# Conference on Integration

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**iPS** Institute of Policy Studies

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# Social Markers of Integration:
# What Matters Most to Singaporeans?

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# Preamble

- Approx. 25% increase in population, or 1 million people, from 2000 to 2010

- 26% felt that foreigners affected their personal economic well-being (POPS3, 2009)

- 52% felt that immigration was an important issue in the 2011 General Election (POPS4, 2011)

- Vote swing against the ruling party in 2011GE partly attributed to issue of immigration (Mr Lee Kuan Yew, ST, August 14, 2011)

# Population of Singapore

| | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Population ('000) | 2,074.5 | 2,413.9 | 3,047.1 | 4,027.9 | 5,076.7 |
| Citizens ('000) | 1,874.8 | 2,194.3 | 2,623.7 | 2,985.9 | 3,230.7 |
| PRs ('000) | 138.8 | 87.8 | 112.1 | 287.5 | 541.0 |
| Non-residents ('000) | 60.9 | 131.8 | 311.3 | 754.5 | 1,305.0 |
| Total Fertility Rate | 3.07 | 1.82 | 1.83 | 1.60 | 1.15 |

Source: Dept of Statistics. Census reports from 1970 - 2010

# Social Markers of Integration

- A study of citizens' opinions on what it means to be a Singaporean in the context of immigration

- In particular, what is the social construction of integration among Singapore citizens?

- What does becoming "one of us" means to local-born citizens and foreign-born citizens?

# Social Markers of Integration

- Different terms are used, and sometimes interchangeably, to describe the meaning of integration. E.g., integration and assimilation

- No definitive indicators of successful migration outcome, but differences in attitudes between natives and foreign-born citizens an influential source of psychological distress and tension (Santisteban & Mitrani, 2002)

# Research Objectives

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- Social construction of integration: "being accepted and viewed as a Singaporean like a local-born Singaporean"

- What are the shared values, ethos, behaviours that make up a Singapore citizen?

- Proxy indicator of social inclusiveness

# Research Objectives

- Local-born citizens: The "native" people of Singapore

- Foreign-born citizens: The immigrants to Singapore; born as a citizen of another country

- Perspectives of local-born versus foreign-born citizens; divergence shows potential fault lines

# Research Objectives

- "There are foreigners who become Singapore citizens. We call them 'immigrants'. I will be reading out a list of characteristics which some people feel are important for an immigrant to have before he/she is accepted and viewed as a 'Singaporean', like a local-born Singaporean is. As I read out each characteristic, please tell me whether you think it is important for the immigrant to have to be considered a 'Singaporean'."
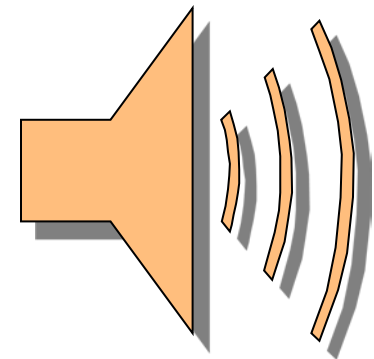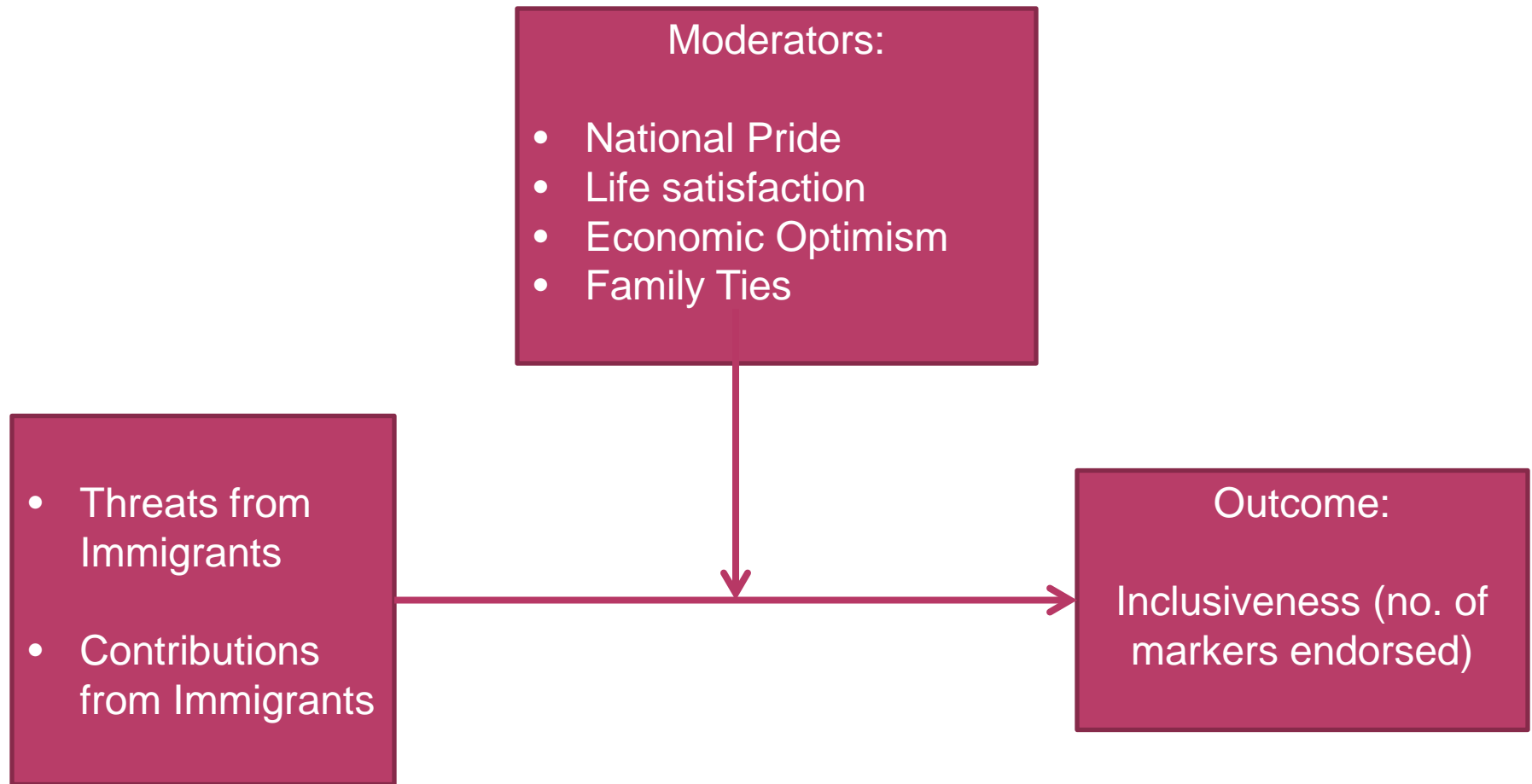
# Research Framework

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**Multicultural Hypothesis
(Berry, 1997; Berry, Kalin & Taylor, 1997;
Berry & Kalin, 1995)**

Socio-economic security moderates the impact of immigration and intercultural contact

