

Artwork by Nicole Choo, participant at YSC 2018

IPS Young Singaporeans Conference

“Disruptions”

Conference Guide

27—28 November 2018

Hilton Singapore

CONFERENCE CONCEPT

We live in a time of disruption. The population is ageing. Technologies are changing, and so are the values and norms that once defined success. Young Singaporeans are constantly contending with old ideas of success, work and family as defined by parents, institutions and authorities against what they see, hear and experience as citizens in a globalised world. It is a time of many disruptions, but also a time of opportunities.

There are also many things overheard: youths are more innovative and willing to take risks, youths are optimistic, youths are highly literate and understand technology. But youths have also been described as a generation of strawberries, and a generation that is lacking in resilience. What do our youths have to say about their own generation? How can they contribute and be supported so that our youths and society can flourish together?

This year's Young Singaporeans Conference is a 1.5 days event themed "Disruptions" begins with articulating key disruptions today. Participants can look forward to vibrant dialogues with fellow participants, facilitators, invited mentors and speakers. With the spotlight on participants, they will collaborate in diverse teams to develop ideas and solutions on key issues identified as a team. Through pre-conference engagement and visual presentations of the conference proceedings, the conference aims to document the voices, ideas and aspirations of participants.

DAY 1: TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

- 6.30pm—7.00pm** **Registration**
- 7.00pm—7.15pm** **Overview of Conference**
Dr Natalie Pang
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies
- 7.15pm—7.45pm** **Icebreaker: “Find Your Groupmates”**
- 7.45pm—9.15pm** **Dinner & Exhibition**
(Free browsing of exhibition during dinner)
Activity: “Let’s Talk About _____”
- 9.15pm—9.30pm** **Closing**

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

8.30am—9.00am **Registration**

9.00am—9.15am **Welcome Address**

Mr Janadas Devan
Director
Institute of Policy Studies

9.15am—11.00am **Panel Discussion:**
Disruptions in Work, Family & Culture

Moderator

Dr Natalie Pang
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Speakers

Mr Chng Kai Fong
Managing Director
Economic Development Board

Dr Ad Maulod
Research Fellow
Centre for Ageing Research and Education
Duke-NUS Medical School

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Dr Crystal Abidin

Lecturer in Digital Media

School of Communication and Creative Arts

Faculty of Arts and Education

Deakin University

and

Postdoctoral Fellow

Media Management and Transformation

Centre

Jönköping University

Question-and-Answer Session

11.00am—11.15am Tea Break

11.15am—12.30pm Team-Breakout

12.30pm—1.00pm Lightning Session

1.00pm—6.00pm Lunch and Team-Based Collaborations

(Free & easy for lunch, tea break will be available from 4.30pm—5.00pm)

Activity: Creating a Concept Plan

6.00pm—6.30pm Break

(Presentation boards to be brought up to dinner venue during the break)

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

- 6.30pm—7.30pm** **Dinner**
(Free browsing of the poster boards during dinner)
- 7.30pm—8.30pm** **Group Presentations**
- 8.30pm—9.20pm** **Dialogue**
Moderator
Dr Crystal Abidin
Speaker
Ms Pocket Sun
Founding Partner
SoGal Ventures
Question-and-Answer Session
- 9.20pm—9.30pm** **Closing Remarks**
(Top 3 teams will be announced)
Dr Natalie Pang
- 9.30pm** **End**

PANEL ABSTRACTS

Rehumanising Ageing in a Pre[ca]rious World

Dr Ad Maulod

Anxieties about ageing in uncertain futures is palpable. In conversations with older Singaporeans, perceptions and experiences of precarity are prevalent and deserve further scrutiny. Wisdom from conversations with older Singaporeans between ages 50 to 109 will provide some insights into what makes a life, what makes life worth living and what do we do with longer lives?

