

## Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2017

# THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE SATISFACTION FOLLOWING A CHRONIC HEALTH SHOCK: EVIDENCE FROM MONTHLY PANEL DATA

Presenter: Prof Rhema Vaithianathan, Auckland University of Technology  
Date: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Time: 12.00pm -1.00pm  
Venue: RB Scotton Room  
Centre for Health Economics



### Abstract:

The Singapore Life Panel (SLP) is a large population representative panel of Singaporeans aged 50 to 70 who are surveyed on a monthly basis about their health and well-being as well as income, expenditure, labour market status and household composition. The panel consists of approximately 13,000 individuals with an average of over 8,000 responses per month (up to wave 20). At both baseline and at each monthly wave, respondents are asked questions on their subjective well-being (SWB). They are also asked about new diagnosis of chronic conditions (diabetes, cancer, psychiatric, heart, stroke, hypertension and arthritis). This paper looks at the monthly short dynamics of SWB in the months leading to and following the shock using a standard fixed-effects model with individual and time fixed effects. Apart from the impact of health shock on satisfaction with health, we find surprisingly little immediate impact of health shock on overall life-satisfaction. An exception is cancer that has large and immediate effects. Other covariates that are significant include unemployment and number of people living in the house.

### Presenter:

Rhema Vaithianathan is a health economist from Auckland, New Zealand. She is co-director of the Centre for Social Data Analytics at Auckland University of Technology, and a Senior Research Fellow at Singapore Management University. Vaithianathan is director of the Singapore Life Panel, which will help Singaporeans better understand how well-prepared they are for old age. She is widely published in the research areas of Health and Development Economics and Applied Microeconomics.

### VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

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