

## ABOUT CHPAMS: FEATURE MEMBER

### Xiaohui Hou, PhD MA



*Xiaohui Hou, PhD, MA*

Xiaohui Hou (侯晓辉) is a senior economist with the World Bank. She joined the World Bank as a Young Professional and has worked in human development department in the East Europe and Central Asia region and the South Asia region. Her current assignment focuses on capacity building in health system strengthening. In her previous assignment, she worked on the design, implementation and evaluation of a national cash transfer program in Pakistan (Benazir Income Support Program), a national health insurance program for the poor in India (RSBY program), and several health projects in Croatia, Georgia, and Moldova. Before joining the Bank, she has worked on the impact evaluation of the Oportunidades program in Mexico. Xiaohui Hou holds a Doctorate degree in the Health Services and Policy Analysis and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. She also holds a

Master's degree in Health Policy and Administration from the Washington State University, and B.S. from Beijing University. Her field of research includes health economics and development economics. She has published a dozen of papers in both economics and medical peer reviewed journals. She teaches in international senior policy forums and a number of universities in China.

#### 1. *How would you improve the public's understanding of research?*

Everybody cares about health. Everybody cares about the access and quality of the medical services he/she receives. The key to improve the public's understanding of research is to translate the research to some forms of articulation that general public can understand and are able to link to their daily lives. The ultimate goal for public to understand the health and health services research is to promote their health: through modifying their health behavior, improving the governance and accountability of the health system by empowering them to monitor the system through the right channels, by better understanding the policies and the evidence behind those. This should also be one of the missions of the researchers, to make their research more accessible to the general public, one way or another. Technology and media today has opened many new ways to communicate and disseminate.

#### 2. *Who was your most influential teacher, and why?*

I have benefited from many teachers since I was in primary school. I thank each and every one of them who has shaped the way how I think, study, and work. It is hard to rank who is the most influential one but I would like to share something I learnt from my advisor, Prof. Paul Gertler from UC Berkeley. Paul is not only a top-notch researcher, but also he is one of the few researchers who can translate all the research jargons to plain English and able to persuade policymakers to have more evidence-based policies, even if some of them are against the political dynamics.

#### 3. *What keeps you awake at night?*

一灯，一茶，一书，一笔，一纸，一份心情。

#### 4. *What is your idea of a perfect day?*

完美难得，只求可作自己喜做之事。

#### 5. *What is your favorite book/film/play/song, and why?*

我爱诗词。但已忘却了很多，只有几句还时时想起。爱“五岭逶迤腾细浪，乌蒙磅礴走泥丸”的气魄，“白日放歌须纵酒，青春作伴好还乡”的欢愉，“舞低杨柳楼心月，歌尽桃花扇底飞”的缠绵，“沉香断续玉炉寒，伴我情怀如水”的孤凄…。但最爱一“路漫漫其修远兮，吾将上下而求索”。