Insights from the IPS Survey on Race, Religion and Language

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Institute of Policy Studies
Discourse on Differences

"Imagined Community": Different people having to share a common destiny

‘Fault Lines’ in Singapore Society

Maintain vigilance → exploitation of sensitivities can destroy Singapore.

The other side of the coin:

Need to acknowledge new forms of identities based on cultural capital, digital divide and Socio Economic Status

Many Singaporeans no longer entrenched in racial, religious or linguistic identity.
IPS Survey

Assessment of situation of difference in Singapore

Household survey conducted between Dec 2012 – April 2013

4131 Singaporean Residents – (most citizens)

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Salience of **Identity**

What is important to one’s identity?

- Country you came from
- Language
- Religion
- Race
How important are each of the items below to your overall sense of identity i.e. who you are?

- **Race**: 70.7% Important/Very important, 18.0% Somewhat important, 11.3% Unimportant/Somewhat unimportant
- **Religion**: 57.0% Important/Very important, 21.1% Somewhat important, 21.8% Unimportant/Somewhat unimportant
- **Official mother tongue**: 65.9% Important/Very important, 23.0% Somewhat important, 11.1% Unimportant/Somewhat unimportant
- **Language used most frequently**: 72.6% Important/Very important, 19.2% Somewhat important, 8.1% Unimportant/Somewhat unimportant
- **Singapore**: 79.1% Important/Very important, 15.9% Somewhat important, 5.0% Unimportant/Somewhat unimportant
- **Country family came from**: 55.2% Important/Very important, 23.9% Somewhat important, 20.9% Unimportant/Somewhat unimportant
How important is the country your family came from to your overall sense of identity i.e. who you are?

- Chinese: 50.8%
- Malay: 67.7%
- Indian: 66.6%
- Others: 64.0%
Proportion of citizens and PRs who claimed that the countries where their families came from are important to their identities.

- **Chinese**: 49% Local-born citizens, 61% New PRs (<10 yrs)
- **Malay**: 68% Local-born citizens
- **Indian**: 63% Local-born citizens, 74% New PRs (<10 yrs)
How important is race to your overall sense of identity i.e. who you are?

- Chinese: 22.8%
- Malay: 51.9%
- Indian: 28.4%
- Others: 25.0%

Very important
How important is religion to your overall sense of identity i.e. who you are?

- 70.1% of Malay respondents rated religion as very important to their sense of identity.
- 36.9% of Indian respondents rated religion as very important.
- 33.0% of Others respondents rated religion as very important.
- 15.6% of Chinese respondents rated religion as very important.

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Proportion of younger and university-educated Malay respondents who consider religion very important to identity

- 18-25 years: 64.8%
- University-educated: 63.5%
* Singaporeans identify strongly with Race, Religion & Language

Prejudice

Assuming there has been prejudice, how has it fared in the past 5 years?

- Heightens feelings of animosity between groups
- Reduces trust in others
- Negative consequences for society
How much prejudice do you think there is today in Singapore compared to 5 years ago?

- Race:
  - Much less/less: 37.2%
  - About the same: 46.8%
  - More/much more: 16.0%

- Religion:
  - Much less/less: 39.2%
  - About the same: 50.7%
  - More/much more: 10.0%

- Language:
  - Much less/less: 36.2%
  - About the same: 45.2%
  - More/much more: 7.2%

- Gender:
  - Much less/less: 42.9%
  - About the same: 50.0%
  - More/much more: 7.2%

- Age-related:
  - Much less/less: 35.6%
  - About the same: 47.1%
  - More/much more: 17.4%

- Nationality:
  - Much less/less: 27.4%
  - About the same: 40.5%
  - More/much more: 32.1%
Perceptions of racial prejudice levels by race

- **Chinese**
  - Much less/less: 37.5%
  - About the same: 48.3%
  - More/much more: 14.1%

- **Malay**
  - Much less/less: 36.3%
  - About the same: 42.6%
  - More/much more: 21.0%

- **Indian**
  - Much less/less: 37.4%
  - About the same: 43.1%
  - More/much more: 19.5%

- **Others**
  - Much less/less: 32.3%
  - About the same: 42.4%
  - More/much more: 25.2%
Perceptions of religious prejudice levels by race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Much less/Less</th>
<th>About the same</th>
<th>More/Much more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of language prejudice levels by race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Much less/Less</th>
<th>About the same</th>
<th>More/Much more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Perceptions of gender prejudice by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much less/Less</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More/Much more</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Perceptions of age prejudice among tertiary-educated respondents by age

26-35 years
- More/Much more: 13.7%
- About the same: 51.5%
- Much less/Less: 34.9%

51-65 years
- More/Much more: 30.5%
- About the same: 30.6%
- Much less/Less: 38.9%
Perceptions of nationality-based prejudice levels among 26-35 year-olds by race

