

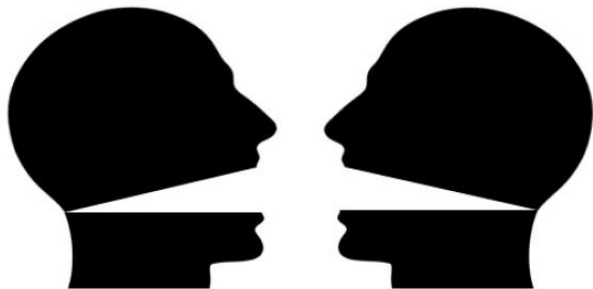


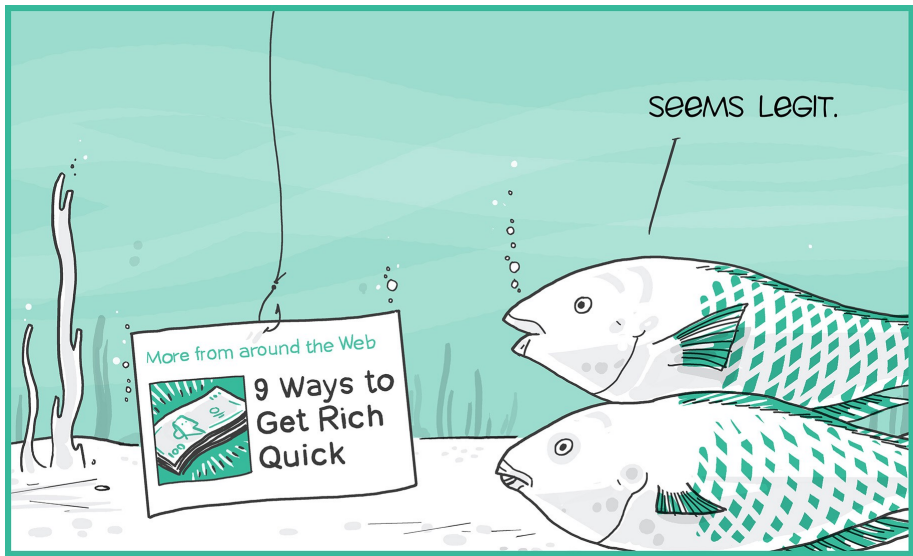
Global Trends, Social Movements and Democracy: Singapore in Comparative Perspective

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seems legit.

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9 Ways to
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Quick

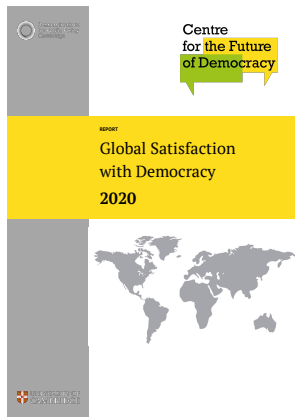
Before we can form opinions, we need the facts.

- **Global Satisfaction with Democracy Dataset**

- ▶ Built in partnership with the HUMAN Surveys Project
- ▶ Over 5 million respondents
- ▶ Over 4,000 country surveys
- ▶ 165 countries between 1973–2021
- ▶ Singapore data from multiple sources, 2003–2020

- **World Values Survey Wave 7 (2020)**

- ▶ 2020 Survey in Singapore
- ▶ Not yet publicly available (internal to WVS PIs)



Inaugural 2020 Report.

