



**UCD School of Education**  
**Scoil an Oideachais UCD**

## **UCD School of Education Seminar Series**

**Assistant Professor, [Dr. Huichao Xie](#), School of Education, University College Dublin**

**Resilience in COVID-19 Pandemic: Evaluating an Ecological Model of Support for Children and Families from Diverse Backgrounds in Singapore**

**Date:** Wednesday, 24th May 2023

**Time:** 11:00 – 12:00 pm

**Format:** In-person, UCD Geary Institute (Arts Annexe) B003/B004 and Online via :  
<https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63752356037?pwd=NnpEYjYyTmpYQU91Y2VOM1lmS3R2OT09>

**In this seminar,** Huichao will present a 3-year longitudinal study using a mixed-methods design to evaluate the Child Support Model (CSM), an ecological program for supporting kindergarteners from families with a monthly income lower than SGD\$3,500 (approximately €2,392). The presentation will briefly introduce findings about children's language, learning, and wellbeing outcomes as well as their parents' and teachers' their experiences during the pandemic school shut-down period and perspectives about the CSM. The presenter will also share lessons learned from working with policy makers in a collaborative research project to inform programme development.

**About the presenter:** Huichao Xie grew up in China where she graduated with a Bachelor in Law degree and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. She worked as a licensed early childhood special educator, first in China then in the United States. In China, Huichao co-founded two special education programmes that were reported as the first of its kind nationwide, the Nurturing Relationships Sexuality Education programme and the Inclusion Matters Para-Educator Training Programme. At the University of Oregon, Huichao completed her second Master's degree then a Ph.D in Special Education. Before joining UCD, Huichao was an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Education in Singapore where she won a Research Excellence award in 2022. Her research primarily focuses on developing and evaluating instruments, programmes, and practices to understand child development and family needs using an authentic assessment approach. She also conducted a series of cross-cultural studies using item response theory models to identify assessment biases. As an author, she has published book chapters about the history of early intervention in the United States and Singapore and family engagement in early intervention in China. She has been invited to write the chapter of developmental assessment for the official textbook for pediatrician training in China.