

Joint Workshop by Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies and Social Science and Policy Cluster, NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences – *Middle Class in Singapore: Security or Anxiety?*

This workshop is organised by IPS Social Lab and the Social Science and Policy Cluster of NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Date: Friday, 28 November 2014
 Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm
 Venue: Seminar Room B, AS7 #01-17/18/19
 The Shaw Foundation Building
 NUS Kent Ridge Campus, 5 Arts Link
 Singapore 117570
 Dress code: Office Attire

About the Workshop

The workshop aims to assess the situation of the middle class in Singapore, and to extrapolate its future trajectory. Social policy has traditionally focused on the poor and lower-income groups, or those most in need of social assistance. The middle class, in contrast, is usually perceived as self-reliant, secure and satisfied. Increasingly, however, the social phenomenon of the middle class “squeeze” has turned attention to the mechanics of means testing, welfarism and taxation. The global recession has raised the spectre of economic restructuring, long-term unemployment and income insecurity, even among the middle classes.

The speakers at this workshop will give their perspective of this evolving trend and likely outcomes.

Time	Tentative Programme
9.00am–9.30am	Registration and Reception
9.30am–9.40am	Introduction & Opening Remarks
9.40am–10.25am	Panel 1 – Middle Class and Healthcare: Observing the Middle Class Moderator: Dr Tan Ern Ser, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, and Chair, Social Science and Policy Cluster, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Head, IPS Social Lab, National University of Singapore Speakers: 1. Dr Phua Kai Hong, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore 2. Ms Ang Yiting, Assistant News Editor, Lianhe Zaobao, Singapore Press Holdings
10.25am–10.55am	Question & Answer
10.55am–11.15am	Break
11.15am–12.00pm	Panel 2 – Middle Class and Social Mobility: Low Income Families in a Middle Class Society Moderator: Dr Leong Chan Hoong, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies; Deputy Head, IPS Social Lab, National University of Singapore Speakers: 1. Dr Ho Kong Weng, Associate Professor of Economics (Education), Singapore Management University 2. Ms Lim Puay Leng – Senior Manager, Fei Yue Family Service Centre
12.00pm–12.30pm	Question & Answer
12.30pm	End of Workshop Lunch is served

Yours sincerely,

Tan Ern Ser

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, and

Chair, Social Science and Policy Cluster, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences;

Head, Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