Societies that are socially and economically secure will show greater inclusiveness towards foreign-born citizens

# Research Framework

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## Linear Hierarchical Regression Model

| Step Entry | Predictors | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Demographics | Age, Gender, Marital Status, Education, Income, Housing, Race | | | | | | |
| Main effects | Contributions (C)  Threats (T)  National Pride (NP)  Life Satisfaction (LS)  Family Ties (F)  Economic Optimism (E)  Birth citizenship (B) | | | | | | |
| 2-way interactions | B x NP  T x LS | B x LS  T x F | B x F  T x E | B x E  C x NP | B x C  C x F | B x T  C x E | T x NP  C x LS |
| 3-way interactions | B x T x NP  B x T x LS  B x C x E | | B x T x F  B x C x NP  B x C x LS | | B x T x E  B x C x F | | |

Main Predictors: Contributions, Threats

Moderators: National Pride, Life Satisfaction , Family Ties, Economic Optimism

Outcome: Social Markers of Integration

# Social Markers of Integration

1. Is gainfully employed
2. Belongs to one of Singapore's main ethnic groups (CMIO)
3. Has completed tertiary education
4. Has lived in Singapore for a period of time
5. Has retired or plans to retire in Singapore
6. Owns residential property in Singapore
7. Works for a government ministry or statutory board
8. Works for a Singapore-based company
9. Works in a field where there is a shortfall of talent in Singapore
10. Invests in or sets up a Singapore-based company
11. Completes National Service himself (for the men)
12. His/Her male child completes National Service
13. Participates in grassroots' activities (e.g. RC)
14. Participates in the work of local charity organizations or self-help groups
15. Participates in local politics (e.g. join a political party)
16. Marries a local-born Singaporean
17. Has a social circle comprising mostly local-born Singaporeans
18. Has children who are Singapore citizens
19. Enjoys 'typical' Singaporean past times
20. Lives in a HDB flat
21. Attended or attends government or government-aided schools (themselves or their children)
22. Able to speak conversational English
23. Able to speak a language of one of Singapore's main racial group
24. Able to speak Singlish
25. Respects multi-racial and multi-religious practices
26. Supports Singapore products and brands
27. Behaves like a 'Singaporean'
28. Gives up foreign cultural norms or behaviour
29. Gets on well with workplace colleagues
30. Gets on well with neighbours

# SURVEY METHODOLOGY

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- Quota sample, with race, age, and gender as parameters

- Door-to-door interview

- 20-30 minutes to complete

- $5 supermarket voucher as token of appreciation

# SURVEY METHODOLOGY

**Multi-stage Sampling**
1. Singaporeans only (local-born and foreign-born, naturalised citizens)
2. <u>N = 1,001 local-born citizens</u> and <u>N=1,000 foreign-born  citizens</u>

**Stage 1**
1. N=1,500 Singapore residents were first interviewed (SC + PR)
2. Resemble the key demographic profile of residents at large
3. Of the 1,500 residents, 1,275 of them SC. Of these SC, 1,001 (or 79%) are local-born citizens and the remaining 274 (21%) are foreign-born, naturalised citizens

**Stage 2**
1. Additional 726 foreign-born, naturalised citizens interviewed in Stage 2 (to top up 1,000)
2. These 726 foreign-born citizens resemble the key demographic profile of the 274 foreign-born citizens obtained in Stage 1.
3. The foreign-born citizens had became citizens of Singapore for an average of 13.39 years (ranging from 1 - 54 yrs), with a median of 10 years, i.e., half the foreign-born sample received their Singapore citizenship between 2000 and 2010 (time of survey).

# Stages of Data Analyses

# Stages of Data Analyses

Stage 1

- Percentage of endorsement, local-born versus foreign-born citizens

- Differences in % points

Stage 2

- Multivariate comparisons between local-born & foreign-born citizens, factor analyses, bivariate correlations

Stage 3

- Linear hierarchical regression models

## Top Five Important Characteristics

| Local-Born Citizens | Foreign-Born Citizens |
|---|---|
| 1. Respects multi-racial and multi-religious practices (87%) | 1. Respects multi-racial and multi-religious practices (76%) |
| 2. Gets on well with neighbours (81%) | 2. Gets on well with neighbours (59%) |
| 3. Is gainfully employed (78%) | 3. Belongs to one of Singapore's main ethnic groups (57%) |
| 4. Gets on well with workplace colleagues (75%) | 4. Is gainfully employed (%55) |
| 5. Able to speak conversational English (71%) | 5. Owns residential property in Singapore (55%) |

## Five Least Important Characteristics

| Local-Born Citizens | Foreign-Born Citizens |
|---|---|
| 1. Participates in local politics (11%) | 1. Gives up foreign cultural norms/ behaviour (4%) |
| 2. Gives up foreign cultural norms/ behaviour (13%) | 2. Participates in local politics (10%) |
| 3. Works for a government ministry/statutory board (18%) | 3. Behaves like a Singaporean (12%) |
| 4. Behaves like a Singaporean (21%) | 4. Enjoys 'typical' Singaporean pastimes (14%) |
| 5. Enjoys 'typical' Singaporean pastimes (22%) | 5. Participates in the work of local charity organisations or self-help groups (21%) |

# Areas of incongruence

| Items | Local-Born Citizens (%) | Foreign-Born Citizens (%) | Diff in % Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| His/Her male child completes National Service | 69 | 43 | 26 |
| Gets on well with workplace colleagues | 75 | 51 | 24 |
| Is gainfully employed | 78 | 55 | 23 |
| Works in a field where there is a shortfall of talent in S'pore | 51 | 29 | 22 |
| Gets on well with neighbours | 81 | 59 | 22 |
| Able to speak conversational English | 71 | 49 | 22 |
| Has lived in Singapore for a period of time | 70 | 49 | 21 |
| Has completed tertiary education | 56 | 37 | 19 |
| Has children who are Singapore citizens | 55 | 36 | 19 |

Local-born > Foreign-born for all; at least 50% endorsement among local-born sample

Note: Foreign-born, on average, endorsed fewer markers

## Table 4. Correlations between the Socio-Psychological Inventories (n=2,001)

| Inventories | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Social Markers of Integration | - | 0.27** | 0.05* | 0.21*** | 0.02 | -0.11*** | 0.39*** |
| 2. National Pride | | - | 0.25*** | 0.16*** | 0.31*** | 0.12*** | 0.03 |
| 3. Life Satisfaction | | | - | 0.16*** | 0.29*** | 0.20*** | -0.18*** |
| 4. Family Ties | | | | - | 0.12*** | 0.01 | 0.15*** |
| 5. Economic Optimism | | | | | - | 0.20*** | -0.15*** |
| 6. Contribution | | | | | | - | -0.35*** |
| 7. Threats | | | | | | | - |

