

# Better

INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

1988-2018

The Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) was established in 1988 as an independent think tank to study and generate public policy ideas in Singapore. IPS became an autonomous research centre of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore in 2008.

IPS examines issues of critical national interest across a variety of fields, and studies the attitudes and aspirations of Singaporeans through surveys of public perception. It adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in its analyses and takes the long-term view in its strategic deliberation and research. It publishes its work and organises conferences, lectures, workshops, and closed-door discussions to share its findings, and promote awareness and discourse on policy issues.

In short, the ABCs of our Mission are:

#### ANALYSIS

To analyse policy issues of critical concern to Singapore and contribute to policy development.

#### BRIDGE-BUILDING

To build bridges among individuals and groups of diverse viewpoints, including those from government, business, academia, and civil society.

#### COMMUNICATION

To communicate research findings to a wide audience, and raise public awareness of policy issues.

“Better” expresses the Institute’s aspiration and commitment to work for the betterment of Singapore, our people and our society, in the years ahead.

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# Reflections

“ The Institute will have two major roles. Apart from imparting to the younger Singaporeans in public administration and managerial positions in the private sector, a good knowledge of Singapore’s history, it will also provide a forum to stimulate lively discussions on Singapore’s future.

Younger Singaporeans want to play a role in shaping Singapore’s destiny. This is healthy. We should encourage it. There is at present no regular forum for them to go to if they want to contribute their ideas, or to express their dissenting views. The Institute will provide a regular forum for them. They can brainstorm their ideas freely, frankly and without fear. It is a place where they can disagree agreeably.

The Institute will also undertake research studies. Properly run, the Institute will provide a valuable input into the decision-making process of Government thinking.”



Then First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Goh Chok Tong, announcing the establishment of IPS, at the Opening of the Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library where IPS would be housed, on 15 January 1988.

“ When IPS was established in 1988, few in Singapore had heard of the term ‘think tank.’ It was the first of its kind. As a pioneer think tank, IPS had to find a new path that was different from the one that traditional academic research centres took.

At its founding, IPS had a simple mission. It was to provide a forum for Singaporeans to discuss and test ideas on how Singapore could be improved. IPS was to provide the venue for such discussions of public policy and where views, critical or otherwise, could be expressed freely and frankly and away from public glare. Through this process, it was hoped that ideas on how Singapore could be improved could be found, and prevailing ideas of governance could be challenged with a view to alternative solutions being given a hearing. Over time, it was hoped that it would enable the building of a constituency of people interested in contributing ideas on good government.

In the last 15 years, IPS has achieved more than this. Its activities have expanded. In research, it has developed a wide spectrum of interesting areas of study in international and domestic economic issues, social cohesion, family and social issues, demography, arts and culture, health care, politics and governance and the state-society relationship, urban planning and the environment, and many others.”

Then President S R Nathan, at the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IPS dinner held at the Istana Banquet Hall, where he gave recognition and expressed his support for “the good work IPS has been doing for the well-being of our country,” on 19 July 2003.

# A Love Letter to IPS



**H**appy Birthday, IPS. You can look back on your first 30 years with pride and satisfaction. Let me mention some of your most important contributions to Singapore's intellectual life.

There was a time in the past when Singaporeans were afraid to speak their minds. In that era, there were no opportunities for Singaporeans of different views and beliefs to meet and engage one another in a neutral and conducive environment. IPS offered such a platform. IPS also helped to broaden the space for our intellectuals and artists. At IPS, we have developed a culture of considering all points of view, vigorously, rationally and respectfully.

The annual Singapore Perspectives conference began life modestly as the Year In Review conference. It was an instant success because it filled a void. Singapore is a city as well as a state. At the conference, we offer Singapore an annual Town Hall meeting. The participants represent a microcosm of Singapore. Over the years, the participants have become less and less inhibited in expressing their views.

IPS has done original and valuable research about many aspects of Singapore. The Institute has always shared the results with the government and the people. It has published important books and reports on Singapore. For example,

it convened the first conference on the civil society and published an important book on the same subject. In recent years, it has developed a capacity to undertake high-quality surveys of the attitudes and opinions of our people. The recent surveys undertaken by IPS are important and have had an impact on policymaking.

It has also strengthened the bridge linking the government, the private sector, academia and the civil society. The IPS Corporate Associates Programme is an important link in this value chain. IPS has a rich network of civil society and young leaders. It also has a strong network of scholars and thought leaders.

The IPS family has grown in number and quality. It is today a think tank that is respected at home and abroad. The IPS family remains united, harmonious and egalitarian.

I am proud of IPS and wish it even greater success in the years to come.

**Tommy Koh**  
Special Adviser

# Director's Note



**I**PS is 30 years old. That's hardly old. I myself am more than twice the age of IPS. And I don't think I am old—yet.

If IPS were an individual, 30 would be just about the time he or she would be thinking of getting married and applying for a BTO.\* She would feel her life is very much ahead of her, still a work in progress, with more to look forward to than to look back on. The shades of the prison-house of middle-aged adulthood have yet to close in; life has not yet faded into the light of common day.

And that's precisely what IPS feels like from the inside. We are no longer toddlers, to be sure, trying to find our footing in the world. We are no longer pimply teenagers, excitedly poking our noses into every rabbit hole we spy. We are no longer lusty 20-somethings, our view of the world animated with romance.

We have paid our dues—they were on occasion painful. We have had our stumbles and scrapes, our falls and occasional blows to the head. And in the course of these three decades, we have done some worthwhile things—some work of a seminal nature, many commendable, hardly any boring or trifling. We have come through. We have survived. We are here.

What next? In terms of resources and capacities, we are in better shape than we have ever been before in our short history. In terms

of human strength—our researchers, our administrative staff, our field unit of interviewers at IPS Social Lab—we are in good shape too. Above all, we have a record to build on, a proud body of work to give us ballast, a team of researchers with sufficient experience to continue producing insightful studies and help train a new generation of researchers.

We shall not cease from striving to do better. Our strategy is simple:

One, we shall continue seeking to make ourselves as useful as possible—to government agencies, to our various stakeholders, in both the private as well as the people sectors—to Singapore.

Two, we shall continue to “sit down before fact like a little child,” as a great 19<sup>th</sup> century scientist urged his fellow scientists to do, and “be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads,” in order to seek the truth.

**Janadas Devan**  
Director

\*Built-to-Order apartments that are available to newly-weds in the public housing scheme.

# THE Harder Task

IPS' research agenda for the next three to five years sets out our research priorities on strategic policy areas where there is a critical need for more scholarship and research.

We will advance this agenda primarily through our four research programmes—managing the challenges of an ageing society, inequality and social mobility, managing diversities, and governance of a city-state—and the work of IPS Social Lab.

We will also continue to work on our special projects—the S R Nathan Fellowship on the Study of Singapore, *Singapore Chronicles*, and the Asia Journalism Fellowship.

# Managing the Challenges of an Ageing Society

Singapore has undergone a rapid demographic transition, from the high birth and death rates of the post Second World War years to our current low birth and death rates.

Population policies have played and will continue to play a central role in the country's development strategies, balancing the economy's needs for workers with the management and integration of foreigners.

This research programme analyses the social and economic impact of Singapore's ageing society, ultra-low fertility, longer life and health expectancies, and migration. It builds on IPS' decades-long focus on Singapore's demographic trends, including our early and ongoing work on population projections and the policy implications of the country's demographic challenges over the next 40 to 50 years.

It examines changes to family structures, employment, entrepreneurship, productivity, savings and investment, and their policy implications.

## CENTRAL QUESTIONS

What are the social and policy adjustments necessary to adapt to the rapidly changing composition of Singapore's population?

How can the economy take advantage of innovation? What reforms are required to allow a smaller and older population to remain dynamic and highly productive?

The research under this programme will look to answer these central questions under two broad themes, as outlined below:

### The Generational Society and Economy

The rapidly changing age structure of Singapore's population presents significant challenges for the socio-economic institutions and policy frameworks of a global city-state with an open economy and no natural resources. Projects grouped under this research theme will consider the impact of intergenerational transfers on the welfare of Singapore's population in policy domains ranging from labour and manpower, financial and social security, health, education and physical infrastructure.

### The Psycho-Social Well-Being of an Ageing Society

The projects under this research theme will take a practical approach to specific issues such as life-course planning, overcoming ageist mindsets in the employment market as well as in other contexts, and caring for care-givers.

### Notable Projects

#### Singapore's National Transfer Accounts and National Time Transfer Accounts

The National Transfer Accounts (NTA) project aims to quantify Singapore's economic life-cycle and intergenerational flows across age groups (i.e., production, consumption, transfers and savings for each age group), using an internationally comparative framework. IPS is Singapore's representative member in the Global NTA Network, which includes academics and policymakers from 94 countries worldwide.

National Time Transfer Accounts (NTTA) are a recently developed method of measuring productive activity that is not accounted for in standard economic measures. NTTA are conceptually aligned with NTA, and examine the production and consumption of non-market goods and services in a society by age.

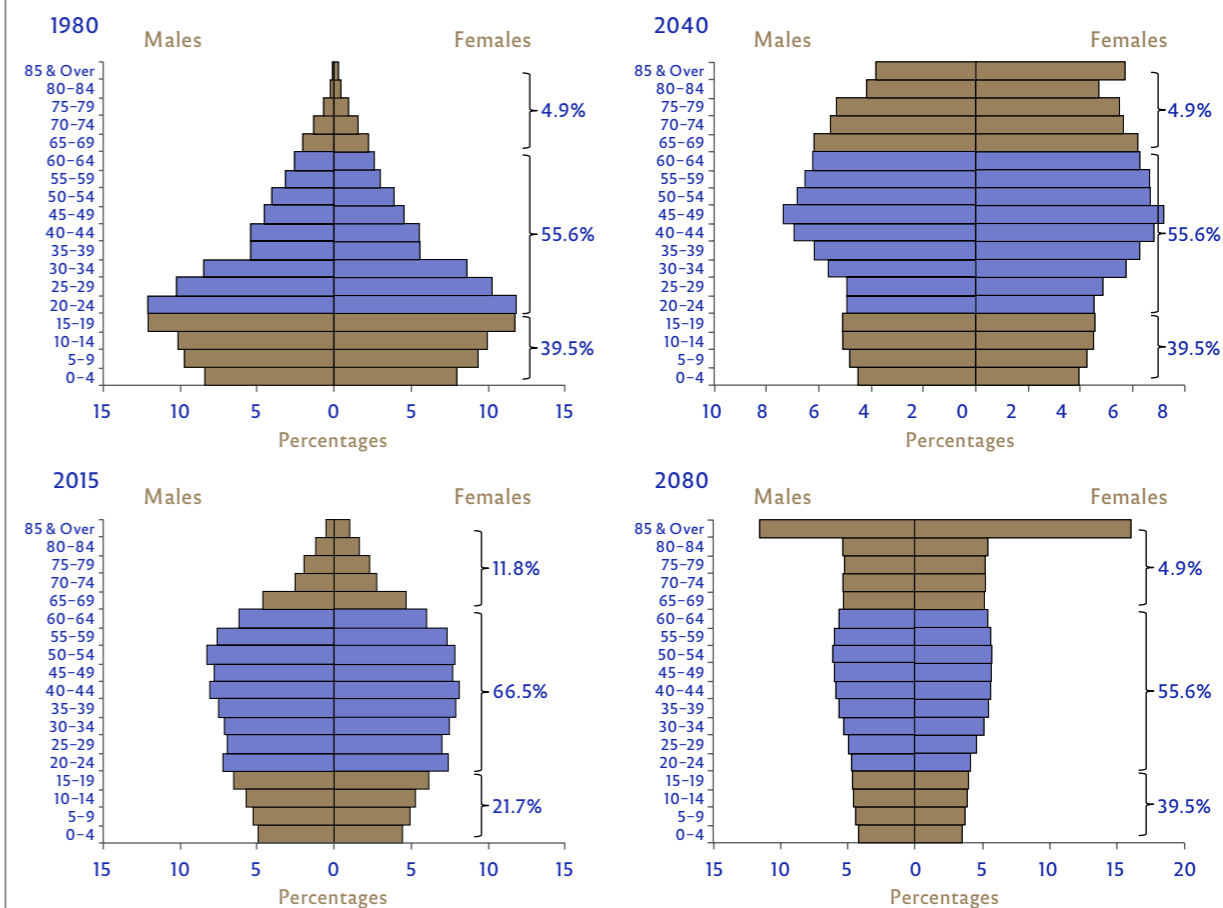
By combining NTA with NTTA, we are able to understand more comprehensively how production and consumption of both market and non-market goods and services vary by age, as well as by gender as there are typically significant gender disparities in the production of non-market services such as care-giving and other household work.

### End-of-Life Planning

This project looks at the quality of death in Singapore. It examines: What should count as a "good death" and to what extent do Singaporeans enjoy a good quality death? Is our palliative care system and community infrastructure able to support our ideal end-of-life experience? This study will generate a deeper understanding of the dying experience of different segments of seniors (isolated seniors, middle class retirees, elder suicides etc.) Our findings will hopefully facilitate the co-design of policies affecting the end-of-life experience of different segments of the population, with community partners, to support a good death.

