
SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES 2010

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The Third Phase of Singapore's Multiculturalism

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1. Melting pot, 1960s-70s
2. Mosaic, 1980s-90s
3. Multiculturalism, 2000s-

1. Melting pot, 1960s-70s



- “let us visualise Malay, Chinese and Indian cultures as self-contained circles. But these circles are not separate. They overlap. The areas where they overlap can be described as areas of Malayan culture because they consist of cultural beliefs and practices which are held in common. In my view this overlapping areas is far larger than we think and is steadily being enlarged” (S. Rajaratnam, 1960)

2. Mosaic, 1980s-90s



- “no group of people can jettison their past, embrace another culture, and survive intact. ... We should therefore ... retain our own heritages, but examine them for values which need to be modified, and scrutinise foreign traditions for ideas which can be incorporated, but do so cautiously. Our roots are important. We should not be root-bound, but neither should we abandon our roots. They anchor us, and will help us to grow.” (Lee Hsien Loong, 1989)

3. Multiculturalism, 2000s



- “no one can claim to belong to a separate and distinct group or race. One can appreciate and understand much of one’s own heritage. But within every individual there also exist elements and traits reflecting the larger society. ... When I visit Komala Villas with my family and tuck into the vegetarian food, the crowd there is truly varied and Singaporean. While this food example may appear trivial it reflects what multiculturalism means in Singapore” (Yaacob Ibrahim, 2003)

Three phases of multiculturalism



A comparison

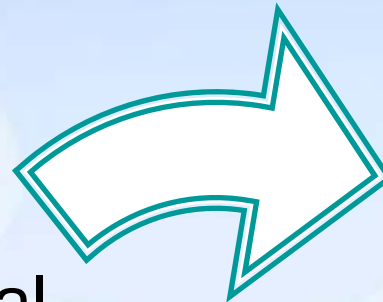


	<i>Melting pot</i>	<i>Mosaic</i>	<i>Multiculturalism</i>
Definition of race	as resource	as problem	as hyperlink
Keyword	harmony	heritage	hybridity
Key Institution	Community Centre	Ethnic Self-help Groups	Inter-Racial Confidence Circle
Activities	<i>cultural exchange</i>	<i>cultural conservation</i>	<i>dialogue?</i>

Colonial legacies, 1960s



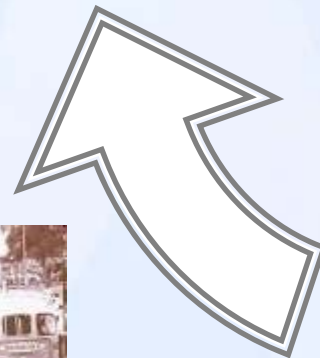
“how the wheel goes round,
who keeps it in motion,
and the part played by Ahmad,
Ah Seng and Ramasamy
in its revolution”



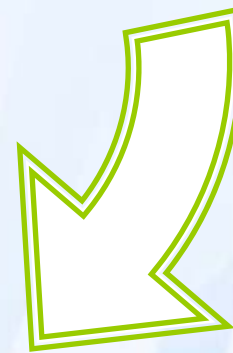
“Lazy Malays”
“Greedy Chinese”
“Naïve Tamils”

Colonial
racialism

Ethnic
stereotypes



Emotive
racism





Punggol North Racial & Religious Harmony Day Street Parade & Carnival 2007

榜鹄北种族与宗教和谐日
街头表演和嘉年华会 2007

Date: 15th July (Sunday) 5pm



Guest of Honour: Mr. Ho Poo Hoo Steen, Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports

Hon. MP: Mr. Lawrence Lee, MP for Punggol North (2002 & 2006) & Punggol East (2006)

Very Special Guest: Mr. Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Culture, Youth & Sports, Minister for Punggol CRT & Assistant Minister for Punggol CRT

**Special Guests:Mr. Zainul Abidin Yusoff, Minister for Punggol CRT & Assistant Minister for Punggol CRT
Mr. Charles Cheong, Minister for Punggol CRT & Assistant Minister for Punggol CRT
Mr. Michael Poonoo, MP for Punggol North (2002 & 2006) & Punggol East (2006)
H.E. Brian A. Fish-Arday, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad
Ms. Phyllis Aboon, Director of Public Affairs and Communications, Ethnic High Commission
Mr. Lee, Frank Kinck, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Korea**

Free Sand Arts, Bungie 500s & Face Changing Art (文舞) Performance @ Carnival!!!

