ICCS THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COHESIVE SOCIETIES

Programme Outline

Day 0

Mon, 5 Sep 2022

Community Dialogue

Day 1

Tue, 6 Sep 2022

- Opening Address by President Halimah Yacob
- Special Presentation: Perspectives on Social Cohesion
- 1st Plenary: How Faith Can Bridge Divides
- Special Address by Cardinal Pietro Parolin
- Southeast Asian Social Cohesion Radar Launch

Young Leaders Programme:

- Culture & Heritage Tour | Community Showcase & Collaboration Whitespace

Community Exploration

Day 2

Wed, 7 Sep 2022

- 2nd Plenary: How Diversity Can Be Harnessed for the Common Good
- 3rd Plenary: How Technology Can Be Leveraged to Foster Mutual Trust
- Breakout Session 1

Young Leaders Programme:

- Fireside Chat – *Social Media for Social Cohesion* | Dialogues on Diversity

Community Exploration

Day 3

Thu, 8 Sep 2022

- Breakout Session 2
- In Conversation with Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong
- Breakout Session 3
- Closing Address by Minister Edwin Tong

Young Leaders Programme

- Workshop – *Leadership in a Diverse World* | The Pitch

Community Exploration

Note: Programme is subject to change and will be updated continuously up to the Conference.

Special Presentation: Perspectives on Social Cohesion (Day 1)

Setting the stage for ICCS 2022 plenaries and breakouts, the Special Presentation will address how differences in culture, beliefs and value systems, alongside the many identities we have as individuals and groups, impact social cohesion. Perspectives from Southeast Asia and globally will be aired in the discussion.

1st Plenary: How Faith Can Bridge Divides (Day 1)

This plenary seeks to critically examine the reasons for the rise and endurance of social polarisation due to ideological or religious beliefs. With a stronger understanding of these divides and the reasons behind them, we hope that some of the lessons gleaned can be applied to foster inter-religious peace and harmony in plural societies both across the region and well beyond. Specific lessons from faith traditions will be shared.

2nd Plenary: How Diversity Can Be Harnessed for the Common Good (Day 2)

This plenary will seek to address the tools and concepts to understand a world marked by super-diversity, that is the existence of highly complex and heterogeneous societies. It will raise questions about how to talk about identities and with people of different and overlapping identities, as well as to appreciate the complex but important role the intersectionality of identities plays in forging social cohesion. It will discuss the way that our belonging and identity overlap across issues such as gender, class, race, nationality, religious and worldview, both as individuals and as groups.

Only by understanding complex interconnections and interdependencies between individuals and social systems can we increase our social capital and create opportunities for individuals in society to form deep bonds across differences, towards a common good.

3rd Plenary: How Technology Can Be Leveraged to Foster Mutual Trust (Day 2)

This plenary will ask, given that we know digital platforms can create echo chambers and be used for divisive ends, how can we employ them to promote social cohesion? People's identities are part of this, including their religious identities, but practical examples of how cohesion is built online and with technologies such as social media is central to this plenary. Looking from different global angles and focusing on areas such as community-building, preventing and countering violent extremism, and mapping global peacebuilding, this session will seek to show how online platforms may be beacons of cohesion and hope, rather than division and hatred.

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Synopses of Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1 (Day 2)

Delegates will choose one to attend

Faith 1: Religion, Resilience & Cohesion (International Perspective)

This breakout session has an interest in different faith-based strategies in building resilience against divisive, even extremist, religious narratives within communities, and how religious leaders and communities can build wider resilience beyond their tradition across societies. It will focus on international contexts. Examples of good practice and ways of speaking into such situations may be discussed.

Identity 1: Languages, Identity & Belonging

This breakout group examines how languages shape our perceptions of self and other, and our understanding of identities. Identity and language are key in building one's sense of belonging, especially for minority groups. This breakout group can explore how the limits in languages, the evolution of vocabulary, and use of colloquialism affect the way we see ourselves and build our sense of belonging and how we differentiate ourselves from others. Attention will be given to the lived experience of communities and minority language groups.

Cohesion 1: Hate & Conspiracy Online

This breakout session further investigates issues raised during Plenary 3 around hate, prejudice, and conspiracy online. A key focus would be on conspiracy theories. It will address practical and real world solutions and practices in this regard.

Breakout Session 2 (Day 3)

Delegates will choose one to attend

Faith 2: Religion, Resilience & Cohesion (Regional Perspective)

This breakout session has an interest in different faith-based strategies in building resilience against divisive, even extremist, religious narratives within communities, and how religious leaders and communities can build wider resilience beyond their tradition across societies. It will focus on regional (Southeast Asian) contexts. Examples of good practice and ways of speaking into such situations may be discussed.

Identity 2: Diversity & Intersections (Public Policy & Common Space)

This breakout session discusses public policies across the world that have helped identify and safeguard vulnerable individuals and communities from radicalisation, and how common spaces have been found to build resilience against divisive, extremist and religious narratives in communities.

Cohesion 2: Connectivity & Connectedness

This breakout session examines good practices and case studies about people who have used online platforms to build connections between different groups of people and strengthen social cohesion. The session will also be used to understand what social media companies have been doing to promote social cohesion.

Breakout Session 3 (Day 3)

Delegates will choose one to attend

Faith 3: Faith Overcoming COVID-19 Pandemic

This breakout session explores how traditions have evolved over this challenging global Covid-19 pandemic in relation to practice rituals and ways to worship. In particular, the session discusses how communities have built internal connections within themselves despite being unable to meet physically, but also how they have utilised technology to reach out beyond their own communities.