*$p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

## Table 2. Psychometric Properties of the Instruments (n = 2,001)

| Variables | N | Cronbach's alpha | Mean (SD) | Range | Mean (SD) Local-Born (n=1,001) | Mean (SD) Foreign-Born (n=1,000) | Scalar mid-point |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Social Marker of Integration** | 27 | .86 | 11.73 (5.56) | 1.00 – 27.00 | 13.40 (5.60) | 10.06 (4.99) | 14 |
| Threats** | 8 | .90 | 22.93 (6.74) | 8.00 – 40.00 | 27.26 (5.44) | 18.59 (4.88) | 24 |
| Contributions** | 5 | .60 | 17.83 (2.89) | 7.00 – 25.00 | 16.86 (3.01) | 18.80 (2.40) | 15 |
| National Pride | 5 | .51 | 17.36 (2.68) | 6.00 – 25.00 | 17.29 (2.58) | 17.43 (2.77) | 5 |
| Family Ties* | 3 | .85 | 12.64 (1.47) | 3.00 – 15.00 | 12.74 (1.45) | 12.55 (1.49) | 9 |
| Economic Optimism** | 3 | .72 | 11.04 (1.94) | 3.00 – 15.00 | 10.67 (1.92) | 11.41 (1.89) | 9 |
| Life Satisfaction** | 5 | .82 | 17.71 (3.31) | 5.0 – 25.00 | 17.09 (3.48) | 18.34 (3.01) | 15 |

*$p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.001$; SD = Standard Deviation

Foreign-born group endorsed significantly fewer markers

# Factor Analysis

## F1: Positive Engagement
1. Gets on well with neighbours
2. Gets on well with workplace colleagues
3. Respects multiculturalism and multi-religious practices
4. Has retired or plans to retire in SG
5. Has lived in SG for a period of time

## F2: Economic Potential
1. Works in a field where there is a shortfall of talent in SG
2. Invests in or sets up a SG based company
3. Completed tertiary education
4. Is gainfully employed
5. Works for a SG based company

## F3: Rooted Settlement
1. Marries a local born S'porean
2. Has children who are SG citizens
3. Owns residential property in SG
4. Belongs to one of SG's main ethnic groups
5. Has a social circle comprising mostly local-born S'poreans

## F4: Language
1. Able to speak Singlish
2. Able to speak a language of one of SG's main racial group
3. Able to speak conversational English

## F5: Behavioural Assimilation
1. Behaves like a 'S'porean'
2. Supports SG products and brands
3. Enjoys 'typical' S'porean past times
4. Gives up foreign cultural norms or behaviours

## F6: Civic Participation
1. Participates in grassroots activities
2. Participates in the work of local charity organisations or self-help groups
3. Participates in local politics

## F7: National Service
1. Completes NS himself (for the men)
2. His/Her male child completes NS

**Local-born > foreign-born on all 7 factors; analysed as uni-dimensional**

# Linear Hierarchical Regression (Final Step)

| Significant Predictors | Unstandardised B Coefficients |
|---|---|
| Education | 0.53*** |
| Income | -0.78*** |
| Housing | 0.53*** |
| | |
| Group (Citizenship at Birth) ^ | -1.06** |
| National Pride | 0.43*** |
| Family Ties | 0.32* |
| Contribution | -0.17** |
| Threats | 0.15*** |
| | |
| Group x Contributions | 0.36*** |
| Group x Threats | 0.19*** |
| | |
| Group x Threats x Family Ties | 0.08* |
| Group x Contributions x National Pride | 0.10* |
| | |
| R2 | 0.31 |

F(38, 1798) = 20.91, p<.001

# Predictors of Social Markers (Proxy of Social Inclusiveness)

Greater inclusiveness associated with:

1. Foreign-born naturalised citizens
2. Less educated
3. Smaller housing type
4. Higher household income
5. Decreased national pride
6. Weaker family ties
7. Greater perceived contributions from immigrants
8. Decreased perceived threats from immigrants

Qualified by a pair of 2-way interactions and a pair of 3-way interactions involving Birth Citizenship, Threats, Contributions, Family Ties & National Pride

Among the local-born citizens, increased contribution from immigrants is associated with a more inclusive attitude.  Among the foreign-born citizens, the opposite is noted; increased contribution is linked to an exclusion orientation.



Figure 4: Birth Citizenship x Contribution
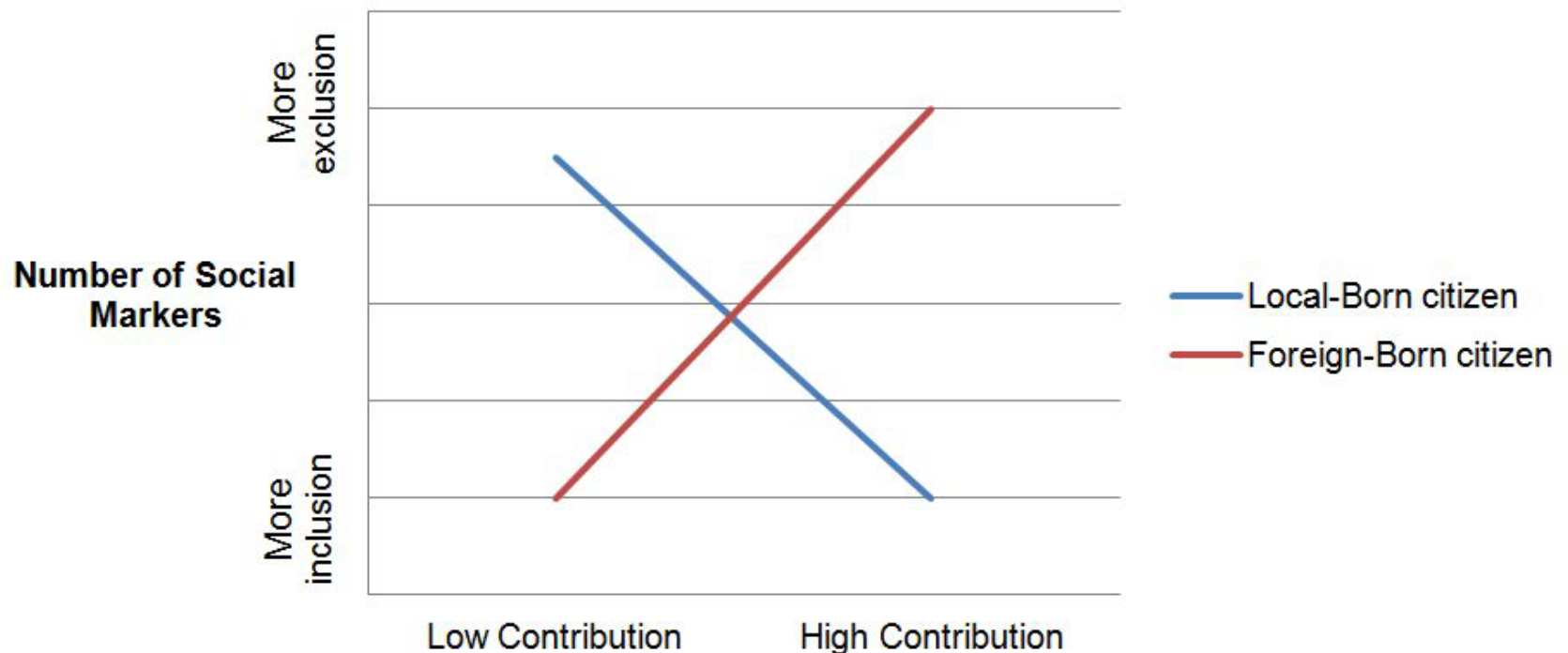
In both samples of citizens (i.e., local- & foreign-born), perceived threat from immigrants is associated with a more exclusion attitude. However, the relation between threat and attitude is statistically stronger among the foreign-born citizens, indicating that foreign-born citizens are more sensitive to the impact of immigration.