Street Parade 街头表演
From 4.45 pm to 7.45 pm
Performing Arts in front of Bk 1792 & Bk 1784
Punggol North Multi-Racial Sport Plaza Complex
Punggol North Community Centre

Performer by PCC, Ms. 10th Playgroup, Lian & Vogue Dance Troupe & Punggol North
Punggol North Community Centre

Surf & Skate Plaza: (Weekend Openings)
Punggol North Community Centre, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

CRS Performance: (Sunday 10.00 am - 12.00 pm)
Punggol North Community Centre, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

CRS Performance: (Sunday 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm)
Punggol North Community Centre, 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Multi-Racial Street Parade (Punggol North) Performance
Punggol North Community Centre, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

CRS Performance: (Sunday 10.00 am - 12.00 pm)
Punggol North Community Centre, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm



Cultural exchange



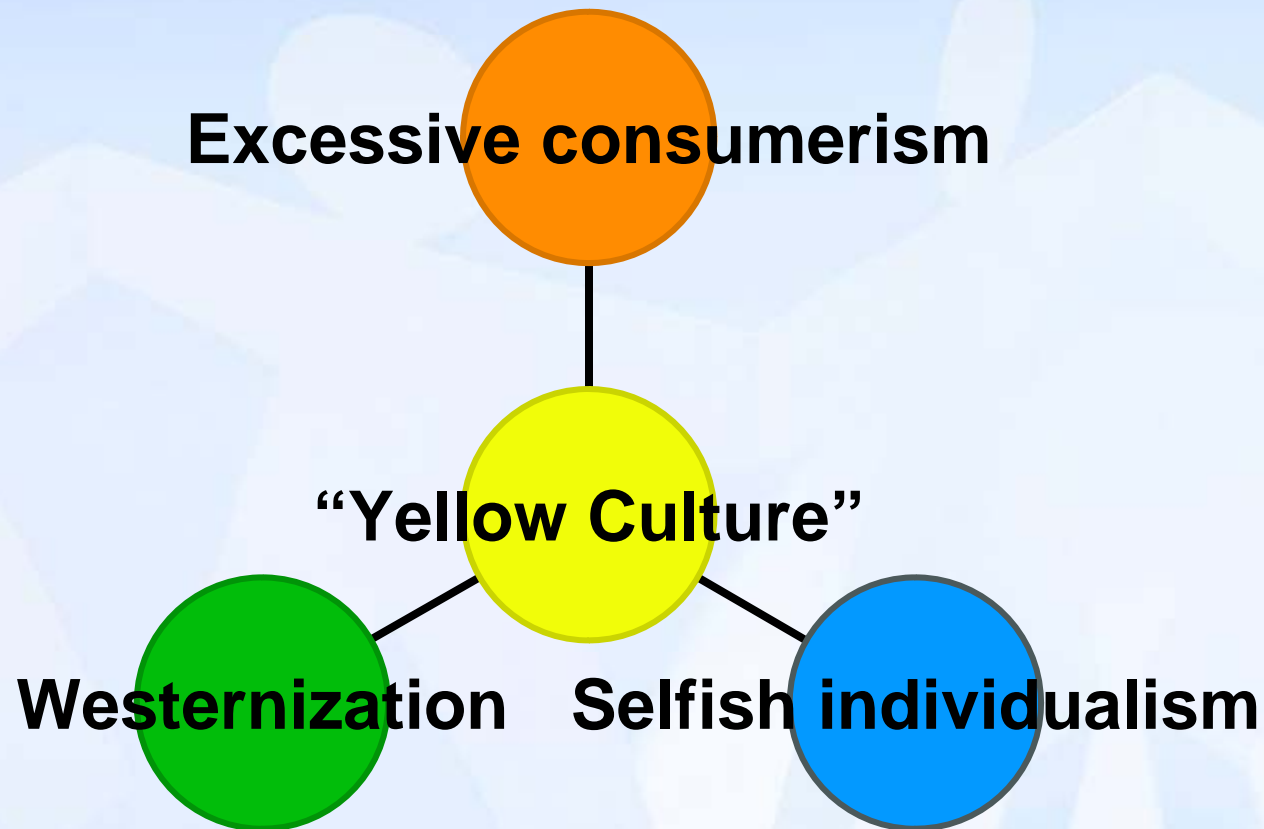
Postcolonial
multiracialism

Positive
stereotypes

Emotive
cultural exchange



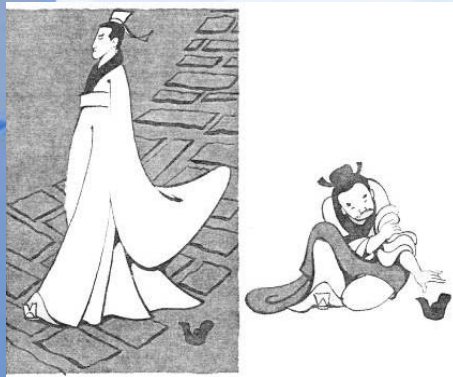
Cultural changes, 1980s



Cultural conservation



Pluralist consumerism



**Patronizing
multiracialism?**

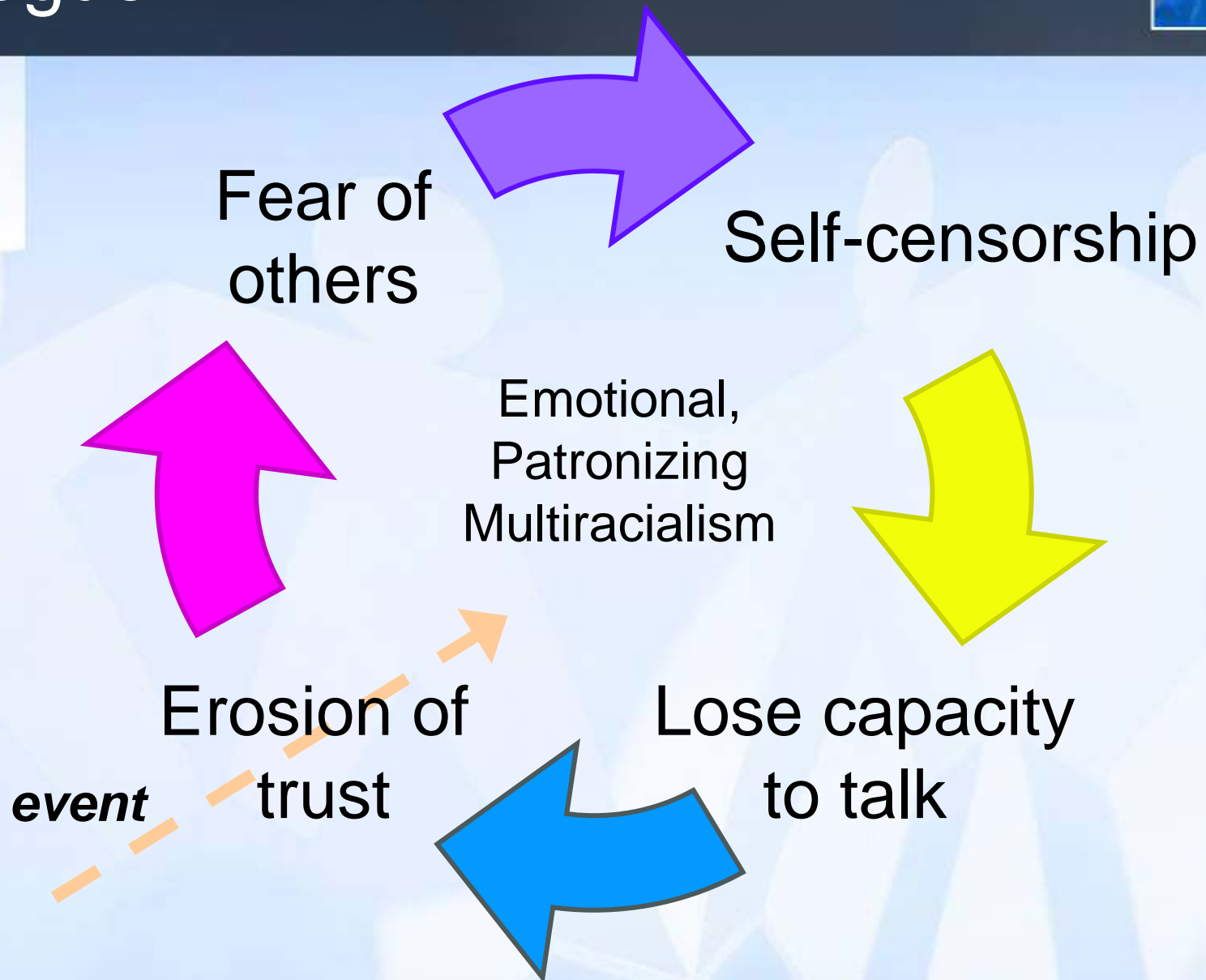


Asianization

**Hyper social
sensitivity**

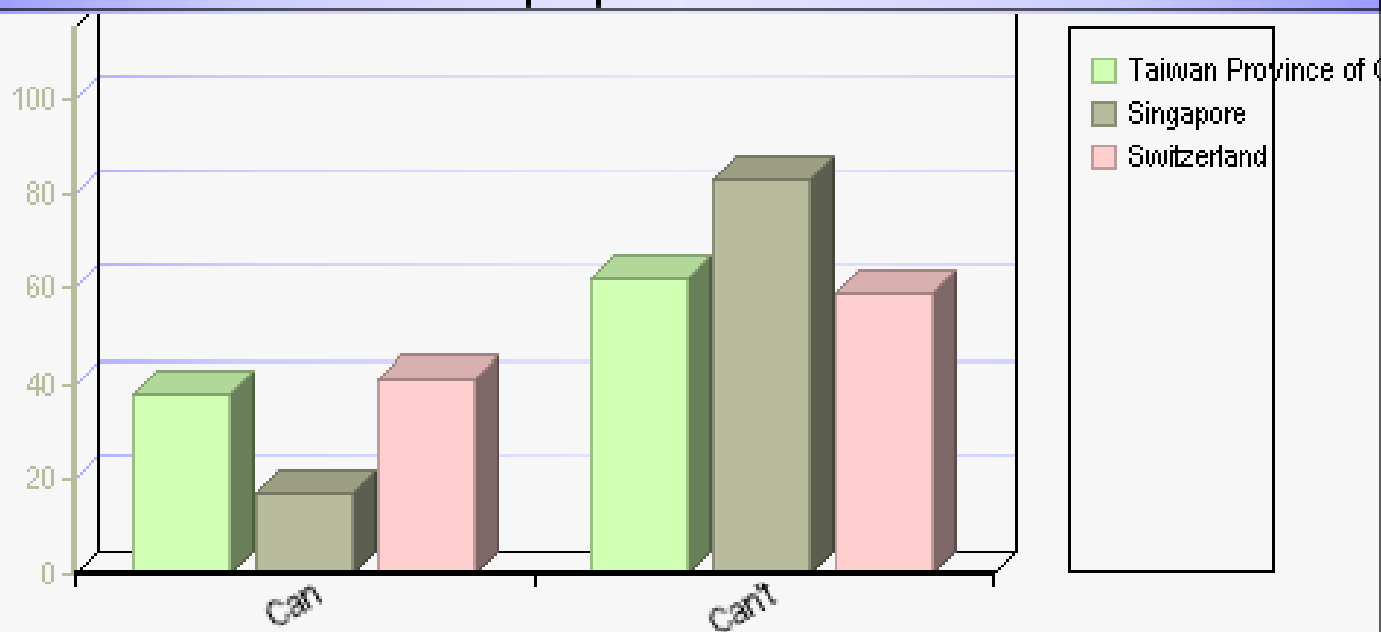


Dialogue?