Identity 3: Religion & Social Justice

This breakout session discusses some of the ways that religious identities inform social justice work, which in turn helps to deepen connections across various groups in society and promoting socially cohesive bonds. Areas explored may include overcoming racial and ethnic prejudice, protecting vulnerable individuals and communities beset by a lack of environmental justice, and countering radical and extremist narratives. It will seek to demonstrate examples of good practice and provide practical steps for working towards social justice from within various religious worldviews and identities.

Cohesion 3: Youth Work Initiatives

This breakout session looks explicitly at the work of youth leaders in social cohesion across Asia. The way that specific approaches to connect with young people and bridge potentially divisive partitions between communities will be of particular interest. It will stress the practice of building effective youth dialogue and service movements, rather than the theories involved in reaching younger people.

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Synopses of Young Leaders Programme Sessions

Community Showcase & Collaboration Whitespace (Day 1)

A session to encourage youth civic activism and collaboration through facilitated gameplay and an interactive showcase of ground-up initiatives by young community leaders.

Fireside Chat - *Social Media for Social Cohesion* (Day 2)

Hear from and engage with Reverend Chris Lee, Father Fiel Pareja and fashion designer Yasmin Jay as they share how they use their online platforms to foster interfaith understanding and respect.

Dialogues on Diversity (Day 2)

YLP delegates will choose one to attend

Faith for Sustainability

In this session, local advocates from the faith communities such as Dr N Varaprasad, President, Hindu Centre and Teo Heng Xuan, co-founder of Dhamma Assembly for Young Working Adults, will share how faith-based organisations can drive sustainable development beyond their own communities. Participants will discuss and discover how to put intention into action and grow communities of different faiths to commit to sensitive and sustainable service.

Faith in Workplaces

In this session, Imran Taib, Founder, Dialogue Centre, Hannah Willage, Director of Emerging Leaders Network/Interfaith America) and Dr Aamir Hussain, an Interfaith America alumnus, will discuss the (hard and soft) skills interfaith advocates need to be effective bridge-builders in the workplaces.

Harnessing Faith for Community-building

In this session, join Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and Vocation Minister, Sister Julia Walsh, and local community advocates, Liyana Rosli Asmara, Head of Harmony Centre and Dr Tan Lai Yong, an Associate Professor from the National University of Singapore, in a journey of awakening to discernment and service.

Workshop – *Leadership in a Diverse World* (Day 3)

A capability building workshop to equip and inspire young civic leaders led by Krish Raval OBE and Denny Braggins from Faith in Leadership, as well as Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand, Director of Leadership and Learning from Pears Foundation. The workshop will be facilitated by local peer facilitators and former YLP delegates.

The Pitch (Day 3)

A stage for teams of delegates to share their vision of change and realise them with funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.

Opening Address

Day 1 Tue, 6 Sep 2022

Mdm Halimah Yacob
President of the Republic of Singapore

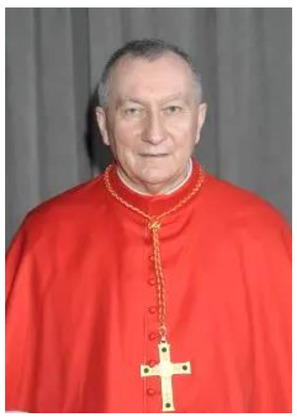
Mdm Halimah Yacob began her career in 1978 as a legal officer with the National Trades Union Congress. She rose through the ranks to be the Executive Secretary of the United Workers of Electronics and the Director of the Women's Development Secretariat. She was also appointed its Deputy Secretary-General in 2007 for four years.

In 1999, Mdm Halimah became the first Singaporean to be elected to the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation and served for four terms. She was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) in 2001 for Jurong Group Representation Constituency (GRC). Her final and fourth term as a MP was in the newly formed Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC. In 2011, she was appointed Minister of State for then Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, now known as the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

In 2013, Mdm Halimah was appointed as the ninth Speaker of Parliament and was the first woman to hold the position. Mdm Halimah is active in social causes and is Patron to more than 40 charitable and community organisations. She was sworn in as the eighth President of the Republic of Singapore on 14 September 2017.

Special Address

Day 1 Tue, 6 Sep 2022



Cardinal Pietro Parolin
Secretary of State, Holy See

On 31 August 2013 Pope Francis appointed him Secretary of State and he entered into office on 15 October. Created and proclaimed Cardinal by Pope Francis in the consistory of 22 February 2014, of the Title of Santi Simone e Giuda Taddeo a Torre Angela (Sts. Simon and Jude Thaddeus at Torre Angela).

On 26 June 2018, with Rescriptum ex Audentia Ss.mi, the Holy Father Francis decided to co-opt Cardinal Pietro Parolin in the Order of Bishops, equating him in all respects to the Cardinals who were given the Title of a suburbicarian Church.

Particularly expert in matters concerning the Middle East, and more generally in those regarding the geo-political situation of the Asian continent, he has worked specifically to build up and reinforce relations between the Holy See and Vietnam. He also contributed to reopening dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, convinced of the need for a shared effort to "create the conditions for a true and just peace" in the Middle East.

In Conversation with Deputy Prime Minister

Day 3 Thu, 8 Sep 2022

Mr Lawrence Wong
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Republic of Singapore

Mr Lawrence Wong is also a Member of Parliament for Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC. He co-chairs the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on COVID-19, and is the Deputy Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. He is also a member of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) Board, the Future Economy Council, the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council and the National Research Foundation Board, and co-chairs the Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council.