## AT A GLANCE

### Singapore Population Pyramids: Age Structure of the Population



Source: Department of Statistics (1980, 2015); IPS projections (2040, 2080)

# Inequality and Social Mobility

Singapore has one of the world's highest Gross Domestic Products (GDP) per capita, and enjoys a high standard of living that is comparable to Western developed economies. The city-state, however, is not immune to the challenges associated with a widening income gap and hardening social mobility. Inequality reveals the uneven access to resources and is commonly a function of family inheritance, or individual skills and talents. Social mobility on the other hand, highlights the degree of social justice and equity in social systems.

While some aspects of inequality are inevitable, to reward risk-takers and engender a work ethos that values excellence and performance, excessive barriers to ascending the socio-economic ladder will pose a threat to our social fabric and entrench economic divide. The resulting social stratification will have long-term negative impact on social stability, relations among communities, and cohesion.

This research programme tracks indicators of social class and inequality, resource allocation and access to education, work, and developmental opportunities.

## CENTRAL QUESTIONS

What are the drivers of inequality and social mobility in Singapore?

What policies and interventions are needed to level the playing field for different groups and increase social mobility?

## Notable Projects

### Social Inclusion Policy Network

This Network seeks to forge a more inclusive and cohesive Singapore, by bringing together experts, practitioners and policymakers from relevant sectors to discuss practical solutions and pilot projects that reduce inequality and improve social mixing. It will first focus on three key areas: first, education; second, economy and workplaces; and third, urban planning and housing. This project was proposed after a 2017 IPS study on social capital and networks in Singapore found a distinct class divide in who Singaporean residents interact with daily. The Network aims to be evidence-driven, action-oriented and collaborative in what it does.

### Social Risk-Pooling: Prospects

Singapore has well-established schemes that help Singaporeans with their longevity, such as the CPF LIFE or MediShield Life. These schemes are a form of social risk-pooling, and provide an efficient and cost-effective way for people to manage the risks of catastrophic health shocks and hospitalisation costs. This project will consider ways in which the social risk-pooling concept may be extended to cover unemployment or wage loss risks, long-term care and even senior housing.

### Family and Technological Disruption

The government has embarked on a series of initiatives to prepare citizens and different industry sectors for a digital economy. This project looks at how family structure and environment affect children. It provides an in-depth analysis of children from different family types (single-versus two-parent families), and how their family

arrangements, parents' mediation and social networks affect their use of Information and Communication Technology for learning, living and leisure.

### Fatherhood Absentee in the Malay-Muslim Community

Research has indicated that deficits in fathering skills have been a major cause of dysfunctional behaviour among youths. This project aims to measure deficits in fatherhood skills among members of the Malay-Muslim community in three primary domains — knowledge, attitude and practice. The methodology comprises a survey, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

### Evaluation of Social Service Offices

This project examines the barriers to self-reliance among low income Singaporeans. In particular, how effective are Social Service Offices (SSOs) and the Workforce Singapore and Employment and Employability Institute in helping low-income households find better jobs? What are the challenges for low-income earners to stay in new jobs and/or to upgrade themselves? Which SSO model is more likely to achieve the outcome and output goals of self-reliance?

### Study on Worker-Owned Cooperatives

This project examines the potential of worker-owned cooperatives as a solution to inequality. It investigates whether existing worker-owned cooperatives create greater economic parity

in the workplace; why there is paucity of such cooperatives in Singapore; and what more can be done to encourage them to flourish if they prove to be a useful alternative model and provides greater workplace democracy.

### Residential Policies and Neighbourhood Resilience

The study examines how residential policies (e.g., the Ethnic Integration Policy), demographics (e.g., age, race) and built environments (e.g., infrastructure) influence individual attitudes towards interacting with people from different backgrounds, and the sense of security and confidence in the neighbourhoods. It focuses on the dynamic intersection of identity, class, and space. It uses a combination of geo-spatial (e.g., unique clusters of vulnerable estates) and statistical analyses.

### Spatial Analysis of Singapore's Educational System

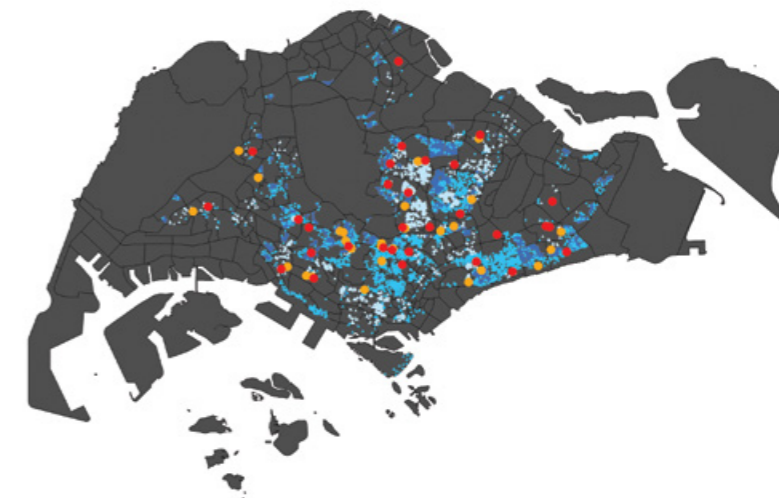
Fiscal, social and capital resources are mutually reinforcing, such that children of families with more resources begin their educational journey at an advantage. There is a notion that our educational policies reinforce this social stratification so that our meritocracy has become a "parentocracy". Data on housing and other socioeconomic features, travel data, and educational facilities will be mapped and analysed to test out this hypothesis and to develop policy recommendations.

## AT A GLANCE

Location of Top Schools and Socio-Economic Status of Neighbourhoods

### Legend:

- Top 30 Primary Schools
- Top 30 Secondary Schools
- ▲ HDB Blocks (max Chinese quota)
- ▲ Location of Condominiums
- Location of Landed Housing
- URA 2014 Subzone



# Managing Diversities

In Singapore, globalisation, access to digital technologies, an increasingly diversifying media landscape, and rising education levels have led to more new and different identities—of gender, nationality, religion, race, class, education, family structure, sexual orientation, and political ideology. This research programme builds on the work that IPS has been doing in the past, in the domains of society, identity and culture. It tracks our growing diversity and its implications for national identity, social cohesion and capital, community resilience, and governance.

## CENTRAL QUESTIONS

The Singapore polity today is colourful and complex. What are the key areas of diversity and the attendant issues?

What opportunities and challenges does diversity present for equality, network-building, and social cohesion?

What are the possible policy interventions (e.g., via technology, education, and the social sector) that can help Singapore better manage and ride on diversity?

Besides identifying the gaps in existing policies and programmes relating to persistent and emerging diversities, this programme will identify the pertinent intersections that are not addressed by existing policies and their implications, so that the public, private and people sectors can anticipate emerging issues and develop relevant

solutions. It will also consider what communities and people can do to better manage diversities; and how education, arts, media and technology can bridge diversities and build a more resilient and cohesive society.

### Five strands of research:

*Trends in Diversity* tracks the experiences, attitudes and challenges of groups based on longstanding identity markers, such as race, religion and language.

*New and Emerging Identities.* Singapore is witnessing significant demographic shifts and the emergence of sub groups, which have implications for community building, societal cohesion and national identity. Through surveys, ethnography and interviews, this series of projects seeks to identify the new and emerging identities and fault lines, and their impact on national identity and adoption of multiculturalism.

*New Models of Diversity Management.* The Chinese-Malay-Indian and Others (CMIO) model undergirds many existing policies, such as those relating to housing and education. Given that new identities may form outside the lines of ethnicity, and the contestation of values and ideologies, will there be alternative models? This series of projects looks at the new models and markers of identity, attendant issues that may arise in the areas of housing, education, economy, welfare and population, and implications for policymaking, especially in improving social mobility and reducing inequality.

*Diversities and Governance* involve projects on minorities and discrimination, migrant families and the “Singapore Dream”, secularism and the non-religious in Singapore, etc., to examine the

impact of demographic trends on Singaporeans’ identity and attitudes towards governance, and issues such as same-sex unions and adoption, surrogacy, and end-of-life care.

*Modalities in Diversity Management* comprises projects that examine the role of modalities like technology, education, and arts and culture in the transmission of values, identity and language, and building of understanding among individuals and communities.

## AT A GLANCE

Proportion of Singaporeans that agree/strongly agree that:

They can learn a lot from other racial groups

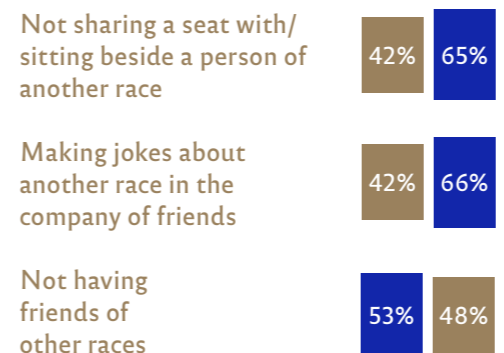


It is a good thing for Singapore to be made up of people from different racial groups



Divided views on whether an action is racist

■ Always acceptable/Sometimes acceptable  
■ You consider these actions as “racist”



## Notable Projects

### Multiculturalism in the Heartlands

This studies the intersection of race and class. It seeks to understand multiculturalism and openness to immigrants among “heartlanders”, and the tensions and successes of multicultural living particularly in the context of economic strain. Based on previous surveys, a significant proportion of those in one- to three-room flats have less of a multicultural/cosmopolitan orientation.

### Indicators of Race and Religious Harmony

This tracks how Singapore has progressed in 10 domains, on issues relating to racial and religious harmony. It examines the state of racial and religious relations in 2017, how we compare with sentiments in 2012 on issues such as perceptions of discrimination, exclusion, inter-racial trust and understanding and acceptance of other groups. It will provide a benchmark on how racially/religiously harmonious we are.

### National Identity and Identity-Building

This seeks to establish the core elements of national identity in Singapore. It looks at: How strong is national identity in comparison to other identities? How do Singaporeans view various institutions (e.g., sports, international reputation of education, etc.) in terms of building national identity? The study, conducted with Associate Professors Tan Ern Ser and Vincent Chua based on a Social Science Research Council (SSRC) grant administered by Professor Ted Hopf at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), will develop new and improved instruments for the study of national identity.

### Malay-Muslim Organisation Network

This aims to build a network of Malay-Muslim organisations to understand issues affecting the Singaporean Malay-Muslim community, and to generate policy recommendations in areas including, but not limited to, employment, education and healthcare.

### Malay Youth Identity

This provides an assessment of how Singapore’s Malay youth view their ethnic identity. According

to Professor Jane Kroger, “Ethnic identity has been strongly related to measures of coping ability, mastery, self-esteem, and optimism and negatively related to loneliness and depression.” Issues such as the Malay youth’s feelings of value, pride and belonging to their ethnic community may be seen as factors which shape their interaction and subsequent relationship with the larger community.

### Sharing Initiatives in Singapore

Sharing initiatives have the potential to bring people from different backgrounds together, encourage active citizenship, and help address social and economic challenges. The findings from this study will inform policymakers on how to promote sharing that will bring about social good, foster a civic culture of care and contribution, and enlarge the social commons and foster social mixing.

### Open Collaboration Initiative to Understand Social Needs

This is a collaboration among A\*STAR’s Institute of High Performance Computing, the Lien Centre for Social Innovation, and IPS—to establish platforms that enable the crowdsourcing of social needs and gaps. Support will be given to ready sectors so that voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and informal groups can contribute their understanding of the needs, map out community assets and appraise service or policy gaps. The first three such networks relate to Disability, Mental Health and Youth-at-risk.

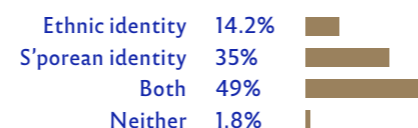
### Upcoming projects include:

- Youth’s Perceptions of Racial and Religious Harmony
- Social Capital Study
- Study on Shared Multicultural Spaces and Interaction
- Migrant Families and the “Singapore Dream”
- Case Study of Arts-Based Community Development in Singapore

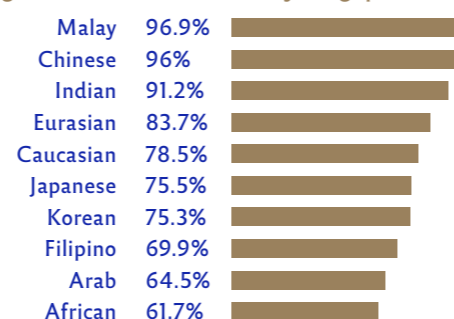
## AT A GLANCE

### Ethnicity Survey

More identify themselves as Singaporean than with their ethnic identity



Proportion of respondents who deem that someone from the following ethnic backgrounds can become truly Singaporean



# Governance of a City-State

Singapore is a sovereign state and a country that is but the size of a city. There are two other places where the city is also the capital city and completely, the country: Monaco and Vatican City. It is not often that we take this frame of reference in discussing governance and public policy of Singapore. What is the specific and precise difference that comes from adopting that approach in research on public policy in Singapore? How should it inform the practice of governance here and anywhere else?

After all, we must recall that the founding fathers of independent Singapore began their political lives believing that Singapore, a city, could not survive as a modern state and a country on its own without a hinterland—the Malayan peninsula. However, Singapore has now existed for 53 years in “Plan B” mode.