Fashioning, Friending, Flexing, Farming: The impact of Influencer cultures on Singapore's digital ecology

Dr Crystal Abidin

Young people are now pursuing vocations on the internet as commercial, cross-platform, and highly relatable Influencers. The earliest formations of this industry debut in the mid-2000s, and first took root in Singapore via vernacular blogshop cultures and commercial bloggers. Influencers have become increasingly commercialised in their transactions, professional in aesthetics, and spectacular in content through their self-presentation formats. Beyond their commercial stronghold, how have Influencers shaped Singapore society? Drawing on traditional and digital anthropological research on internet celebrity cultures in Singapore since 2008, this talk will review the origins, growth, and evolution of Influencer cultures. Considering their impact on socio-cultural issues including body positivity, young coupling and family life, gender and sexual literacies, and race and ethnic politics, the talk assesses how Influencers' vernacular attention and affection gaming practices are vehicles for subversive frivolity, and can be used to interrogate notions of belonging and community, agency and resistance, and mores and justice on the Singaporean internet.

SPEAKERS

CRYSTAL ABIDIN

Lecturer, Deakin University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Jönköping University

Dr Crystal Abidin is a digital anthropologist and ethnographer of vernacular internet cultures. She researches young people's relationships with internet celebrity, self-curation, and vulnerability. Her books include *Internet Celebrity: Understanding Fame Online* (2018, Emerald Publishing), and *Microcelebrity Around the Globe: Approaches to Cultures to Cultures of Internet Fame* (2018, Emerald Publishing).



Crystal's forthcoming books investigate the history of Singaporean blogshops as youth-driven DIY e-commerce (*Buymylife.com: Vernacular commerce, creation, and culture in Singapore blogshops*, contracted to NIAS Press), the Influencer industry and shifting trends on social media (*Please Subscribe! Influencers, Social Media, and the Commodification of Everyday Life*, contracted with MIT Press), and the evolution of Instagram as a practice and culture (*Instagram: Visual Social Media Cultures*, forthcoming 2019 with Polity Press). She is listed on *Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia* (2018) and *Pacific Standard 30 Top Thinkers Under 30* (2016). Crystal is lecturer in Digital Media with the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University, Postdoctoral Fellow with the Media Management and Transformation Centre (MMTC) at Jönköping University, Researcher with Handelsrådet (Swedish Retail and Wholesale Development Council), and Adjunct Research Fellow with the Centre for Culture and Technology (CCAT) at Curtin University. Reach her at wishcrys.com.

SPEAKERS

CHNG KAI FONG

Managing Director, Singapore Economic Development Board

Chng Kai Fong was appointed Managing Director of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) on 1 October 2017. He was the Principal Private Secretary (PPS) to the Prime Minister (PM) from 1 September 2014 to 30 September 2017. Before his appointment as PPS to the PM, Mr Chng served various roles in the Public Service. He was Director of Communications Group at the Prime Minister's Office, where he oversaw strategic communications and coordinated communications strategy across Government agencies.



He was also Director of Resource Industry at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where he coordinated the Government's efforts to drive productivity growth, and Director of the Institute of Public Sector Leadership, which runs leadership development programmes for public sector leaders. Mr Chng also served in the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Communications and Information. Mr Chng was also seconded from 2008 to 2010 as a Senior Management Consultant to Shell in its Downstream Strategy Division.

Mr Chng graduated from the University of Cambridge with a Master in Engineering in 2001, specialising in signal processing. In 2011, Mr Chng was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship. He is also a Sloan Fellow with a Master of Science in Management from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

Mr Chng is married with two daughters and a son. In his younger days, he freelanced as a Euphonium player and an amateur conductor. These days, he waves his hands when classical music is playing on the radio, to the bewilderment of his children.

SPEAKERS

JANADAS DEVAN

Director, Institute of Policy Studies

Janadas Devan was educated at the National University of Singapore and Cornell University in the United States. He was a journalist, writing for *The Straits Times* and broadcasting for Radio Singapore International, before being appointed the Government's Chief of Communications at the Ministry of Communications and Information in 2012. He is now concurrently Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.



