



CUHK CENTRE FOR BIOETHICS 10TH ANNIVERSARY
Celebration Events

The 10th Anniversary Celebration Seminar Series

Seminar II: What Do We Have in Common?: Thinking Together About Good Lives for Older Adults and Caregivers in Ageing Societies

Date: Monday, 3 March 2025

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Venue: Rooms 204 & 206, Choh-Ming Li Basic Medical Sciences Building, CUHK (and hybrid on ZOOM)

Abstract & Biography of Speaker

Dr. Nancy Berlinger

“What Do We Have in Common?: Thinking Together About Good Lives for Older Adults and Caregivers in Ageing Societies”

Population ageing—a rise in the average age of a population—results from the combination of public health improvements and biomedical progress that, over time, prevent, treat, or control infectious diseases and life-threatening health conditions, plus lower birthrates reflecting changes in the lives and choices of women and families. Ageing societies, in which more people are over age 65 than under age 15, include wealthy, technologically advanced nations in East Asia, Asia-Pacific, North America, and Western Europe. A 2023 report from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) describes population ageing as the top demographic trend globally, as lifespans increase and birthrates decline in all regions of the world. This trend is often framed as a problem: Who will care for all of us as we age? These facts and trends point to an urgent need for researchers and practitioners in ageing societies in different regions to think together about shared challenges. This seminar draw on recent work by The Hastings Center to reflect on how perceptions of difference, such as stark contrasts between “East” and “West,” can impede recognition of similar values, approaches, and problems as well as meaningful differences. Seminar participants will explore a range of challenges common to ageing societies and consider ways to think together in research and practice.

Nancy Berlinger is a Senior Research Scholar at The Hastings Center, an independent research institution focusing on ethical and social challenges arising from developments in health, healthcare, biomedicine, and technology. Her research portfolio, Bioethics for Ageing Societies, explores population ageing, with special attention to caregiving, dementia, housing, and AI. She also oversees The Hastings Center Guidelines, a major international resource on treatment decision-making and care near the end of life. She is a co-editor of The Singapore Bioethics Casebook, an open-access collaboration of the National University of Singapore, The Hastings Center, and Oxford University.