Mr Wong was elected a Member of Parliament in May 2011 and was re-elected in September 2015 and July 2020. He has held positions in the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Communications and Information, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, the Ministry of National Development, and the Ministry of Education.

He contributes to the labour movement as Chairman of the Singapore Labour Foundation as well as Advisor to the Union of Power and Gas Employees.

Moderator

Mr Ong Keng Yong
Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is concurrently Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, non-resident High Commissioner to Pakistan and non-resident Ambassador to Iran. Mr Ong also serves as Chairman of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF). Mr Ong was High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia from July 2011 to October 2014. He served as Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), based in Jakarta, Indonesia, for five years from January 2003.

He was Singapore's High Commissioner to India and concurrently Ambassador to Nepal from 1996 to 1998. From September 1998 to December 2002, he was Press Secretary to the then Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

Closing Address

Day 3 Thu, 8 Sep 2022

Mr Edwin Tong
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Republic of Singapore

Mr Edwin Tong SC was appointed Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law on 27 July 2020. Prior to this, he served as the Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Health from 1 July 2018 to 26 July 2020.

As the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Mr Tong chairs the National Integration Council, the Singapore Cares Steering Committee, the National Youth Council, and the National Steering Committee on Racial and Religious Harmony, driving efforts to build a caring, cohesive and confident society in Singapore. Since November 2020, he also chairs the Chinese Community Liaison Group, which was set up to strengthen Government's relationship with Chinese community organisations and deepen the Government's understanding of the Chinese community.

At the Ministry of Law, he focuses on the development and promotion of Singapore's legal and dispute resolution sector. He also handles wide-ranging aspects of law reform, including intellectual property, corporate restructuring and insolvency, and legal aid.

Special Presentation: Perspectives on Social Cohesion

Day 1 | Tue, 6 Sep 2022

Professor Lily Kong
President, Singapore Management University

An award-winning researcher and teacher, Professor Kong has received five international fellowship awards including the Commonwealth Fellowship Award and the Fulbright Fellowship Award. She has also won the Robert Stoddard Award from the Association of American Geographers for her contributions to the study of religion. Professor Kong was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2006 and Public Service Star (Bintang Bakti Masyarakat) award in 2020.

Professor Katherine Marshall
Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs
Professor of the Practice of Development, Conflict, and Religion
Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Professor Katherine Marshall, a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, leads the center's work on religion and global development. She is also professor of the practice of development, conflict, and religion in the Walsh School of Foreign Service, teaching diverse courses notably on the ethics of development work and mentoring students at many levels. She helped to create and serves as the executive director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue, an NGO that works to enhance bridges among different sectors and institutions.

Moderator

Professor Farish Ahmad-Noor
Professor of History at the University of Malaya

Professor Farish Ahmad-Noor is Professor at the Department of History, University Malaya. His recent works include Farish A. Noor and Peter Carey, Ras, Kuasa, dan Kekerasan Kolonial di Hindia Belanda, 1808-1830 (Jakarta: KPG Gramedia Publishers, 2021); Data-Collecting in 19th Century Colonial Southeast Asia: Framing the Other (Amsterdam University Press, 2020); America's Encounters with Southeast Asia 1800-1900: Before the Pivot (Amsterdam University Press, 2018); The Discursive Construction of Southeast Asia in the Discourse of 19th Century Colonial-Capitalism (Amsterdam University Press, 2016); and The Malaysian Islamic Party 1951-2013: Islamism in a Mottled Nation (Amsterdam University Press, 2014).

Plenary 1: How Faith Can Bridge Divides

Day 1 | Tue, 6 Sep 2022

Dr Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati
Secretary-General, Global Interfaith Clean Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Alliance
President, Divine Shakti Foundation
Co-President, Religions for Peace

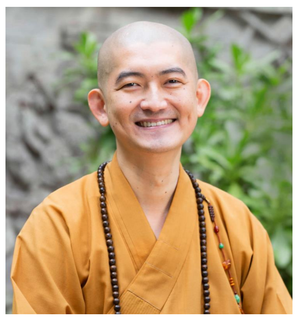
Dr Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati is a renowned spiritual leader, author and social activist based in the Himalayas, India. She serves on the United Nations Advisory Council on Religion and on the steering committees of the International Partnership for Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) and the Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty, a campaign by the United Nations and World Bank.

Lord John Alderdice
First Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Lord John Alderdice was the founding Chairman (now Emeritus Chairman) of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building in Belfast and now heads up the Changing Character of War Centre at Pembroke College, University of Oxford. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, Director of the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict, and founding Chairman of The Concord Foundation, an independent peace building organisation.

Imam Uzair Akbar
Imam, Holland Park Mosque
President, Council of Imams Queensland (CIQ)
Head, Shariah Advisory Board with Amanah Islamic Finance Australia (AIFA)
Director, Centre of Excellence (Australian Youth Welfare Trust)
Director, ISHP Youth Club
Member of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)

Imam Uzair Akbar is a well-known respected scholar, dynamic speaker, and prominent leader in the Muslim community of Australia. Imam Uzair has been gifted with a unique way of connecting to the common audience through his Islamic lectures, Tafseer, and sermons. His forte includes connecting with the youth and giving common life analogies that really strike into the heart of his listeners.