SPEAKERS

AD MAULOD

Research Fellow, Centre for Ageing Research and Education

Dr Ad Maulod is a cultural anthropologist/ urban ethnographer who has spent more than a decade working with different segments of underprivileged, often low-income, communities in Singapore. Ad's prior research focuses on sexual and reproductive rights and same-sex family practices in Singapore. Since August 2016, Ad spearheads the design and execution of several qualitative research projects including community interventions at the Centre for Ageing Research & Education (Duke-NUS Medical School).



Ad takes on an intersectional approach to understand the phenomena of ageing in Singapore—by investigating how lived experiences generate particular ageing outcomes and health disparities in later life. Ad is an advocate for inclusivity and diversity across the life-course.

Current obsessions with ageing and longevity are about- elder poverty; lifelong learning and the learning divide; minimum income standards; age-segregation and intergenerational relationships, health empowerment and community care and finally, building capacities for action research with older adults in the community.

SPEAKERS

NATALIE PANG

Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies

Dr Natalie Pang received her PhD in Information Technology from Monash University, Australia, where her research on participatory technologies in communities won her two awards - the Vice Chancellor's Commendation for Doctoral Thesis Excellence, and the Faculty of Information Technology Doctoral Medal. During her time in Melbourne, she also served as an Honorary Research Associate at Museum Victoria and was involved in the outreach and special projects department.



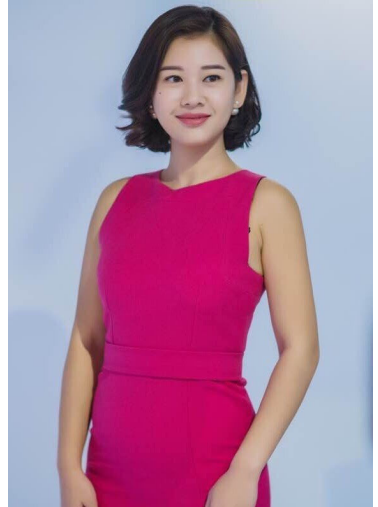
Prior to joining IPS, she worked at The Gallup Organization before joining Nanyang Technological University as Assistant Professor at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information. She was Principal Investigator for externally funded projects and research centres, including the Centre of Social Media Innovations for Communities (COSMIC) 2010-2015 which examined ICT use by marginalised communities in Singapore and India, Social Media in Civic Engagement (SMICE) which was launched in 2016, and Bukit Brown Cemetery and Citizen Documentation Project in 2014. Since 2017, she has been running the Behaviours in Digital Platforms project which aims to understand norms and social identities associated with using social media platforms by youths, and is also Principal Investigator for the Singapore Panel Study on Social Dynamics, a longitudinal study of households in Singapore.

SPEAKERS

POCKET SUN

Founding Partner, SoGal Ventures

Yiqing (Pocket) Sun is an investor, entrepreneur, and futuristic thinker. She founded SoGal, one of the largest global entrepreneurship and venture capital networks for women, with 14 chapters worldwide. Together with her business partner Elizabeth Galbut, she co-founded SoGal Ventures, the world's first millennial venture capital firm to invest in early stage companies in the US and Asia led by diverse teams. As millennials themselves, Pocket and Elizabeth has invested globally in 50+ startups that are shaping the future of how the next generation lives, works, and stays healthy.



MENTORS

A'SHUA IMRAN

Artistic Director, Mural Lingo

A'shua Imran (b. 1986) is a multidisciplinary artist working predominately with painting, performance & installations. He began his studies at LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore) and received a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Goldsmiths, UK) in 2014. He has participated in several exhibitions and presented his works in Singapore, The Netherlands, Thailand, Israel, Egypt, U.K. South Africa and Spain.