**Figure 5: Birth Citizenship x Threat**
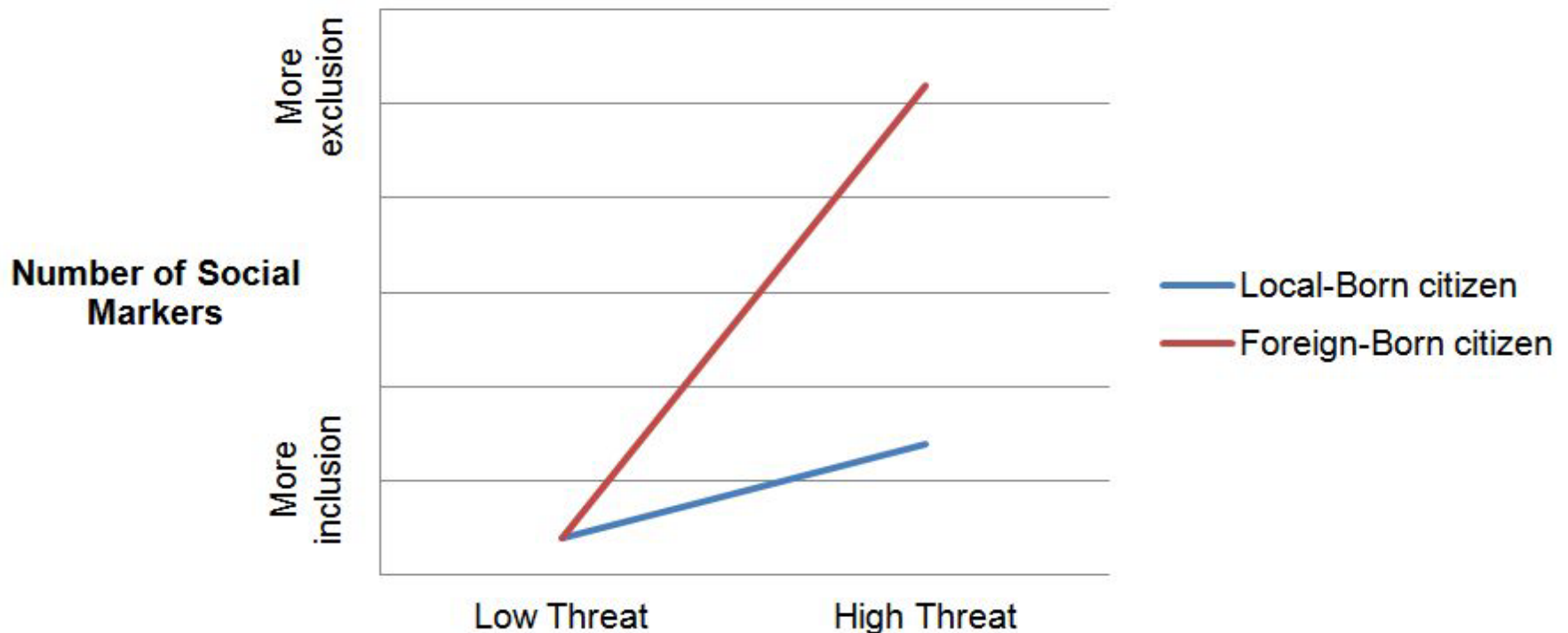
Among the foreign-born citizens, perceived threat from immigrants is generally associated with a more exclusion attitude. However, the relation between threat and attitude is statistically stronger among those who show strong as opposed to weak family ties, indicating that those with strong family bonding are more sensitive to the impact from immigration.

### Figure 6: Threat x Family Ties ( Foreign-Born Citizens only)
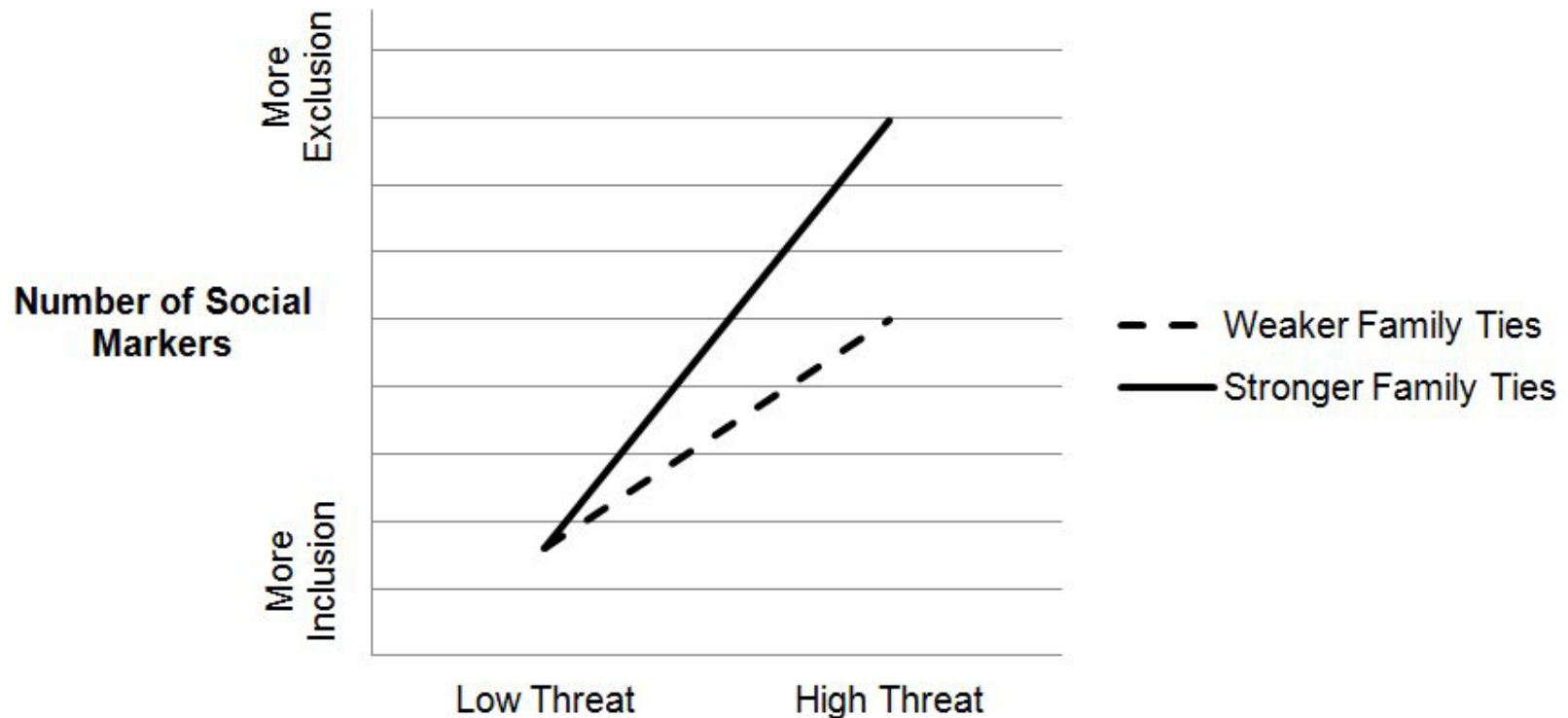
Among the foreign-born citizens, perceived contribution from immigrants is associated with an exclusion attitude among those with a strong as opposed to weak sense of national pride. The relation between contribution and attitude is statistically non-significant in the latter sub-group. The results indicate that foreign-born citizens who feel proud as a Singaporean adopt a more exclusion attitude in defining the meaning of integration.

