
There has been an agreement among international communities that social participation of the elderly people can actively cope with the issue of population ageing. However, most of the previous studies mainly focus on how social participation affecting health, little attention has been paid to the bi-directional relationship between them. Using the data of the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS), this paper explores this question using the logit and fixed effect models. After controlling for confounding factors, the model results show that there does exist significant bi-directional relationship between self-report health (SRH) and social participation of the Chinese elderly. It is suggested that those older adults who report good SRH have a 22.0% ~ 40.1% higher odds ratio of engaging in social participation than those who have poor SRH; older adults who are engaged in social participation have a 16.4% ~ 25.6% higher odds ratio of reporting good SRH; the influence of SRH on social participation might be larger than that of social participation on SRH. Besides, the results reveal that the impact of social participation on SRH is more effective among elderly who report good SRH at baseline.

About the presenter
Jiehua Lu is a professor of department of sociology, Peking University, and also the deputy director of Center for Healthy Aging and Development Studies, Peking University. His research areas include gerontology, economics of population, and interaction between population and environment. Dr. Lu got his BA in economics, MA in sociology, and Ph. D in demography from Liaoning University, University of Southern California, and Peking University respectively. From 1984 to 1994, he was a faculty member of Institute of Population Research, Liaoning University. From 1997 to 2006, he was a faculty member of Population Research Institute of Peking University. Since 2007, Dr. Lu has been working at department of sociology of Peking University. Dr. Lu has been the principal investigator for some key projects and published lot of academic papers, including: “Associations of Chronic Conditions, APOE4 Allele, Stress Factors, and Health Behaviors with Self-rated health”( BMC Geriatrics); “Chinese Women’s Family Status: Analysis of Chinese Decennial Survey, 1990-2010”(Women, Gender & Research); “Patterns of living arrangements of the elderly in Mainland China: changes, consequences and policy implications” (Asian Education and Development Studies) etc.