

Preface

This project of an edited book focusing on the work–family relations and wellbeing in Asia attempts not only to highlight the wellbeing element in the conventional study of work–family research but also to place the whole enterprise in an explicit comparative context. The ways in which work–family tensions are derived and the extents of their impact on happiness or life satisfaction in Asia are different from those in Western societies. The two editors believe that looking at these variations from a cross-cultural angle is very much critical for a deeper understanding of contemporary Asian families.

We started to open call for submissions, rather than soliciting manuscripts through our personal network, in the spring of 2015. There were 25 proposals or so received in the autumn of 2015. Along manuscript preparation and review process that were accomplished in October 2016, we were able to publish nine papers, as well as our introductory chapter. We regret that some interesting works had to be excluded, although they could enrich the diversity of research topics and geography in this collection.

We like to especially thank Prof. Alex Michalos for his enthusiastic support for this project. He was more than positive when we approached him with an idea of this project. He has devoted his academic life to promote the study of quality of life. The now-established status of wellbeing study cannot be realized without his strong determination and persistent effort in mobilizing “new hands” into this field and convincing them of the great values wellbeing research can generate for human betterment. Ming-Chang Tsai particularly feels lucky to have been encouraged by his warm and wise advices. He is definitely a role model for academics. This edited book is dedicated to him.

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