Currently, Mr Imran is the artistic director of Mural Lingo, a Singapore-registered social enterprise engaged in the arts, education and publishing. He founded the independent platform in 2014 with the primary focus on offering an incubation space for undergraduates to develop their skills and creating opportunities for artists to practice murals in their community.

He regularly offers talks and workshops in educational & cultural institutions, and participated in an artist-in-residence programme between September to December 2017 at Bag Factory Studio in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The artist is currently based in Singapore.

MENTORS

CAI YINZHOU

Founder, Geylang Adventures

Mr Cai Yinzhou is a young leader whose vision is to bridge the gap between the disadvantaged communities and formal structures to encourage a sustainable environment for self-organized groups. A personal friendship with a group of migrant workers in 2013 led to the forming of #backalleybarbers, where he offered free haircuts to migrant workers on the streets of Geylang.



He is now the founder of a social enterprise – Geylang Adventures (2014), he has designed and executed educational programmes that aims to create awareness of the social ecosystem in the red-light district of Singapore, an often misunderstood place. Bringing over 3000 people through Geylang – including students, academic and policy makers over the past three years.

He also founded Dakota Adventures, an organization working in a community of low-income residents, mostly seniors- through a heritage trail designed to generate awareness of a historically before relocating. This led to the development of a conservation report, subsequent retainment of 6/15 blocks, a multimedia documentation website of the estate and the formation of "Cassia Resettlement Team"- a volunteer group to assist with the resettlement of the elderly.

The vision is to build an experimental model of community care from the ground up. Eventually developing systems transferrable to other community partners and geographical neighbourhoods.

Through his experience in working with these communities, Yinzhou readily shares his expertise and knowledge with many, inspiring both the young and old alike, bridging generations and bringing hope.

MENTORS

SHALINI JAYARAJ

Legal Advisor, Mural Lingo

Head, Justice Without Borders (Singapore office)

Shalini graduated from Singapore Management University (SMU) with her Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LL.B) in 2012, and has working experiences in the field of international criminal law and humanitarian law, particularly in The Hague, where she resided from 2012 to 2016. Upon returning to Singapore, Shalini started working with Mural Lingo Pte Ltd, by providing legal assistance and support; and by leading the community engagement arm of the organisation.



Shalini has been instrumental in concluding projects with organisations like the Red Cross that lead in humanitarian and/or other community services in Singapore and the region. Alongside her ongoing role with Mural Lingo, Shalini is currently heading the Singapore office of Justice Without Borders, a regional NGO that focuses on assisting migrant worker victims of labour exploitation obtain just compensation even after returning home.

MENTORS

FILZAH SUMARTONO

Projects Manager, AWARE

Filzah Sumartono is co-editor of the anthology *Perempuan: Muslim Women in Singapore Speak Out and Growing Up Perempuan*. She works at The Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE) where she manages the "Gender Equality Is Our Culture!" project which works in local Muslim contexts to promote inclusive narratives and advocate for more gender-equitable interpretations of culture.



MENTORS

SYA TAHA

Feminist writer

Sya Taha is a feminist writer exploring the media representation of Muslim women through race, disability and other intersectionalities. She is currently a PhD candidate in Southeast Asian Studies at NUS, researching obstetric violence. By night, she organises Crit Talk, a discussion space for young Muslims to address social taboos.



