decades, China had experimented and introduced a variety of contributory social security schemes. In 2006, it has envisioned to become a harmonious society. In this third turning point, social security reforms had focused on widening coverage, programme integration, poverty alleviation, central government intervention and redistribution, and Party-led social governance reforms. By 2020, it has pledged to set up a comprehensive and universal social protection system, which can facilitate sustainable and inclusive economic growth. To become a high-income economy with a full-fledged welfare state, it has to achieve the fourth turning point in which social policy has to be more centralized, redistributive and sustainable.