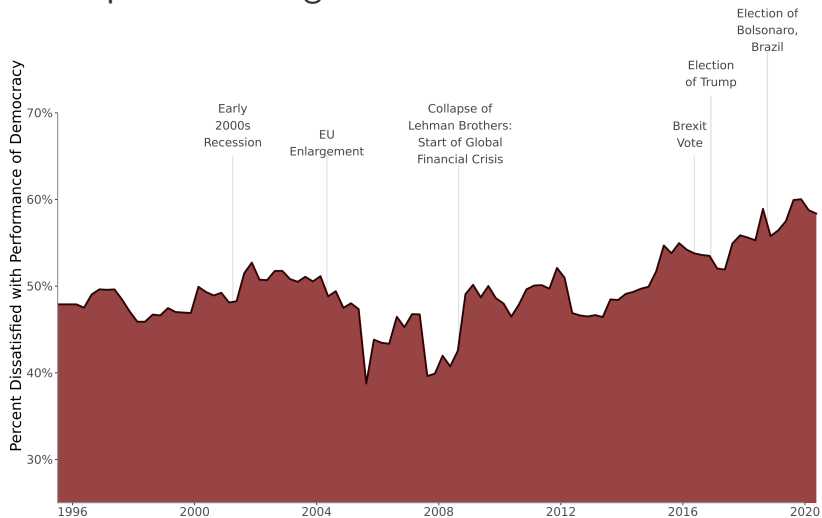
- **YouGov Globalism Survey**
 - ▶ Surveys 24-28 countries from 2016 (pilot study) to 2020
 - ▶ Singapore included in Pilot Study (2016)
- **YouGov Singapore**
 - ▶ Access to YouGov polling in Singapore, 2016–2021
 - ▶ 2020 election surveys and repeat tracking polls



Results and Findings

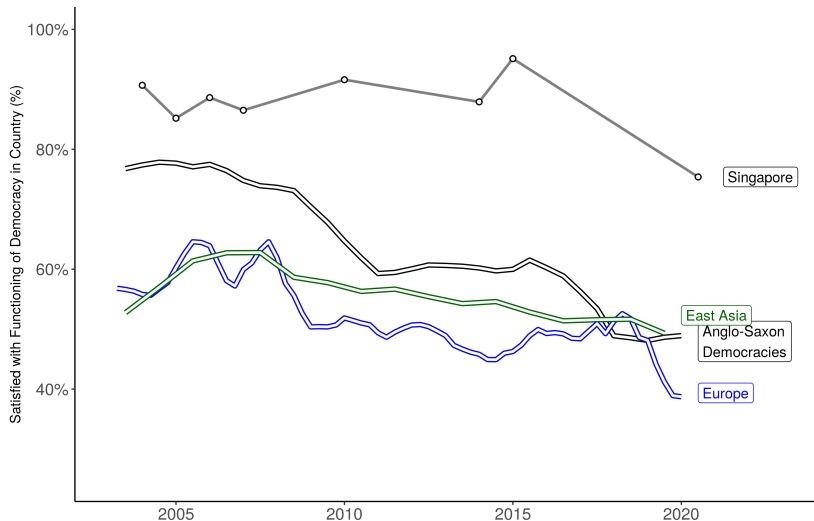
Worldwide, dissatisfaction with democracy is rising.

Global Population-Weighted Trendline



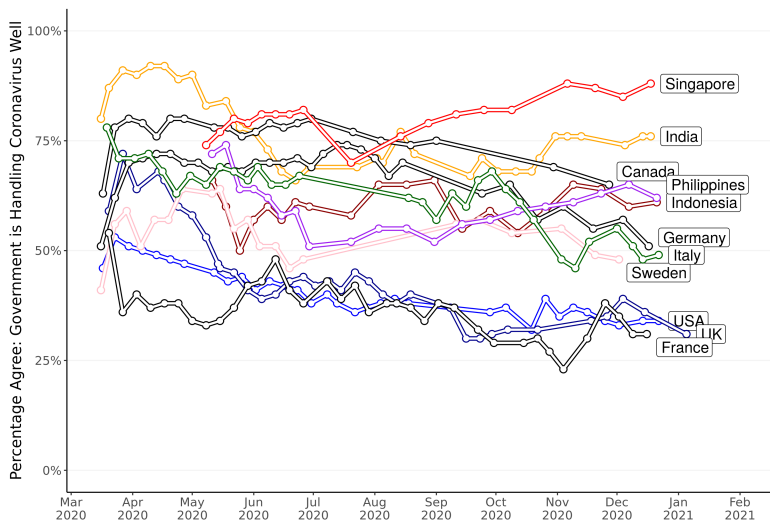
Constant country sample quarterly series (1995–2020) for 77 global democracies across Europe, Asia, Latin America, North America, and Australasia. Population-weighted by country.