This research programme invites scholars to contemplate and anticipate the most vexing emerging strategic issues Singapore might face using that lens—that we are both a country and a city. They will discuss how the governing frameworks, the norms, values, or strategic capabilities of its leaders and citizens might change if we understand Singapore as both a country and a city at the same time.

## CENTRAL QUESTIONS

What are the appropriate development and governance benchmarks for assessing Singapore’s public policy record, given that it is both a city and a country? How does it perform on them? What are the appropriate targets for future development?

What difference does it make for research on Singapore’s policy choices and its governing frameworks, given that it is both a city and a country? What research has already been conducted in this vein? Can more be done?

What sort of policy innovations are appropriate for dealing with emerging strategic issues in both externally oriented as well as internally oriented public policy given that Singapore is both a city and a country? What are the other lessons for cities and countries around the world?

This research programme builds on the suite of expertise that spans the social sciences at the Institute of Policy Studies and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, to theorise and generate empirical data, case studies and comparative research. In due course, it will invite scholars from outside the School to contribute to the programme as well. Subject to funding, it will hold one or two scholarly international conferences on the topic over the course of the next five years, from 2019 to 2024.

# Social Lab

The Social Lab is a centre for social indicators research at IPS. It was established in 2013. The centre conducts research on social perceptions, attitudes and behaviours in Singapore using the best standards in survey methodology and advanced techniques in statistics and data sciences. Researchers also collect and analyse various forms of publicly available information, including geographic data. As the sense-making arm of IPS, Social Lab works closely with researchers from government, academia, and the social sector to support informed decision-making and policy formulation. Its long-term aim is to be a national repository for longitudinal data.

## One-Stop Integrated Solutions

IPS Social Lab works closely with our clients to develop research goals and plan for each project. Our studies are guided by methodological designs, cultural context, and principles in statistical analyses. We have the capability to collect data using multiple platforms depending on the needs of the research question. We constantly explore new technologies to enhance fieldwork efficiency and ensure data integrity.

IPS Social Lab manages the entire lifecycle of a research undertaking. This includes the distribution of research findings and data to relevant stakeholders, and public communications via media briefings for traditional and online media outlets and social networks, where necessary. Social Lab is the only centre among all universities in Singapore that has attained the ISO certification for fieldwork operations.

## Data Analytics and Quality Control

Social Lab uses a wide range of the most advanced statistical techniques to analyse complex data. We emphasise data integrity and quality control, which ensures that survey results are accurate, reliable and valid. Our quality control measures span the entire survey research process.

## Geo-Spatial Analysis

To make sense of social attitudes, values and behaviours, Social Lab considers a combination of data from individuals, households and their neighbourhoods. By doing this, we integrate survey data with broader socio-environmental factors. The use of Geographic Information System (GIS) enables us to create “smart data” and environmental modelling at Social Lab. We have successfully used GIS in our analysis of residential ethnic clustering, crime, and sentiment towards governance.

## Notable Projects

### Singapore Panel Study on Social Dynamics

This study tracks changes in the lives of Singaporeans over time, through a representative panel of 4,000 households across Singapore. The purpose is to measure family relationships, social mobility and societal attitudes relevant to national identity over an extended period. Launched in 2014, the longitudinal study is the first of its kind in Singapore to reach out to a wide-ranging, random sample of households through in-depth face-to-face interviews by trained surveyors.

## Youth Study on Transitions and Evolving Pathways in Singapore (Youth STEPS)

A national cohort of 4,041 Singaporeans between the age of 17–24 are interviewed annually for six years. The panel aims to understand the impact of various life stages on the economic and socio-psychological well-being of young Singaporeans. In particular, it studies what enables youth from vulnerable families to move up the economic ladder, and tracks the emotional engagement of Singaporeans from different social backgrounds on issues of national interests, such as civic participation and sense of rootedness.

## Study on How Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP) Affects HDB Home Buyers

This study explores the residential choice of Housing and Development Board (HDB) resale home buyers from the perspective of the housing agents. The Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP) was implemented in 1989 to prevent the formation of ethnic residential enclaves in Singapore. This policy ensures that every block of public housing has a mixture of all racial groups. In spite of this policy, there are signs that certain estates remain the preferred residential sites for different racial groups. The study will identify the drivers for home buyers, and how these forces will affect our social fabric.

## Geo-spatial Study on Neighbourhoods and Attitudes to Immigrants

This study examines how social and built environments influence attitudes towards immigrants, community trust, and the formation of social capital. Based on a national survey involving more than 3,000 Singaporeans and

permanent residents, we examine the geo-spatial connections between neighbourhood social norms and Singaporeans’ acceptance of immigrants and immigration policies. The study will uncover the types of facilities and physical features that can make a positive change in perceptions, and those that may exacerbate tensions.

## Study on Perceptions of Singapore's Built Heritage and Landmarks

This study examines how the perception of physical heritage influences Singaporeans’ sense of national identity and belonging, and personal well-being. It aims to understand what Singaporeans perceive as important landmarks and buildings in Singapore, and why. Such research will aid the planning and implementation of heritage conservation policies.

## Behaviours on Digital Platforms

This study investigates various forms of behaviour on digital platforms and their causes. Given the prevalence and reach of digital platforms in our society today, this research will help to inform policy decisions and devise interventions where necessary.



The Social Lab team: (From left to right) Fung Shing, Paveena, Christopher, Hwee Noy, Zulkarnaen, Chan-Hoong, Yong Jia, Kea Wee, Gek Jee, Zhang Hao, Natalie, Zi Qi, Kwang Lin, Yvonne, Ern Ser (NOT IN PHOTO: Ron, Michelle)

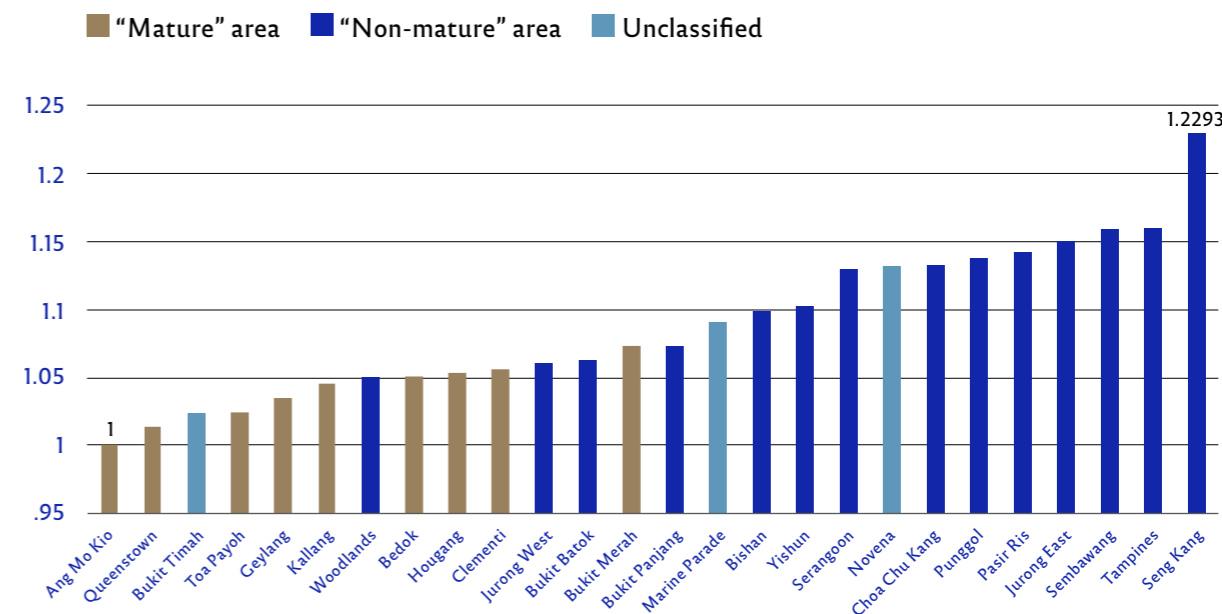
AT A GLANCE

 **IPS Makan Index 2017 – An Indicator for the Cost of Eating Out in Singapore**

Individual Makan Index scores for each planning areas and breakdown of the average prices of the five food items chosen.

Planning Area	Economic Rice (\$)	Chicken Rice (\$)	Mee Rebus (\$)	Kopi-O (\$)	Iced Milo (\$)	Total Price (\$)	Makan Index
Ang Mo Kio	2.89	2.95	2.73	0.87	1.41	10.84	1.0000
Queenstown	2.97	2.95	2.89	0.81	1.37	10.98	1.0131
Bukit Timah	2.96	3.00	2.90	0.87	1.36	11.09	1.0235
Toa Payoh	3.10	2.84	2.84	0.89	1.43	11.10	1.0243
Geylang	2.84	3.11	2.94	0.88	1.45	11.22	1.0352
Kallang	3.02	3.07	2.92	0.86	1.46	11.33	1.0459
Woodlands	2.99	3.03	3.07	0.91	1.39	11.38	1.0503
Bedok	2.88	3.03	3.02	0.89	1.56	11.39	1.0508
Hougang	3.15	2.90	2.98	0.94	1.46	11.42	1.0537
Clementi	2.94	3.04	2.94	0.92	1.61	11.45	1.0564
Jurong West	3.05	2.98	3.00	0.97	1.50	11.49	1.0606
Bukit Batok	3.00	3.03	3.00	0.99	1.49	11.52	1.0627
Bukit Merah	3.07	3.12	3.01	0.93	1.50	11.62	1.0726
Bukit Panjang	3.04	2.81	3.29	0.98	1.51	11.63	1.0733
Marine Parade	3.02	3.25	3.00	0.99	1.56	11.82	1.0908
Bishan	3.10	3.17	3.11	1.00	1.52	11.91	1.0988
Yishun	3.11	3.10	3.20	1.00	1.54	11.95	1.1027
Serangoon	3.22	3.14	3.18	1.07	1.63	12.24	1.1294
Novena	3.38	3.47	3.03	0.89	1.50	12.26	1.1316
Choa Chu Kang	3.25	3.13	3.30	1.05	1.55	12.27	1.1326
Punggol	3.24	3.26	3.13	1.07	1.63	12.33	1.1378
Pasir Ris	3.28	3.27	3.11	1.05	1.66	12.38	1.1422
Jurong East	3.35	3.37	3.11	1.00	1.64	12.46	1.1501
Sembawang	3.35	3.33	3.13	1.08	1.68	12.56	1.1588
Tampines	3.27	3.43	3.04	1.12	1.70	12.57	1.1598
Sengkang	3.57	3.36	3.56	1.03	1.80	13.32	1.2293

Ranking of Makan Index



Classification of mature and non-mature planning areas



Information from IPS Working Papers No. 29 – Makan Index 2017: An Indicator for Cost of Eating Out in Singapore

# S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore

IPS established the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore in late 2012, to fund research on public policy and governance. It is named after Mr S R Nathan, Singapore's sixth and longest-serving president, who dedicated his life to public service and the advancement of Singapore. With generous support from individual and corporate donors, IPS raised around S\$5.9 million (including the matching government grant) in 2013 to endow the Fellowship.

The S R Nathan Fellowship serves to advance IPS' core mission—to analyse public policy issues, build bridges between individuals and

groups with diverse viewpoints and interests, and communicate the Institute's work to a wide audience.

S R Nathan Fellows are appointed for either one full academic year or half a year, during which they conduct research and present their findings and policy ideas by delivering three to six public lectures. Known as the "IPS-Nathan Lectures", these lectures are typically delivered at the National University of Singapore. The lectures aim to enrich the vibrant intellectual and cultural life on campus, and promote public understanding and discourse on issues of critical national interest.



The first three S R Nathan Fellows, Mr Ho Kwon Ping, Mr Bilahari Kausikan, and Mr Peter Ho



Minister for Education Mr Ong Ye Kung at the book launch of *Can Singapore Fall? Making the Future for Singapore*, a compilation of the lecture series delivered by Mr Lim Siong Guan

S R Nathan Fellows and their respective lecture series titles:

1<sup>st</sup> S R Nathan Fellow, Mr Ho Kwon Ping  
*Singapore: The Next Fifty Years*

2<sup>nd</sup> S R Nathan Fellow, Mr Bilahari Kausikan  
*Dealing with an Ambiguous World*

3<sup>rd</sup> S R Nathan Fellow, Mr Peter Ho  
*The Challenges of Governance in a Complex World*

4<sup>th</sup> S R Nathan Fellow, Mr Lim Siong Guan  
*Can Singapore Fall? Making the Future for Singapore*

5<sup>th</sup> S R Nathan Fellow, Dr Cheong Koon Hean  
*Seeking a Better Urban Future*

6<sup>th</sup> S R Nathan Fellow, Professor Tan Tai Yong  
*Enduring Themes in Singapore History* (working title)



The Fellowship benefits from the deep expertise and experience of each Fellow, who are leaders in their respective fields, from business to public service and academia. Their lectures cover critical topics for Singapore, including the future of Singapore politics and society, Singapore's foreign policy, managing complexity in governance, renewing Singapore's pioneering spirit through a gracious society and culture of innovation, successful urban planning, and Singapore's 700-year history (in the run-up to the bicentennial of the founding of modern Singapore in 2019).

