Thesis Proposal: Jessica Yu

Outcome *predictor*

I am interested in exploring the mental health of Chinese elders as a function of the familial support they have. My overarching question is whether or not there is a generational shift in the way isolation/family support affects mental wellbeing over time. For example, are elders *additional predictor* who age from 80 to 90 in the early 2000's affected by loneliness in the same way that elders who age from 80 to 90 in early 2010's? The Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS) has longitudinal data following elders from 1998-2014. I will explore both longitudinal analysis methods as well as multilevel modeling in order to compare cohorts and examine trends over time within a specific elder. In addition, since mental wellbeing comprises of several items from the questionnaire, I will try to incorporate ordinal linear regression when answering my research question. My question stems from recent reports and previous research that suggests that the family structure and expectations for taking care of aging parents in China has changed in the past decade. I hope through my thesis project that I not only can incorporate new statistical methods, but also find some insights that align with the changing cultural context.

Primary outcome: mental well-being

Measured by: "subjective mental health" —> composite score, 4-15
             sub-items all on scale of 1 - 5, added together

Primary predictor: familial support

Additional variables: Generation