



統計科學研究所

INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICAL SCIENCE



SEM INAR



STATAS

Postdoc Seminar

Title : Hope, Despair, and Public Health: Income Inequality, Social Mobility, and Deaths of Despair in the United States

Speaker : Dr. Chun-Tung Kuo

(Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences,
Academia Sinica)

Time : 14:00 ~15:00, Friday, August 18, 2023

Place : Auditorium, B1F, Institute of Statistical Science, AS

Abstract

Life expectancy at birth in the US has sharply decreased from 78.8 years in 2019 to 76.1 years in 2021, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought the country's life expectancy back to the levels of 1996. Even before the pandemic, life expectancy in the US had been decreasing for three consecutive years since 2015, contrary to the trend observed in all other developed countries. This phenomenon has been associated largely with the increase in mortality among middle-aged non-Hispanic White individuals in the US since 1999. Case and Deaton coined the term 'deaths of despair' to describe the contributing causes of mortality, namely, deaths from suicide, alcohol abuse, and drug overdose. Although the national discourse on responding to the opioid crisis has focused on issues such as the urgent need to expand treatment and rehabilitation services, many have pointed out the need to look upstream to understand the impact of the social and economic conditions on population health. In this talk, I will address this issue by examining the interaction between county-level income inequality and social mobility with deaths of despair among working-age Black, Hispanic, and White populations.

※ Tea reception starts at 15 : 00.

※ Lecture in Mandarin. Online live streaming through Cisco Webex will be available.