Venerable Shi You Guang
Abbot and President, Samantabhadra Vihara
Secretary-General, Singapore Buddhist Federation

Venerable Shi You Guang is also 1st Vice President of Metta Welfare Association, serving the community's special education, welfare and social needs. He was ordinated at Fa Hua Monastery and received Higher Ordination at TzuYun Temple Taiwan. Venerable received both Dharma transmission of Hua-yen Lineage and CaoDong-Zen Lineage. He guides Buddhists and like-minded ones on the path to a harmonious way of life through sharing, classes and consultations and meets people from different walks of life.

Moderator

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna
NTU Provost's Chair, National Security Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna is a tenured Associate Professor, Provost's Chair in National Security Studies, Associate Dean in charge of Policy Studies, as well as Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), in the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Plenary 2: How Diversity Can Be Harnessed for the Common Good

Day 2 Wed, 7 Sep 2022

Mr André Azoulay
Adviser to H.M. King Mohammed VI Morocco
President of the Executive Committee, Foundation for the 3 Cultures and 3 Religions (Sevilla)
Founding President of the Essaouira-Mogador Foundation
President of the Moroccan National Foundation for Sciences Engineering

Mr André Azoulay is an ardent ambassador of Morocco throughout the world. He is a strong advocate for peace and dialogue between the Arab Muslim World and Jewish Communities in Europe, USA, Morocco as well as the global Arab and Jewish diasporas. He is also well-known for contributions to the peace process in the Middle East and foe the many interfaith cross-cultural initiatives he spearheaded.

Professor Ashiwa Yoshiko
Professor of Anthropology and Global Studies
Founding Director of Institute for the Study of Peace and Reconciliation
Hitotsubashi University

Professor Ashiwa Yoshiko's research interests include religion, arts, culture and values, modernity, globalisation, and social movements mainly in Asia, especially Sri Lanka, China and Japan. She is co-editor of Making Religion, Making the State: The Politics of Religion in Modern China (2009, with David Wank).

Dr Iyad Abumoghli
Founder and Director of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Faith for Earth Initiative

With more than 35 years of experience with international organisations, the private sector and scientific institutions, Dr Abumoghli's expertise focus on strategic planning, sustainable development, natural resources management, interfaith collaboration and knowledge and innovation. He is also the Lead Principal Advisor on Engaging with Faith-Based Organisations at UNEP.

Moderator

Assistant Professor Jack Meng-Tat Chia
Assistant Professor of History and Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Jack Meng-Tat Chia specialises in Buddhism in maritime Southeast Asia and has broader research interests in migration, diasporas, transnationalism, pilgrimage and religious diplomacy. He is also an associate of the Religion and Globalisation Cluster at the Asia Research Institute and co-chairs the Theravada Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies.

Plenary 3: How Technology Can Be Leveraged to Foster Mutual Trust

Day 2 Wed, 7 Sep 2022

Mr Jasvir Singh
Founding Chair of City Sikhs, United Kingdom

Mr Jasvir Singh is a prolific community activist and a leading figure within the British Sikh and British South Asian communities. City Sikhs is one of the main Sikh organisations in the UK and provides a voice for over 10,000 members across the country. He is also the former Co-Chair of the Faiths Forum for London that encourages and promotes interfaith social initiatives.

Professor Patrice Brodeur
Associate Professor, Institute of Religious Studies, University of Montreal (Canada)

Professor Patrice Brodeur's expertise includes contemporary Islamic thought and interreligious dialogues. He is also Senior Consultant, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Lisbon and has lectured academically to a variety of audiences and conducted trainings on different forms of dialogue in over fifty countries around the world.

Dr Shashi Jayakumar
Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Dr Shashi Jayakumar's research and publications span a range of interests, including extremism, disinformation, social resilience, cyber and Singapore politics. He is also Singapore's representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Moderator

Dr Terri-Anne Teo
Lecturer in the Politics of Race and Ethnicity
Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Dr Terri-Anne Teo holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Bristol, United Kingdom. Her research and teaching areas include race, citizenship, multiculturalism and migration. She has published in peer-reviewed journals, with her most recent publications in Journal of Intercultural Studies (2022), Ethnicities (2021) and Citizenship Studies (2021) addressing themes of ethnic and gender politics, citizenship and contestations, and multiculturalism. She is also the author of Civic Multiculturalism in Singapore: Revisiting Citizenship (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) and co-editor of Postcolonial Governmentalities: Rationalities, Violences and Contestations (Rowman and Littlefield, 2020).

Breakout Session 1

Day 2 | Wed, 7 Sep 2022

Faith 1 – Religion, Resilience & Cohesion (International Perspective)

Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim
Abbess of The Seon (Zen) Centre

Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim, an Australian Buddhist Nun for over forty years, lived and trained twenty years in South Korean. In 1998, after cultivating knowledge in textual studies and meditative experience, she returned to live in Australia and established a Buddhist Temple in Kinglake, Victoria. Here she serves a local and multicultural Buddhist community. Chi Kwang Sunim has co-founded several Buddhist organisations, chaired the Australian Sangha Association (ASA) and the Buddhist Council.

Swami Samachittananda
President, Ramakrishna Mission

Swami Samachittananda is the President of Ramakrishna Mission Singapore, a branch of the Ramakrishna Order of India, worldwide spiritual and welfare organisation. Like the other branches in Asia-Oceania, North & South America, Europe and Africa, the Centre is a self-sustaining unit that looks to the Ramakrishna Order for spiritual guidance.

