



## IPS FORUM ON SINGAPOREANS' POLITICAL ATTITUDES

Friday, 27 September 2024

Manasseh Meyer Seminar Room 3-1  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
National University of Singapore (*Bukit Timah Campus*)

### PROGRAMME

8.30 am – 9.00 am	Registration
9.00 am – 9.15 am	<b>Welcome Remarks – Setting the Scene</b>  Dr Gillian Koh Senior Research Fellow Institute of Policy Studies
9.15 am – 10.45 am	<b>Session One - The IPS Surveys – Trends in the Data</b>  <b>Moderator</b> Dr Tan Ern Ser Adjunct Principal Research Fellow and Academic Adviser IPS Social Lab Institute of Policy Studies National University of Singapore  <b>Speaker</b> Dr Gillian Koh  <b>Discussant</b> Associate Professor Eugene Tan Yong Pung How School of Law Singapore Management University
	<b>Discussion</b>
10.45 am – 11.00 am	<b>Break</b>
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	<b>Session Two - Other Views on Singaporean Voters</b>  <b>Moderator</b> Dr Teo Kay Key Research Fellow Institute of Policy Studies National University of Singapore

### **Speakers**

Dr Lam Peng Er  
Principal Research Fellow  
East Asian Institute  
National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah  
Public Policy and Global Affairs Program  
Nanyang Technological University

Associate Professor Natalie Pang  
Head  
Department of Communications and New Media  
National University of Singapore

### **Discussion**

12.30 pm

**End and Networking Lunch**

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### **BIOGRAPHIES (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)**



**Gillian KOH** is Senior Research Fellow in the Governance and Economy Department of the Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore.

Dr Koh's research interests are in the areas of party and electoral politics, the development of civil society, state-society relations, state governance, and citizen engagement in Singapore. Among other things, she conducts surveys on Singaporeans' political attitudes, sense of identity, rootedness and resilience and has also helped several IPS scenario-planning projects.

Dr Koh has published and co-published articles on civil society and political development in Singapore. She was co-editor of *Migration and Integration in Singapore: Policies and Practice* (2015) as well as *State-Society Relations in Singapore* (2000) and *Civil Society and the State in Singapore* (2017) and co-author of *Singapore Chronicles: Civil Society* (2016) as well as *Social Capital in Singapore. The Power of Network Diversity* (2021).

She was Deputy Director (Research) at the Institute from 2016 to 2023. She joined the Institute after receiving a Master of Arts degree in Third World Studies and a doctoral degree in

Sociological Studies from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom in 1989 and 1995 respectively.



**TAN Ern Ser** is Adjunct Principal Research Fellow and Academic Adviser, Social Lab, at the Institute of Policy Studies. He chairs the Department Ethics Review Committee (DERC) and is Editorial Board member of the IPS Exchange Series.

He was Head, IPS Social Lab; Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Academic Convener, Singapore Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; and Chief, Singapore Studies, at the National University of Singapore.

Ern Ser received his PhD in Sociology from Cornell University, USA. He is author of “Does Class Matter?” (2004, World Scientific), “Class and Social Orientations” (2015, IPS), “Public Housing and Social Mixing” (2020, UN-Habitat); and co-author of “More than just a roof over one’s head: lifestyle diversity and dynamics in Singapore public housing” (2019, Routledge), “Social Capital in Singapore” (2021, Routledge), and “Singapore: An Outlier” (2023, National Taiwan University Press).

Dr Tan is principal investigator of the Singapore Panel Study on Social Dynamics (SPSSD), and co-investigator of the Asian Barometer-Singapore survey series as well as the Singapore Post-General Election survey series at the Institute of Policy Studies.

Dr Tan has served as research consultant to several government ministries, Research Adviser, Ministry of Social and Family Development, and a member of the Families for Life Council. He chairs the Research Advisory Panel, HDB; and is a member and former Chairman of the Programme Advisory Committee for Sociology and the Social Science Core, SUSS. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace (JP) in 2013.



**Eugene K.B. TAN** is Associate Professor of Law at the Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University (SMU), where he has been on the faculty since 2001. At the SMU, Assoc. Prof. Tan teaches at the law, business, and social sciences schools at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive development levels. He was an adjunct faculty at the

Singapore University of Technology and Design between 2015 and 2019, and a visiting professor at South Korea's Yonsei University Law School (summer terms of 2013 and 2014).

