



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

and

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present a seminar on

Interaction of Adult Risk Factors and Birth Weight in Determining Risk of Cardiovascular Diseases: A Longitudinal Study in the Philippines



by

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4:00-5:00 p.m. – Rm 114

Abstract:

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), which are disorders of the heart and blood vessels, still remain the world's leading cause of death (World Health Organization [WHO], 2016). The transition from infectious disease to NCDs, primarily CVDs, as the primary cause of mortality and morbidity worldwide combined with the economic burden associated with heart-related diseases prompted WHO and its regional offices to identify their risk factors (WHO, 2016). This paper examines these risk factors with a focus on fetal environment and its interaction with adult BMI using longitudinal data from Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey (CLHNS). Using Cox proportional hazards model to estimate hazard ratios adjusted for age and risk factors in adulthood such as cigarette smoking, the results suggest that there is a positive association between birth weight and heart disease. In addition, when birth weight is interacted with BMI, raised blood pressure is found to be higher among those who were bigger infants at birth and grew to be lighter adults suggesting centile crossing. Probit models are also used for sensitivity analysis and the results are consistent with those of the hazards model. Other factors such as adult obesity and smoking habit are also positively associated with hypertension and CVD.

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.

Free and open to the public

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