

## **Spillover Effects of Pension on Marriage: The Case of China**

## **Abstract**

Marriage rates in China have declined markedly over the past decade, raising growing concern among policymakers and scholars of family behavior. This study examines whether parental participation in different pension schemes influences adult children's marriage entry through intergenerational channels. Using longitudinal data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study, I distinguish between working pensions and publicly subsidized non-working pensions and analyze marriage as a dynamic life-cycle transition.

The results indicate that mothers' participation in working pensions, is negatively associated with children's likelihood of entering marriage, with estimated effects of approximately 4 percentage points. The findings remain robust after correcting for selection related to missing income information. In contrast, non-working pensions exhibit weaker and less consistent associations with marriage behavior.

Heterogeneity analyses suggest that pension-related spillover effects vary across demographic and household characteristics, highlighting differences between working and non-working pension schemes. By linking pension institutions to intergenerational family formation, this study contributes to the literature on household responses to social insurance and provides new insights into how pension design may shape marriage and fertility patterns in developing economies.

**Key words:** Pension; Marriage; Spillover Effect; China.

**JEL Code:** J12, J14, J18