

FED-CEPECE Seminar: “No Longer the One-Child Family: Parenting and Sibling Relationships in China”

Date: 9 December 2025

Time: 10:00-11:30

Venue: E33-2036, Faculty of Education

Language: English

Registration: <https://go.um.edu.mo/6957ppgi>

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Speaker:

Prof. Bin-Bin CHEN, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Fudan University, China, is invited to be the speaker of the seminar. Prof. Chen has also held a visiting appointment at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and served as a Visiting Fellow at Hughes College. His research focuses on family relationships and the socioemotional and academic development of children and adolescents in Chinese contexts. He is the Principal Investigator of the Shanghai Sibling Study (Triple-S project), a large-scale longitudinal investigation funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

Abstract:

Starting in 2016, the Chinese central government officially ended the one-child policy, permitting families to have two children. In May 2021, the government further relaxed this regulation, allowing couples to have up to three children. While these changes were driven largely by concerns about socioeconomic development and population aging rather than child development, they nonetheless carried profound implications for parents and children in China. However, there remained a lack of practical guidance to support parents in navigating these new family challenges.

Drawing on findings from the Shanghai Sibling Study (Triple-S project), a seven-year longitudinal investigation of family functioning and firstborn adjustment after the birth of a sibling, this talk explored three core research questions:

1. How did Chinese parents—many of whom grew up without siblings—raise two children in the same household?
2. How did firstborn children adapt to the transition to siblinghood?
3. How did sibling relationships shape children's socioemotional development?

Through empirical evidence and theoretical discussion, Professor Chen demonstrated how shifts in population policy influenced parenting practices, sibling dynamics, and child adjustment in contemporary Chinese families.