And Singapore Tracks the Global Trend.



Change in satisfaction with democracy since 2002 in Singapore vis-a-vis major world regions.
 Source: HUMAN Surveys; Cambridge Centre for the Future of Democracy, 2020.

Yet Pandemic Management in 2020 Restored Confidence.



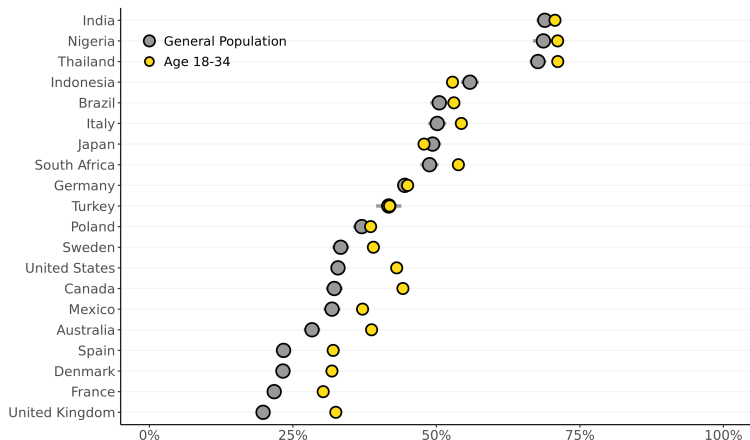
Source: YouGov, 2020-21.

Three Big Issues in 2020: Populism, Polarisation, and Identity Politics

1. Social Media, Polarisation and Demonisation

Polarisation and Demonisation – Rising Intergenerationally

“You can tell if a person is good or bad if you know their politics.”



Source: YouGov-Cambridge Globalism Survey, 2019.

Is there Polarisation in Singapore?

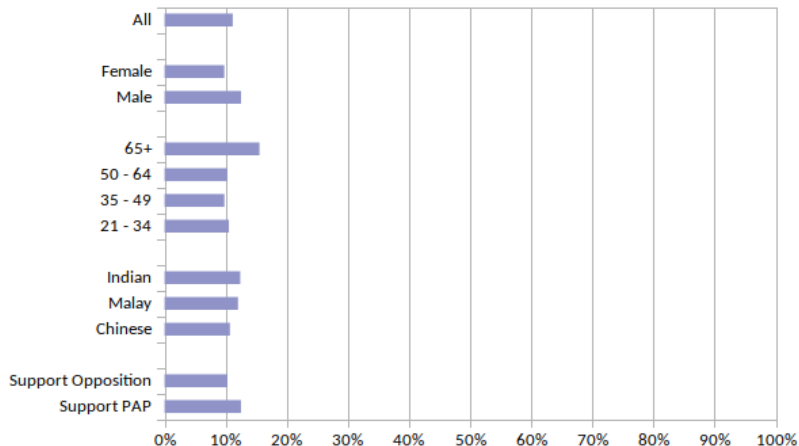
Is there Polarisation in Singapore?

- Very little compared to other countries.
- And no evidence of intergenerational change.

Very Little Partisan Division in Singapore Society

"I will not be close to anyone who has a different political ideology from me."

Percentage agreeing, by group:



Source: YouGov Singapore, 2020.

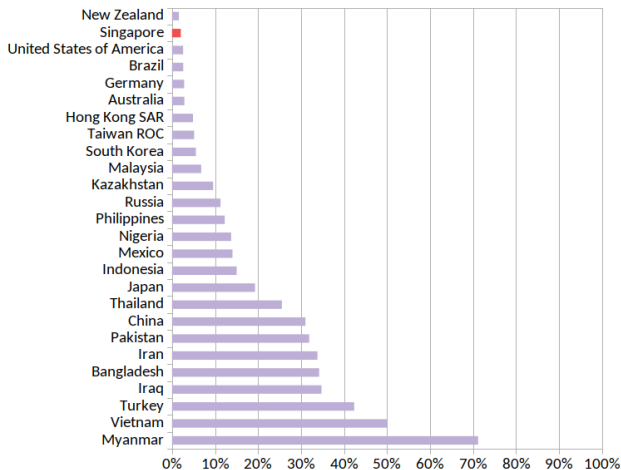
2. Identity Politics – Primacy of Group (Ethnic, Gender, or Religious) Identity over Collective Belonging

Is there Rising “Identity Politics” in Singapore?

