

**Project Title: Patterns of Help-Seeking and Barriers to Service Use in China - A Pilot Survey in Beijing**

**Project Summary:**

Through a household survey of 1,474 urban residents in Beijing, this project examines patterns of help-seeking behaviours and barriers to service utilization in urban China. In particular, the study investigates the existence and the extents of both structural and cultural barriers to formal service use, in terms of availability, accessibility, affordability, and acceptability.

The very nature of help-seeking requires that we focus on societal demands in the development of social service systems. This development should be the result of an interactive process between government implementation and civic participation. Our focus is therefore on the bottom-up societal demand rather than the top-down supply-side analysis of policy design and implementation. By focusing on the demand side of social service provision, we address a key question regarding the recent government policy promoting social work and social service professionalization: how have Chinese citizens responded to the government-initiated policy design and implementation?