Each S R Nathan lecture typically attracts a sizeable audience of 300–400 people. Thousands more watch the video recording of the lectures posted online, or read extracts of the lectures published in Singapore media. Lively discussions have ensued in the media and online on the issues raised. The Fellowship has thus far produced four books (shown in the next column), each a compilation of lectures delivered by a Fellow.



Dr Cheong Koon Hean, 5<sup>th</sup> S R Nathan Fellow, interacting with students after one of her lectures

# Singapore Chronicles Series

What could be IPS' substantive intellectual contribution to Singapore's golden jubilee in 2015? That thought initiated conversations between Mr Janadas Devan, Director of IPS, and Mr Arun Mahizhnan, IPS Special Research Adviser, sometime in 2012. After much discussion, Mr Devan decided to publish "a series of primers on anything and everything" about Singapore and the series would be known as *Singapore Chronicles*. He was inspired by the Oxford University Press' series, *A Very Short Introduction*, on numerous subjects of public interest. IPS would co-publish the series with publisher Straits Times Press, to maximise outreach and impact.

To suit the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the series would comprise 50 volumes on selected subjects. To shortlist the topics, a wish-list was sought from IPS researchers, the *Singapore Chronicles* advisory panel led by IPS Special Adviser Professor Tommy Koh, and academics in the field. Over 70 subjects were suggested. "We shortlisted the final 50 based on whether the subject was important, whether it added to the comprehensiveness of the coverage and whether we could find the right author," recalled Mr Mahizhnan who helms the project, alongside veteran journalist Mr Asad Latif and IPS Research Associate Mr Sim Jui Liang.

As the series title suggests, the volumes provide a historical account of the subject matter and, in many cases, a glimpse into its future trajectory, in addition to raising a few salient issues. Together, the primers seek to record, explain and offer insights into what makes Singapore, Singapore.

Each volume in the series serves as a primer on a particular subject, authored by a domain expert. Given the multi-faceted nature of some subjects, more than one expert-author is involved in some volumes. In all, 80 authors, amongst them renowned academics, civil servants, journalists, and arts practitioners, have been commissioned for this project. Some 100 peer reviewers helped to process the drafts. For the series to reach a wide audience, the books have been written in an accessible style, though no less authoritative in content.

The first batch of 10 *Singapore Chronicles* volumes—covering topics such as diplomacy, law, and defence—was launched in December 2015 by Finance Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat. In his speech, he described *Singapore Chronicles* as "a worthy and exciting project, unprecedented in scope." He also congratulated IPS on creating "this knowledge bank for us to gain a deeper understanding of our past and of ourselves."

15 more volumes were published in 2016, followed by another 10 volumes in 2017, bringing the total number to 35. To date, over 30,000 copies have been sold, with the first batch of 10 volumes enjoying a second print run, thanks to encouraging public demand. The remaining volumes will be released in the later part of 2018 and early 2019, in time to commemorate another historical milestone—the country's bicentennial.



Minister for Finance Mr Heng Swee Keat and Mr Janadas Devan with the authors for the first 10 volumes that were launched in 2015

# Asia Journalism Fellowship

The Asia Journalism Fellowship (AJF) was founded in 2008, as an initiative of Temasek Foundation International. It was hosted by the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University up till 2016, before moving to the Institute of Policy Studies in 2017.

The programme is organised for Asian journalists and brings together seasoned journalists from varied backgrounds and working in widely differing circumstances to live and work together in Singapore for three months each year. The AJF now has more than 160 Fellows in its network, hailing from more than 20 countries.

During their time in Singapore, Fellows work on individual projects of their choice and participate in a programme designed to sharpen their profession-

al skills and deepen their understanding of trends in media, communication and Asia. Through engaging with key newsmakers in Singapore's public sector, the business community and civil society, Fellows gain insights into the challenges faced by one of Asia's most cosmopolitan hub cities.

A big part of the AJF experience is making friends for life. Living together in shared apartments, exploring the Little Red Dot together, or discovering Singapore's sometimes surprising sides, fellows get to learn about Singapore, one another, and the diverse places across Asia that others call home.

In August 2017, IPS organised a two-day Asia Journalism Forum based on the theme "Reporting Facts and the Future of Journalism". A total of 123 participants comprising policymakers, media prac-



AJF Fellows from its first nine runs since 2008 gathered together at the AJF Reunion in 2017

tioners, industry leaders, and academics from Singapore and Asia attended the Forum. The theme for the Forum this year, in September 2018, was "Power Shifts in Journalism—Impact and Implications". It addressed the power shifts surrounding journalism and the media industry, posed by trends such as digitalisation, increasing political polarisation, the rise of micro-targeted content, industry con-

vergence and regulation. Such developments raise important questions for governance and community building, how journalism shapes public opinion, and the implications for media training and education. Mr Alan John is Director of the programme and Dr Carol Soon is Associate Director.



Professor Cherian George and Associate Professor Kenneth Paul Tan at the Asia Journalism Forum 2017



Commemorative book given to Fellows during the AJF Reunion

# THE Wider Audience

IPS hosts about 50 main public and closed-door events a year, or about one event every week. Our events range from small focus-group and close-door discussions involving practitioners and subject experts, to seminars, public lectures, forums, and our annual flagship Singapore Perspectives conferences that attract up to 1,000 participants.

These events are focused on policy issues of importance to Singaporeans. They may be put together in short order in the interest of timeliness, to discuss topical issues like the reserved presidential election. Or, they seek to focus public attention on long-term challenges with no easy answers, such as the restructuring of Singapore's labour force, and inter-generational transfers and solidarity in a small and rapidly ageing nation.

Our events are opportunities for IPS to share our research findings. Through them, we also seek to gather new information, expand knowledge in specific fields of study, promote policy discourse and engender ideas that are practical and effective. We offer a platform for individuals, groups, and institutions with diverse views and interests, to talk, argue, and learn from one another. Major IPS events receive significant media coverage, and this extends their reach and impact among the wider public.

# Singapore Perspectives



Singapore Perspectives hosts on average 1,000 participants from key segments of our society

IPS has held the Singapore Perspectives flagship conference every year, since 2000. Each conference focuses on a critical issue for Singapore, and features speakers who are leaders in the public, private and people sectors. It has become a significant event on the Singapore policy calendar, one that our regular attendees look forward to, sometimes enquiring months in advance on the specific date of the next conference.

This flagship conference brings together an audience of about 900–1,000 people, from all key segments of Singapore society—particularly conspicuous are National Servicemen and students, who participate and ask questions while proudly donning their uniforms.

Singapore Perspectives is well covered by media, due to the key players participating in them and the pertinent issues discussed. Further discussions are often prompted when politicians, community leaders, and members of the public respond to media reports of the proceedings.

The most recent Singapore Perspectives (SP) conference, which took place in January 2018,

was themed, “Together”. It featured IPS research and projections on Singapore’s demographic transition and a survey of Singaporeans’ opinion. Discussions centred on Singapore’s ageing society, the inter-generational compact, and ways to harness Singapore’s longevity dividends. Speakers included Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Mr Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Finance Mr Heng Swee Keat, Managing Director of Monetary Authority of Singapore Mr Ravi Menon, and renowned experts and community leaders in the field. It generated significant media coverage and lively debate after the event; this was in the run-up to the Budget debate in Parliament, amidst suggestions of a tax hike related to Singapore’s ageing population.

SP2017 was themed “What If?” and the invited thinkers had to consider some harsh questions for Singapore’s future, including “What if the Nation-State is No Longer the Key Organisational Unit of the International Community?” (Professor Wang Gungwu), “What if We Cease to Accept Immigrants?” (Ms Mariam Jaafar), “What if Singapore



Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Mr Teo Chee Hean at SP2018

Becomes a Two or Multi-Party System?” (Minister for Education Mr Ong Ye Kung), and “The Real Question Behind ‘What if Singapore Becomes a Two- or Multi-party System?’” (Mr Ho Kwon Ping).

In recent memory, SP2008 also stands out as a special occasion marking IPS’ 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It presented, “Singapore Futures: Scenarios for the Next Generation”, featuring a special dialogue with the late Minister Mentor Mr Lee Kuan Yew, then Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr George Yeo, then National Trades Union Congress Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say, then Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, and then Minister for Health Mr Khaw Boon Wan.

Singapore Perspectives is the successor to IPS’ “Year in Review” conference series, which ran from 1991 to 1999, an annual review of the major issues and events of the previous year.



Students actively participating in the conference by posing questions to the panellists

## Young Singaporeans Conference



The Young Singaporeans (Un)Conference held in 2016 featured a participant-driven format that focused on active engagement of participants in a range of free and open discussions and workshop-style activities

The biennial Young Singaporeans Conference (YSC) was first convened in 1993. This Conference is a platform for young Singaporeans to have frank and free exchanges on public policy, politics and society in Singapore.

The YSC has featured inspiring speakers from Singapore who are leaders of their fields, for instance then Member of Parliament Madam Halimah Yacob and Mr Ho Kwon Ping. The Conference has also attracted outstanding participants who demonstrate strong interest in the public, private and people sectors, and now lead their respective sectors.

The generous sponsorships from Lee Foundation and Singapore Pools enabled IPS to invite influential international thinkers, such as Dr Francis Fukuyama, Dr Fareed Zakaria, and Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter. YSC remains a platform where young Singaporeans aged 35 and below who have shown leadership or excellence in various fields come together to discuss shared issues and problems, and collaborate to propose creative solutions.

Recent conference themes include “Building a Community of Citizens for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” (2006); “Cultivating a Singapore Creative Class” (2008); “Future.Identity.Talent@Singapore” (2010); “Are Young Singaporeans Happy?” (2012); “Game-Changers” (2014); and “What’s Good?” (2016).

Previous participants have enjoyed the conference and found it helpful, with 79 per cent of respondents in the 2016 Young Singaporeans (Un)Conference indicating they had gained new insights and perspectives. The 2016 YSC was for many participants a refreshing change from the usual conference format, with its participant-driven format that included a dance improvisation session and theatre games on the power of labels. The theme for the upcoming YSC2018 is “Disruptions”. Through creative projects and discussions, it seeks to explore with our youth new pathways that they must create for themselves, to nurture their identity and culture, and contribute to their work, family and society.

## Singapore Economic Roundtable



The Singapore Economic Roundtable (SER) takes place twice a year, and is attended by economists, academics, business leaders and policymakers

The Singapore Economic Roundtable was launched in 2003, as a flagship programme of IPS. Held every six months, the Roundtable is made up of a select group of senior private sector economists, academics, business leaders and policymakers. Typically beginning with presentations from distinguished participants of the roundtable from both the private and public sector, the meeting is conducted under the Chatham House Rule, and is intended to allow for and provoke frank discussion of major macro-economic policy issues that Singapore faces. Each Roundtable assesses present-day monetary and fiscal policies against prevailing economic conditions, and serves an important function in acting as a forum for non-policymakers to share their recommendations.

The Roundtables also host a dedicated session each looking at a specific long-term structural issue facing Singapore, in detail. Past sessions of the Roundtable has seen participants discuss the ASEAN Economic Community, Singapore’s role as a regional hub, and the impact of big data analytics on businesses. Future sessions of the Roundtable

will seek to continue raising relevant topics for discussion from an economic perspective, such as on climate change policies, and the impact of the new regime in Malaysia on Singapore’s economy.

Every Roundtable culminates in a report compiling the views expressed during the session, together with dedicated recommendations to policymakers. The most recent Roundtable, our 29<sup>th</sup>, was held in May 2018.



Mr Manu Bhaskaran chairing the 25<sup>th</sup> SER

# Public Outreach

Our researchers publish more than 30 opinion editorials annually in *The Straits Times*, *TODAY* and *Channel NewsAsia*. On top of that, there are on average around 300 media reports on comments by IPS researchers and on IPS events in print and online newspapers, television and radio, yearly.

**Steps to a society of compassion and solidarity we can be proud of**

Gillian Koh, 5 August 2018  
*Channel NewsAsia*

**CareShield Life: What's fair versus what's right**

Christopher Gee, 23 July 2018, *TODAY*

**Time to review Government assistance to SMEs**

Faizal bin Yahya, 14 February 2018, *Channel NewsAsia*

**Silver lining in the battle against fake news**

Elmie Nekmat and Carol Soon, 2 November 2017,  
*The Straits Times*

**Emerging sense of S'porean identity independent of ethnic heritage**

Leonard Lim and Mathew Mathews, 15 November 2017,  
*The Straits Times*

**Inequality has a geographic dimension – between and within neighbourhoods in Singapore**

Leong Chan-Hoong, 27 May 2018,  
*Channel NewsAsia*

In the last five years, IPS has expanded our following on Facebook, Twitter, and on our blog, IPS Commons. We have ramped up efforts to engage our online audience, by organising giveaways to promote the *Singapore Chronicles* series, holding pop quizzes to raise awareness on policy issues, telecasting Facebook Live sessions for selected conferences and talks, and creating our own video interviews. Proceedings of our major events are uploaded to the IPS website to ensure that these resources are publicly available. In addition to presentation slides, IPS also often makes available the audio and video recordings of our events on *YouTube* and *SoundCloud*.