Master Tan Zhixia
Taoist Mission (Singapore)

Master Tan Zhixia is a Taoist missionary ordained in The Complete Perfection Quanzhen Tradition of Taoism, the 21st Generation of Longmen Sect. Besides serving as Priest-in-Residence at the Temple of Heavenly Jade Emperor Yu Huang Gong, a National Monument of Singapore, she is also the Vice President of Taoist Mission (Singapore), an association which promotes Taoism and Chinese cultures and traditions. This gives her ample opportunities in developing Taoist studies and discipline, programmes for community engagement on social cohesion and peacebuilding from the Taoist perspective.

Moderator

Dr Mohamed bin Ali
Assistant Professor, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Mohamed bin Ali studied Islamic law at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, International Relations at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, and the University of Exeter in United Kingdom where he completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Arab and Islamic Studies. He has published widely on Islamic law, Islamist ideology, religious extremism and terrorism, inter-religious relations and rehabilitation of Muslim extremists.

Identity 1 – Languages, Identity & Belonging

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann
Professor of Linguistics & Endangered Languages, University of Adelaide

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (DPhil Oxford; PhD Cambridge, titular; MA Tel Aviv, summa cum laude) is Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Since the beginning of 2017 he has been the President of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies.

Reverend Terry Kee
President of Inter-Religious Organisation

Reverend Terry Kee was Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore, President of the National Council of Churches from 2012-2014 and 2018-2020, a council Member of Inter Religious Organisation since 2012 and a Missionary to Thailand from 1996-2005.

Moderator

Associate Professor Catherine Gomes
Associate Professor of Culture and Communication, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Australia

Associate Professor Catherine Gomes is internationally renowned for her research on the lived experiences of international students, their digital engagements and their wellbeing. She is editor of the Media, Culture and Communication in Migrant Societies book series with Amsterdam University Press and founding editor of Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration with Intellect Books. Catherine is also a recipient of an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award Fellowship.

Cohesion 1 – Hate & Conspiracy Online

Father Philip Larrey
Chair of Logic and Epistemology, Pontifical Lateran University, The Vatican

Father Philip Larrey is currently Dean of the Philosophy Department. His publications deal with the philosophy of knowledge and critical thinking. For years he has been following the philosophical implications of the rapid development of artificial intelligence. He has also published several books concerning the effects of the new digital era on society.

Mr Fritjof Knier
Project Manager, Integreat

Mr Fitjof Knier's multilingual interaction platform, Integreat, provides understandable information for refugees and migrants arriving in a city. It has been implemented in collaboration with over 80 of Germany's 400 municipal governments throughout the country and most recently launched in Lesvos, Greece as well.

Moderator

Dr Gulizar Haciyakupoglu
Research Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Gulizar Haziyakupoglu's research concerns online harms, trust and advocacy. She is also the co-editor of a forthcoming edited volume titled Gender and Security in Digital Space: Navigating Access, Harassment, and Disinformation.

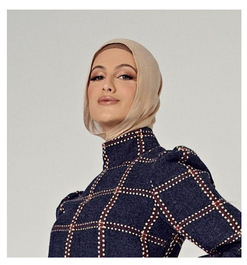
Young Leaders Programme: Fireside Chat

Day 2 | Wed, 7 Sep 2022

Social Media for Social Cohesion

Reverend Chris Lee
Priest, St Saviour's Church

Chris Lee is the Vicar of a growing Church in West London and founder of the Young Franciscans, a new monastic movement for young people. He is an Instagram influencer with over 180k followers (revchris7) and YouTuber with over 350 million views on the various videos he is involved in. He uses his social media platforms to communicate the love God and of self. His 60 second sermons have brought him national coverage, being called by Holly Willoughby 'the internet's favourite vicar'. Chris is a published author with Penguin Century releasing 'The OMG Effect' in Nov 2020 and has two new books coming out with Tyndall publishing in 2024 he is also regular contributor to Pause for Thought on BBC radio 2.



Yasmin Jay
Fashion influencer and entrepreneur of brand Yasmin Jay

With her eye for detail and and penchant for refined craftsmanship, Yasmin Jay successfully completed a Bachelor of Fashion Design at the Whitehouse Institute of Design. Inspired by both international runways and her local community, Yasmin Jay has launched her eponymous label fusing Middle East and West to showcase a modest take on contemporary fashion. She feels that the biggest misconception is that Islam and fashion are two separate entities, but Muslim women also want to feel beautiful. Modest fashion has opened a huge door for hijabistas because Muslim women can then proudly practise their faith without skimping on style. She aims to be a voice for her community, to break down mainstream stereotypes and inspire the youth who are figuring out their identity.

Father Fiel Pareja
Priest, Archdiocese of San Fernando

Fr. Fiel Pareja is a Catholic priest from the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines. He is active in social media evangelisation and is well-known as "Father Tiktok" for his active evangelisation on the Gen-Z application with 2.5 million followers. In 2021, he won the Rising Star Award and Popular Educational Content Creator Award on the said app.

Moderator

Krish Raval OBE
Founder Director, Faith in Leadership

Krish Raval is the Founder Director of Faith in Leadership, Britain's principal leadership development organisation for religious and lay leaders across the main faith communities. Based at St Benet's Hall, University of Oxford, Krish supports and mentors Faith in Leadership's extraordinary alumni network and has worked across the globe to this end. Krish read law at the Universities of Cambridge and Sheffield and has worked as a leadership consultant for several Fortune 500 companies.

