

# **Siblings as “Young Carers” : for People with Disabilities**

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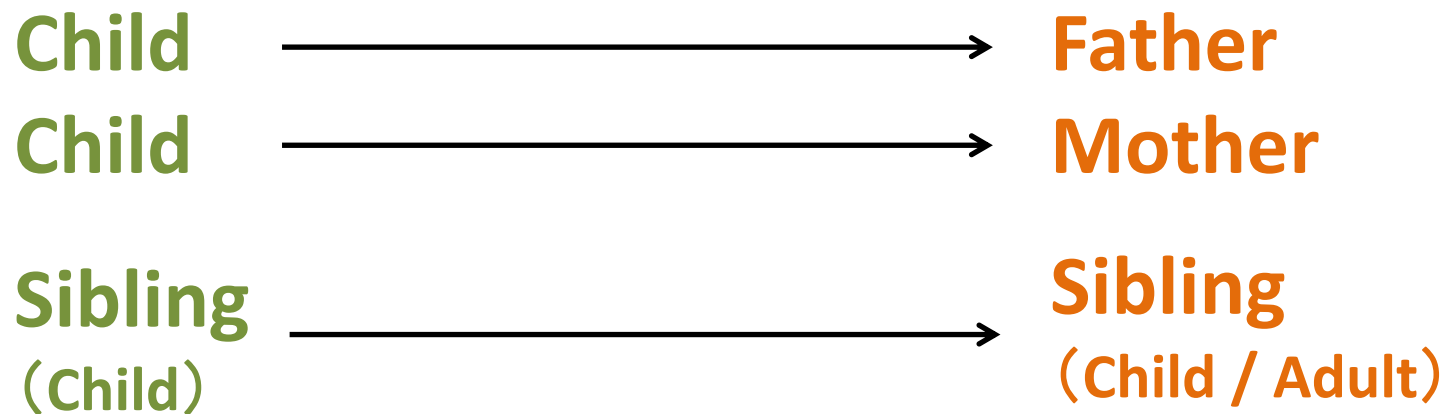
Doshisha Univ. and Chung-Ang Univ.

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# Do You Ever Think about “Siblings”?

- Previous research focus  
= parents, esp. mother
- **Siblings** = significant role

# Who are “Young Carers”?



# Definition of Young Carers

(1) under 18s supporting family member/s

(2) significant caring tasks

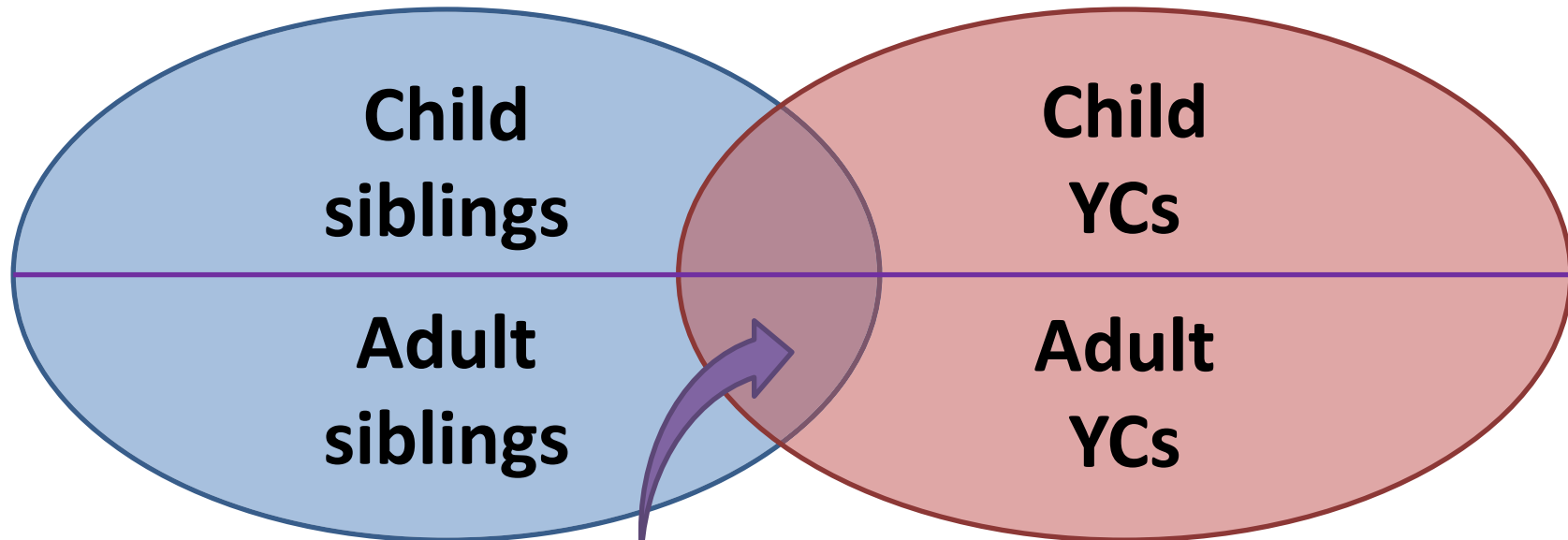
(3) adult-like responsibility

(Becker2000)

# Today

## Siblings

## Young Carers



**Child  
siblings**

**Adult  
siblings**

**Child  
YCs**

**Adult  
YCs**

**My Focus:**

**Adult siblings having  
experience of YCs**

# Research Purpose





examines the experiences of  
**YC siblings of individuals with  
disabilities in Japan**

# Siblings Characteristics

- psychological problems - family
- social problems - caretakers
- disabled family members = stigma

(Grossman1972, Meyer and Vadasy1994, Bruke2010,etc.)