Like

Comment

Share



In an effort to bring attention to IPS Social Lab's Study on the Perceptions of Singapore's Built Heritage and Landmarks, together with the researchers involved in the study, a quiz was conducted to find out how well Singaporeans know our heritage sites. The quiz was well received and saw over 150 submissions. Participants with top scores received volumes of *Singapore Chronicles* of their choosing.

Like

Comment

Share



IPS researchers were invited on *Talkback*, a radio programme on 938NOW, which invites topic experts to comment on hot topic issues and respond to radio listeners on any questions they may have. Mr Christopher Gee shared his views on issues related to ageing and retirement planning, and Dr Gillian Koh is often approached for her expert opinion on elections and politics.

Like

Comment

Share

THE  
Greater  
Good

IPS launched our Corporate Associates Programme in 1992 to engage the Singapore private sector. Over the years, IPS has benefitted tremendously from their advice, experience and support for good governance in Singapore.

# IPS Corporate Associates Programme

The IPS Corporate Associates programme has built a strong network of business leaders and facilitated their interactions with leaders in the public and social sectors. This has helped promote the exchange of insights and ideas on critical policy issues, particularly but not limited to the areas of business and the economy.

Our Corporate Associates continue to be amongst IPS' staunchest supporters, and it is very much through their generosity that the Institute has grown significantly through the years. With increased resources, IPS is better able to carry out its mission.

The period between 2017 and 2018 has been a very productive one for the Corporate Associates Programme. IPS organised close to 30 Corporate Associates events and published over 35 issues

of INSIGHTS bullet-point briefs (i.e., key takeaways from selected IPS events and research projects). These cover a wide range of topics of special interest for the business community, from international matters such as US-China and Singapore-China relations and Brexit, to subjects closer to home, such as recommendations of the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE), Smart Nation and Budgets 2017 and 2018.

Prominent speakers at our Corporate Associates events include then Speaker of Parliament Mdm Halimah Yacob; then Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Mr Chan Chun Sing, Second Minister for Finance Mr Lawrence Wong; President and Chief Executive Officer of CapitaLand Mr Lim Ming Yan; and then Ambassador-at-Large Mr Bilahari Kausikan.



Attendees of the Pontiac Land-IPS Thought Leaders One-table Lunch with guest speaker Mr Tan Min-Liang (seated second from left)

Our one-table dinners have featured Chairman of the Economic Development Board Dr Beh Swan Gin, and Permanent Secretaries Mr Chee Wee Kiong and Mr Aubeck Kam, among others.

IPS reintroduced the Pontiac Land-IPS Thought Leaders Lunch Series in 2018. Co-hosted by Dr Kwee Liong Keng, Managing Director of Pontiac Land Group and Professor Tommy Koh, this exclusive one-table lunch series features notable individuals from all walks of life as special guest speakers.

These lunches provide the opportunity for senior Corporate Associates to engage with these guest speakers, sharing diverse ideas and experiences in an open, candid discussion over lunch. The speakers include European Union Ambassador H.E. Barbara Plinkert and Co-Founder and CEO of Razer Inc Mr Tan Min-Liang.

## Fundraising

On the occasion of the Institute's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and as part of a drive to boost its endowment, IPS invited Corporate Associates to switch from its annual giving programme to three lifetime tiers of giving:

- Lifetime Patron of IPS  
(for donors who contribute S\$1,000,000 or more)
- Lifetime Benefactor of IPS  
(for gifts of S\$500,000 or more)
- Lifetime Friend of IPS  
(for gifts of S\$100,000 or more)

These three tiers offer donors lifetime memberships to IPS' Corporate Associates Programme and added privileges over the annual giving scheme, benefitting Corporate Associates in the longer term as well as the Institute.

In 2018, IPS raised its highest amount for an annual flagship conference, the Singapore Perspectives 2018, through the generosity of 36 donors.

IPS expresses its heartfelt thanks to all its Corporate Associates and other donors for their strong and longstanding support of the Institute for the last 30 years.



Second Minister for Finance Mr Lawrence Wong talks about the CFE report and issues concerning Singapore's economic future (February 2017)



Lunch dialogue with then Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Mr Chan Chun Sing on Budget 2018 (April 2018)



# THE Longer View

For 30 years, IPS has devoted the majority of our resources to high-impact research projects, publications and conferences. Some research projects are conducted over several years, allowing us to observe shifting trends in Singapore society and yielding invaluable data that few non-government institutions in Singapore have had the privilege and resources to collect and analyse.

Some projects and events are organised on a more urgent basis, to address new issues and challenges. A number of IPS' important projects commissioned by parties—including the government and non-government organisations—are not publicised due to the confidential data involved.

# Highlights

IPS, like most think tanks, aims to make a positive impact on policymaking through policy analysis and recommendations, and the promotion of public awareness and discourse on critical policy issues. Each think tank operates within its own policy context and has to strategise its approach accordingly.

In Singapore, policymakers appear to have stepped up their consultation of non-government experts, expanded their channels to receive public feedback, and held large-scale conversations with the public on critical national issues. Policy debates in the public domain, particularly online, have intensified. However, a lot of policymaking work and discussions remain behind closed doors. Policymaking is complex and often takes several years of gestation; each new policy or policy change has several fathers and mothers.

The impact of work by think tanks like IPS on policymaking is therefore not entirely visible and hard to assess. However, on occasion, we are fortunate enough to have our work publicly recognised, prove far-sighted, and grow in relevance over time.

## Deep work

Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, at the Debate on the President's Address in Parliament, on 20 October 2011, referred to the paper on **Scenarios of Future Population Growth and Change in Singapore** by IPS researchers Dr Yap Mui Teng, Dr Kang Soon Hock, and Mr Chua Chun Ser:

*"A month or two ago, the Institute of Policy Studies put out a paper showing various projections of how Singapore's population will grow or shrink over the next decade, based on different assumptions. It is not a conclusive last word but it was a very helpful contribution to the public debate. I think it helped to educate people and make them understand what this is about and I think over the next year, we will put out more papers, we will discuss them, get people to focus their minds and to understand that we actually face very serious tradeoffs."*

In response to the forming of the Economic Review Committee in 2002 led by then Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, IPS presented the government with an analysis of the major economic issues confronting Singapore and recommendations on possible solutions, which were also published in the **Report on the Restructuring of the Singapore Economy**.

It made ground-breaking and far-sighted recommendations that have proven to be prescient in view of our current economic and structural employment challenges. These include the setting up of an education fund for continual learning and skills upgrade, contributions for a self-supporting social safety net for unemployment, quota on foreign workers for non-tradable jobs, review of the retirement age, and encouragement for Government-linked Companies to lead in creating intellectual capital among SMEs to sustain employment opportunities here.

## Singaporeans respect all races, but racism still an issue: Survey

Charissa Yong, 20 August 2016,  
The Straits Times

### Conversation starters

The **CNA-IPS Survey on Race Relations** was commissioned by Channel NewsAsia for its TV documentary titled *Regardless of Race*. It showed that racism was still a problem in Singapore. Findings from the survey and the documentary sparked self-reflection among the majority Chinese, and intense debate on a topic that is often not discussed openly, or raised by the racial minorities in Singapore.

## Experts call for policies to bridge class divide

Charissa Yong, 29 December 2017,  
The Straits Times

The **IPS Study on Social Capital in Singapore** released in end-2017 was covered extensively by the media. Our social class divide became a widely discussed topic in Parliament and outside. The issue of social mobility was one of the main topics in Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong's speech, delivered during the debate on the President's Address in Parliament in May 2018. He brought up the Ministry of Education's efforts to work with "elite" schools to ensure they will not become "self-perpetuating, closed circles".

### Bridge-Building & Public Consultation

Over the years, the Institute has led innovative engagement exercises, bringing together diverse groups of stakeholders from the people, public and private sectors. In 2012, IPS conducted the **IPS Prism Project**, an exercise to engage different groups in society at different levels to ask the question: "How does Singapore wish to be governed in 2022?"

Through immersive experiences via forum theatre, multimedia installations and interactive exhibits, participants from various groups ranging from new citizens, workers, community groups and policymakers were able to deepen their discussions about the choices that shape Singapore's future. Participants of Prism and the government's subsequent Our Singapore Conversation dialogues would note significant similarities between how both exercises were conducted.

More recently, in 2017, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with IPS, conducted the first **Citizens' Jury (CJ)** in Singapore. The objective of the **Citizens' Jury for the War on Diabetes** was to develop community-based and community-driven recommendations to combat the problem of diabetes.

Participants comprising people with diabetes, caregivers, healthcare providers, those in the secondary circle of influence of diabetic persons, and members of the public who did not have any experience with diabetes, were presented with the challenge: "As a community, how can we enable one another to live free from diabetes and, for Singaporeans with diabetes, to manage their condition well?"

The CJ is a public engagement initiative where citizens, presented with information, make informed recommendations to the government. Unlike most focus group sessions where participants might not know if their ideas would be used, the jury would get a response to their suggestions. The CJ spanned seven weeks, where the participants eventually presented and submitted their recommendations to the Ministry of Health.

### Expert Advice on National Issues

In 2016, a Constitutional Commission led by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon was established to invite views from the public on **reforming Singapore's Elected Presidency system**. The Commission's terms of reference were first to review the eligibility criteria for candidates for the post; second, to review the role and powers of the Council of Presidential Advisers; and third, to consider if provision should be made to ensure that Singapore's multi-ethnic diversity can be represented in the office of the President.

IPS researchers made two submissions as well as oral representations to the Commission. One paper submitted by Dr Gillian Koh and Mr Tan Min-Wei proposed a refreshed and more stringent criteria for eligibility but no provision for ethnic representation. The other paper submitted by Dr Mathew Mathews proposed a hiatus-triggered system for ethnic representation.

In January 2018, a parliamentary select committee was established to support the government's effort to consider if legislation is

needed to curb and punish the spread of malicious and even subversive deliberate online falsehoods. IPS researchers made three submissions as well as oral representations to the **Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods** in response to the government's Green Paper that set out the context as well as the terms of reference for the committee's work. The Select Committee was notable as it was the first select committee set up to examine policy issues in 22 years.

The first submission by Dr Carol Soon and Mr Shawn Goh highlighted the criteria by which legislation that covers a lacuna of law in the realm of social media could be crafted. The second submission by Dr Mathew Mathews argued the case for legislation especially given the slow-drip effect of low-intensity but nonetheless insidious communications that disparage ethnic and religious communities in Singapore. The third submission by Dr Gillian Koh focused on dealing with subversive online manipulation of opinion in periods of political consequence like general elections.

## More on our major projects

1993, 1999,  
2005, 2010

### The National Orientation of Singaporeans Survey Series

This survey series tracks the sense of identity and belonging among Singaporeans, where the primary indices were developed by Associate Professor Tan Ern Ser of the National University of Singapore. It was first conducted using door-to-door interviews in 1993. The Institute went on to conduct it three times more, in 1999, 2005 and 2010 with an elective section addressing topics ranging from social resilience to social support and political participation. The key finding of the final survey was that the strength of citizen-nation ties had held steady in spite of the strong forces of globalisation and observations of a more mobile younger generation of Singaporeans at the time.

1998

### Singapore as a Renaissance City

IPS carried out one of the earliest studies on Singapore as a Renaissance City, which contributed to the development of the government's Renaissance City masterplans. It carried out two studies on the creative industries in Singapore and another on partnerships in the arts among the public, people and private

sectors. Each study provided specific policy and programme recommendations, ranging from the proposal for arts education to all school students to the building of tertiary level arts education for specialists, and drawing a distinction between egalitarian funding for all arts and funding for excellence.

1998, 2013

### IPS Conferences on Civil Society

IPS convened two national conferences on the development of civil society, the first in 1998 and the second, 15 years later in 2013. These were landmark events where activists discussed the details of their interactions with policymakers in government as well as their relationship with the public. In a one-party dominant state, these were significant records of how active citizens described the processes and battles in advocating alternative views and policies. The conferences invited activists and public intellectuals to spell out their desired agenda for an evolved people sector that is considered an important party to governance in Singapore. Fulfilling IPS' objectives of research as well as bridge-building among various stakeholders in public policy, these reflections and aspirations have been published in *State-Society Relations in Singapore* (2000) and *Civil Society and the State in Singapore* (2017).

2002

### IPS Report on the Restructuring of the Singapore Economy

In 2000, under the leadership of then Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, the Economic Review Committee (ERC) was formed to review and develop a "blueprint to restructure the economy."

IPS convened the IPS Forum on Economic Restructuring (IFER) in January 2002 to identify and analyse the major economic issues confronting Singapore, and offer possible solutions to overcome them. The forum comprised over 80 members from the private sector, public sector and academia. A seven-month long deliberation followed and the findings and recommendations were collected in *The IFER Report*, which was presented to the ERC.



