Retirement Timing and the Impact of Retirement on Well-being

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In this talk, I will demonstrate how data from the Taiwan Panel Study of Family Dynamics (PSFD) have been applied in two studies related to retirement. The first study examines the timing of retirement among PSFD respondents aged 49 to 64 who were in full-time employment, working more than 30 hours per week. The second study incorporates nationally representative longitudinal household surveys from Australia, Germany, the U.K., the U.S., and South Korea — alongside the PSFD — to explore cross-national similarities and differences in how individuals' subjective well-being changes with retirement across countries with diverse socio-economic and cultural contexts. The surveys used in the second study were independently designed and implemented in each country. To facilitate cross-country comparisons, two platforms — the Comparative Panel File (CPF), developed by sociologists, and the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF), developed by economists — have harmonized panel data from multiple countries. For this study, we relied on harmonized data from the CPF, aligning the PSFD data with CPF guidelines, as the PSFD is not yet formally included in the CPF. By presenting these two studies, I aim to illustrate how linking individual-level data across survey waves and using harmonized longitudinal datasets from multiple countries can broaden the analytical scope of retirement research. I will also discuss the potential limitations of these approaches.