# YC Characteristics

- psychosocial development 
- school attendance 
- peer networks 
- YC  adulthood

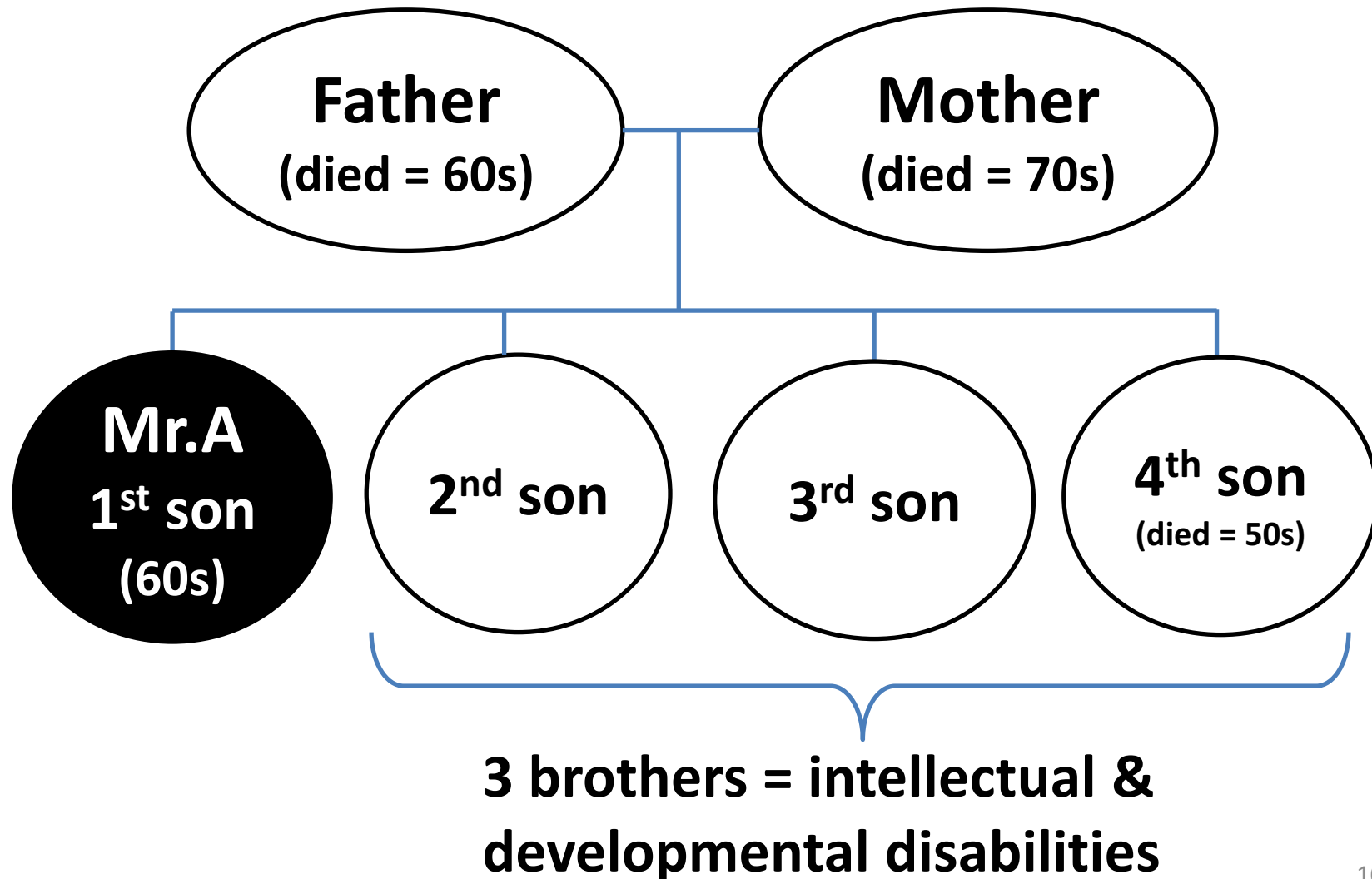
(Becker2000, Chris and Becker2004,the CYPSP2011,etc.)



# Life Story Interview

- 3 topics:
  1. strength of connections during his life :  
family & social resources
  2. actual care he gave during his life
  3. feelings about caring

# Background on Interviewee



# Experience as a Young Carer

- gave physical and psychological care
- not being able to behave like a child while at school

# Reflections on the Care Role

- regards “sibling-carers” as those who don’t hold a significant care role but that “parents” do hold such a role
- isn’t at odds with being a carer
- feels guilty about refusing to care for his family

# Relationships between Carer and Sibling with Disability

- saw himself as a sibling and therefore an equal, making his relationship more complex

⇒ is of similar age to his brothers

# The Next Step

- Influence of Previous Experience as a YC
- Growing up Each Other:  
Relationships between Sibling and Sibling  
with Disability

# Conclusion

- Through evaluating the experiences of a YC of siblings with disabilities in Japan, it seems that, similar to previous research on YCs, the participant in this research, gave physical and emotional care.

# Conclusion

- It also showed that the participant experienced role-conflicts at school and, within the family, felt the care-role was complex, dynamic, and often changing.
- Consequently, it may be useful in the future to look at such changes, as well as the law and social resources.



# Conclusion

- Additionally, it may be useful to research adult sibling-carers, who are new to the task, in order to identify the process of adopting a new care role.

# Thanks

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- Professors & students for advice

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