International Longevity Center-CHINA

ILC-China 2023-2024 Annual Report

Research activities and Reports：

China Longitudinal Ageing Social Survey (CLASS)

The China Longitudinal Ageing Social Survey (CLASS) collects data about the essential characteristics, health conditions, and economic status of older Chinese people aged 60 and above. Since its launch in 2014, CLASS has conducted four follow-up surveys covering 28 provinces in mainland China (excluding residents of Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Hainan, Sinkiang, and Tibet) in 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2023. Each wave has maintained a sample size of approximately 12,000 surviving respondents. It has become one of the four primary data sources for research on aging in China. As of the end of October 2024, 170 papers have been published in CSSCI journals and 48 papers in SSCI/SCI journals based on CLASS data. Additionally, 52 master's theses and 7 doctoral dissertations have been completed using the data. 416 researchers from 174 universities and research institutions across Mainland China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macao Special Administrative Region, Japan, Singapore, and regions in Europe and North America have formally signed data use agreements.

In November 2024, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the survey, a dedicated academic seminar on the "10th Anniversary of the Chinese Longitudinal Aging Social Survey" was held. The event brought together over 100 participants, including experts, scholars, and students from universities and research institutions. Attendees shared cutting-edge and innovative research findings based on CLASS data and engaged in in-depth discussions on strategies for promoting the high-quality development of the CLASS dataset in the future.

Research on the situation of the elderly population, the statistical survey catalogue of the development of the undertakings related to the elderly, and the monitoring and evaluation system of it

This study focuses on the development of China's undertakings related to the elderly, with particular emphasis on the establishment of a statistical survey system for the elderly population and the construction of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the development of the undertakings related to the elderly. The research team developed statistical survey indicators for the basic characteristics of China's elderly population. Building on this foundation, the team further constructed a monitoring and evaluation framework for the undertakings related to the elderly and calculated the comprehensive development index and sub-indices of various dimensions for China's undertakings related to the elderly from 2018 to 2022.

Research on the Development of Elderly Care Service Talent in Beijing

This study focuses on strengthening the workforce of elderly care professionals in Beijing. By using methods such as policy analysis, text analysis, surveys, and case interviews, the study provides a comprehensive evaluation of the current professional development environment, career experiences, development aspirations, and support needs of elderly care service practitioners in Beijing. It summarizes and organizes key approaches, best practices, challenges, and issues observed in representative elderly care institutions, vocational education institutions, and professional training organizations in Beijing and other typical regions in China Furthermore, the study offers recommendations for the future development of elderly care service talent in Beijing.

Research on the Professional Development of Long-Term Care Workers

This study focuses on the policy support system for the professional development of

long-term care workers in China. Through the analysis of survey data, in-depth interviews, and case studies, the research team identified a series of challenges currently hindering the professionalization of long-term care workers. These challenges include insufficient integration of education and industry, inadequate training and evaluation systems, low-income levels, limited subsidy coverage, low societal recognition, and narrow career advancement pathways. Drawing on relevant international experiences, the research team proposed policy recommendations to promote the professional development of long-term care workers in China. These include broadening recruitment channels, improving income and benefits, creating clear career advancement pathways, and fostering a positive societal attitude toward the profession.

Research on the Coordinated Development of Elderly Care Programs and Elderly Care Industries in Guangdong Province

Based on the framework for the development of elderly care programs and elderly care industries in the new era, this study analyzes the challenges and barriers in the development of elderly care programs and industries in Guangdong Province through an in-depth examination of relevant policies, literature, statistical data, and typical cases in China and Guangdong Province. By summarizing experiences from Guangdong and other exemplary regions, the study provides recommendations and decision-making references for the development of elderly care programs and elderly care industries in Guangdong Province during the "15th Five-Year Plan" period.

Research on Addressing the Challenges of Home-Based Care for the Very Elderly and Elderly with Disabilities or Dementia

This study focuses on the challenges of providing home-based care services to the very elderly and elderly individuals with disabilities or dementia in Beijing. Through field research into the implementation of home-based elderly care services in Beijing

as well as Fujian, Jiangsu, and other regions, the research team gained a comprehensive understanding of the service needs and supply conditions for the 'very elderly', as well as the difficulties and challenges faced. The research team selected six countries—Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the United States, and Singapore—to conduct comparative analyses and summarize their institutional designs, guiding philosophies, practical experiences, and unique features in delivering home-based care for the very elderly and elderly with disabilities or dementia. By integrating the specific circumstances of Beijing, the research provided targeted recommendations for strengthening care service support for elderly individuals with disabilities or dementia in Beijing.

