

**Critical Thinking and Writing skills:
Inter-disciplinary Exploration on Aging Issues in China**

The purpose of this workshop is to train participants how to think and write critically and systematically. The inquiry of these useful skills is learned from exploring social and cultural issues on China's aging population with inter-disciplinary approaches.

Objectives:

1. Learn a basic understanding of sociological theories and research methods.
2. Learn how to apply theories to explain social issues.
3. Learn how to use appropriate and relevant methods to collect data, supported by sociological theories, to collect data for analysis.
4. Learn to communicate research findings in written format.
5. Develop critical thinking and organizational skills.

Themes and Schedule:

Topics	Materials (don't expect to understand everything you read)	Date
1. Lecture: Introduction to gerontological concepts and theories; how to ask questions: 5Ws & 4C5M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore concepts and theories on aging - Define an aging population and society and modernization theory - Videos + critical thinking chart 	April 26, 2021, Monday, 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time
2. Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sociological research methods - informal care for the elderly (the family and community) - Paper writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantitative and qualitative research methods - Principles on reading and writing 	April 28, Wednesday 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time
3. Lecture: leisure and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies - Bird-keeping - Dama dancing 	May 3, Monday 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time First paper due May 1, Saturday, before midnight
4. Paper discussion Lecture: physical space in the family and the community 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies - Shanghai, Hong Kong 	May 5, Wednesday 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time
5. Lecture: physical space in the family and the community 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies - Shanghai, Hong Kong 	May 10, Monday 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time
6. Lecture: The role of the elderly in a society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care receivers or care providers 	May 12, Wednesday 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time
7. Comparative study of aging: a global perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan, India, US and Canada 	May 17, Monday 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time Second paper due May 15, Saturday, before midnight
8. Discussion & Conclusion	Discussion on paper 2	May 19, Wednesday 7:30pm – 9:30pm, BJ time