Is there Rising “Identity Politics” in Singapore?
– Not Really.

Very Few Takers for Exclusionary Identity Politics

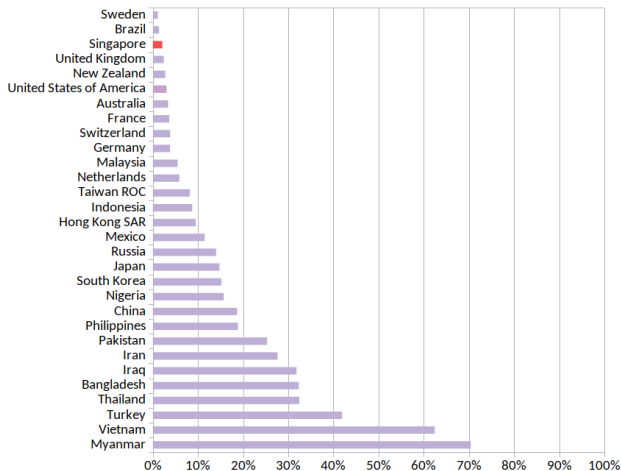
Would Reject as Neighbour: "Someone of a different religion"



Source: World Values Survey Wave 7, 2017–2020.

Very Few Takers for Exclusionary Identity Politics

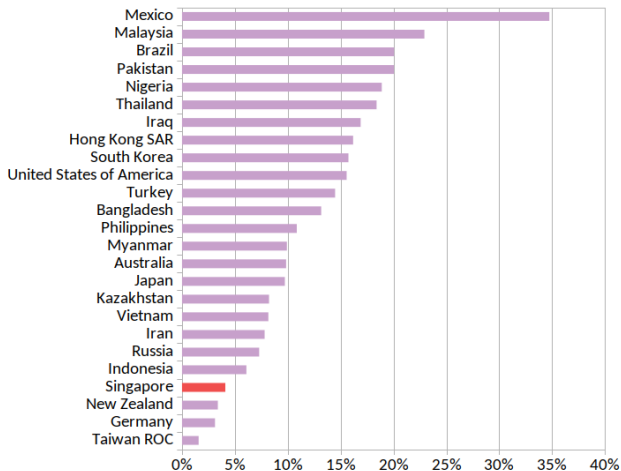
Would Reject as Neighbour: "Someone of a different race"



Source: World Values Survey Wave 7, 2017–2020.

Gender Politics: Low (Subjectively Perceived) Harassment

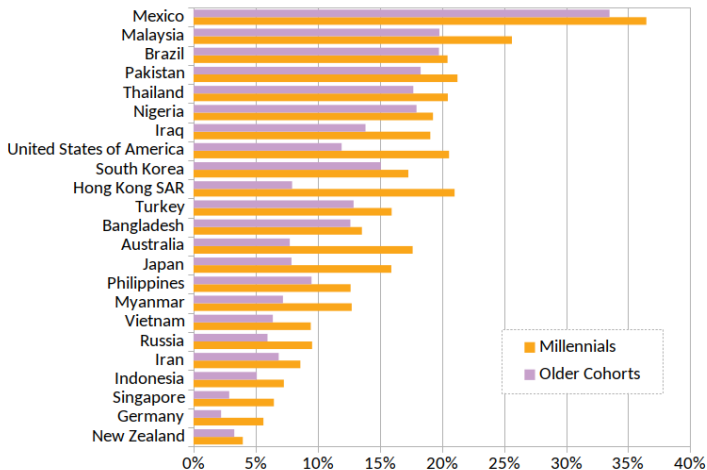
Occurs frequently in neighbourhood: "Sexual harassment"



Source: World Values Survey Wave 7, 2017–2020.