Research on Risk Prevention in Rural Elderly Care

Building on an analysis of the current supply and demand dynamics of rural elderly care services, the research team focused on identifying risks in rural elderly care, understanding the root causes of these risks, and exploring effective strategies for risk mitigation. The study found that rural elderly individuals continue to face challenges such as insufficient self-care capacity and a weakening of family caregiving functions. Based on these findings, the research outlined specific strategies for identifying high-risk groups and preventing potential risks. The results of this study aim to provide theoretical insights and practical guidance for the development of a comprehensive rural elderly care service system in China.

Research on Domestic and International Socialized Home-Based Elderly Care Systems, Mechanisms, and Challenges

The research team collected and organized information through multiple open-access databases, as well as from the websites of relevant departments and industry organizations in countries such as the United Kingdom, China, Japan, Australia, the United States, Sweden, and Germany. Additionally, field researches

were conducted in Beijing, Jiangsu, Guizhou, and other regions to examine the development of home-based elderly care systems. The research report provides a systematic theoretical study of socialized home-based elderly care systems, elaborating on the concept, connotation, related policy theories, and the development process of such systems. It also analyzes domestic and international practices in implementing socialized home-based elderly care systems, identifying the challenges faced in building China's home-based elderly care system and summarizing the experiences and insights from other countries. Based on these findings, the report offers recommendations for improving China's home-based elderly care system in the future.

Research on the Coordinated Development of Long-term Care Insurance and Elderly Care Service Systems in Qianxinan Prefecture, Guizhou Province

The research team conducted a comprehensive analysis of the caregiving needs and service provision for people with disabilities in Qianxinan Prefecture by employing methods such as surveys, interviews, and reviews of operational data and archives. Meanwhile, the study also examined the operation of the local long-term care insurance (LTCI) system and the construction of the social elderly care service system. Through this analysis, the study identified the policy framework, institutional construction, and management operation of the LTCI in Qianxinan, as well as potential challenges within the system. Furthermore, it assessed how effectively the LTCI system has facilitated the utilization and development of elderly care service resources. By adopting a perspective of coordinated development, the research explored the respective roles and interactions of LTCI and the social elderly care system as the supply and demand sides of basic elderly care services. Consequently, based on the local conditions, the research proposed targeted and feasible strategies to optimize the coordinated development of the LTCI system and the social elderly care service system in the future.

Academic Conferences:

Seminar on Gerontology Education of China (SGEC)

The Seminar on Gerontology Education of China (SGEC), as the brand conference of the Institute of Gerontology of Renmin University of China, has been continuously and successfully held over the past 18 years. The 19th SGEC was held in September 2023, the theme was "Twenty Years of Gerontology in China and the Construction of Independent Gerontology Knowledge System".

Since 2004, the Seminar on Gerontology Education of China (SGEC) has been held annually at Renmin University of China for 20 consecutive years. Over the past two decades, its influence has steadily expanded, making it a landmark platform for advancing the development of gerontology as a discipline, fostering talent, and promoting scientific research in China. In September 2024, the 20th SGEC was held with the theme "Activity Responding to Population Aging and Building the Discipline of Gerontology." The conference featured eight parallel forums, with nearly 50 experts and scholars engaging in in-depth discussions and exchanges on topics such as "Build a Chinese intellectual system for Gerontology" "Talent Development in Gerontology" "Governance of an Aging Society" "The Silver Economy" "Population Aging with the Information Society" "Elderly Health" "Health and Elderly Care Services" and "Interdisciplinary Aging Research and Talent Development".

Graduate Forum on Gerontology in China

In 2014, SGEC launched the Graduate Forum on Gerontology in China, which created an effective communication platform for young students in gerontology and related disciplines and played a positive role in promoting the development of gerontological disciple and fostering the younger generation of researchers. The 11th forum was held in September of 2024, and the theme was "Exploring Chinese-Style Elderly Care".

Graduate students from more than 40 universities attended. The forum attracted more than 100 faculty members and students from dozens of universities across the country. Nearly 60 master's and doctoral students shared their latest research findings through presentations or poster sessions.

Forum on Aging Sociology in China

Since 2014, Renmin University of China has been hosting the Sociology of Aging Forum on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Sociological Association. As part of the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Sociological Association, the Forum on Ageing Sociology has been held for ten consecutive years. The 11th Forum on Ageing Sociology was held in July of 2024 with the theme "Chinese-Style Elderly Care and Governance of an Aging Society". The forum received over 150 paper submissions.

The "Earliest" and "Largest"—2024 China-France International Conference on Population Aging

The first and second sessions of the 2024 China-France International Conference on Population Aging were held in April at Sorbonne University in France and in October at Renmin University of China, respectively. The conference holds significant practical importance in building an academic interaction platform between the two countries, promoting the mutual exchange of research methods and outcomes in aging studies, advancing Sino-French cultural exchange, and contributing international experience to the governance of aging societies.