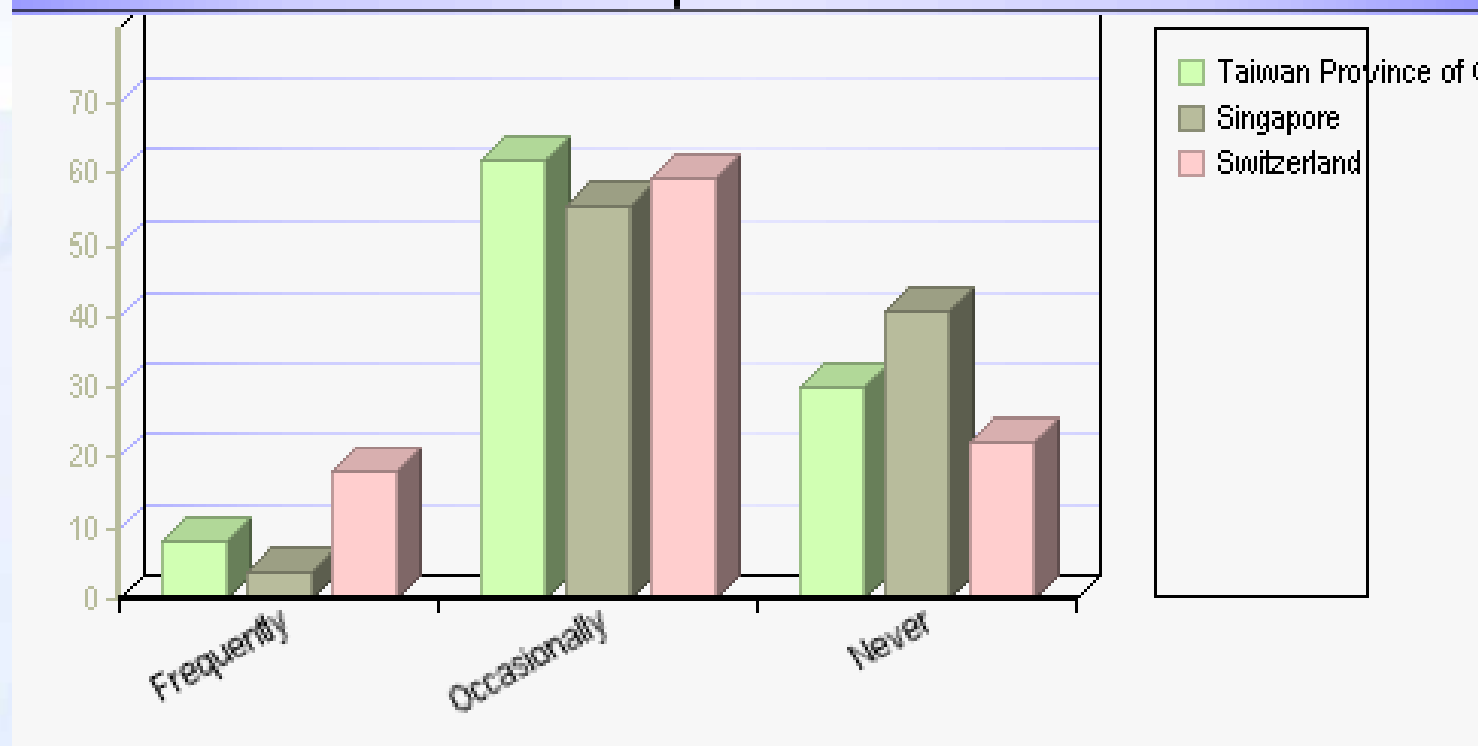


Most people can be trusted

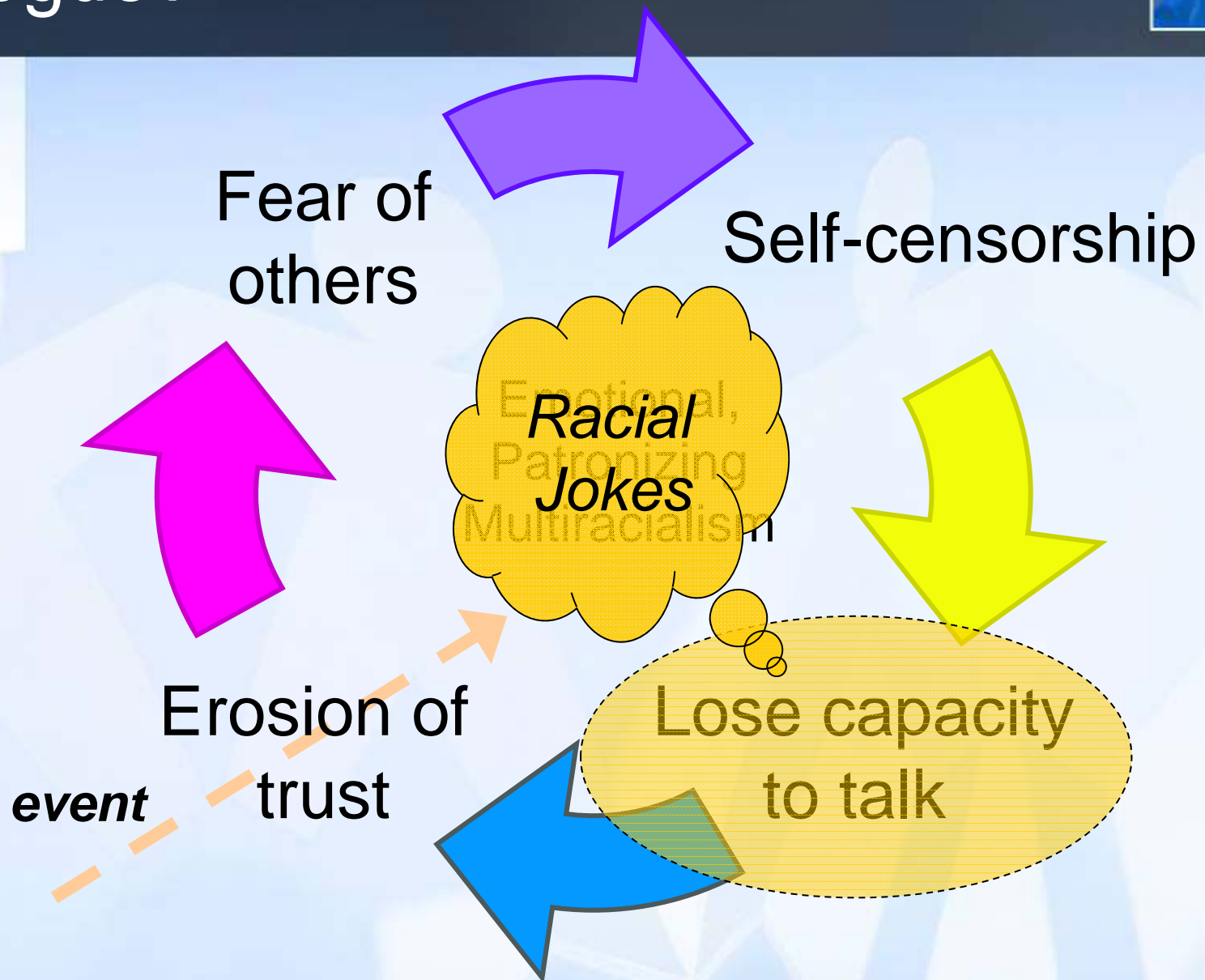




How often discusses political matters with friends



Dialogue?



Multicultural capacity



- **Facilitate**
- **Understanding**
- **Sensitive**
- **Ethnicize**
- **Relational**
- **Actional**
- **Consensual**
- **Evaluative**
- **Frame**
- **Therapy**
- **Patronizing**
- **Racialize**
- **Communal**
- **Going with the flow**
- **Suppression**
- **Judgmental**