



Department of Sociology  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Sociology@CUHK Webinar Series

# Does the Impact of Family Origin on SES Really Decline over the Life Course?

by Prof. Tony Tam  
Chair and Research Professor  
Department of Sociology  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



HKT

Wednesday, May 7 2025  
09:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.



Room 422  
Sino Building, CUHK  
| Hybrid Mode



Scan to  
register

Webinar via  
**zoom**

## Abstract

This study investigates the lasting impact of socioeconomic status (SES) at the origin on individual socioeconomic achievements. These achievements are assessed through education and Generalized Socioeconomic Status (GSES). GSES serves as a comprehensive measure that combines education, occupation, income, and wealth, providing an overall assessment of intergenerational closure (IGC) in socioeconomic status. Using rank-based methods and data from the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) 2009, we analyze a sample of 28,822 individuals from 30 societies. Our findings reveal a striking “mobility constant,” suggesting that the effect size of socioeconomic origin on the attainment of GSES remains consistent throughout the life course, similar to its impact on education.



Tony Tam is Research Professor and Chair in the Department of Sociology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Director of the Centre for Population Research, and Director and Founding Co-director of the Computational Social Science Lab. His research areas include social stratification, education, labor market, health inequality, and economic sociology. He obtained his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago under the mentorship of James S. Coleman and Edward O. Laumann. He was co-PI of the Taiwan Education Panel Survey (TEPS) and a co-investigator of the China Education Panel Survey (CEPS).

This talk is part of the “Intergenerational Mobility Webinar Series”

Enquiry: (852) 3943 6625 / [sociology@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:sociology@cuhk.edu.hk)