

SEMINAR SERIES 2010

Aged care community services in Shanghai dispel Confucian welfare mirage

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The seminar is co-sponsored with the Confucius Institute, UNSW

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Time 12.30-1.30pm

Location Room 250, Level 2, Robert Webster Building
(G14) UNSW Kensington

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Campus Map <http://www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/Maps/pdf/kensington.pdf>



Karen Fisher and **Xiaoyuan Shang** are senior researchers at the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW. They conduct Australian Research Council projects concerning children, ageing and disability. The Shanghai research also was supported by an Australian Endeavour Cheung Kong Fellowship and the UNSW Confucius Institute.

Some social policy theorists assert that East Asia represents a distinct social welfare regime type influenced by Confucian values that relies on families more than the state. This seminar discusses whether characterising the welfare system as Confucian remains relevant to the way social services are developing in China. To illustrate the argument it examines Shanghai aged care community services. It contends that far from a distinct East Asian social welfare system, Shanghai aged care community services are beginning to resemble policy in developed countries. It suggests that the differences in the welfare system attributed to Confucian values in the past were due to the level of economic development and internationalisation.