Since 2006

**IPS Post-Election Surveys**

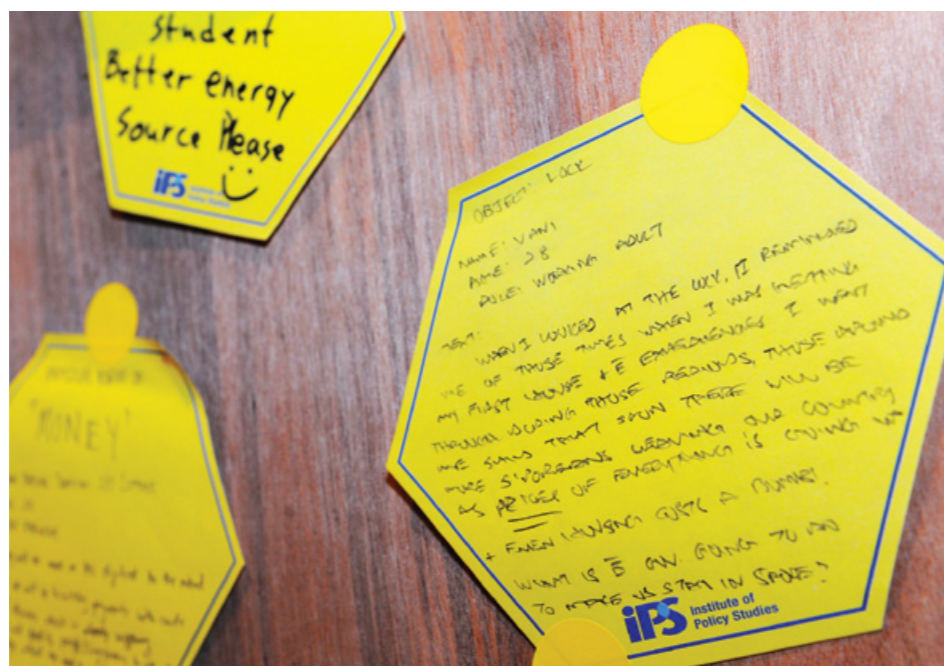
These surveys have been conducted under the series of short phone polls called POPS, for “Perception of Policies of Singaporeans Survey”, after a general election since 2006 and after a presidential election since 2011. They track political attitudes and seek to identify support for political pluralism and democratic values. The series around the parliamentary elections has uncovered a strong pattern of association between socio-economic status and support for political pluralism. The findings from the presidential elections of which there have only been two also suggests an emergent link between socio-economic status and the desire for institutional independence of the president from other centres of authority in Singapore. These surveys provide data on what Singaporeans look for in their political leaders, the use of communication channels in political campaigning, and views on the election system.

Since 2007

**IPS Scenario-Planning Projects**

Over the years, IPS has dedicated resources to looking ahead at the country’s future to identify key strategic issues that it must anticipate and respond to.

The first exercise, called “Singapore Futures”, was conducted in 2007 and drew on expert views that culminated in presentations at the Institute’s flagship conference, Singapore Perspectives 2008. The stories of the future in the year 2030 around the question “How will we live, work and play?” centred around three drivers of change—climate change, connectivity and community. This resulted in two scenarios of Singapore, the first called “F1 SGP” of a Singapore riding high on the forces of globalisation and a strengthening regime of global governance; the second was called “We, the people of Asia”, which envisaged a far tighter organisation around and dependence on an emerging Southeast Asia.



The second exercise called “IPS Prism” was conducted in 2012 around the question “How will we govern ourselves in 2022?” The scenarios were generated around three drivers of change—trust in government, the divide between the winners and the losers of globalisation and economic development in Singapore, and the balance in national ethos between materialism and post-materialist values or what was called “value vs. values”. The three scenarios that resulted from discussions with leaders across seven key sectors of Singapore were presented in a public immersive arts programme for broader outreach and a survey was conducted to gather views from participants about what they wished in their imagined Singapore of the future, the findings of which were published in 2014, in *Singapore Perspectives 2013: Governance*.

The third scenario-planning project was held in 2016 and was called “Action Plan Singapore”. It focused on three critical issues that will shape the country’s future over a decade—longevity, innovation and the skills of the workforce. Scenarios were built around these three critical issues, each with its own set of drivers of change that were likely to unfold over the given time horizon. The project benefitted from input from experts in the public, private, people sectors as well as academia, and went further than the first two to propose action plans that could be adopted over the years to respond to the opportunities and challenges that were identified in the scenarios. The output of this project has been published in *Year 2026: Doing Singapore Differently* in 2017.

2008 **Family Research Network**

In 2008, then Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports initiated the Family Research Network (FRN) to promote research that could be used for evidence-based policymaking. IPS was appointed as its partner in its inaugural year to conduct a series of forums in which government, academics and family practitioners can come together to share research findings and stimulate further research.

2010–2015 **IPS Study on Social Integration of Immigrants**

In the context of local sentiment on the number of immigrants entering the country, IPS ran a survey to understand the social markers that defined a Singaporean in 2010. The findings of this survey were presented at a conference in 2012 where speakers also discussed social integration in various settings like neighbourhoods, schools and the workplace, and in the media. This culminated in an edited volume in 2015 titled, *Migration and Integration in Singapore (2015)*.

Since 2010 **IPS Study on Emigration Attitudes of Young Singaporeans**

With the background of a growing overseas Singaporean diaspora, IPS has conducted two surveys to understand the emigration attitudes of young Singaporeans, the first in 2010 and the second in 2016. This survey series is unusual as it takes a prospective approach of researching emigration attitudes before people leave the country. This helps the government and community to consider what measures can be taken to strengthen the sense of belonging and rootedness to the nation among our younger citizens.

- 2011, 2015 **Studies on General Election, Media and Internet**  
In collaboration with scholars from various institutions in Singapore, IPS conducted surveys on media and Internet use during the General Elections of 2011 and 2015. Both studies examined voters' use of media and the Internet, and its impact on political participation and voting behaviour. Although General Election 2011 was dubbed by some as Singapore's first "Internet election", a national survey of voters after the election found that it was not quite so. Findings from the surveys were also discussed at post-election conferences, in the book *Battle for Hearts and Minds: New Media and Elections in Singapore*, and addressed in IPS Exchange Series No. 11, *Media and Internet Use During General Election 2015*.
- 
- 2012 **Population Outcomes: Singapore 2050 (POS2050)**  
In 2012, IPS embarked on a project to consider and analyse what Singapore would likely face in the future—an ageing population that would in time decline. Six multi-disciplinary study groups comprising experts from relevant fields like social services and real estate were asked to offer solutions to this challenge. They made 120 recommendations to address the social, economic and human capital issues arising from the changing nature of dependency due to the rapidly ageing population. These were published in the first issue of the IPS Exchange Series.
- 
- 2013 **Report on Corrosive Speech**  
From 2013 to 2014, IPS researchers studied various aspects of online behaviour and its impact on society. A report titled *Corrosive Speech: What Can Be Done* was published in 2013, covering the causes of corrosive speech and recommendations to coping with such situations. This was followed by a seminar that focused on factors governing people's decisions on what and how much information to share.
- 
- 2013 **Harassment in Singapore: Realities, Conundrums and Approaches Moving Ahead**  
To aid the government in policymaking on issues of harassment, IPS organised a conference in 2013 to identify and address the issue of harassment in our society. The topics included sexual harassment and stalking, harassment in school, and cyber harassment. Several issues and ideas were raised, such as a standalone bill that could address acts of online and offline harassment. Proposals from the conference were considered by the government, and in March 2014 the Protection from Harassment Act was passed in Parliament.
- 
- 2013–2018 **Book Project: A History of Arts and Cultural Policies in Singapore**  
This book project, comprising contributions from over 15 arts practitioners, policymakers and academics, traces the course of arts and cultural policies since the 1950s. It is the first attempt to document and analyse the evolution of culture and the arts in Singapore in the last six decades. The authors critically assess arts

policies and arts institutions to collectively provide an overview of how arts and culture have been deployed by the state. It covered milestone events, from the forging of "Malayan culture", the government's "anti-yellow culture" campaign, the use of culture for tourism, the setting up of the Advisory Council on Arts and Culture, and the establishment of the School of the Arts. The book, titled *The State and the Arts in Singapore: Policies and Institutions*, was published in 2018.

- 
- Since 2014 **Singapore Panel Study on Social Dynamics (SPSSD)**  
IPS Social Lab's flagship project, this is a panel study that tracks changes in the lives of a panel of more than 4,000 wide-ranging randomly selected households. Launched in 2014, it studies changes over time in family relationships, social mobility and societal value—factors that are key to our national identity.  
Currently in its fourth year of study (2018), this longitudinal study is the first of its kind in Singapore, reaching the same households on the panel through in-depth, face-to-face interviews by trained surveyors. The Institute continues to receive positive feedback from households on the panel regarding their willingness to participate in the fifth iteration (2019) of the study.
- 
- Since 2014 **Online Political Sensing**  
Started in 2014, IPS and the Living Analytics Research Centre (LARC) at the Singapore Management University have collaborated to develop an online media analytics system that could accurately analyse online public opinion. In addition to studying online public opinion on important political and social events, the collaboration included the use of traditional public opinion sensing methods such as surveys to determine if and to what extent online public opinion mirrors that of the general public. Developed through human input and annotation from IPS and machine learning research from LARC, the goal was to develop an accurate system that can adapt text analytics to different domains. Using the National Day Rally 2016 and Presidential Election 2017 as case studies, the team collected data from various online platforms and compared them with the survey data to determine how reflective online public opinion was of the general public opinion. This ongoing project has implications for the study of public opinion.
- 
- Since 2014 **Studies on Singaporeans' relationship with Singapore history**  
Over the years, IPS has worked on a series of projects that look into Singaporeans' perceptions of identity and heritage. In 2014, more than 1,500 Singaporeans took part in a survey on the perceptions of Singapore's history, where respondents were asked a range of questions about 50 historical local events and how important the event was for themselves and future generations. The study revealed three themes that resonate most strongly with respondents—Nation Building, Differences, and National Resilience.  
IPS Social Lab embarked on a study in 2017 to understand how Singaporeans' perceptions of built heritage and landmarks influence their sense of national identity, national pride and personal well-being. The research will aid in the planning and implementation of heritage conservation policies. Apart from

historical events and built heritage, IPS will also look into historical figures and National Day Rally speeches. Work has commenced to study the National Day Rally speeches from 1965–2016, and a study on Singaporean’s perception of local historical figures will be conducted in 2019.

The 2018/19 iteration of the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore features a lecture series that seeks to identify the underlying continuities of Singapore’s evolution over a period of 700 years, and to show how, by understanding the history of our island, we can have a better appreciation of our current and continued challenges as a city-state.

2015–2018

### IPS-SAM Spotlight on Cultural Policy Series

Research and critical analysis of the arts and cultural policies, and landscape in Singapore remain scant. To fill the gap, IPS launched a series of roundtables in partnership with the Singapore Art Museum. Called the IPS-SAM Spotlight on Cultural Policy Series, the roundtables provide a platform for free and robust discussion of arts and cultural policy, with participation from government, academia and key players in the arts and cultural sector. The first roundtable, on “The State of Literature Education in Singapore” was held in 2015. The subsequent five roundtables were: (i) “Place Management and Placemaking in Singapore”; (ii) “The Development of Community Arts in Singapore”; (iii) “The Future of Cultural Leadership in Singapore”; (iv) “Whither Arts Funding: Priorities, Values and Control”, and; (v) “Bang for the Funding Buck: KPIs and Capturing the Impact of the Arts”. Reports on each roundtable are disseminated widely for further reflection and inputs.

Since 2015

### Longevity Project

From 2015 to 2016, IPS researchers focused on examining the social and fiscal implications of longevity on Singapore’s public policy. In 2016, they worked on Phase 1 of its Longevity Project, which examined key aspects of longevity and ageing in Singapore. Phase 2 will collect public views and concerns about living in a rapidly ageing society.

2016

### New Frontiers: IPS-CFE Conference on the Future Economy of Singapore

In 2016, IPS held “New Frontiers: IPS-CFE Conference on the Future Economy of Singapore” in collaboration with the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE). The two-day conference featured experts from academia, business associations and the private sector to discuss the emerging global trends in industries and markets as a result of technological advancements, and what strategies might help Singaporeans thrive in this new environment. The conference concluded with a dialogue with CFE members, headed by Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) Mr S. Iswaran. Post-SG50, this conference provided useful context and raised several considerations for policymakers.

2016

### CNA-IPS Survey on race relations

In 2016, IPS researchers collaborated with Channel NewsAsia on a study on race relations in Singapore. The study aimed to understand what the population deemed as racist behaviour, and how prevalent Singaporeans believed racism to be present in the community. Through a household survey of 2,000 respondents, the findings showed that there was strong support for meritocracy and multiculturalism, where success is often seen to be independent of race. There were also in-group preferences among respondents for many facets of public and private life. The findings of the study were widely quoted in the debates on constitutional amendments to the Elected Presidency that ensued following its release.

Since 2016

### National Transfer Accounts

The National Transfer Accounts (NTA) project aims to quantify Singapore’s economic life-cycle and intergenerational flows across age groups (i.e., production, consumption, transfers and savings for each age group), using an internationally comparative framework. IPS is Singapore’s representative member in the Global NTA Network, which includes academics and policymakers from 94 countries worldwide.

2017

### Three-Part Project on Fake News and Disinformation

IPS completed a series of three projects commissioned by the Ministry of Communications and Information on fake news and disinformation in 2017. It involved a report reviewing the definition of fake news, factors that encourage its production and dissemination, as well as intervention and policy measures to combat fake news. A closed-door discussion was held, from which recommendations were submitted to the Ministry. There was also a report examining the spread and impact of fake news in various countries during election time.