Slight Generational Divide in Perceptions (in Singapore)

Occurs frequently in neighbourhood: “Sexual harassment”

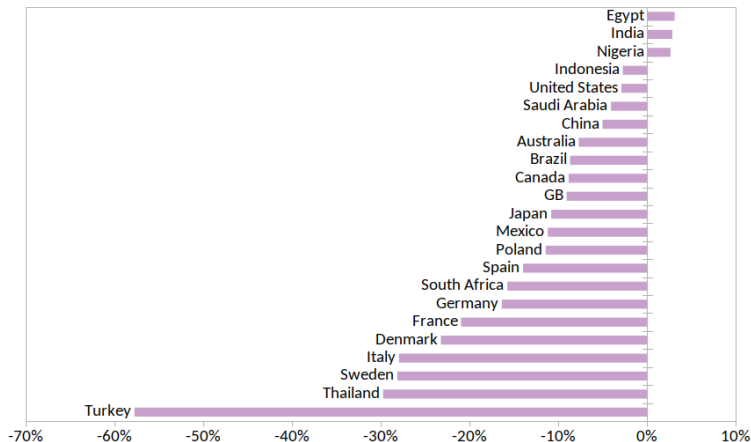


Source: World Values Survey Wave 7, 2017–2020.

3. Populism – the Anti-Globalisation Backlash

High Anti-Immigration Sentiment Worldwide

Net Views on Immigration: Percent Stating that the "Benefits outweigh the Costs" minus Percent stating that the "Costs outweigh Benefits"



Source: YouGov Globalism Project, 2019.

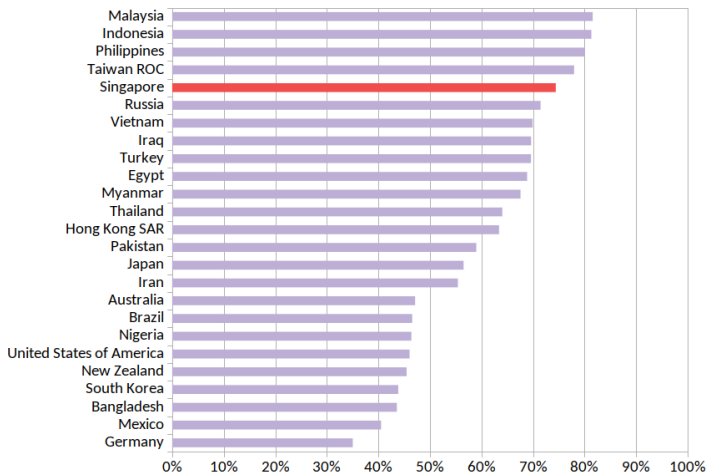
Is there Populism in Singapore?

Is there Populism in Singapore?

Yes, but around economics – not identity politics.

Strong Sentiment Opposed to Immigration

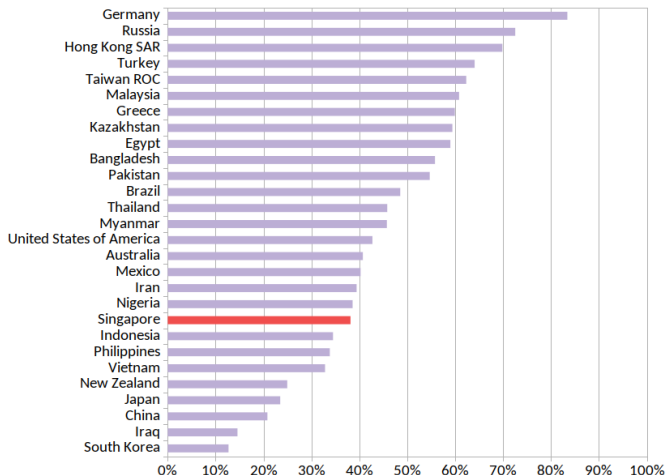
Percent Supporting "Strong Limits to Reduce Immigration"



Source: World Values Survey Wave 7, 2017–2020.