- **Chinese:**
  - Much less/Less: 15.0%
  - About the same: 34.7%
  - More/Much more: 50.4%

- **Malay:**
  - Much less/Less: 27.0%
  - About the same: 39.7%
  - More/Much more: 33.3%

- **Indian:**
  - Much less/Less: 27.2%
  - About the same: 33.7%
  - More/Much more: 39.1%

- **Others:**
  - Much less/Less: 15.4%
  - About the same: 38.5%
  - More/Much more: 46.2%
Perceptions of nationality-based prejudice among university-educated respondents by race

- **Chinese**
  - Much less/Less: 19.7%
  - About the same: 33.4%
  - more/Much more: 47.2%

- **Malay**
  - Much less/Less: 33.4%
  - About the same: 22.9%
  - more/Much more: 43.8%

- **Indian**
  - Much less/Less: 22.4%
  - About the same: 31.3%
  - more/Much more: 46.3%

- **Others**
  - Much less/Less: 25.0%
  - About the same: 33.3%
  - more/Much more: 41.7%

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Different Lived Experiences

Perceived discrimination of others because of race, religion and language.

Focus on the Everyday, especially with respect to usage of public services.

Also looked at experiences on employment, promotion.

Sensitivities towards particular scenarios.
How respondents felt they are treated when using public services compared with other races

- When using hospital services: 88.3% Much better/Better, 2.7% Much worse/Worse
- At school or an educational institution: 87.3% Much better/Better, 3.7% Much worse/Worse
- At a social service agency if you needed financial assistance: 86.6% Much better/Better, 4.5% Much worse/Worse
- At the courts: 88.4% Much better/Better, 3.3% Much worse/Worse
- By the police if you reported a crime or were suspected of having committed an offence: 86.4% Much better/Better, 3.7% Much worse/Worse

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Proportion of respondents who have ever felt racially discriminated against regarding a job or job promotion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Yes %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Proportion of respondents who have ever felt linguistically discriminated against when applying for a job by race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Never/Rarely</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Often/Very often or always</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How hard do you think people with different language preferences have to work in order to have a prosperous life in Singapore?

- English: 10.8%
- Mandarin: 29.3%
- Malay: 41.2%
- Tamil: 44.4%
- Dialect: 52.3%

Harder/Much harder
How hard do you think people with different language preferences have to work in order to have a prosperous life in Singapore?

- English-speaking: 36.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 50.0% As much as others, 14.0% Harder than/Much more than others
- Mandarin-speaking: 28.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 51.0% As much as others, 21.0% Harder than/Much more than others
- Malay-speaking: 8.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 52.0% As much as others, 41.0% Harder than/Much more than others
- Tamil-speaking: 6.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 50.0% As much as others, 44.0% Harder than/Much more than others
- Dialect-speaking: 7.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 52.0% As much as others, 41.0% Harder than/Much more than others

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Perceptions of respondents by race on how hard people with English-speaking preferences have to work in order to have a prosperous life in Singapore

Chinese

- Much less/Less hard than others: 37.0%
- As much as others: 17.0%
- Harder than/Much more than others: 10.0%

Malay

- Much less/Less hard than others: 36.0%
- As much as others: 47.0%
- Harder than/Much more than others: 17.0%

Indian

- Much less/Less hard than others: 34.0%
- As much as others: 50.0%
- Harder than/Much more than others: 17.0%

Others

- Much less/Less hard than others: 41.0%
- As much as others: 45.0%
- Harder than/Much more than others: 14.0%
Perceptions of respondents by race on how hard people with Mandarin-speaking preferences have to work in order to have a prosperous life in Singapore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Harder than/Much more than others (%)</th>
<th>As much as others (%)</th>
<th>Much less/Less hard than others (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of respondents by race on how hard people with Malay-speaking preferences have to work in order to have a prosperous life in Singapore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Much less/Less hard than others</th>
<th>As much as others</th>
<th>Harder than/Much more than others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of respondents by race on how hard people with Tamil-speaking preferences have to work in order to have a prosperous life in Singapore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Harder than/Much more than others</th>
<th>Much less/Less hard than others</th>
<th>As much as others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of respondents by race on how hard people with dialect-speaking preferences have to work in order to have a prosperous life in Singapore

Chinese: 56.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 39.0% As much as others, 5.0% Harder than/Much more than others

Malay: 49.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 41.0% As much as others, 11.0% Harder than/Much more than others

Indian: 46.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 44.0% As much as others, 11.0% Harder than/Much more than others

Others: 41.0% Much less/Less hard than others, 48.0% As much as others, 10.0% Harder than/Much more than others
How often respondents had been upset by racial or religious tension in the last two years