2017

### IPS Study on Social Capital in Singapore

This is a one-off survey on the social networks that undergird Singapore society. Based on door-to-door interviews where 3,000 citizens and permanent residents were randomly selected, it provided evidence that there are moderately strong ties of social support and interaction across various categories of people like ethnicity, religion, age, gender and nationality. However, deeper investigation revealed that social ties were weaker when respondents were divided by the binary categories of whether they lived in public or private housing, and whether, by their own definition, they and those they named in their social circle had elite or non-elite school backgrounds. This suggested that class rather than race and religion were a more salient barrier to social mixing. It was found that the greater the social diversity of one’s networks, the more likely one had a higher sense of national identity and general trust.

# IPS Publications

IPS has published more than 150 books, 32 IPS Working Papers, and 12 volumes of the IPS Exchange Series. They primarily feature research conducted by IPS or with IPS support. They cover topics of interest to Singapore, in the areas of governance, politics, society, the economy, foreign policy, and regional and international relations.



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|------|--|------|--|
| 2018 | The State and the Arts in Singapore: Policies and Institutions                 | 2013 | Singapore Perspectives 2013: Governance                                      |
| 2018 | Can Singapore Fall? Making the Future for Singapore                            | 2013 | The Tommy Koh Reader: Favourite Essays and Lectures                          |
| 2017 | Singapore Perspectives 2017: What If?  | 2013 | Malaysia & Singapore – The Land Reclamation Case: From Dispute to Settlement |
| 2017 | The Challenges of Governance in a Complex World                                | 2013 | The Seventeenth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                |
| 2017 | Civil Society and the State in Singapore                                       | 2012 | The Sixteenth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                  |
| 2016 | The Twenty-Third Singapore Economic Roundtable                                 | 2012 | Singapore Perspectives 2012: Singapore Inclusive: Bridging Divides           |
| 2016 | Singapore Perspectives 2016: We Dealing with an Ambiguous World                | 2012 | The Fifteenth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                  |
| 2016 | The Twenty-Second Singapore Economic Roundtable                                | 2012 | Breakthrough: Roadmap for Singapore's Political Future                       |
| 2016 | The Twenty-First Singapore Economic Roundtable                                 | 2011 | Singapore Perspectives 2011: Our Inclusive Society: Going Forward            |
| 2016 | Managing Diversity In Singapore  | 2011 | The Fourteenth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                 |
| 2015 | Singapore Perspectives 2015: Choices   | 2011 | ASEAN Matters! – Reflecting on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations    |
| 2015 | The Twentieth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                    | 2011 | The Thirteenth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                 |
| 2015 | Not Born In Singapore: Fifty Personalities who Shaped the Nation               | 2010 | Economic Diplomacy: Essays and Reflections                                   |
| 2015 | Battle for Hearts and Minds: New Media and Elections in Singapore              | 2010 | Singapore Perspectives 2010: Home. Heart. Horizon                            |
| 2015 | The Nineteenth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                   | 2010 | The Twelfth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                    |
| 2015 | Corrosive Speech: What Can Be Done   | 2009 | The Eleventh Singapore Economic Roundtable                                   |
| 2015 | Singapore Perspectives 2014: Differences                                       | 2009 | World Cities: Achieving Liveability and Vibrancy                             |
| 2015 | Inequality in Singapore  | 2009 | Impressions of the Goh Chok Tong Years in Singapore                          |
| 2015 | INTRACO: Blazing a Trail Overseas for Singapore?                               | 2009 | The Little Red Dot: Reflections by Singapore's Diplomats Volume II           |
| 2014 | A Breakthrough in Vocational and Technical Education: The Singapore Story      |      |  |
| 2014 | The Little Red Dot: Reflections of Foreign Ambassadors on Singapore Volume III |      |  |
| 2014 | The Eighteenth Singapore Economic Roundtable                                   |      |  |

- 2009 The Tenth Singapore Economic Roundtable
- 2009 Singapore Perspectives 2009: The Heart of the Matter
- 2009 The Making of the Asean Charter
- 2008 ASEAN-US Symposium
- 2008 Religious Diversity in Singapore
- 2008 The Ninth Singapore Economic Roundtable
- 2007 The State of Innovation at firm level in Singapore
- 2007 The Eighth Singapore Economic Roundtable
- 2007 Singapore's Foreign Policy: The Search for Regional Order
- 2007 Regulation and the Limits of Competition
- 2007 The Seventh Economic Roundtable
- 2007 Singapore Perspectives 2007: A New Singapore
- 2006 An East Asian Renaissance: Ideas for Economic Growth
- 2006 Dancing with Giants: China, India, and the Global Economy
- 2006 East Asian Visions
- 2006 The Sixth Singapore Economic Roundtable
- 2006 Singapore Perspectives 2006: Going Glocal: Being Singaporean in a Globalised World
- 2006 Contentious Journalism and the Internet: Towards Democratic Discourse in Malaysia and Singapore
- 2006 Secularism and Spirituality: Seeking Integrated Knowledge and Success in Madrasah Education in Singapore
- 2006 United Nations As Peacekeeper And Nation-Builder: Continuity and Change – What Lies Ahead?
- 2005 The Fifth Singapore Economic Roundtable Report
- 2005 Singapore Perspectives 2005: People and Partnerships
- 2005 The Little Red Dot: Reflections by Singapore's Diplomats
- 2005 Facing Faiths, Crossing Cultures: Key Trends & Issues in a Multicultural World
- 2005 Sustainability and Cities: Concept and Assessment
- 2005 The Fourth Singapore Economic Roundtable Report
- 2004 The Third Singapore Economic Roundtable Report
- 2004 The Second Singapore Economic Roundtable Report
- 2004 The First Singapore Economic Roundtable Report
- 2004 A Defining Moment: How Singapore Beat SARS
- 2004 Perspectives 2004: At the Dawn of a New Era
- 2004 The United States – Singapore Free Trade Agreement: Highlights and Insights
- 2004 Beyond Rituals and Riots: Ethnic Pluralism and Social Cohesion in Singapore
- 2003 Economic Globalisation and Asia: Essays on Finance, Trade and Taxation
- 2004 Future of Space
- 2003 Re-inventing the Asian Model: The Case of Singapore
- 2003 Perspectives 2003
- 2003 Sustaining Competitiveness in the New Global Economy: The Experience of Singapore
- 2003 The United Nations Transitional Administration In East Timor (UNTAET): Debriefing and Lessons
- 2002 Asian Economic Recovery: Policy Options for Growth and Stability
- 2002 The IFER Report: Restructuring Singapore Economy

- 2002 Perspectives 2002
- 2001 Perspectives 2001
- 2001 The Reform Process of the United Nations Peace Operations: Debriefing and lessons
- 2001 World Bank Conference on Model Cities: Urban Best Practices Volume 2
- 2000 Asia and Europe, Essays and Speeches by Tommy Koh
- 2000 Perspectives: 2000 & Beyond
- 2000 State-Society Relations in Singapore
- 2000 The Nexus Between Peacekeeping and Peace-building: Debriefing and Lessons
- 2000 World Bank Conference on Model Cities: Urban Best Practices Volume 1
- 1999 In Search of Singapore's National Values
- 1999 Singapore: The Year in Review 1998
- 1998 Singapore: Re-Engineering Success
- 1998 Singapore: The Year in Review 1997
- 1997 City and the State: Singapore's Built Environment Revisited
- 1997 Housing a Healthy, Educated and Wealthy Nation Through the CPF
- 1997 Singapore: The Year in Review 1996
- 1997 The Quest for World Order: Perspectives of a Pragmatic Idealist
- 1996 Singapore: The Year in Review 1995
- 1996 The Role and Functions of Civilian Police in United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations: Debriefing and Lessons
- 1995 Environment and the City: Sharing Singapore's Experience and Future Challenges
- 1995 Manpower for Overseas Ventures: A Study of MNCs and Local Companies in Singapore
- 1995 Singapore: The Year in Review 1994
- 1995 The United States and East Asia: Conflict and Co-operation
- 1994 Overseas Investment: Experience of Singapore Manufacturing Companies
- 1994 Singapore: The Year in Review 1993
- 1994 The United Nations Transitional Authority on Cambodia (UNTAC): Debriefing and Lessons
- 1993 Heritage and Contemporary Values
- 1993 Singapore: The Year in Review 1992
- 1993 The Management of Ethnic Relations in Public Housing Estates
- 1992 Singapore: The Year in Review 1991
- 1991 Growth Triangle: Johor-Singapore-Riau Experience
- 1991 Social Services: The Next Lap
- 1991 Singapore: The Year in Review 1990
- 1990 Local Entrepreneurship in Singapore: Private and State

**IPS Working Papers**

The IPS Working Papers series features research work in progress, that benefit from early dissemination. This includes research carried out by IPS researchers, work commissioned by the Institute, or work submitted to the Institute for publication. Titles published are as follows:

No. 32	Fiscal Management of Reserves in Singapore: An Intergenerational Equity Perspective (by Drew Shih)	2018	No. 22	Results From the Perception and Attitudes Towards Ageing and Seniors Survey (2013/2014) (by Mathew Mathews and Paulin Tay Straughan)	2014
No. 31	Fake News, False Information and More: Countering Human Biases (by Carol Soon and Shawn Goh)	2018	No. 21	Religiosity and the Management of Religious Harmony: Responses From the IPS Survey on Race, Religion and Language (by Mathew Mathews, Mohammad Khamsya bin Khidzer and Teo Kay Key)	2014
No. 30	Community Relations Amidst the Threat of Terror (by Mathew Mathews, Leonard Lim and Shanthini Selvarajan)	2018	No. 20	The Educational 'Arms Race': All For One, Loss For All (by Christopher Gee)	2012
No. 29	Makan Index 2017: An Indicator for Cost of Eating Out in Singapore (by Goh Zhang Hao, Leong Chan-Hoong and Varian Lim)	2018	No. 19	A Study on Emigration Attitudes of Young Singaporeans (2010) (by Leong Chan-Hoong and Debbie Soon)	2011
No. 28	CNA-IPS Survey on Ethnic Identity in Singapore (by Mathew Mathews, Leonard Lim, Shanthini Selvarajan and Nicole Cheung)	2017	No. 18	Singapore Information Sector: A Study Using Input-Output Tables (by Toh Mun Heng and Shandre M Thangavelu)	2010
No. 27	Parents' Perceptions of the Singapore Primary School System (by Mathew Mathews, Leonard Lim and Teng Siao See)	2017	No. 17	Singapore: The Art Of Building A Global City (by Sanjeev Sanyal)	2007
No. 26	Decoding the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE) (by Alex Tan and Petrina Chew)	2017	No. 16	Exchange Rate Arrangements For East Asia Post-Crisis: Examining The Case For Open Economy Inflation Targeting (by Tony Cavoli and Ramkishen S Rajan)	2003
No. 25	SG50 and Beyond: Protecting the Public Space in the New Era of Singaporean Pluralism (by Johann bin Abdul Aziz, Gillian Koh, Mathew Mathews and Tan Min-Wei)	2016	No. 15	Examining The Case For Reserve Pooling In East Asia: Empirical Analysis (by Ramkishen S Rajan, Reza Siregar and Graham Bird)	2003
No. 24	The Investment Risks in Singapore's Retirement Financing System (by Christopher Gee, Peter Ryan-Kane, Mark Whatley and Will Rainey)	2014	No. 14	Implications of The Economic Rise of The PRC For Asean and India: Trade and Foreign Direct Investment (by Sadhana Srivastava and Ramkishen S Rajan)	2003
No. 23	The Politics of Sustaining Inclusive Growth and Social Inclusion (by Valerie Koh, Gillian Koh, Donald Low and Tan Min-Wei)	2014	No. 13	The Japan-Singapore "New Age" Economic Partnership Agreement: Background, Motivation And Implications (by Ramkishen S Rajan and Rahul Sen)	2002
			No. 12	Choice Of Exchange Rate Regime: Currency Board (Hong Kong) Or Monitoring Band (Singapore)? (by Ramkishen S Rajan and Reza Siregar)	2002
			No. 11	Hong Kong, Singapore And The East Asian Crisis: A First Look At The Importance Of Trade Spillovers (by Ramkishen S Rajan and Rahul Sen)	2001