Yet Little Perception that Immigration Damages Society.

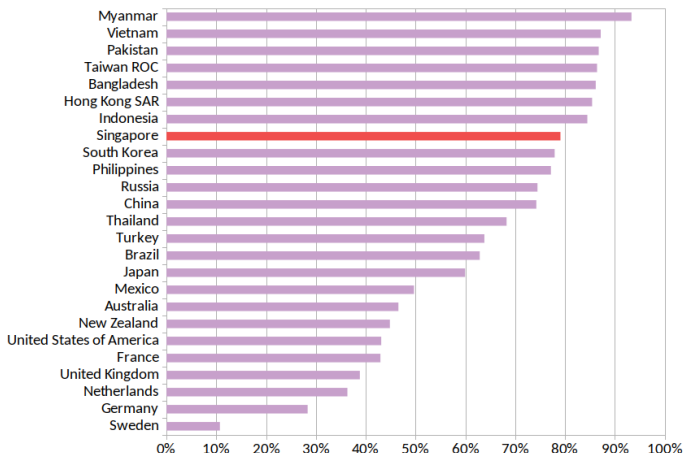
Percent Agree that Immigration has "Increased Social Conflict"



Source: World Values Survey Wave 7, 2017–2020.

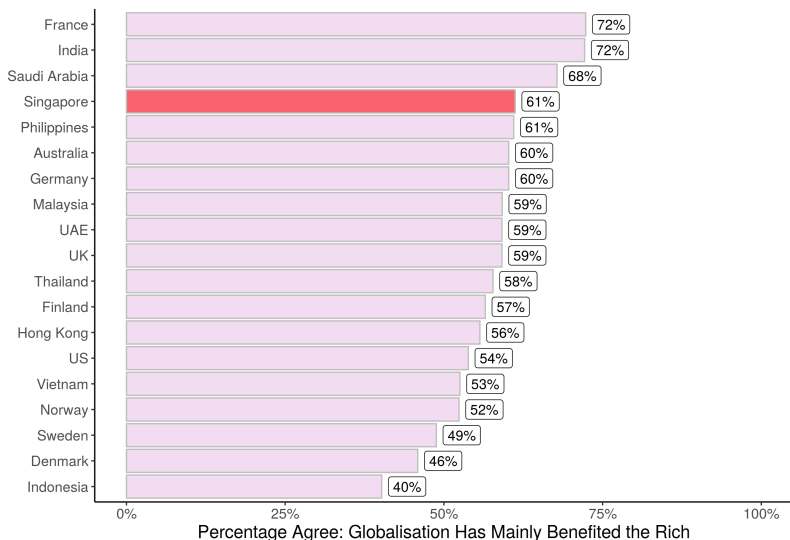
Mainly Linked to Economics – Prices and Jobs

Percent Agree: "When Jobs are Scarce, Employers Should Favour Locals over Immigrants"



Source: World Values Survey Wave 7, 2017–2020.

Singaporeans Perceive Globalisation to Benefit Wealthy.

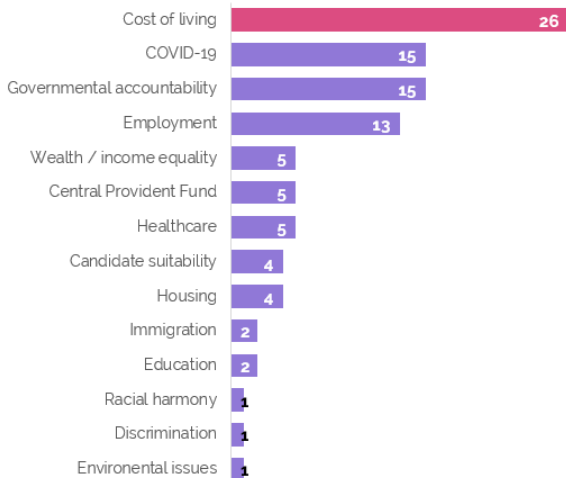


Source: YouGov-Cambridge Globalism Pilot Study, 2016.

