

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES

ICS/OCAPA present the "China in Transition" Lecture Series

Aging and Cognitive Reserves: Language Development over the Lifespan

Friday, April 7, 2017 4:00-5:30 pm Mendenhall Lab 115 (125 S Oval Mall) 125 S Oval Mall

James H-Y. Tai

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Abstract: For the first time in history, the human race faces a grave threat of global aging. Although the proportion of the elderly population in Taiwan is not as large as in Japan, Europe, or the U.S., its rate of aging is the fastest in the world, partly due to the country's low birthrate. By 2025, Taiwan will be a "super-aged society" with 20% of the population over 65, and in many rural areas in Southern Taiwan, those over 65+ will range between 25% and 30%.

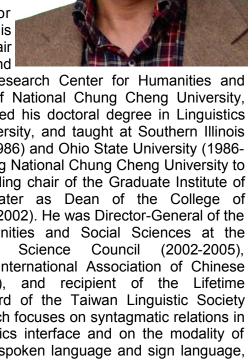
Language performance among the elderly is the result of neurological changes and the accumulation of language experiences over their lifespan. Neurological changes of the elderly result in the decline of executive function. Nonetheless, the cognitive behaviors of the elderlyincluding language performance—can be compensated for, serving as an important kind of cognitive reserve in aging. At the same time, the language performance of the elderly also depends on several general principles of language experience over their lifespan, three of the best known being: (1) first come, last go; (2) use it or lose it; and (3) means, opportunity, and motivation (MOM). Aging is here viewed as a natural development, both biologically and cognitively. It is proposed that the Smart Aging View should replace the traditional, pessimistic view of aging.

Bio: Professor James H.-Y. Tai is Distinguished Chair Professor

Taiwan



between language and aging, with the aim of identifying linguistic markers of dementia among Chinese-speaking



This event is sponsored in part by the Ohio Chinese American Professional Association (OCAPA) Lecture Fund, the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, the Department of Linguistics, and by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center. In addition, this program has been supported in part by the Neuroscience Research Institute at The Ohio State University.

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