Moderator

Denny Braggins
Director of Operations, Faith in Leadership

Denny has worked directly in the field of leadership development for almost two decades, organising and delivering programmes at student, corporate, community, and national levels. He has worked with Faith in Leadership since its foundation in 2007. An independent leadership development organisation Faith in Leadership's aim is to ensure Intelligent Faith can be consistently found in the public sphere. It works to offer the learning, networks, and positive relationships that underpin such collaboration and interaction. Denny is passionate about the potential of Leadership to solve both the micro and macro challenges we face as a people and planet.

Young Leaders Programme: Dialogues on Diversity

Day 2 | Wed, 7 Sep 2022

Breakout 1 – Faith in Sustainability

Dr N Varaprasad
President, Hindu Centre

Dr N Varaprasad is currently also a founder and partner at Singapore Education Consulting Group. He was former Chief Executive Officer of the National Library Board Singapore; Deputy President of the National University of Singapore; and Founding Principal/CEO of Temasek Polytechnic. He provides education consulting services globally, backed by 38 years in education from teaching to senior management. He was recognised for his progressive thinking and future-oriented education.

Teo Heng Xuan
Co-Founder, DAYWA (Dhamma Assembly for Young Working Adults)

Teo Heng Xuan is co-founder of DAYWA. He mobilises young Buddhists for community work, meditation and reconnecting with Buddhism. He also writes regularly for https://handfulofleaves.life on topics relevant to Buddhist youths. He works as Strategy & Operations Associate at B Capital Group, and a graduate from the University of Cambridge.

Moderator

Mathia Lee
Assistant Director, Workforce Singapore

Dr. Mathia Lee is an employability, community and health specialist. She is currently an Assistant Director at Workforce Singapore and was previously working with the Health Promotion Board. She is active in the interfaith scene as a facilitator and a member of the Centre for Interfaith Understanding, Singapore.

Breakout 2 – Faith in Workplaces

Hannah Willage
Director of the Emerging Leaders Network, Interfaith America

Hannah Willage, Director of the Emerging Leaders Network, oversees the suite of programing for Emerging Leaders of Interfaith America. Prior to joining Interfaith America, she worked for 15 years as a community organizer with Russian-speaking refugees and students experiencing homelessness. In her role, she develops and directs micro granting programs as well as fellowship experiences. With an eye to leadership development and relationship building, Hannah is constantly seeking ways to help the members of our Emerging Leaders Network to grow and connect. She enjoys spending time in nature and reading with her children, and exploring all of the Chicago neighborhoods. To Hannah, interfaith leadership means being curious, taking risks, and having a genuine love of people.

Dr Aamir Hussain
Dermatalogy Resident Physician, MedStar Health

Dr Aamir Hussain is a native of Farmington, Connecticut, and a Muslim of Indian background who speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and Hindi-Urdu. He currently works as a dermatology resident physician with MedStar Health in Washington DC. Dr Aamir joined the Interfaith Youth Core (now Interfaith America) as an undergraduate, working to promote community service through the lens of interfaith dialogue and cooperation. He is now an alumnus representative for the organization and had been invited to lecture at numerous events. Dr Hussain has also designed a curriculum at the University of Chicago bringing together medical students for educational sessions on topics related to the intersections between spirituality and healthcare.

Mohamed Imran Mohamed Taib
Founder, Dialogue Centre

Imran Taib is an interfaith advocate who for fronting the Centre for Interfaith Understanding (CIFU) as one of its founding Board Members. CIFU has worked with singing group Vox Camerata, who will perform at the YLP Community Showcase. Imran Taib has worked on several projects with MCCY including a commissioned project last year for a 6-month workshop to train interested members of public to better understand intersecting topics regarding interfaith issues. The project is currently being planned for its second run. He has also worked on other projects that received the support of MCCY's Harmony Fund with partners such as the Institute of Chinese Buddhism, and choir group Vox Camerata to ruminate on topics such as climate change and intra-faith diversity. Imran is frequently quoted in the media and on dialogue panels to share his views on interfaith matters.

Breakout 3 – Harnessing Faith for Community Building

Dr Tan Lai Yong
Associate Professor, National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Tan Lai Yong is a medical doctor by training. He graduated from National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1985. In 1996, he and his family relocated to Yunnan, China, where he was involved in poverty alleviation, community development and training of village health workers. They stayed in Yunnan from 1996 to 2010. On returning, Dr Tan was awarded a scholarship yo do the Masters in Public Admin at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He joined the College of Alice and Peter Tan (CAPT) as a Resident Fellow in 2012, in the pioneering days of the college. He was CAPT's Director for Outreach and Community Engagement from 2012 to 2020. As a 3-time recipient of the Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award, Dr Tan was given the NUS Residential Colleges Teaching Excellence Award Honour Roll.

Sister Julia Walsh
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

Sister Julia Walsh is a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and part of her congregation's formation team, serving women who are discerning their vocation. Along with another Franciscan Sister, she co-founded The Fireplace, an intentional community and house of hospitality on Chicago's southside that offers spiritual support to artists and activists. She has a MA in Pastoral Studies from Catholic Theological Union and is a certified spiritual director and secondary teacher A regularly published spiritual writer, Sister Julia's work can be found in publications such as America, Living Faith Catholic Devotional, Global Sisters Report and St. Anthony Messenger. She blogs and podcasts at MessyJesusBusiness.com.

