

敬請張貼



【週五論壇】

# Visualizing Life Course Sequences: A Comparison of Family Formation between East and West German Women 【In English】

**Speaker : Prof. Tim Futing Liao**  
(Department of Sociology, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign, USA)

## 演講簡介

The purpose of this seminar is to demonstrate a way improved visualization of social science sequences, especially life course sequences. Visualization of social science sequences has received little attention, with sequence index plots having been the primary means of visualization. Tree-based graphs and sequence index plots based on multidimensional scaling are two major alternative methods of sequence visualization. Building on Tufte's 2001 principles for graphical excellence, we discuss strengths and weaknesses of these plots for social science sequences and identify three areas for improvement: over-plotting, ineffective comparison of groups of unequal sizes, and a lack of visualization to extract summary information on the timing of a series of ordered transitions. We propose relative sequence index plots and multiple transition curve plots to address these issues and as a useful alternative means of visualization. We analyze data from the German Life History Study on family formation of East and West German women to demonstrate the usefulness of these proposed plots. The analysis shows that relative sequence index plots help us perceive and appreciate the broad sequence patterns in the life course sequences, and that multiple transition curve plots help us look beyond these broad patterns by analytically summarizing stage transition patterns. We also show that both types of plots can be employed to highlight a specific life course transition or family formation cluster.

**時間：99年12月10日（星期五）14:30~16:30**

**地點：中研院人文館南棟8樓社會所802會議室**

聯絡電話：(02) 2652-5078