PARTICIPANTS

Group 1

Deesha Menon

Open Call Participant

Goh Thye Heng

Bukit Batok Secondary School

Sylvia Zhang

Citibank Singapore

Ang Qing Sheng

LASALLE College of the Arts

Yasmine Yahya

Singapore Press Holdings

Derrick Ong

Singapore Telecommunications

Edwin Chua

Ministry of Education

Denise Yam

Ministry of the Environment and
Water Resources

Group 2

Loo Zihan

Open Call Participant

Sharon Tan

DBS Bank

Nizam Tengku Abdul Karim

Mediacorp

Poh Shi Hui

St Hilda's Secondary School

Fabian Tan

Sport Singapore

David Thian

Prime Minister's Office

Calista Mar

Very Special Arts Singapore

Hannah Lim

Singapore University of Social
Sciences

PARTICIPANTS

Group 3

Tan Guan Hong

Centre for Liveable Cities

Jack Hu

ExxonMobil Asia Pacific

Joanna Paranjothy

Open Call Participant

Pamy Tan

Mediacorp

Jennifer Koh

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Chow Yi Ling

Prime Minister's Office

Joel Seow

Temasek International

Ryan Goh

Temasek Polytechnic

Group 4

Chua Jia Ying

Economic Development Board

Ankush Wagle

Open Call Participant

Soh Bee Lan

Mediacorp

Valencia Kwek

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Annabel Chua

Prime Minister's Office

Masahiro Tan

Temasek International

Dean Hunt

The Eurasian Association, Singapore

Toh Jia Yan

NTUC FairPrice Co-Op

PARTICIPANTS

Group 5

Meira Kalasegaran

Info-communications Media
Development Authority

Jessica Chan

GIC

Keith Yap

Yale-NUS College

Yap Zhi Jia

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Joseph Lee

Singapore University of Social
Sciences

Han Dinghong

Enterprise Singapore

Kelly Shia

PACC Offshore Services Holdings

Pow Jun Kai

Open Call Participant

Group 6

Kate Lim

Enterprise Singapore

Arthas Ho

GIC

Hao Shuo

Ministry of Manpower

Kiruthiga Mahendran

National Arts Council

Kelly Lim

Shell Eastern Petroleum

Tay Mei Ling

Open Call Participant

Looi Chi Han

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Denise Wan

United World College of South East
Asia

PARTICIPANTS

Group 7

Vikas Bhatt Kailankaje

LASALLE College of the Arts

Terence Lim

KSL Corporate Services

Albert Pek

Ministry of National Development

Nicole Choo

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Cheow Wean Sin

Singapore Institute of Technology

Dionne Hoh

Urban Redevelopment Authority

Kan Jia Min

Singapore Airlines

Kar-men Cheng

Open Call Participant

Group 8

Natasha Leong

The Eurasian Association, Singapore

Suhaimi Bin Zainal Shah

Open Call Participant

Kenneth Cheng

Mediacorp

Yong Yong Qian

Singapore Airlines

Swee Xue Ping

ExxonMobil Asia Pacific

Angela Tan

National Arts Council

Joanna Ong

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Sylvester Koh

Ministry of Social and Family
Development

PARTICIPANTS

Group 9

Winston Chin

Ministry of Health

Guo Yiran

Ministry of Education

Alexander Ng

Land Transport Authority

Elakeyaa Selvaraji

Mediacorp

Sudiyana Kho

Singapore Pools

Theophilus Kwek

Open Call Participant

Darren Lee

Yale-NUS College

Kelly Ser

Centre for Liveable Cities

Group 10

Asif Iqbal

Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Clement Lim

National Institute of Education

Eunice Koh

Singapore Pools

Lau Yu Ching

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Nadea Merchant

Singapore University of Social Sciences

Daryl Yang

Yale-NUS College

Chen Shuhui

Ministry of Home Affairs

Grace Ng

Mediacorp

CONFERENCE TEAM

Organising Team:

(All of the Institute of Policy Studies)

Natalie Pang

Senior Research Fellow

Drew Shih

Research Assistant

Nadzirah Samsudin

Research Assistant

Facilitators:

(All of the Institute of Policy Studies)

Yvonne Arivalagan

Research Associate

Shanthini Selvarajan

Research Assistant

Dhevarajan Devadas

Research Assistant

Sim Jui Liang

Research Associate

Shawn Goh

Research Assistant

Mooris Tjioe

Research Assistant

Jacqueline Ho

Research Analyst

Wong Kwang Lin

Research Analyst

Andrew Lim

Research Assistant

Shamil Zainuddin

Research Associate

And all in the IPS Events Team—a million thanks to them