The theme of the first session was "China's Population Aging: Humanities and Society". It brought together 27 Chinese scholars and nearly 20 French scholars. The 27 academic papers submitted by Chinese scholars were translated into French and compiled into a collection, becoming the first comprehensive French-language anthology systematically introducing research findings on China's aging population.

The second session focused on "Population Aging in France and Europe: Humanities and Society". Over 40 Chinese and French experts engaged in in-depth discussions and exchanges on addressing population aging from multidisciplinary perspectives, including politics, economics, society, culture, and literature. These discussions aimed to contribute multi-country experiences and diverse perspectives to the global governance of this complex issue.

"Chinese-Style Elderly Care: Theory and Practice" Academic Seminar

Chinese-style elderly care is a model aligned with China's unique socioeconomic development. In April 2024, seminar focused on "The Theory and Practice of Chinese-Style Elderly Care" was held in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. The seminar received over 240 paper submissions and was attended by more than 200 participants, including experts and scholars from related disciplines, elderly care practitioners, as well as master's and doctoral students.

"Chinese Modernization and Accelerating the Improvement of Rural Elderly Care Services" Academic Seminar

The seminar was held in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, in November 2024. Centered on themes such as elderly care services and senior health, the seminar explored the theoretical, policy, and practical frontiers of rural elderly care under the framework of Chinese modernization from multidisciplinary perspectives, including demography, sociology, and economics. The event received over 100 paper submissions from experts, scholars, and postgraduate students in related fields and attracted more than 220 participants, including academics and practitioners from various disciplines.

Training and Education activities:

Public education on population aging

"Health China" Academic Lecture Series

Between 2023 and 2024, the Institute of Gerontology of Renmin University of China, in collaboration with the newly established "Healthy China Research Institute," organized the "Health China Academic Lecture Series." Experts and scholars from diverse professional backgrounds, both domestic and international, were invited to deliver thematic lectures to university students and the general public. Up to now, over 10 lectures have been held, covering a wide range of topics such as population health, healthy aging, hospice care, and the development of the elderly care industry.

Smart Sunset - Internet Literacy Open Course

During the summer of 2024, the School of Population and Health at Renmin University of China collaborated with a short video platform to deliver the "Smart Sunset" program. National First-Class Professor Zhai Zhenwu served as the chief expert, with faculty members Tang Dan, Tao Tao, Zhou Zhuping, Jin Yong'ai, Zhang Yang, and Liu Jianan serving as instructors. The program provided in-person classes to over 800 elderly participants across seven provinces, teaching them how to use the internet safely and healthily while enjoying the benefits of digital life. Related videos have garnered over 40 million views, and the number continues to grow, with more elderly viewers watching the courses and engaging with the content through comments.

In June 2024, Professor Du Peng participated in CCTV News Channel's "News 1+1" program to address the topic of "Developing Rural Elderly Care Services." He outlined pressing challenges in rural elderly care, the establishment of a three-tier care service network, and measures to resolve the shortage of caregivers in rural areas.

In August 2024, Professor Du Peng was invited to speak on CCTV's "Topics in Focus" program, where he provided an analysis of the central government's latest policies on rural elderly care reform and highlighted exemplary local practices.

In September 2024, Professor Du Peng was featured on CCTV's "News 1+1" program to discuss the theme "What Should Villages Do for Rural Elderly Care?" He shared insights drawn from initiatives such as rural community happiness homes and mutual-aid elderly care practices.

In November 2024, Professor Du Peng delivered an interview for CCTV12's "Sunset Glow" program on the topic of "New Solutions for Supporting Disabled Seniors." He introduced advanced rehabilitation aids and exoskeleton robots, shared elderly care policies and services, and explored the potential of high-tech innovations to enhance the quality of life for seniors.

In December 2024, Professor Du Peng was interviewed by a senior Spanish journalist on the topic "Has China's Demographic Dividend Disappeared?" The discussion focused on the unique characteristics of Chinese modernization compared to Western models and the challenges and opportunities posed by China's large population in advancing its distinctive modernization path.

Construction of an information sharing platform

The WeChat Official Account "Gerontology Teaching and Research", which was formerly named "Gerontology of China", was set up by our team in 2014, and aims at strengthening subject construction, enhancing the cultivating, and communication of advanced talents. As of December 2024, we have posted more than 490 articles, including recent representative gerontological research results in China, previews of academic conferences and updates on academic activities, etc. The account has more than 9,000 followers and has been viewed about 200,000 times.

The "China Longitudinal Aging Social Survey (CLASS)" is a WeChat Official Account established and managed by the Institute of Gerontology of Renmin University of China in November 2024. It primarily serves to disseminate academic updates related to the China Longitudinal Aging Social Survey. As of December 2024, the account has posted 6 articles, garnering 1,476 views.