

## Forum on Race and Racism in Singapore

Friday, 25 June 2021  
Online via Zoom

### PROGRAMME

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm

#### Opening Speech & Dialogue with Minister

Mr Lawrence Wong  
Minister for Finance

#### Moderator

Dr Shashi Jayakumar  
Senior Fellow &  
Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security  
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

4.00 pm – 4.05 pm

#### Break

4.05 pm – 5.30 pm

#### Panel Discussion

#### Moderator

Professor Paulin Straughan  
Dean of Students &  
Professor of Sociology (Practice)  
School of Social Sciences  
Singapore Management University

#### Speakers

Associate Professor Elmie Nekmat  
Department of Communications and New Media  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Daniel Goh  
Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
National University of Singapore

Dr Laavanya Kathiravelu  
Assistant Professor  
School of Social Sciences  
College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences  
Nanyang Technological University

Mr Goh Sin Teck  
Editor  
*Lianhe Zaobao*  
Singapore Press Holdings

**Question-and-Answer Session**

5.30 pm

**End**

*Last modified on 23 June 2021*



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**ELMIE Nekmat** is Associate Professor and Deputy Head at the Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is concurrently a Principal Investigator for the Centre for Trusted Internet and Community (CTIC) and Research Associate at the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) in NUS. Dr Elmie specialises in media effects research, focused on the social psychological processes and effects of source and (mis)information evaluation on civic engagement and expression, and strategic communication in social networked computer-mediated environments.

**Daniel GOH** is Associate Professor of Sociology at National University of Singapore. He specialises in comparative-historical sociology and studies state formation, race and multiculturalism, urbanisms, and religion. His edited books include *Race and Multiculturalism in Malaysia and Singapore* (2009), *Worlding Multiculturalisms: The Politics of Inter-Asian Dwelling* (2015), *Precarious Belongings: Affect and Nationalism in Asia* (2017), *Urban Asias: Essays on Futurity Past and Present* (2018) and *Regulating Religion in Asia* (2019). His papers and book chapters can be found at [www.danielpsgoh.com](http://www.danielpsgoh.com). He was also a Workers' Party Non-constituency Member of Parliament in the 13<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Singapore, 2016-2020, but has retired from political service.

**GOH Sin Teck** joined Singapore Press Holdings' Chinese flagship paper, *Lianhe Zaobao*, in 1987 upon graduating from National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, working his way up from a junior crime reporter to now Editor of *Lianhe Zaobao* and *Lianhe Wanbao*. He has served in various committees including Housing and Development Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Public Transport Council, National Integration Council and The Charity Council etc. At present, he is a member of Board of Trustees of Nanyang Technological University.

**Shashi JAYAKUMAR** has been the Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) since April 2015, and Executive Coordinator, Future Issues and Technology, since August 2017. Dr Jayakumar was educated at Oxford University where he studied History (BA 1997, DPhil, 2001). He was a member of the Singapore Administrative Service from 2002 to 2017. During this time, he was posted to various Ministries, including the Ministries of Defence, Manpower, Information and the Arts, and Community Development, Youth and Sports. He was from August 2011 to July 2014 a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His research and publications span a range of interests, including extremism, disinformation, social resilience, and cyber. Dr Jayakumar is also Singapore's representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) for the term 2019 to 2021.

**LAAVANYA Kathiravelu** is Assistant Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Her research sits at the intersections of international migration, race and ethnic studies and contemporary urban diversity, particularly in Asia and the Persian Gulf. Her first book was *Migrant Dubai* (Palgrave, 2016), which interrogated the experiences of low-wage migrant workers in the Emirate of Dubai. She has also published widely on issues of race and ethnicity, and migration in Singapore. Prior to joining NTU, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. She was also a Fung Fellow at Princeton University between 2015 and 2016. In 2019, she was recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Fellowship (SSHRC). Dr Laavanya is a board member of the migrant organisation, HOME. In 2022, she will be a Fulbright Fellow at the City University of New York.

**Paulin STRAUGHAN** is Professor of Sociology and Dean of Students at Singapore Management University. Her research interests center around sociology of family and medical sociology. She was a Nominated Member of Parliament from 2009 to 2011, during which she advocated for work-life balance and a more pro-family social environment. Her community involvement includes serving on both the Child and Youth Health Task Force and the Infectious Disease Research Advisory Group at the Ministry of Health. She has been awarded multiple Teaching Excellence Awards from the National University of Singapore during her career in education and also received The Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in recognition of her work in 2010.

**Lawrence WONG** is the Minister for Finance of Singapore. He is also the Deputy Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. He chairs the Singapore Labour Foundation, and is a member of the GIC Board, Research Innovation and Enterprise Council and the National Research Foundation Board. Mr Wong began his career as a civil servant, and his portfolio included Chief Executive of the Energy Market Authority and the Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. He was elected a Member of Parliament in May 2011 and subsequently held positions in the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Communications and Information, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and Ministry of National Development.

Mr Wong obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor respectively. He also holds a Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.