

Social Science 9: International perspectives on family caregiving for older adults

Countries around the world are facing accelerated aging of their populations and, along with it, an increasing challenge to find ways to take care of some older people with dependencies. Family caregiving, however, is defined not only by care recipients' individual care demands, but also complex social backgrounds, including cultural values, familial reciprocity, fewer children, financial independence of females, and longer work hours. Governments attempt to respond to the challenge by social security and services, though robust measures to finance these benefits remain elusive. At this juncture, it is important to learn from each other as to the changing situations in different countries and what measures they have in place or in planning to deal with the challenge. This symposium aims to share international perspectives on family caregiving by discussing multidisciplinary cutting-edge research results in the USA, Thailand, Australia, South Korea, and Japan. Our topic covers demographic trends influencing care arrangements, social and financial pressures, unmet needs and support for family caregivers, as well as the roles of family in long-term care.