

FASS-IAS SPECIAL SEMINAR

Speaker: Professor Guang Guo

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Date: Saturday, 5 November 2016

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: FASS Meeting Room 1.89

TITLE:

Advances in Molecular Genetics and Potential Benefits to Social Sciences

ABSTRACT:

The talk will provide a review of some of the advances in molecular genetics and their potential usefulness for social sciences. Some social science applications including the study of human health and human ancestry will be discussed as well. Past 15-20 years or so have seen dazzling development in molecular genetics, the main purpose of this is to understand human disease and health. But the advances will benefit social sciences that seek to understand human nature and human behaviors beyond health. For example, a recent genetic study based on >500,000 individuals have identified 74 genes that are associated with educational attainment. These findings can have an important impact on theories of social stratification and social mobility. Other development includes genetic ancestry studies that could tell in what a region an individual comes from originally. This development can help us understand the nature of "race and ethnicity."

SPEAKER'S PROFILE:

Professor Guang Guo is Dr. George and Alice Welsh Distinguished Professor, Department of Sociology, at the UNC-CH. He is also a Faculty Fellow at the Carolina Population Center and the Carolina Center for Genome Sciences. Dr Guo's research focuses on the integration of sociology with genetics and epigenetics in the studies of fundamental sociological issues such as social and health behavior in humans, production of social stratification, and bio-ancestry and social construction of racial and ethnic identity. He has served as Chair, American Sociological Association Section on Methodology; as Member, the Expert Panel of Accountancy, Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Government of Singapore; and Member, Population Association of America Board of Directors. His numerous publications have appeared in leading journals including *American Journal of Sociology* and *American Sociological Review*.