- Someone insulting my race or racial customs:
  - Very often or always/Often: 14.2%
  - Sometimes: 23.8%
  - Rarely: 56.6%
  - Never: 5.3%

- Someone insulting my religious beliefs:
  - Very often or always/Often: 13.6%
  - Sometimes: 22.8%
  - Rarely: 58.3%
  - Never: 5.3%

- Someone challenging my religious beliefs and practices:
  - Very often or always/Often: 16.1%
  - Sometimes: 24.1%
  - Rarely: 54.6%
  - Never: 5.2%

- Someone trying to convert me to a religious belief:
  - Very often or always/Often: 19.9%
  - Sometimes: 21.4%
  - Rarely: 51.3%
  - Never: 7.4%
Overall I feel that Singapore is free from racial tension

- Strongly Agree: 15.9%
- Agree: 43.9%
- Somewhat Agree: 26.2%
- Somewhat disagree: 10.7%
- Strongly disagree: 3.3%

Overall I feel that Singapore is free from religious tension

- Strongly Agree: 18.7%
- Agree: 42.4%
- Somewhat Agree: 27.7%
- Somewhat disagree: 8.8%
- Strongly disagree: 2.4%
### How comfortable respondents are of different racial groups (public sphere)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Local-born Chinese</th>
<th>Local-born Malay</th>
<th>Local-born Indian</th>
<th>Local-born Eurasian</th>
<th>New Singaporean Chinese originally from China</th>
<th>New Singaporean Indian originally from India</th>
<th>New Singaporean Malay originally from the region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As your colleague in the same occupation</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As your boss</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>83.1%</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As your employee</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
<td>90.6%</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
<td>83.0%</td>
<td>83.5%</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As your next-door-neighbour</td>
<td>95.4%</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
<td>86.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As the majority of people in Singapore</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*figures represent cross-cultural acceptance levels, whereby the responses of members of a particular racial group are excluded in calculating acceptance levels for that particular race*
How comfortable respondents are of different racial groups (private sphere)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Local-born Chinese</th>
<th>Local-born Malay</th>
<th>Local-born Indian</th>
<th>Local-born Eurasian</th>
<th>New Singaporean Chinese originally from China</th>
<th>New Singaporean Indian originally from India</th>
<th>New Singaporean Malay originally from the region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother/sister-in-law</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close friend</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>83.0%</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td><strong>77.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>74.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>78.1%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*figures represent cross-cultural acceptance levels, whereby the responses of members of a particular racial group are excluded in calculating acceptance levels for that particular race.
I am fine if people around me speak a language I do not speak

I am fine if a public speech is made in an official language that I do not speak

I am fine if a service staff does not speak to me in English in a shop on Orchard Road

- Agree/Strongly agree
- Somewhat/Strongly disagree

51.9%
38.5%
44.0%
19.0%
36.9%
32.3%
Proportion of university-educated respondents by race who agree/strongly agree to "I am fine if people around me speak a language I do not speak"
I am fine if people around me speak a language I do not speak

I am fine if a public speech is made in an official language that I do not speak

I am fine if a service staff does not speak to me in English in a shop on Orchard Road

Agree/Strongly agree

Somewhat/Strongly disagree

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Proportion of respondents by race and education who agree/strongly agree to "I am fine if a public speech is made in an official language that I do not speak"
Perceptions of university-educated respondents by race on "I am fine if a service staff does not speak to me in English in a shop on Orchard Road"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Strongly disagree/Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Agree/Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
“Perceptions on Moral Issues”

Opinions on Morality

- Other perceived vices (e.g., gambling)
- Reproduction
- Marriage
- Sexuality
- Sexual Orientation
How do you feel about these social issues?

- Sexual relations before marriage: 56.4%
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 22.0%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 80.3%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 21.6%
- Sexual relations with someone other than marriage partner: 8.4%
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 11.3%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 33.3%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 22.3%
- Living with a partner before marriage: 12.0%
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 15.5%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 44.4%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 72.5%
- Having a pregnancy outside of marriage: 72.5%
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 56.4%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 44.4%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 8.4%
How do you feel about these social issues?

- **Sexual relations between two adults of the same sex:** 78.2%
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 11.3%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 10.5%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 78.2%

- **The adoption of a child by a gay couple:** 61.1%
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 24.2%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 14.7%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 61.1%

- **Gay marriage:** 72.9%
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 15.7%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 11.5%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 72.9%
How do you feel about these social issues?