Discontent is Economic, Not Driven by Identity Politics

Cost of living top concern amongst Singaporean voters

What are the top national issues / concerns you have as a voter for Singapore's 2020 elections? You may select up to 5. %who selected as top vote

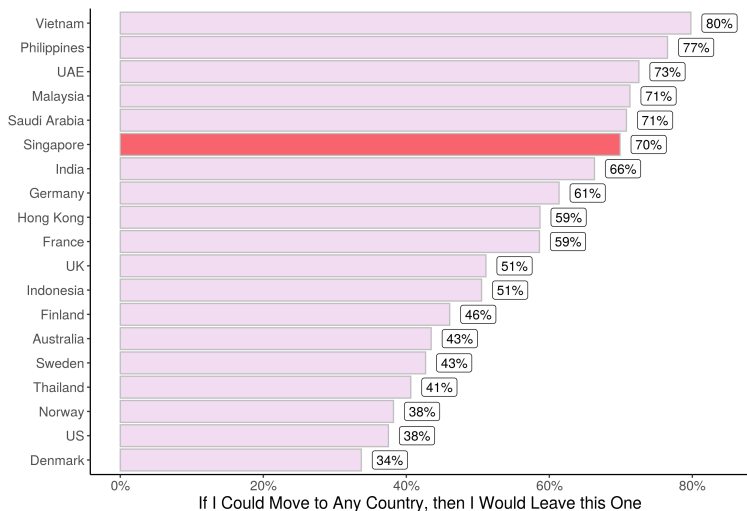


YouGov®

8 to 10 July 2020, YouGov Omnibus

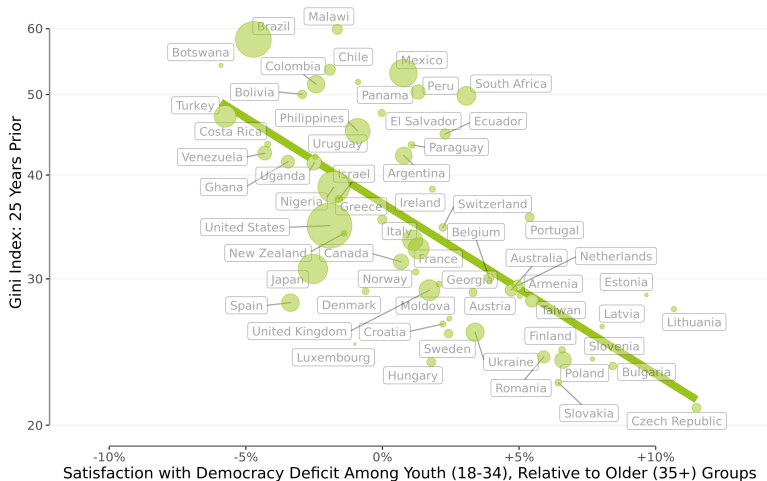


Singapore (2016): High Openness to Emigration



Source: YouGov-Cambridge Globalism Pilot Study, 2016.

Consistent with Our Findings Globally



Source: Foa, Klassen, Wenger, Rand & Slade (2020), "Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy: Reversing the Democratic Disconnect?" Cambridge Centre for the Future of Democracy.

Summary of Observations

Conclusions

- Confidence in political institutions has declined globally in the past two decades.
 - ▶ Our data suggest that Singapore is no exception.
 - ▶ Yet in Singapore the overall level remains extremely high.
 - ▶ Short term, there has been an increase in confidence since July 2020.
 - ▶ Long term, risk of erosion by rising inequality.
- Many countries (US, UK) exhibit rising political polarisation.
 - ▶ Data suggest remarkably low partisan polarisation in Singapore.
 - ▶ Little evidence of any intergenerational increase.
- Globally there is a rise in populism and identity politics.
 - ▶ Explicit religious or ethnic discrimination remains low in Singapore.
 - ▶ Little evidence of generational attitude divides on sexual harassment.
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Appendix Slides

Singapore - Levels of Pride Neither High Nor Low