**Figure 7: Interaction between Threat x National Pride ( Foreign-Born Citizens only)**
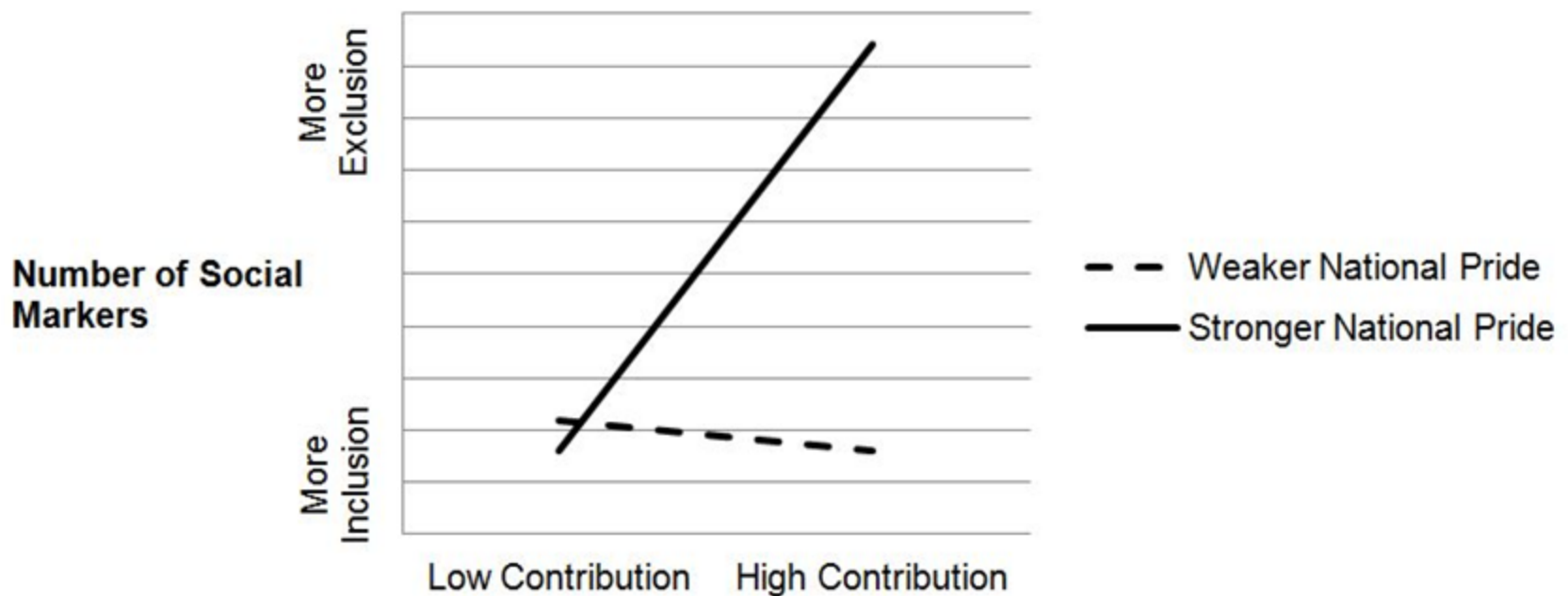
# Discussion

# Discussion

- Social Markers as a proxy measure of inclusiveness; illuminated on the potential social fractures

- <u>Areas of congruence</u>: Respect for multi-racial & multi-religious practices, <u>not</u> assimilation

- <u>Areas of incongruence</u>: NS (for children of immigrants), ability to speak conversational English

- Contains a functional, utilitarian view on integration, e.g., gainfully employed, employed in a field with a shortage of talent, and tertiary educated

# Discussion

- Integration, not assimilation

- Strong endorsement on items related to *Positive Engagement (F1)*; weak endorsement for items on *Behavioural Assimilation (F5)* and *Civic Participation (F6)*

- The purported mitigating effect of social and economic security (Multicultural Hypothesis) is mixed. Strength of family bonding linked to a less inclusive attitude

- Foreign-born citizens endorsed fewer social markers, i.e., more inclusive, but were more sensitive to the impact arising from immigration

# Policy Implications

- National Service (for male children of immigrants): an inclusive identity, but equally a sore point in the integration discourse. Finding is consistent with the 2010 REACH PSW report

- Focus on areas of incongruence.

- Avoid problematising immigration. Foreign-born, naturalised citizens seem to bear the brunt of the current tension

- Make the immigration system more transparent; periodical release of data on the profile of immigrants

# Thank You

# Appendix

# Variables by Age Groups

| Age | 20's ( N=300) | 30's ( N=416) | 40s ( N= 486) | 50's older ( N=799) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Social Markers of Integration | 12.27 ( 5.28) | 11.34  (5.35) b | 12.35 (5.74) a, c | 11.34 (5.60) d |
| Threats | 24.48 (6.61) a | 21.80 (6.38) b, d | 23.30 (6.83) c | 22.70 (6.80) b |
| Contribution | 17.25 (2.89) b | 17.83 (2.94) a | 17.92 (2.89) a | 17.98 (2.84) a |
| National Pride | 17.16 (2.62) | 17.34 (2.55) | 17.43 (2.69) | 17.39 (2.74) |
| Family Ties | 12.74 (1.45) | 12.64 (1.44) | 12.61 (1.48) | 12.62 (1.49) |
| Economic Optimism | 10.89 (1.79) | 11.11 (1.87) | 11.20 (1.96) | 10.95 (2.00) |
| Life Satisfaction | 17.34 (3.23) | 17.81 (3.15) | 17.63 (3.44) | 17.83 (3.33) |

Standard deviation in parentheses; statistical difference, a > b, c> d, at $p <.05$