Assoc. Prof. Tan's inter-disciplinary research interests include constitutional and administrative law, law and public policy, the government and politics of Singapore, the regulation of ethnic conflict, business ethics and corporate responsibility, and the ethical and policy framework on artificial intelligence. He has published numerous book chapters, journal articles, and op-eds in his areas of research interest. His scholarly works and parliamentary speeches have been cited in the Singapore High Court and the Court of Appeal.

An active analyst in the local and international media on Singapore politics, government and society, he served as a Nominated Member of Parliament in Singapore's 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament between February 2012 and August 2014. He was educated at the National University of Singapore, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Stanford University, where he was a Fulbright Fellow.



**TEO Kay Key** is Research Fellow at IPS Social Lab at the Institute of Policy Studies. She has a PhD in Political Science from the National University of Singapore. Her research interests are in political and social attitudes, public opinion, voting behavior, and Singapore society. She is interested in examining these topics using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods. Her current projects examine a myriad of issues in Singapore, including attitudes towards the family, social norms and values, and national identity.

Prior to joining IPS, Dr Teo worked in the civil service for nearly 3 years doing strategic planning, training, and policy work.

She also has a Master's degree in Political Behaviour from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom and a Bachelor's in Social Science from the Singapore Management University.



**LAM Peng Er** is a Principal Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. He obtained his PhD at Columbia University.

Dr Lam's articles have appeared in *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, *Asian Affairs*, *Japan Forum*, and *Government and Opposition: An International Journal of Comparative Politics*. Dr Lam's books include the single-authored monograph, *Japan's Peace Building Diplomacy in Asia: Searching for an Active Political Role* (Routledge, 2009) and *Green Politics in Japan* (Routledge, 1999), as well as edited and co-edited volumes, *Engaging North Korea* (Routledge, 2025), *South Korea's New Southern Policy: A Middle Power's International Relations with Southeast Asia and India* (Routledge 2023), *Contemporary Korea-Southeast Asian Relations: Bilateral and Multilateral* (Routledge, 2022), *Japan's Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century: Continuity and Change* (Lexington Books, 2020), *China-Japan Relations in the 21st Century: Antagonism Despite Interdependency* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), *Japan's Relations with Southeast Asia: The Fukuda Doctrine and Beyond* (Routledge, 2013), and *Japan's Relations with China: Facing a Rising Power* (Routledge, 2006). He is the editor-in-chief of the *East Asian Policy: An International Quarterly* (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore) and the executive editor of the *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding* (a journal of the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University).

Dr Lam is Singapore country coordinator for NEAT (Network of East Asian Think Tanks) and NACT (Network of ASEAN China Think Tanks). He is also heads the Korea Centre at the East Asian Institute.



**WALID Jumblatt Abdullah** is an Associate Professor at the Public Policy and Global Affairs Program at Nanyang Technological University. He is the author of *Islam in a Secular State: Muslim Activism in Singapore*, published by Amsterdam University Press in 2021. He is also the host of *Teh Tarik With Walid*, an online show where he hosts politicians and political influencers, discussing local politics.



Associate Professor Natalie Pang is Head of the Department of Communications and New Media as well as Principal Investigator at the Centre for Trusted Internet and Community, all at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She is also NUS' University Librarian.

Assoc. Prof. Pang's research lies at the intersection of technology and society, and her research projects are organised under the themes of digital citizenship, digital equity and well-being, and digital humanities. She has led external research grants worth over two million dollars in total in these projects. She incorporates mixed methods in her research, including digital methods as well as survey methodologies. She is also experienced in longitudinal panel studies.

She has authored and co-authored over 40 journal articles and over 50 conference papers, book chapters, commentaries and encyclopedia entries. She has also worked on translation research in the form of policy papers and reports for public agencies in Singapore as well as international tech firms and forums, including Mozilla Foundation, UNESCO and the Internet Governance Forum.

As Vice President of the Singapore Heritage Society, Assoc. Prof. Pang has an abiding interest in heritage and the role of civil society in shaping the urban environments of Asian cities.

Assoc. Prof. Pang has a MSc in Information Science, School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University and a PhD from the Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University, Australia, 2009.

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