Liyana Rosli Asmara
Head, Harmony Centre

Ustazah Liyana Rosli Asmara is the first female head of the Harmony Centre, an interfaith hub under the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis). She has been actively involved in interfaith engagement on the local scene since 2008. Ustazah Liyana is the Vice Chairman of the M^3 Committee of Jalan Besar, An-Nahdhah Mosque and an Associate Mediator with the International Institute of Mediators Singapore. She is also a member of the workgroup for the Racial and Religious Harmony Circle spearheaded by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. In 2014, she was featured in The Straits Times special series on "Young and passionate about interfaith work", discussing her aspirations and hopes for the future of the interfaith scene. During the pandemic, she also spoke at the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention And The Responsibility To Protect (OPSAG) Virtual Conference on Building a Cohesive Society, The Singapore Model.

Breakout Session 2

Day 3 | Thu, 8 Sep 2022

Faith 2 – Religion, Resilience & Cohesion (Regional Perspective)

Master Benjamin Tan Xianda
Singapore Taoist Federation

Master Benjamin Tan was initiated into Taoism ZhengYi Sect in 2013, ordained as a Luo generation ZhengYi Taoist priest in TianShi Mansion Mount Longhu (Jiangxi China) in 2018. He has represented the Taoist Federation (Singapore) at prayers, engagements, conferences, seminars and interfaith work. In addition, he is a leader of the Taoist Federation (Singapore) Prayer and Blessing Group, Council Member of Inter Religious Organisation representing Taoism, mentor to 3rd batch of Ambassador of Roses of Peace and Eunos IRCC Chairman.

Mr Dicky Sofjan
Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS)
Graduate School of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia

Dicky Sofjan is a Core Doctoral Faculty in the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) based in the Graduate School of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta. His main research interest mostly covers the nexus between religion and politics in Indonesia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He has been involved in many interfaith initiatives and programmes with the Indonesian Ministries of Religious and Foreign Affairs as well as with the White House, European Union and others.

Moderator

Dr Tan See Seng
President and CEO of International Students Inc.
Research Advisor at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and
Senior Associate at Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Professor Tan is President and CEO of International Students Inc., a faith-based non-profit organisation that works with international students in over 1,100 universities across the United States. He is concurrently Research Advisor at RSIS and Senior Associate at the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, both at Nanyang Technological University.

Identity 2 – Diversity & Intersections (Public Policy & Common Space)

Professor Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi
Professor of Islamic Architecture, UCSI University

Professor Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi is a prolific writer and speaker in architecture, politics, social issues, religious matters and education. He was educated in the USA at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where he obtained his Masters and Bachelor of Science in Architecture. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Professor Tajuddin has authored and published 56 books to date on architecture concerning Islam, the mosque, housing, community building and planning of administrative centres.

Mr Krish Raval OBE
Founder Director, Faith in Leadership

Krish Raval is the Founder Director of Faith in Leadership, Britain's principal leadership development organisation for religious and lay leaders across the main faith communities. Based at St Benet's Hall, University of Oxford, Krish supports and mentors Faith in Leadership's extraordinary alumni network and has worked across the globe to this end. Krish read law at the Universities of Cambridge and Sheffield and has worked as a leadership consultant for several Fortune 500 companies.

Mr Tim Dixon
Co-Founder, More in Common

Tim Dixon is a co-founder of More in Common, an initiative to foster cohesion and unity in democratic societies, and counter the forces of division. Prior to More in Common, Tim co-founded six other social enterprises, including digital agency Purpose Europe, civil protection and democracy group The Syria Campaign, and peace advocacy and citizen engagement group Movilizatorio in Colombia. Tim was the Australian Prime Minister's economic adviser and chief speechwriter, and worked for Prime Ministers Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard.

Moderator

Mr Shane Pereira
Research Associate, IPS Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies
National University of Singapore

Shane Pereira is Research Associate at IPS Social Lab in the Institute of Policy Studies. He specialises in applied ethnography and social research methods, and holds qualifications in Sociology and social research methods, which he taught for the last 11 years in both the National University of Singapore and King's College London.

Cohesion 2 – Connectivity & Connectedness

Dr Yang Mee Eng
Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation

Dr Yang worked in private and government sectors for over 26 years.. She was most recently the Senior Vice President at Alphacap. There, she assisted SME companies and led the development and execution of Bloconomic Expo 2019, a platform aimed at creating a vast network of blockchain entrepreneurs and developers in the fast-evolving blockchain companies. Prior to that, she was the CEO of Gameview, the largest mobile game publisher in Malaysia, where she oversaw more than 50 staff members in their three offices in Malaysia, China and Thailand.

Ms Teresa Tan
Director of Public Policy, ByteDance, Southeast Asia

Ms Teresa Tan leads ByteDance's public policy and government relations across Southeast Asia, where she is responsible for promoting a regulatory environment that supports business growth and innovation. She partners with her team to drive impactful policy programmes around empowerment of small and medium-sized enterprises, digital safety and wellness, and inclusive access to online learning. Prior to joining ByteDance, Teresa served as the Regional Communications Lead at Grab where she pioneered the policy communications function. Teresa also served more than 10 years in the Singapore government across finance, home affairs and ICT Agencies.

Moderator

Ms Teo Yi-Ling
Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Teo Yi-Ling is a Senior Fellow with the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at RSIS. She is part of the Cyber and Homeland Defence Programme of CENS, and engaged in researching strategies of national cybersecurity resilience, data protection and governance regimes, online regulation regimes, and ethics and governance related to artificial intelligence and disruptive technology, with a view to informing policy responses for Singapore's national security.

