

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 22 JANUARY 2024

Online Sessions

9.00 am – 10.30 am

Panel 1 — What is Being Young Like Today?

This panel presents the latest findings from two nationwide studies done on youth, namely, Youth STEPS (2017–2022) and the National Youth Survey (2002–2022). Drawing on these findings, the speakers will share their views on what growing up is like for today's youth.

Moderator

Dr Dilum Wewalaarachchi
Research Fellow
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Mr Tan Lin Teck
Deputy Chief Executive
National Youth Council
and
Senior Director, Youth Division
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Associate Professor Vincent Chua
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Dr Kwan Jin Yao
Assistant Professor
Department of Human Development and Family Sciences
College of Education and Human Development
University of Delaware
and
Research Fellow
The Majority Trust

Question-and-Answer Session

11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Panel 2 — The Terrain Ahead

This panel will map the terrain of the Singapore that youth will inherit in the areas of demographics, climate, and technology. A third of our voting population is currently over 60 years old. A quarter of all Singapore citizens will be 65 or older by 2030. This demographic change raises important questions about how we should allocate state resources, address retirement planning, and navigate new caregiving expectations.

Moderator

Dr Clara Lee
Research Fellow
Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Ms Farah Sanwari
Head of Partnerships
SpudnikLab

Dr Menusha De Silva
Lecturer
Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Trevor Yu
Division of Leadership, Management & Organisation
Nanyang Business School
Nanyang Technological University

Question-and-Answer Session

2.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Panel 3 — The Centrality of Well-being

Well-being plays a decisive role in shaping one's ability to contribute to society. These issues came to the fore during the pandemic, especially for youths as the crisis interrupted key transition points in their lives. Suicides among youth aged 10 to 29 also hit a record high of 125 cases in 2022 and the *TODAY* Youth Survey 2022 found that roughly a third of youth struggle with their mental health. This panel will address the possible roots of these worrying figures and discuss the larger concern of youth well-being, including how social media shapes their lived experiences.

Moderator

Dr Wong Chin Yi
Research Fellow
Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Associate Professor John Wong
Lin Jo Yan and Yeo Boon Khim Professor in Mental Health and Neuroscience &
Senior Consultant Psychiatrist
Department of Psychological Medicine
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore

Professor Crystal Abidin
School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry
Faculty of Humanities
Curtin University

Dr Jonathan Kuek
Co-Founder
Total Wellness Initiative SG

Mr Narasimman Tivasiha Mani
Executive Director
Impart Ltd

Question-and-Answer Session

MONDAY, 29 JANUARY 2024

*Sands Grand Ballroom (Level 5)
Sands Expo and Convention Centre*

8.00 am – 8.45 am

Registration

8.45 am – 9.00 am

Opening Address

Mr Janadas Devan
Director
Institute of Policy Studies

9.00 am – 9.30 am

Findings from SP2024 Pre-Conference Poll

Moderator

Mr Melvin Tay
Research Associate
Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Dr Wong Chin Yi
Research Fellow
Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Dr Chew Han Ei
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

9.30 am – 11.00 am

Panel 4 — Youth & Work

Polls suggest that young Singaporeans value different qualities in jobs from previous generations such as remote work options and the idea of a four-day work week, even if it means longer work days. Notions of job stability are also shifting: youth are likely to take longer to secure stable employment, with many needing side hustles and/or contract jobs instead. They are also expected to experience multiple career transitions over their lifetime, whether by choice or by force. This panel will discuss young people's employment aspirations and the new workplace compacts between employers and employees under an evolving labour landscape.

Video: Youth & Work

Moderator

Dr Laurel Teo
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Ms Thian Wen Li
Journalist
The Straits Times
SPH Media Trust

Professor Sam Yam
Provost's Chair Professor of Management &
Head
Department of Management and Organisation
NUS Business School
National University of Singapore

Ms Natasha Choy
Acting Director
Youth Development
National Trades Union Congress

Question-and-Answer Session

11.00 am – 11.30 am

Break

11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Panel 5 — Youth & Family

There is a growing embrace of singledom, the delaying of marriage, as well as the continual decrease of the total fertility rate (TFR) with Singapore's changing demographics. According to the 2021 Marriage and Parenthood Survey, our low TFR is not due to a rejection of parenthood: most married couples want two or more children, but around half have fewer than two. Some of this may be explained by material factors: cost, the stress of raising children in Singapore, and difficulties balancing work and family demands are the top three reasons reported for not having more children. Cultural changes in areas like careerism and gendered family norms may also lead to the deferral of these family milestones for today's youth.

Video: *Youth & Family*

Moderator

Dr Tan Poh Lin
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Mr Darius Cheung
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer
99.co

Dr Shannon Ang
Assistant Professor
School of Social Sciences
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University

Mr Yuvan Mohan
Council Member
Families for Life
and
National Youth Council

Question-and-Answer Session

1.00 pm – 2.10 pm

Lunch

2.10 pm – 3.40 pm

Panel 6 — Youth & Politics

The latest World Values Survey found that a little less than a quarter of respondents aged 21–35 were satisfied with the current political system, compared to more than half of those aged 65 and above. The IPS post-GE2020 survey also found that political pluralists were more likely to be younger and that the largest increase in the proportion of pluralists in 2020 was in the 21–29 age band. What are some of the reasons young people feel this way? Do young Singaporeans have different political priorities than previous cohorts?

Video: Youth & Politics

Moderator

Dr Teo Kay Key
Research Fellow
Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Dr Elvin Ong
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Dr Mustafa Izzuddin
Fellow
Residential College 4
National University of Singapore

Mr Ng Soon Kiat
Associate News Editor
Lianhe Zaobao
SPH Media Trust

Question-and-Answer Session

3.40 pm – 4.10 pm

Break

4.10 pm – 5.10 pm

DIALOGUE
with Dr Janil Puthucheary
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Communications and Information &
Ministry of Health

Moderator
Dr Kalpana Vignehsa
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Question-and-Answer Session

5.10 pm

End

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