

## **VID Colloquium**

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Vienna Institute of Demography  
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2  
Nathan Keyfitz Library  
1020 Vienna

### **Bernice Kuang**

University of Reading Human Geography Department

Thursday, 13. December 2018  
15:00-16:00

### **"Son Preference Among Asian Ethnic Minorities in the UK"**

Sex-selection against females is well documented in India. This pattern has been paralleled in the UK, where previous analysis of birth registrations evidenced a male biased sex ratio at birth (SRB) among India-born women over 1990-2005. This paper first presents an update of the SRB trend among the predominant British South Asian groups (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi) using 2006-2016 birth registration data. We find a stabilisation of the SRB to India-born mothers from 2006 onwards, potentially announcing the beginning of a reversal. We then use the Annual Population Survey (1979-2016) to further explore son-preference among women of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Chinese heritage through gender-based parity progression analyses. Results shows contrasting gender-based parity progression patterns between subgroups, emphasizing the importance of appreciating the diverse pathways of son-preference among Asian groups in the UK. Results are discussed from a transnational perspective, and in the context of the UK debates on sex-selective abortion.

### **About the presenter**

Bernice Kuang, Ph.D MPH, is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Reading Human Geography Department. Bernice was awarded a Master's of Public Health with a certificate in Demographic Methods by Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D in Social Statistics and Demography by the University of Southampton. Bernice has also worked in international development for Palladium Group on the USAID funded Health Policy Project and Health Policy Plus as a technical adviser specializing in family planning, population & health in Sub Saharan Africa and Latin America. Her research specializes in union formation and childbearing patterns in Asian populations