No. 10	The Evolution of Singapore Business: A Case Study Approach (Volume 1 and 2) (by Anisha Sabhlok)	2001	No. 12	Mobilising Diverse Community Assets to Meet Social Needs (by Justin Lee, Mathew Mathews and Robyn Tan)	2017
No. 9	Social Capital and State-Civil Society Relations in Singapore (by Tan Tay Keong)	2001	No. 11	Media and Internet Use During General Election 2015 (by Carol Soon, Tan Tarn How and Siti Nadzirah binte Samsudin)	2016
No. 8	Regional Responses To The Southeast Asian Economic Crisis: A Case Of Self-Help Or No Help? (by Chang Li Lin and Ramkishen Rajan)	1999	No. 10	Conference Papers of New Frontiers: IPS-CFE Conference on the Future Economy of Singapore (by Manu Bhaskaran, Faizal bin Yahya and Ng Yan Hao)	2016
No. 7	Sand in the Wheels of International Finance: Revisiting the Debate in Light of the East Asian Mayhem (by Ramkishen S Rajan)	1999	No. 9	Rising Costs in Singapore (by Manu Bhaskaran, Ng Yan Hao and Hansel Teo)	2016
No. 6	The Economics of the European Monetary Union and some Implications for Asia (by Ramkishen S Rajan)	1998	No. 8	Supporting a Dynamic SME Sector: Challenges faced by SMEs in Singapore (by Faizal bin Yahya, Chang Zhi Yang, Ng Yan Hao and Tan Meng Wah)	2016
No. 5	Survey Of State-Society Relations Social Indicators Research Project Executive Summary Report (by Ooi Giok Ling, Tan Ern Ser and Gillian Koh)	1998	No. 7	Sentiments on Immigrant Integration & the Role of Immigrant Associations (by Mathew Mathews and Zhang Jiayi)	2016
No. 4	European Views on Asia and Europe-Asian Relations (by Venil Ramaiah)	1998	No. 6	The Rationality of the Political Online Space (by Carol Soon and Tan Tarn How)	2015
No. 3	Restraints on Capital Flows: What are They? (by Ramkishen S Rajan)	1998	No. 5	A Conducive Ecosystem for Social Service Research (by Justin Lee and Mathew Mathews)	2015
No. 2	The Japanese Economy and Economic Policy in Light of the East Asian Financial Crisis (by Ramkishen S Rajan)	1998	No. 4	Class and Social Orientations: Key Findings From The Social Stratification Survey 2011 (by Associate Professor Tan Ern Ser)	2015
No. 1	The Currency and Financial Crisis in Southeast Asia: A Case of 'Sudden Death' or Death Foretold? (by Ramkishen S Rajan)	1998	No. 3	Study on Chinese, Malay and Tamil Blogospheres in Singapore (by Carol Soon, Arun Mahizhnan, Dr Mohamad Shamsuri bin Juhari, Nanditha Das, Sim Jui Liang and Nur Atikah Amalina)	2015

**IPS Exchange Series**

The IPS Exchange Series comprises final reports on primary research conducted by IPS researchers and the Institute's associates, as well as reports of study groups, conferences and seminars organised by the Institute. This series seeks to disseminate research findings, policy deliberations and suggestions that arise from the Institute's programmes. Titles published are as follows:

No. 2	Towards Ageing Well: Aspirations, Challenges and Initiatives (by Mathew Mathews and Terence Leong Yoong Hwa)	2014
No. 1	The Population Outcomes: Singapore 2050 Project (Revised, 30 September 2014) (by Yap Mui Teng and Christopher Gee)	2014

THE  
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Picture

Milestones along a 30-year journey.

# Milestones



1988

### Establishing IPS

The establishment of IPS was announced by Mr Goh Chok Tong, then First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, on 15 January 1988.

### First Public Lecture

IPS' first Public Lecture was delivered by Mr S Rajaratnam, then Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, titled, "Evolving a Foreign Policy for Singapore".

1991

### Inaugural Year in Review

Our inaugural flagship conference assessed Singapore's performance in 1990.

### IPS-ISEAS-SIIA Lecture

IPS, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) jointly hosted Japanese Prime Minister Mr Toshiki Kaifu at the lecture. Mr Kaifu was the first foreign Prime Minister to speak at an IPS lecture.

1992

### IPS-led Singapore business delegation to Kuala Lumpur

The delegation was hosted to lunch by then Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the government's heritage mansion, Carcosa. It also called on then Finance Minister Mr Anwar Ibrahim, and held other meetings.

### IPS 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Launch of Corporate Associates Programme

At IPS' 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner, IPS Patron and then Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong said "IPS can provide the forum for Singaporeans to test their ideas and express their views on how Singapore can be improved—the kind of Singapore they want, the world they foresee, the problems they anticipate, and the path they will take."

IPS also launched its Corporate Associates Programme and, by year-end, had signed up 35 Corporate Associates.

1993

### Collaboration with the renowned Asia Society (US)

IPS worked with US-based Asia Society to organise three meetings in Singapore:

- Conference on Asian and American perspectives on Democracy and Capitalism (1993)
- Annual Asia Society's Corporate Conference (1994)
- Williamsburg Conference (2000)

### First Young Singaporeans Conference (YSC)

The Young Singaporeans Conference was convened to focus on the post-Independence generation of Singaporeans, to engage them on critical issues of national and global interest, and provide a networking platform for them.

1994

### Program of Seminars (IMF & World Bank)

In the 10-year history of the Program of Seminars hosted by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, IPS was the first foreign institution to be invited to join in the development of the content of this global forum.

### APEC Pacific Business Forum

IPS served as the executive secretariat of the Pacific Business Forum (PBF), organising meetings in 1994 and 1995, and assisting the group in writing their reports for submission to APEC Leaders. In 1996, PBF rebranded itself as the APEC Business Advisory Council, and the Philippines took over the secretariat.

1995

### IPS-UNITAR-Japan collaboration

The Singapore Conference on UN Peacekeeping and Peace-Making, organised by IPS, Japan, and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was a success, and six more conferences were organised over the next 10 years to examine related topics.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Japan-Singapore Symposium

IPS and the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation (Japan) organised the first Japan-Singapore Symposium (JSS) at Tokyo Prince Hotel, Japan. JSS was initiated by then Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong and the late Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Murayama Tomiichi, as a platform for bilateral exchange. In 2016, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Japan, both sides agreed to upgrade the biennial JSS to an annual event. The 12<sup>th</sup> JSS was held in Singapore in 2017.

Images: (Above, from left to right) First Public Lecture with Mr S Rajaratnam in 1988; Williamsburg Conference in 2000; The first Japan-Singapore Symposium in 1995.



1997

**IPS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

IPS celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner graced by then Minister for Information and the Arts Mr George Yeo. A commemorative book, *Singapore: Re-Engineering Success* was also launched. It featured essays by then Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, various ministers, renowned academics, and leaders in all key sectors of Singapore society.

1999

**World Conference on Model Cities**

IPS and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) organised the first "World Conference on Model Cities" in 1999 as part of a global initiative to promote sustainable development, particularly among cities.

2000

**Singapore Perspectives**

IPS changed the focus of its flagship "Year in Review" conference series to become a forward-looking analysis of the outlook for the year ahead. Renamed "Singapore Perspectives", the first in the series was named "Perspectives: 2000 & Beyond".

2003

**Singapore Economic Roundtable**

The Singapore Economic Roundtable (SER) was conceptualised in 2003, in partnership with *The Business Times*. It brings together leading economists, policymakers and business leaders twice a year to discuss important issues that affect Singapore's position in the global economy.

**IPS 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

IPS celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with then President Mr S R Nathan, at a gala dinner held at the Istana.

IPS also launched four books by its researchers, namely, *Beyond Rituals and Riots: Ethnic Pluralism and Social Cohesion in Singapore* by Dr Lai Ah Eng; *Future of Space—Planning, Society and the City in Singapore* by Professor Ooi Giok Ling; *Sustaining Competitiveness in the New Global Economy: The Experience of Singapore* by Professor Ramkishan S Rajan; and *Economic Globalization and Asia: Essays on Finance, Trade and Taxation* by Professor Ramkishan S Rajan.

2007

**Nobel Laureate Lectures**

IPS held its inaugural Nobel Laureate Lecture with Professor Muhammad Yunus in 2007. Entitled "Empowering the Poor: Lessons from Microfinancing", the lecture marked the beginning of a lecture series featuring Nobel prize winners in the field of economics, literature and peace. This series went on to feature Professor A. Michael Spence and President of Costa Rica Dr Oscar Arias Sanchez, who spoke on "The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development" and "Peace with Nature: A Costa Rican Green Initiative", respectively.

**Merger with LKYSPP and move to Cluny Road**

IPS became an autonomous research centre at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP). Welcoming the merger, then Dean of LKYSPP, Professor Kishore Mahbubani said, "We are confident that IPS' strength and experience as a think tank would significantly augment our School's research capabilities, particularly in Singapore-based research. It is a very good strategic fit for both institutions." One year later, IPS moved its office from Heng Mui Keng Terrace to the NUS Bukit Timah Campus.

2008

**Singapore Perspectives 2008 and IPS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of Singapore Perspectives, titled "Singapore Futures, Scenarios for the Next Generation" aimed to map out several potential scenarios for a generation ahead. Speakers included the late Minister Mentor Mr Lee Kuan Yew and then Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr George Yeo. 2008 also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the establishment of IPS.

2012

**Prism**

A one-year large scale multi-format exercise that engaged different groups of society on the question "How does Singapore wish to be governed in 2022?" Participants of Prism and the government's subsequent Our Singapore Conversation dialogues would note significant similarities between how both exercises were conducted.

**Images:** (Above, from left to right) 2007 Nobel Laureate Lectures with Prof Muhammad Yunus; Minister Mentor Mr Lee Kuan Yew at the Singapore Perspectives 2008.



2013

**IPS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Establishment of IPS Social Lab**

IPS celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. The occasion was marked by the announcement of the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore and the establishment of the IPS Social Lab.

IPS Social Lab's mandate is to conduct research on social perceptions, attitudes and behaviours in Singapore, using the most robust standards in survey methodology and statistical analyses.

2014

**Inaugural S R Nathan Fellowship Lecture Series**

IPS set up the S R Nathan Fellowship for the Study of Singapore to recognise former President Mr S R Nathan's contribution to public service. It aims to fund research and promote public awareness and discourse on issues of critical national interest for Singapore. Mr Ho Kwon Ping was appointed the first S R Nathan Fellow in 2014 and delivered a total of five lectures during his appointment.

2015

**SG50+**

In 2015, IPS held the "Singapore at 50: What Lies Ahead?" (SG50+) conference to celebrate 50 years of Singapore's independence as well as the National University of Singapore's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It covered four major topics that are pertinent to Singapore's future: geopolitics, governance, the economy, and Singapore's position as a city. Speakers included Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong, and former British Prime Minister Sir John Major.

**Launch of Singapore Chronicles**

To commemorate SG50, IPS and Straits Times Press jointly launched the *Singapore Chronicles* series in 2015. This 50-volume series seeks to record, explain and offer insights into what makes Singapore, Singapore. In December 2015, the first 10 volumes of *Singapore Chronicles* were unveiled by Minister for Finance Mr Heng Swee Keat at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. 35 volumes have been published to date.

**Images:** (Above, from left to right) Mr Janadas Devan, Mr S R Nathan and Mr Ho Kwon Ping at the Inaugural S R Nathan Fellowship lecture series; Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong at the "Singapore at 50: What Lies Ahead?" (SG50+) Opening Dinner in 2015, with Washington Post columnist and CNN host Mr Fareed Zakaria.

2017

**Asia Journalism Fellowship**

IPS took over the Asia Journalism Fellowship in 2017 from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at the Nanyang Technological University. The annual programme brings together seasoned journalists from varied backgrounds in Asia to live and work together in Singapore for three months.

2018

**Reorganisation of IPS**

To promote greater collaboration and more cross-cutting research work in IPS, its previous five research clusters – arts, culture, and media; economics and business; demography and family; governance and politics; and society and identity – were replaced with four programmes. Researchers from the clusters now belong to one of the three research departments, namely, Government & Economy, Society & Culture, or IPS Social Lab, and work on projects under all four research programmes.

**Inaugural IPS Community Forum 2018, "Here Comes Everybody, and All Can Contribute!"**

The forum, the first of its kind in Singapore, brought together over 200 members from the people sector, representing more than 30 non-profit and voluntary welfare organisations, to address social needs in Singapore. Its objectives were to bring together groups who normally work separately, to share information, brainstorm ideas, pool resources, and raise public awareness on new initiatives to serve communities in Singapore. The forum showcased the use of new IT platforms to promote social collaboration.

**IPS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

IPS will mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Pre-Conference Dinner, followed by a full-day conference for Singaporeans to discuss social, political, and economic developments that may adversely affect our social fabric and unity, and what we can do to strengthen the bonds among us. Titled "Diversities: New and Old", it will feature leaders and experts in the public, private, and people sectors.

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Mr Hsuan Owyang (fourth from right) with members of the IPS Board of Governors

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Convenor**

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Professor Tommy Koh (fourth from right) with members of the IPS Board of Governors

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**Mr Janadas Devan**  
Director  
(since 2011)



**Celebrating IPS' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Former and current directors of IPS on stage with former President Mr S R Nathan, IPS Patron Mr Goh Chok Tong, and Professor Wang Gungwu, then Chairman of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Governing Board

THE  
Brighter  
Side

The achievements of the Institute would not have been possible without the dedication and support of its staff and leaders over the years.

# Our People

**Goh Chok Tong**  
Founding Patron

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**Janadas Devan**  
Director

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**Cai Dewei**  
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**Ron Toh**  
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**Er Kea Wee**  
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**Oh Zi Qi**  
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For information on the work of each member of our staff, please visit [lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips/about-us/staff-directory](http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips/about-us/staff-directory)

Information correct as of 13 September 2018



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Colleagues not in the photos earlier (From left to right): Michelle, Arun, Ron, Chween Tah, Alex, Eileen, Alice

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