

FAMILY RESEARCH AGENDA: A LIFE CYCLE APPROACH

(I) Different family actors in the family context	
Child/youth in the family	Impact of family structures; types of family/non-family care; and parenting styles on child/youth development outcomes; familial influence on child/youth's community engagement; child/youth with special needs
Adult in the family	Familial roles/expectations of singles/married; balancing personal needs/aspirations (e.g. career) with family responsibilities (e.g. as caregiver of elderly members; human capital investment and social capital); gender issues (e.g. expectations of married women); specific needs of parents (e.g. young parents, late-life parenthood) and divorcing/re-marrying couples (e.g. emotional/monetary maintenance of dependents, marriage counselling, step-parenting)
Elderly in the family	Motivators of active ageing; competing roles/expectations (e.g. grand-parenting vs. working); drivers of inter-generational bonding/transfers; care arrangements for the elderly; longer life expectancy and the impact on the family; multi-generational families vs. nuclear families; physical/emotional well-being (i.e. graceful aging); bequests/altruism
(II) Family transitions over the life course	
Family formation & dissolution	Factors influencing values/attitudes towards marriage/divorce; formation of stable families; courtship and parenthood; various family forms (e.g. single-parent families, single living with elderly parents); financial cost of starting a family (e.g. cost of marriage, housing and having children); dissolution by death, desertion, or divorce; re-constitution and adoption
Family relationships	Risk/protective factors of different family relationships over the life-cycle (e.g. marital relations of newly-married, parent-child relations involving young parents and step-parenting); inter-generational bonds; strengths/vulnerabilities of different family forms - inter-ethnic/religious marriages, re-constituted families, marriages involving minors, trans-national families, sandwiched families, families with persons with disability, local-foreigner marriages, etc.
Family resources	Factors influencing choice between work and care-giving; impact of work on care-giving outcomes (e.g. children of working parents); factors influencing the division of labour and resource-sharing (e.g. parenting roles, financial transfers, public schemes mandating work for assistance)
At-risk families	Risk/protective factors (including intergenerational effects) for (1) families in justice system (e.g. adult incarceration, juvenile

	delinquency, youth displaying at-risk behaviour); (2) families with (multiple) stresses (e.g. suicidal tendencies, mental health issues, family dysfunctionality, financial problems, vices and addiction, default on maintenance, teenage pregnancies and marriages involving minors); (3) factors related to family violence (e.g. spousal, child or elderly abuse)
(III) Family as part of community, economy and nation	
Family and the community	Community risk/protective factors affecting family well-being (e.g. social capital, community support, neighbourhood); factors/processes affecting family's community engagement (e.g. volunteering, charitable giving, community involvement activities)
Family and the economy	Impact of macroeconomic cycles on: marriage and parenthood, family work patterns, cohesion & rootedness of trans-national families to Singapore; adaptation of the economy and industry to family needs (e.g. pro-family work practices, work-life harmony, commercial facilities and activities such as childcare services, kindergartens); valuation for homemaker services; how family income affects outcomes for children; income and time; intra-household income allocations and human capital investment; impact of widening income gap and inequality
Global dimensions of the family	Impact of globalisation and technology on families and children; impact of migrants on families and children (e.g. foreign domestic helpers, competition in employment/education, cross-border marriages, etc)
Family and the nation	Role of the family in contributing to social stability and national cohesiveness in developing socially responsible individuals, sense of national belonging
(IV) Services and Support Structures	
Universal	Dating services, infant/child care services, parenthood incentives, pro-family environment, family education programmes including on fertility awareness, marriage preparation, parenting programmes and work-life harmony, care-giving, e.g. to persons with disability, frail elderly, demand for odd-hour care, flexible child care, student care centres, etc
Preventive	Preventive strategies, policies, programmes to break intergenerational transfer of family violence, criminal behaviour, addictions, poverty, negative mindset, etc
Intervention	Developmental support for children from low-income families, right-sizing family measures, support for non-intact families

Remedial	Family counselling services, child and family protection services, juvenile rehabilitation, Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents (TMP)
Delivery channels	Role of case management, wraparound services (process based on individualized, strength based, needs-driven planning and service delivery with interagency cooperation); “many helping hands” approach (involving voluntary welfare organisations, private sector)
Assessment	Evaluation of delivery & impact of programmes (e.g. cost-benefit analysis of preschool and child development programmes, early intervention programmes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds); efficacy of specific intervention approaches that can be systematically replicated in programme designs (e.g. 3P approach); resource allocation to enhance the capacity and capability of the family service sector