

Is There a Gender and a Marriage Premium on Happiness?
(in English)



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Abstract

Annual survey results from 2008 to 2011 in Hong Kong indicate that females are generally happier than males. The LIFE scores analysis shows that this is probably because they appear to have consistently stronger attributes in terms of their capability of enjoying life. The marriage premium is much more complicated though, and varies over the life cycle and with the gender. It is typically positive for married couples aged below 45, but diminishes as they get older, especially for males. For those who are aged 45 or above, the marriage premium almost disappears. Age has an obvious negative effect on females, though positive effect on males. Divorce has a stronger adverse effect on women than for men. Divorce produces only temporary negative effects on happiness, and may even advance happiness for older males.

Date: 26 March 2012 (Monday)
Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Venue: SO322, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building

Biography

Professor Ho is the author of *Public Policy and the Public Interest* (Routledge, 2011), *Health Policy and the Public Interest* (forthcoming, Routledge, 2012), *Human Spirituality and Happiness* (Authorhouse, 2011), as well as joint editor of several books including *Public Governance in Asia and the Limits of Electoral Democracy* (Edward Elgar, 2011), *Happiness and Public Policy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), among others. He has published over 90 academic papers in journals and book chapters. Prof. Ho has been active in community and professional service. He served as President of the HK Economic Association for eight years through 2007 and had served on the Advisory Council for the Hong Kong Institute of Monetary Research for 10 years from 1999, a Council member of the People's Council for Sustainable Development since 2004. Prof. Ho was a member of the Standing Commission on Salaries and Conditions of Service for Civil Servants, HK Committee of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, and a part-time member of the Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong SAR Government. He is currently a director of the Buddhist Education Foundation of Canada and a member of the Policy Research and Advocacy Committee of the HK Council of Social Service.

All are welcome

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