The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology ›
Volume 16, 2015 - Issue 3

1,492 Views | 11 CrossRef citations to date | 0 Altmetric

Articles

# Raising Successful Children: Children as Accumulation Strategy and the Renegotiation of Parenting Arrangements in Singapore

Kristina Göransson

Pages 211-226 | Published online: 07 May 2015

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/14442213.2015.1028431 Check for updates

Sample our Area Studies Journals
>> Sign in here to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article Figures & data References Citations Metrics
Reprints & Permissions Read this article

## Abstract

This paper examines how material and emotional investments in childrearing are rendered culturally meaningful in Chinese middle-class families in Singapore, and its consequences for family life. The competitive education system is a major concern for families and energy in their children appears mulation and comm mingly globa strategy entangle y life? How do state existing policies rents with

About Cookies On This Site

We and our partners use cookies to enhance your website experience, learn how our site is used, offer personalised features, measure the effectiveness of our services, and tailor content and ads to your interests while you navigate on the web or interact with us across devices. You can choose to accept all of these cookies or only essential cookies. To learn more or manage your preferences, click "Settings". For further information about the data we collect from you, please see our Privacy Policy

Accept All
Essential Only
Settings

young children perceive and handle childrearing, parenting arrangements and the meaning of educational success.

Keywords: Parenting Childrearing Education Gender Population Policy Children as Accumulation Strategy Singapore Middle-Class Families

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the two anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments and suggestions.

## Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

# Notes

[1] Katz (2008) outlines three interrelated 'configurations' or notions of the child in our contemporary world: as accumulation strategy; ornament; and waste (the latter refers to the moral panic around young people, particularly teenagers, a construction that is fortified by, and fortifies, the other two (see also Aitken 2001)). These representations of the value of children are triggered by specific contemporary 'ontological anxieties', namely anxieties about political, economic, geopolitical and environmental conditions.

[2] The delegation of housework and caregiving activities to foreign domestic helpers enables ant to recognis female chore, a ers) (Puru

[3] Most e, Biblarz, Bengtso e are compara lernisation

About Cookies On This Site

We and our partners use cookies to enhance your website experience, learn how our site is used, offer personalised features, measure the effectiveness of our services, and tailor content and ads to your interests while you navigate on the web or interact with us across devices. You can choose to accept all of these cookies or only essential cookies. To learn more or manage your preferences, click "Settings". For further information about the data we collect from you, please see our Privacy Policy

Accept All

Essential Onl

Settings

and upward social mobility across Asia, as well as in other parts of the world, calls for the study of how these broad changes are manifested in people's everyday life.

[4] After one week of intense debate, and in spite of protests from opposition politicians and the public, the Parliament passed an amended motion to endorse the White Paper.

[5] 1SGD=0.732USD (as at 3 March 2015).

[6] There are a limited number of governmental so-called MOE (Ministry of Education) kindergartens, where the monthly fee for Singapore citizen children is only SGD150 for a four-hour teaching session daily. These kindergartens, currently ten in total, cater in particular to low-income families living within one kilometre of these particular kindergartens (MOE Kindergarten 2015). Most Singaporean families are not targets of this scheme.

[7] Excluding employer CPF (pension) contribution.

[8] The term 'curling parent' was coined by the Danish psychologist Bent Hougaard.

## Additional information

### Funding

The field study conducted in Singapore in 2012 was generously supported by The School of Social work at Lund University.

## Related research

About Cookies On This Site

We and our partners use cookies to enhance your website experience, learn how our site is used, offer personalised features, measure the effectiveness of our services, and tailor content and ads to your interests while you navigate on the web or interact with us across devices. You can choose to accept all of these cookies or only essential cookies. To learn more or manage your preferences, click "Settings". For further information about the data we collect from you, please see our Privacy Policy

Accept All

Essential Only

Settings

Copyright © 2024 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions Accessibility

Taylor & Francis Group an informa business

Registered in England & Wales No. 3099067
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG



## About Cookies On This Site

We and our partners use cookies to enhance your website experience, learn how our site is used, offer personalised features, measure the effectiveness of our services, and tailor content and ads to your interests while you navigate on the web or interact with us across devices. You can choose to accept all of these cookies or only essential cookies. To learn more or manage your preferences, click “Settings”. For further information about the data we collect from you, please see our Privacy Policy

Accept All

Essential Only

Settings