# Variables by Race

| Race | Chinese (N=1579) | Malay (N=192) | Indian (N=161) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Social Markers of Integration | 11.40 (5.46) b | 13.39 (5.74) a | 12.93 (5.84) a |
| Threats | 22.58 (6.62) b | 26.33 (6.48) a | 23.20 (6.99) b |
| Contribution | 17.88 (2.81) a | 16.85 (3.20) b | 18.10 (3.24) a |
| National Pride | 17.24 (2.65) b | 17.60 (2.53) a, b | 18.13 (2.83) a |
| Family Ties | 12.58 (1.44) | 12.81 (1.39) | 12.83 (1.68) |
| Economic Optimism | 10.99 (1.97) | 10.99 (1.88) | 11.24 (1.78) |
| Life Satisfaction | 17.67 (3.31) | 17.20 (3.24) b | 18.16 (3.30) a |

Standard deviation in parentheses; statistical difference, a > b, at $p < .05$

# Variables by Income

| Income | $0-2K /mth ( N=288) | $2-5K /mth ( N=761) | $5-8K /mth ( N=454) | $8K or more (N=334) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Social Markers of Integration | 12.50 (5.34) a | 11.71 (5.57) a | 11.51 (5.59) | 10.54 (5.24) b |
| Threats | 25.20 (6.21) a | 22.65 (6.98) b | 22.22 (6.50) b, c | 21.41 (6.71) c |
| Contribution | 17.52 (2.67) b | 17.86 (2.94) | 17.95 (2.82) | 18.27 (2.86) a |
| National Pride | 17.34 (2.41) | 17.35 (2.80) | 17.52 (2.65) a | 16.99 (2.69) b |
| Family Ties | 12.55 (1.28) | 12.61 (1.45) | 12.72 (1.54) | 12.66 (1.59) |
| Economic Optimism | 10.77 (1.82) b | 10.93 (2.05) | 11.20 (1.80) a | 11.24 (1.96) a |
| Life Satisfaction | 17.20 (3.55) b | 18.03 (3.18) a | 17.53 (3.31) | 17.69 (3.24) |

Standard deviation in parentheses; statistical difference, a > b > c, at $p$ <.05

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# Variables by Housing

| Housing | 1-3 rm ( N=451) | 4 rm ( N= 710) | 5 rm and exec ( N=550) | Private ( N=290) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Social Markers of Integration | 11.14 (5.52) b | 11.92 (5.45) | 12.38 (5.52) a | 10.91 (5.75) b |
| Threats | 22.96 (6.68) a | 22.99 (6.71) a | 23.60 (6.73) a | 21.42 (6.72) b |
| Contribution | 17.86 (2.82) | 17.74 (2.93) | 17.70 (2.83) | 18.22 (2.97) |
| National Pride | 17.33 (2.74) | 17.56 (2.67) a | 17.28 (2.54) | 17.02 (2.78) b |
| Family Ties | 12.48 (1.55) b | 12.63 (1.36) | 12.74 (1.52) a | 12.72 (1.48) |
| Economic Optimism | 10.97 (2.02) | 11.04 (1.86) | 10.96 (1.89) | 11.24 (2.05) |
| Life Satisfaction | 17.1 (3.43) b | 17.97 (3.29) a | 17.70 (3.21) | 17.93 (3.25) a |

Standard deviation in parentheses; statistical difference, a > b, at $p < .05$

# Variables by Education

| Education | up till pri ( N=317) | up till sec (N= 906) | poly diploma ( N= 271) | degree and above ( N= 507) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Social Markers of Integration | 10.01 (5.10) c | 12.25 (5.69) a | 12.74 (5.31) a | 11.30 (5.43) b |
| Threats | 22.28 (6.85) c | 23.73 (6.58) a | 24.03 (6.46) a | 21.29 (6.77) c |
| Contribution | 18.15 (2.61) a | 17.70 (2.92) | 17.36 (3.14) b | 18.09 (2.82) a |
| National Pride | 17.25 (2.51) | 17.42 (2.70) | 17.80 (2.69) a | 17.06 (2.68) b |
| Family Ties | 12.59 (1.33) | 12.60 (1.49) | 12.73 (1.41) | 12.68 (1.54) |
| Economic Optimism | 10.77 (1.89) b | 11.05 (1.95) | 11.22 (1.93) a | 11.07 (1.93) |
| Life Satisfaction | 18.21 (2.98) a | 17.52 (3.41) b | 17.64 (3.23) | 17.76 (3.34) |

Standard deviation in parentheses; statistical difference, a > b > c, at $p < .05$

# Ranking of Characteristics (All)

| No. | Characteristic | Overall Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Respects multi-racial and multi-religious practices | 84.5 |
| 2 | Gets on well with neighbours | 76.0 |
| 3 | Is gainfully employed | 72.8 |
| 4 | Gets on well with workplace colleagues | 69.5 |
| 5 | Able to speak conversational English | 66.0 |
| 6 | Has lived in Singapore for a period of time | 65.2 |
| 7 | His/Her male child completes National Service | 63.1 |
| 8 | Completes National Service for himself (for the men) | 60.6 |
| 9 | Able to speak a language of one of Singapore's main racial group | 59.8 |
| 10 | Owns residential property in Singapore | 58.1 |
| 11 | Has completed tertiary education | 51.7 |
| 12 | Has children who are Singaporean citizens | 50.7 |
| 13 | Belongs to one of Singapore's main ethnic groups. | 53.9 |
| 14 | Has a social circle comprising of mostly local-born Singaporeans | 49.3 |
| 15 | Works in a field where there is a shortfall of talent in Singapore | 46.0 |

# Ranking of Characteristics (All)

| No. | Characteristic | Overall Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 16 | Has retired or plans to retire in Singapore | 47 |
| 17 | Attended or attends government or government-aided schools * | 43.9 |
| 18 | Marries a local-born Singaporean | 46.1 |
| 19 | Lives in a HDB flat * | 40.5 |
| 20 | Invests or sets up a Singapore-based company | 34.4 |
| 21 | Works for a Singapore-based company | 33.9 |
| 22 | Participates in the work of local charity organisations or self-help groups | 30.3 |
| 23 | Supports Singapore products and brands | 28.9 |
| 24 | Able to speak Singlish | 28.8 |
| 25 | Participates in grassroots' activities | 26.3 |
| 26 | Enjoys 'typical' Singaporean pastimes | 20.2 |
| 27 | Behaves like a 'Singaporean' | 18.9 |
| 28 | Works for a government ministry or statutory board * | 18.9 |
| 29 | Gives up foreign cultural norms or behaviour | 10.9 |
| 30 | Participates in local politics | 10.8 |

* Eliminated from composite anlaysis due to low factor-loadings

# Ranking of Characteristics

**(Immigrants who became Singaporean Citizens in the last 10 years, n = 513)**

| No. | Characteristic | Overall Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Respects multi-racial and multi-religious practices | 83 |
| 2 | Belongs to one of Singapore's main ethnic groups, that is, Chinese, Malay, Indian or Eurasian | 66.7 |
| 3 | Gets on well with neighbours | 63.2 |
| 4 | Gainfully employed | 62.8 |
| 5 | Owns residential property in Singapore | 60.4 |
| 6 | Lived in Singapore for a period of time | 58.5 |
| 7 | Gets on well with workplace colleagues | 58.1 |
| 8 | Able to speak conversational English | 55 |
| 9 | Marries a local-born Singaporean | 53.4 |
| 10 | Able to speak a language of one of Singapore's main racial group | 51.3 |
| 11 | Retired or plans to retire in Singapore | 46 |
| 12 | Completes National Service himself ( for the men) | 45.6 |
| 13 | Has a social circle comprising mostly local-born Singaporeans | 45 |