Breakout Session 3

Day 3 | Thu, 8 Sep 2022

Faith 3 – Faith Overcoming COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan
Deputy Mufti, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS)

Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan specialises in History and Philosophy of Islamic Higher Education, Muslim-Jewish relations, interfaith relations, and history and philosophy of Islamic law in the Malay Archipelago.

Reverend Dr Edmund Fong
Lecturer, Trinity Theological College, Singapore
Lecturer in Systematic Theology (Christology and the reception of salvation)
Lecturer in Presbyterianism
Dean of Students

Reverend Dr Edmund Fong is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore. Edmund joined the pastoral team of Adam Road Presbyterian Church in 2009. Edmund continues to participate actively in the pastoral and teaching ministries at Adam Road Presbyterian Church.

Moderator

Master Chung Kwang Tong
Board Member, Character & Leadership Academy

Master Chung is a Taoist priest of the Quan Zhen Long-men (Dragon Gate) Tradition. He is also a Deputy Executive Director at the Character and Leadership Academy, and sits on several public and people advisory committees.

Identity 3 – Religion & Social Justice

Mr Somboon Chungprampree
Executive Secretary, International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)

Somboon Chungprampree (Moo), is a Thai social activist working for Peace and Justice in Asia. He is a civic leader and serves on the Board of a number of international and national foundations.

Sister Julia Walsh
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

Sister Julia Walsh is a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and part of her congregation's formation team, serving women who are discerning their vocation. Along with another Franciscan Sister, she co-founded The Fireplace, an intentional community and house of hospitality on Chicago's southside that offers spiritual support to artists and activists.

Moderator

Dr Mathew Mathews
Head, Research Associate, IPS Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies
National University of Singapore

Dr Mathew Mathews is Head of IPS Social Lab, a centre for social indicator research and a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore. In addition to other projects, Mathews is currently leading is a study on Religious Spaces and Practices in Singapore. This project utilises a large scale survey to understand the religious profiles and worship patterns of Singapore residents and non-residents.

Cohesion 3 – Youth Work Initiatives

Ms Arizza Ann Nocum
Founder, KRIS

Arizza Ann Nocum is the Co-Founder and President of KRIS, a non-profit organisation that utilises education as a pathway to peace in the Philippines. KRIS has built libraries and provided scholarships for young people victimised by conflict and poverty. Today, KRIS educates, empowers, and inspires young peace-builders through summits, training programmes, and offline and online information campaigns.

Ms Farahnaz Ali Ghodsinia
Peace Ambassador to the Office of the Philippine Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

Farahnaz Ali Ghodsinia was born and raised in the Philippines. Farah graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of the Philippines-Diliman with a degree in Broadcast Communications. Currently she is working to pursue her graduate studies while serving as the Peace Ambassador to the Office of the Philippine Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Mr Shukul Raaj Kumar
Chairperson, Inter-Religious Organisation Youth Committee

Shukul Raaj Kumar is currently the Chairperson of the Inter-Religious Organisation Youth Committee. A Certified Scrum Master, he is also the Vice-Chairperson leading the Programmes team in Hindu Youth Network, that falls under the auspices of Hindu Endowment Board. He will also be doing his Masters in International Relations in August 2022 from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Nanyang Technological University.

Moderator

Mr Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad
Founder, Roses of Peace

Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad is tackling the issue of apathy towards religious harmony among young people in Singapore with his inter-faith nonprofit group Roses of Peace. He encourages them to engage in difficult conversations about religion, a crucial topic in multi-ethnic Singapore, and other issues they face such as the rising cost of living and the mismatch between skills and job opportunities.

Young Leaders Programme: Leadership Workshop

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Leadership in a Diverse World

Krish Raval OBE
Founder Director, Faith in Leadership

Krish Raval is the Founder Director of Faith in Leadership, Britain's principal leadership development organisation for religious and lay leaders across the main faith communities. Based at St Benet's Hall, University of Oxford, Krish supports and mentors Faith in Leadership's extraordinary alumni network and has worked across the globe to this end. Krish read law at the Universities of Cambridge and Sheffield and has worked as a leadership consultant for several Fortune 500 companies.

Denny Braggins
Director of Operations, Faith in Leadership

Denny has worked directly in the field of leadership development for almost two decades, organising and delivering programmes at student, corporate, community, and national levels. He has worked with Faith in Leadership since its foundation in 2007. An independent leadership development organisation Faith in Leadership's aim is to ensure Intelligent Faith can be consistently found in the public sphere. It works to offer the learning, networks, and positive relationships that underpin such collaboration and interaction. Denny is passionate about the potential of Leadership to solve both the micro and macro challenges we face as a people and planet.

Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand
Advisor, Pears Foundation

Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand is an author, radio broadcaster and philanthropic advisor to Pears Foundation in London, where she currently serves as Director of Leadership and Learning. Shoshana is intensely involved in interfaith work as a founding faculty member of Faith in Leadership, Visiting Scholar at Sarum College (a Christian theological seminary) and Visiting Research Fellow at St. Benet's Hall, Oxford University. She serves as Treasurer of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) which liaises on behalf of the global Jewish community to the Vatican, World Council of Churches, and other faith bodies. Shoshana broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio and presents frequently at conferences on issues around faith, identity and leadership. Additionally, she founded JDOV, a Jewish TED-style video platform: www.jdov.org.t