

**Closed-Door Discussion
on
Understanding LGBTQ Youth Mental Health and the Role of Schools**

Wednesday, 28 April 2021
Seminar Room 1-2, Li Ka Shing Building
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore (*Bukit Timah Campus*)

PROGRAMME

2.15 pm – 2.30 pm

Registration

2.30 pm – 2.40 pm

Welcome Remarks

Dr Jacqueline Tilley
Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

2.40 pm – 3.45 pm

Presentations

Moderator

Dr Jacqueline Tilley

Speakers

Dr Soon Siew Peng
Clinical Psychologist &
Honorary Secretary
Singapore Psychological Society

Mr Leow Yangfa
Executive Director
Oogachaga

Mr Leo Hee Khian
Founder & Director
Wonderfully Made

Question and Answer Session

3.45 pm – 4.45 pm

Discussion

4.45 pm – 5.00 pm

Summary Remarks

5.00 pm

End

.....

Last modified on 21 April 2021

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

LEO Hee Khian spearheaded the development of cyber wellness counselling at TOUCH Community Services (TCS) in 2005. TCS is the pioneer of cyber wellness education in Singapore to the social and education sectors. Subsequently, Mr Leo joined Raffles Institution as their School Advisor, counselling mainly students, but also advising parents and teachers frequently on issues relating to mental health and sexuality. He is author of book *Sexuality Education — Unshakable Foundations* as well as a registered Screamfree parenting coach. An active learner and social advocate, Mr Leo walks with LGBTQ persons, houses single mothers and children, as well as helps the poor. With his experiences both professionally and on the ground, along with his philosophical leanings, Mr Leo is a practitioner versed in a range of topics including sexuality; cyber wellness; mental health; social justice and world views. He founded Wonderfully Made, a counselling and educational consultancy.

LEOW Yangfa is the executive director of Oogachaga, Singapore's most established, community-based, professional non-profit organisation working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer and gender-diverse (LGBTQ+) individuals, couples and families.

Mr Leow has professional experience in Singapore's non-profit sector, in social service planning, development and evaluation at the National Council of Social Service (1999–2005), as well as suicide prevention, intervention and training at the Samaritans of Singapore (2005–2013). His current role in Oogachaga includes providing professional counselling for clients, volunteer management, community and corporate engagement, fundraising, publicity and conducting professional training workshops.

He is a registered social worker with the Social Work Accreditation and Advisory Board, with a Graduate Diploma in Social Work (National University of Singapore) and Bachelor's Degree in Social Policy (Royal Holloway, University of London). He is a member of Singapore Association of Social Workers and life member of Action for AIDS.

SOON Siew Peng (BA[Hons], MPsych, PhD in Clinical Psychology) started her psychology career in Melbourne, Australia, before relocating to Singapore in 2016. She has had a decade of experience across both countries, including clinical practice at public and private hospitals, education/teaching, supervision, and research. Further, she contributes to the profession of psychology in her role as Honorary Secretary of the Singapore Psychological Society.

In recent years, Dr Soon practised as a Senior Clinical Psychologist in a public/restructured hospital in Singapore, before transiting into her current role in private practice. In the course of providing therapy and interventions for a wide range of conditions, Dr Soon has supported many LGBTQ+ youth who present with mental health issues and grapple with difficulties navigating familial, social and school systems in the context of their sexuality or gender identity.

Jacqueline TILLEY is Research Fellow in the Society and Culture Department at the Institute of Policy Studies. She is a mental health researcher whose work focuses on how sociocultural context, such as social class, immigration, ethnicity, and minority status, impacts risk and resilience in youth and their families.

Dr Tilley has a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Southern California and is a US-licensed psychologist. She received clinical and research training at the Mind-Body Clinical Research Center at Stony Brook University, Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, and the Center for Psychotherapy Research at the University of Pennsylvania. She has presented her work at major conferences in the United States and Europe, and has published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Child Development*, the *Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology*, and the *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*.