- **Divorce**
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 43.1%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 34.4%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 22.5%

- **Gambling**
  - Always wrong/Almost always wrong: 69.2%
  - Only wrong sometimes: 17.3%
  - Not wrong most of the time/Not wrong at all: 13.5%

**Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas**
Proportion of informants who feel these social issues to be always wrong/almost always wrong.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion/Sexual relations...</th>
<th>Buddhist</th>
<th>Taoist</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
<th>Hindu</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Other religion</th>
<th>No religion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>before marriage</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>between two adults of the same sex</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with someone other than marriage partner</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>86.5%</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proportion of informants who feel these social issues to be always wrong/almost always wrong wrong.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Buddhist</th>
<th>Taoist</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
<th>Hindu</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Other religion</th>
<th>No religion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living with a partner before marriage</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy outside of marriage</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
<td>83.4%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption of a child by a gay couple</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
<td>72.3%</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay marriage</td>
<td>70.9%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
<td>68.7%</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proportion of informants who feel these social issues to be always wrong/almost always wrong.

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<thead>
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<th>Hindu</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Other religion</th>
<th>No religion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>58.7%</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Management & Harmony

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C-M-I-O framework</th>
<th>“Pigeon-holing”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restriction of usage of dialects in public sphere</td>
<td>Is this an issue for Singaporeans?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
## Preferred Ethnic Label Compared to NRIC Racial Classification of Singaporean Citizen Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Identification (y)/ As identified by NRIC (x)</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Malay</th>
<th>Indian</th>
<th>Boyan</th>
<th>Eurasian</th>
<th>Filipino</th>
<th>Javanese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>96.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peranakan</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese-Malay</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay-Indian</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javanese</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceylonese Tamil</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Various Categories)</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyanese</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singaporean</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proportion of Chinese by age groups who claim that the dialect/language of their ethnic sub-group (regardless of whether they speak it or not) is important/very important:

- 18-25 yrs: 35.0%
- 26-35 yrs: 38.4%
- 36-50 yrs: 47.3%
- 51-65 yrs: 53.9%
- >66 yrs: 56.5%
Proportion of Chinese by age groups who claim that their official mother tongue is important/very important.

- 18-25 yrs: 57.8%
- 26-35 yrs: 59.1%
- 36-50 yrs: 67.0%
- 51-65 yrs: 63.2%
- >66 yrs: 63.5%
Proportion of respondents by race who agree/strongly agree that "Users of dialects/languages of ethnic sub-groups should be given more recognition that those they have now"
How much do you agree with the following statements?

- The government is responsible for linguistic harmony in Singapore: 63.9% agree, 57.8% strongly agree, 45.8% strongly disagree.
- The government should not try to influence my personal language use: 70.6% agree, 70.0% strongly agree, 30.0% strongly disagree.
- The government is responsible for racial and religious harmony in Singapore: 45.8% agree, 50.0% strongly agree, 20.0% strongly disagree.
- The government has done well to improve integration of new immigrants in Singapore: 60.0% agree, 70.0% strongly agree, 10.0% strongly disagree.

Engaging Minds, Exchanging Ideas
Proportion of respondents who agree/strongly agree that "The government should do more to curb the use of Singlish in Singapore"
Proportion of respondents aged 18-25 years by race who agree/strongly agree to "We need more legislation and policies to safeguard racial and religious harmony"

- Chinese: 42.6%
- Malay: 67.9%
- Indian: 48.6%
- Others: 50.0%
The government should give preferential/special treatment to minority groups - by race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Agree/Strongly agree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree/Somewhat disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of respondents aged 18-25 years by race on "The government should give preferential/special treatment to minority groups"

- **Chinese**: 51.7% agree/strongly agree, 19.1% disagree/somewhat disagree
- **Malay**: 45.5% agree/strongly agree, 24.9% disagree/somewhat disagree
- **Indian**: 35.2% agree/strongly agree, 27.8% disagree/somewhat disagree
- **Others**: 55.5% agree/strongly agree, 27.8% disagree/somewhat disagree
Perceptions of university-educated respondents by race on “The government should give preferential/special treatment to minority groups”

- **Chinese**
  - Agree/Strongly agree: 20.1%
  - Strongly disagree/somewhat disagree: 58.7%

- **Malay**
  - Agree/Strongly agree: 28.8%
  - Strongly disagree/somewhat disagree: 38.5%

- **Indian**
  - Agree/Strongly agree: 33.7%
  - Strongly disagree/somewhat disagree: 36.4%

- **Others**
  - Agree/Strongly agree: 28.6%
  - Strongly disagree/somewhat disagree: 51.8%
Should formulation and practice of public policy heed sentiments of the **MAJORITY** or **minority**?

↑ sensitivity to minority erode principle of **fairness**?
Public morality not easily disengaged from religious beliefs and values

Realistic to expect future debates to continue to maintain secularity?
“All-out” strategy to deal with nationality based prejudice warranted?

Need **heavy enforcement** on xenophobic tendencies in the cyber world?
Time to acknowledge “Differences” as part of life.

Requires continued management?
Thank You

Mathew Mathews, PhD
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies
mathew.mathews@nus.edu.sg