# Ranking of Characteristics

**(Immigrants who became Singaporean Citizens in the last 10 years, n = 513)**

| No. | Characteristic | Overall Percentage (%) |
|-----|----------------|------------------------|
| 14 | Lives in a HDB flat | 42.9 |
| 15 | Having completed tertiary education | 42.1 |
| 16 | His/Her male child completes National Service | 41.7 |
| 17 | Has children who are Singapore citizens | 41.3 |
| 18 | Attended or attends government or government-aided schools | 40.5 |
| 19 | Works in a field where there is a shortfall of talent in Singapore | 38.2 |
| 20 | Works for a Singapore-based company | 36.1 |
| 21 | Able to speak Singlish | 29.8 |
| 22 | Participates in grassroots activities | 28.8 |
| 23 | Supports Singapore products and brands | 28.5 |
| 24 | Participates in the work of local charity organizations or self-help groups | 27.3 |
| 25 | Invests in or sets up a Singapore-based company | 24.2 |
| 26 | Works for a government ministry or statutory board | 21.8 |
| 27 | Enjoys 'typical' Singaporean pastimes | 13.8 |
| 28 | Behaves like a 'Singaporean' | 12.9 |
| 29 | Participates in local politics | 11.5 |
| 30 | Gives up foreign cultural norms or behaviour | 3.1 |

# Breakdown of Variables by Response (Total Sample, N = 2001)

# Contributions from Immigrants

| No. | Item | Strongly Disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Neutral (%) | Strongly Agree (%) | Agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Immigrants contribute to Singapore's development as much as Singaporeans do | 0.7 | 10.1 | 17.7 | 14.1 | 57.4 |
| 2 | The benefits of having immigrants in Singapore are obvious | 0.5 | 9.4 | 26.8 | 10 | 53.2 |
| 3 | Immigrants do the jobs that Singaporeans do not want to do | 1.2 | 18.1 | 18.4 | 16.1 | 46.1 |
| 4 | The skills that immigrants have are the types that Singapore needs most | 0.7 | 20 | 24.7 | 12 | 42.5 |
| 5 | Immigrants shoulder the same amount of social responsibilities as local-born Singaporeans | 4.5 | 17.6 | 17.5 | 9.5 | 50.8 |

# Threats from Immigrants

| No. | Item | Strongly Disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Neutral (%) | Strongly Agree (%) | Agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Job opportunities will be reduced for local-born Singaporeans if we have more immigrants | 11.1 | 30.0 | 14.5 | 7.4 | 36.9 |
| 2 | Having more immigrants in Singapore will weaken social cohesion in this country | 8.3 | 42.7 | 23.1 | 2.6 | 23.2 |
| 3 | Due to the large number of immigrants, access to good quality public services will be affected: Public housing | 11.1 | 33.1 | 16.5 | 4.4 | 34.8 |
| 4 | Due to the large number of immigrants, access to good quality public services will be affected: Medical health care | 11.9 | 34.1 | 23.8 | 3.1 | 27.0 |
| 5 | Due to the large number of immigrants, access to good quality public services will be affected: Education | 10.8 | 39.5 | 21.1 | 2.3 | 26.2 |

# Threats from Immigrants

| No. | Item | Strongly Disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Neutral (%) | Strongly Agree (%) | Agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Due to the large number of immigrants, access to good quality public services will be affected: Public safety | 9.0 | 39.0 | 17.2 | 4.9 | 29.8 |
| 7 | The government has attracted immigrants to Singapore at the expense of the local-born Singaporeans | 7.9 | 30.4 | 19.8 | 5.4 | 36.4 |
| 8 | Immigrants use Singapore as a stepping stone to other developed countries | 11.4 | 23.9 | 21.4 | 10.7 | 32.4 |

# National pride

| No. | Item | Strongly Disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Neutral (%) | Strongly Agree (%) | Agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | I would prefer to be a citizen of Singapore than any other country in the world | 0.6 | 5.0 | 10.6 | 66.3 | 17.4 |
| 2 | There are some things about Singapore that make me feel ashamed of Singapore | 6.7 | 40.9 | 27.5 | 5.5 | 19.3 |
| 3 | The world would be a better place if people from other countries were more like Singaporeans | 1.3 | 17.9 | 31.3 | 10.4 | 39.0 |
| 4 | Generally speaking, Singapore is a better country than most countries | 1.1 | 5.7 | 14.2 | 19.2 | 59.8 |
| 5 | People should support their country even if the country is in the wrong | 7.2 | 37.5 | 22.3 | 6.1 | 26.9 |

# Life Satisfaction

| No. | Item | Strongly Disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Neutral (%) | Strongly Agree (%) | Agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | In most ways, my life is close to my idea of perfection | 1.2 | 12.6 | 19.6 | 6.4 | 60.1 |
| 2 | The conditions of my life are excellent. | 0.9 | 10.7 | 29.4 | 8.6 | 50.3 |
| 3 | I am satisfied with my life. | 1.2 | 8.2 | 17.9 | 9.8 | 62.8 |
| 4 | So far, I have gotten the important things in my life. | 0.6 | 14.6 | 27.2 | 9.9 | 47.6 |
| 5 | If I could live my life over, I would change nothing. | 2.5 | 20 | 26.9 | 9.6 | 40.9 |

# Family ties

| No. | Item | Strongly Disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Neutral (%) | Strongly Agree (%) | Agree (%) |
|-----|------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1 | My family is always there for me in times of need. | .1 | .9 | 7.5 | 26.0 | 65.4 |
| 2 | I know that my family has my best interests in mind. | .1 | .7 | 7.1 | 31.6 | 60.4 |
| 3 | In my opinion, the family is the most important institution of all. | .0 | .6 | 7.6 | 34.4 | 57.3 |

# Economic Optimism

| No. | Item | Strongly Disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Neutral (%) | Strongly Agree (%) | Agree (%) |
|-----|------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Singapore will continue to be economically prosperous in the next 10 years | .5 | 6.6 | 20.7 | 11.0 | 61.2 |
| 2 | There will be sufficient jobs and opportunities for every Singaporean in the next 10 years | .1.3 | 13.2 | 28.5 | 10.7 | 46.3 |
| 3 | Singapore can continue to attract good foreign investment into the country in the next 10 years | .5 | 4.8 | 25.9 | 13.5 | 55.2 |

# Social Markers by Country of Origin

| Countries * | N | Mean no. of Social Markers | Std. Deviation |
|---|---|---|---|
| China | 238 | 10.16 | 5.00 |
| India | 85 | 10.71 | 5.37 |
| Indonesia | 144 | 8.72 | 4.09 |
| Malaysia | 453 | 9.96 | 4.95 |
| Philippines | 29 | 10.65 | 5.42 |
| Singapore | 1,001 | 13.40 | 5.59 |
| * Exclude 'Others' | | | |

