



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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Economic Development

present a seminar on

The Impact of Risky Health Behavior of Adolescents on Later Life Economic Chances

by

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U.P. School of Economics
31 August 2017, Thursday
4:00-5:00 p.m. – Rm 303

Abstract:

Risky health behaviors such as use of illicit drugs, smoking, overconsumption of alcohol, violence, and risky sexual behavior, have contemporaneous and inter-temporal adverse health and economic outcomes. The health and economic costs to individuals and to the society of risky health behaviors are more pronounced when adolescents are involved. This paper uses longitudinal data (Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey) to examine the long-term impact of risky behavior of adolescents in 2002 (sexual behavior, consumption of tobacco, consumption of alcohol, and violent behavior) on their later life economic chances in 2009 (labor outcomes, educational attainment, and family formation). The results reveal that adolescent risky behaviors are more likely to affect educational outcomes – reducing their likelihood of being in college by 21% (those who smoked at least 1 cigarette daily), by 7% (those who had weekly drinking habit), and by 17% (those who had early sexual initiation). However, those who used any form of family planning were about 16% more likely to be in college. Labor outcomes are also adversely affected while family formation has contradicting results, which need further investigation. Further research is planned to explore endogeneity of risky behavior, possible interaction of different risky activities, and possible policy implications.

About the author:

Dr. Marjorie Pajaron is an Assistant Professor at the School of Economics, University of the Philippines. Prior to her appointment, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. She also served as a lecturer at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Department of Economics where she also received her PhD in Economics. Her research lies at the intersection of applied microeconometrics, gender, health, migration, and development economics.



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