

**Future-Ready Society Conference Series:  
The Future is Local?  
Monday, 5 June 2023  
Online via Zoom**

**PROGRAMME**

3.45 pm – 4.00 pm

**Registration**

4.00 pm – 4.10 pm

**Welcome Remarks**

Justin Lee  
Senior Research Fellow  
Institute of Policy Studies

4.10 pm – 5.00 pm

**How Local Action Can Lead to Systemic Change:  
Localisation as a Solution-Multiplier**

Helena Norberg-Hodge  
Founder  
Local Futures and The International Alliance for Localisation

**Resilient Communities are Local, But Open and  
Connected**

Michel Bauwens  
Founder  
P2P Foundation

5.00 pm – 5.30 pm

**Sharing by Discussants**

Ijlal Navqi  
Associate Professor of Sociology; Associate Dean  
(Curriculum and Teaching)  
Singapore Management University

Dawn Yip  
Coordinating Director  
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

5.30 pm – 6.00 pm

**Question-and-Answer**

6.00 pm

**End**

.....

## **SYNOPSIS**

Should future societies be more local, self-organised and focused on contributing to commonly shared wealth? If goods and services to meet community needs are produced locally and regionally, can this lead to more resilient communities, reduce inequality and improve environmental health?

The pandemic and geopolitics have demonstrated vulnerabilities of communities that are heavily dependent on global supply chains. Join us to hear from Helena Norberg-Hodge, a pioneer of the localization movement on whether 'going local' can be a key strategy for restoring ecological and social wellbeing. What if more of our needs were met through common goods created from a peer-to-peer production system? Michel Bauwens will share about the significance of self-organising communities focused on the production of common goods that freely share with one another. Together they will discuss whether such a myriad of diverse initiatives by local citizens and enterprises can achieve trans-local impact by being open and connected to one another, thereby acting as 'solution-multipliers'.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

**Helena Norberg-Hodge** is a pioneer of the new economy movement and recipient of the Alternative Nobel prize, the Arthur Morgan Award and the Goi Peace Prize for contributing to “the revitalization of cultural and biological diversity, and the strengthening of local communities and economies worldwide.” She is author of the inspirational classic *Ancient Futures*, and *Local is Our Future* (2019) and producer of *The Economics of Happiness* and *Planet Local*. Helena is the founder and director of [Local Futures](#) and The International Alliance for Localisation, and a cofounder of the International Forum on Globalization and the Global Ecovillage Network.

**Michel Bauwens** is the founder of the [P2P Foundation](#) and works in collaboration with a global group of researchers in the exploration of peer production, governance, and property. Listed at #82, on the Post Growth Institute (En)Rich list, he has (co-)published various books and reports such as P2P, A Commons Manifesto (Westminster Un. Pr. 2019). Michel currently lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand and in 2017, has crafted a Commons Transition Plan for the city of Ghent in Belgium, after a similar project for Ecuador in 2014. He has consulted with the labour mutual

SMart, co-designed the commons strategy of One Project, and currently works on commons-centric solutions to solve global catastrophic risks

**Ijlal Navqi** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean (Curriculum and Teaching) at the School of Social Sciences of Singapore Management University. He studies governance and development in the Global South, using infrastructure as a lens on state-building and the citizen's engagement with the state on an everyday basis. He also studies participatory engagements on public issues and the structures which help or hinder such engagement. His book *Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan* was published by Oxford University Press (2022). Ijlal's research has been published in *Energy Research and Social Science*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Urban Studies*, *Journal of Democracy*, and *Current Sociology*. Ijlal earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Dawn Yip** is Coordinating Director of the Singapore Government Partnerships Office, at the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. The office spearheads the Singapore Together movement in partnership with public agencies and the people of Singapore. Dawn has previously consulted and taught in the fields of foresight, public engagement and organisation development. She has also been visiting faculty with the Singapore Management University's Master of Tri-Sector Collaboration.

**Justin Lee** is Senior Research Fellow and Head of Policy Lab in the Institute of Policy Studies. He has done research on the social inclusion of people with disabilities, community development and other issues related to disadvantaged groups. He has created a wiki platform that allows mass participation in the mapping of social needs ([socialcollab.sg](http://socialcollab.sg)) and is interested in solutions with a seed of structural change, such as interest-free loans to the poor (to displace predatory lending), peer-to-peer learning for youths (instead of tuition) and worker-owned cooperatives as a means of social mobility for low-wage workers. He serves as Chairman of ArtsWok Collaborative, on the Board of Trampoline and the Research Committees of Singapore Children's Society and SINDA.

*Last modified on 1 June 2023*