# Social Markers by country of origin
## ( One-way ANOVA)

| Groups | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Between Groups | 6,201.11 | 5 | 1,240.22 | 44.664 | <0.001 |
| Within Groups | 53,981.18 | 1944 | 27.768 | | |
| Total | 60,181.29 | 1949 | | | |

# Social Markers by country of origin

## (Post-hoc, Bonferroni test)

| (I) Nationalities | (J) Nationalities | Mean Difference ( I-J) | Std. Error | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Singapore | China | 3.23* | 0.38 | <0.001 |
| Singapore | India | 2.67* | 0.59 | <0.001 |
| Singapore | Indonesia | 4.67* | 0.47 | <0.001 |
| Singapore | Malaysia | 3.43* | 0.29 | <0.001 |
| Singapore | Philippines | 2.74 | 0.99 | =0.08 |

Local-born Singaporeans endorsed more items than immigrants from China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (marginally).  There is no statistical difference in number of markers endorsed between the five immigrant groups (p>.05).

# Demographics

# Age Group

| Ages | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21-24 | 6.4 | 10.1 | 2.7 |
| 25-29 | 8.6 | 9.3 | 7.9 |
| 30-34 | 9.3 | 8.7 | 10.0 |
| 35-39 | 11.4 | 9.0 | 13.9 |
| 40-44 | 11.1 | 11.4 | 10.8 |
| 45-49 | 13.2 | 12.1 | 14.3 |
| 50-54 | 10.5 | 11.8 | 9.2 |
| 55 and above | 29.4 | 27.7 | 31.2 |

# Marital Status

| Marital Status | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Single | 17.8 | 24.3 | 11.4 |
| Married | 77.7 | 70.2 | 85.2 |
| Divorced/ Separated | 1.8 | 2.5 | 1.2 |
| Widowed | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.2 |

# Employment status

| Employment status | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Working full-time | 54.8 | 56.4 | 53.2 |
| Working part-time | 4.6 | 5.8 | 3.4 |
| Homemaker | 24.5 | 19.8 | 29.2 |
| Student | 2.9 | 4.6 | 1.2 |
| Full-time National Service | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| Retired | 9.7 | 8.4 | 11.1 |
| Unemployed | 2.9 | 4.0 | 1.8 |

# Highest educational qualification

| Highest educational qualification attained | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| No formal qualification/Lower Primary | 4.6 | 4.0 | 5.2 |
| Primary | 11.2 | 11.4 | 11.1 |
| Lower Secondary | 10.9 | 9.6 | 12.3 |
| Secondary | 22.9 | 27.3 | 18.5 |
| Upper Secondary | 11.4 | 13.3 | 9.6 |
| Polytechnic Diploma | 13.5 | 15.6 | 11.5 |
| Other Diploma/Professional Qualification | 5.2 | 5.5 | 4.9 |
| Degree | 15 | 11.9 | 18.1 |
| Post-graduate Qualification | 5.1 | 1.5 | 8.8 |

# Religion

| Religion | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Taoism | 10.1 | 10.9 | 9.3 |
| Buddhism | 40.6 | 35.9 | 45.4 |
| Islam | 10.4 | 15.6 | 5.2 |
| Hinduism | 6.1 | 5.3 | 7.0 |
| Christianity | 13.1 | 12.8 | 13.4 |
| Catholicism | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.0 |
| Other | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| No religion | 15 | 14.7 | 15.3 |

# Household Income

| Income earned ($) | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Below 500 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| 500-999 | 1.5 | 2.6 | 0.4 |
| 1,000-1,999 | 8.8 | 11.9 | 5.8 |
| 2,000-2,999 | 11.4 | 14.6 | 8.2 |
| 3,000-3,999 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.6 |
| 4,000-4,999 | 14.1 | 11.0 | 17.2 |
| 5,000-5,999 | 11.8 | 10.8 | 12.9 |
| 6,000-6,999 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 7.6 |
| 7,000-7,999 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.7 |
| 8,000-8,999 | 3 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| 9,000-9,999 | 1 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| 10,000 & above | 12.6 | 8.8 | 16.5 |
| No income | 3.8 | 4.3 | 3.3 |
| Refused | 8.2 | 9.5 | 6.9 |

# Housing Type

| House type | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| HDB 1-2 Room | 3.6 | 4.2 | 3.1 |
| HDB 3 Room | 18.9 | 19.0 | 18.8 |
| HDB 4 Room | 35.5 | 35.3 | 35.7 |
| HDB 5 Room/Exec/ Maisonette | 27.5 | 30.3 | 24.7 |
| Private Apt/ Condominium/ | 4.7 | 6.4 | 3.1 |
| Landed Property | 9.7 | 4.9 | 14.6 |

# Gender

| Gender | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 47.0 | 49.1 | 44.9 |
| Female | 53.0 | 50.9 | 55.1 |

# Race

| Race | Overall Percentage (%) | Local-Born Percentage (%) | Foreign-Born Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chinese | 78.9 | 76.7 | 81.1 |
| Malay | 9.6 | 15.2 | 4.0 |
| Indian | 8.0 | 7.2 | 8.9 |
| Others | 3.4 | 0.9 | 6.0 |

# Original Nationality (Foreign-born Sample)

| Nationalities | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|
| China | 23.8 |
| India | 8.5 |
| Indonesia | 14.4 |
| Malaysia | 45.3 |
| Philippines | 2.9 |
| Others | 5.1 |

# Conditional Response

# Enjoys 'typical' Singaporean pastimes (Examples of typical Singaporean pastimes cited by the respondents)

| Items | Frequency |
|---|---|
| Shopping | 102 |
| Sports-related | 48 |
| Food | 50 |
| Entertainment/leisure | 28 |
| Mahjong | 20 |
| Lesiure: General and outdoor | 18 |
| Social/Entertainment/Leisure | 16 |

# Supports Singaporean products and brands (Examples of Singaporean products & brands cited by the respondents)

| Items | Frequency |
|---|---|
| NTUC  (-related) | 194 |
| Yeo Hiap Seng | 34 |
| Singapore Airlines ( SIA) | 30 |
| Creative | 24 |
| BreadTalk | 15 |
| Akira | 13 |
| SingTel | 13 |
| Tiger Beer | 10 |

# Behaves like a Singaporean
# (Examples of Singaporean characteristics cited by the respondents)

| Items | Frequency |
|---|---|
| Kiasu | 64 |
| Courteous, Polite, Well-Mannered | 50 |
| Queuing Up | 21 |
| Speak Singlish | 17 |
| Complaining | 17 |
| Helpful, Friendly, Considerate | 14 |
| Maintain Cleanliness | 14 |
| Socially cohesive behaviour | 13 |

# Gives up foreign cultural norms or behaviour (Examples of foreign cultural norms or behaviour cited by the respondents)

| Item | Frequency |
|---|---|
| Spitting | 46 |
| Speaking loudly in public | 36 |
| Littering and improper trash disposal | 20 |
| Rudeness | 9 |