



Panelists at the IPS-ISIS forum on identity this week included (from left) Associate Professor Zhang Weiwei from the National University of Singapore's communications and new media department, Mr. Joel Lim, managing director of Zypp Media, and Mr. Man Chiu Ling, chief operations officer of non-profit technology organisation better.sg. PHOTO: INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES

How best to bridge divides and strengthen a common national identity?

Linette Lai
Political Correspondent

At a time when people are rediscovering their "tribes" and reassessing different facets of their identities, it feels harder than ever to forge a common Singapore identity everyone feels they have a share in.

This is especially the case when friction arises between groups with different lived experiences, which can lead to people turning inwards and doubling down on their positions, rather than reaching out in reciprocity and compromise.

These were some of the issues raised at a conference on identity organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (ISIS) on Tuesday.

Insight looks at three approaches to tackle such tensions.

CARVING OUT SPACE FOR DEBATE

If disagreements arise because people are ignorant of what other people feel strongly about, then creating spaces for discussion might help both sides reach a common understanding. These could include conferences involving academics and civil society voices, as well as small-group dialogues.

In September last year, the Communications and Women's Development was launched to understand women's concerns, with the resultant feedback to be compiled into a White Paper.

For such platforms to be effective, they must be made available, accessible and attractive for people to take part in, said Professor David Chan, a psychologist and director of Singapore Management University's Behavioural Sciences Initiative, who was a panel-

list at the IPS-ISIS forum.

But timing and context matter, especially when the issues under discussion involve irreconcilable differences in values and are likely to stir up strong emotions. If badly timed, poorly planned and hastily implemented can hurt instead of help.

When such discussions do go according to plan, there are benefits. Associate Professor Yow Wei Quin, from the Singapore University of Technology and Design's arts and social sciences cluster, said people become more aware of their unconscious thinking. They may also become more cognisant of how their actions may impact or be influenced by others, she added.

But what about groups that are left out of mainstream discussions, or are not ready to engage in debate with the wider society?

Women, for instance, have historically been excluded from such debate, said Associate Professor Zhang Weiwei from the National University of Singapore's communications and new media department. In many cases, these groups then formed their own safe spaces to share experiences and form social identities. "And these safer deliberation spaces became foundations upon which these social groups can reach out... to the larger society," she said.

LEANING ON THE LAW

Another option is to spell out in law behaviour that Singapore deems unacceptable, with penalties – or at least mandatory rehabilitation – for those who run afoul of the rules. In August, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced that Singapore will introduce a Maintenance of Racial Harmony Act to consolidate existing laws dealing with racial issues, which

are currently under various pieces of legislation. While such laws may not make people get along with one another, PM Lee said, they signal what society considers right or wrong and "nudge people over time to behave better."

Singapore is also working on new anti-discrimination laws, with a Tripartite Committee on Workplace Fairness making recommendations on this legislation. These are expected to cover areas set out in existing guidelines on fair employment practices, such as age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language, marital status, or disability.

But civil society groups have suggested that legal protections be extended to prevent discrimination based on categories such as sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

Have laws in place will make it mandatory for offenders to undergo a rehabilitative regime, said Associate Professor John Kwek from the Singapore University of Social Sciences' Centre for University Core. But they may also mean that people treat one another well because they fear punishment – rather than internalising values that motivate them to behave that way.

"The result will be a fragile social harmony, where one's restraint depends on whether one will get into trouble with the law."

Dr Carol Soon, one of the moderators at the IPS forum, pointed out that social media, with its low barrier to entry, has become the space for identity expression and contestation. But given that these platforms have been plagued by problems ranging from cyber bullying to disinformation, some degree of regulation is needed. The challenge is finding the right balance.

"Too little, and society would be the poorer, given the representation – such as distrust, or worse, hate between communities," said the senior research fellow and host of society and culture at IPS. "Too much, and it may inhibit self-expression, which could lead to repression within the self and the community."

One way to manage this might be to have influential people on social media – who "own" the space – to set and enforce codes of conduct for themselves and their communities, she suggested.

HANDS-OFF APPROACH?

There is the option of letting debates on identity run their course, without attempting to shape them or arbitrate in any way.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Lawrence Wong said Singaporeans will always find a "fair and honest broker" in the Government, which will strive to make sure all groups feel heard and included.

But Assistant Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences, said the Government does not need to intervene in every debate. "It can take a step back and let people discuss and have a robust discussion, sometimes even on issues they would find hard to let go of," he said.

Under this hands-off approach, what would happen when people clash over fundamental differences such as value systems?

Prof Kwek suggested an approach first put forth by philosopher John Rawls that operates based on an "overlapping consensus." Instead of building harmony based on shared values – which may differ from person to person, and even from generation to generation – the idea is to internalise values that build a consensus on norms the entire society believes in. This approach is less fragile than one based entirely on self-interest, he said, adding that norms which facilitate social harmony include kindness and tolerance.

Any framework to manage social harmony should ensure that places where people often acquire values – such as schools and religious organisations – align in transmitting values that affirm such norms, he said. This framework should also teach and model scientifically supported, productive methods of disagreement.

The topic of disagreement came

up at Tuesday's forum, during which Singaporean writer Ng Yi-Sheng responded to Prof Chan's suggestion that people should refrain from becoming "too angry" when disagreeing on a topic.

Rage can be productive and people have the right to be angry when there is injustice, Mr Ng said.

In response, Prof Chan agreed that anger arising from value violations such as unfair treatment is understandable, legitimate and at times even useful, but it is important to be calm and composed when making one's points because visceral expression can lead to "unintended negative consequences."

"If we don't have the humility to change our strategies and beliefs... in the light of new information, I think we are no longer adaptive. And what we do is a disservice to the group that we are representing... because it will backfire."

He called instead for the creation of an overall climate in which people remain respectful, even where strong disagreements exist. This means raising issues in a honest and a learning orientation, not engaging in sarcasm and character assassination, both actual and perceived," he said.

Prof Chan added: "It will be counterproductive if our anger, conviction or passion is not translated into constructive actions that solve problems. So regardless of who we are and the views we hold, we need to learn how to reduce negativity, produce positivity and create solutions."

But that does not mean shying away from disagreement.

On the contrary, it is important for people to engage more with those who they disagree with, and to approach these differences with openness rather than trying to shut them down, Prof Wald said.

The moment we start saying "Oh, you disagree with me, and therefore you are less moral than me" – I think that's a recipe for societal disaster, because we will never be able to build a cohesive society. We can disagree completely and robustly with people. But the mechanism to settling those differences has to be more openness in terms of debate and dialogue."

Any framework to manage social harmony should ensure that places where people often acquire values – such as schools and religious organisations – align in transmitting values that affirm such norms, he said. This framework should also teach and model scientifically supported, productive methods of disagreement.

The topic of disagreement came



Goh Yan Han

In 1854, riots between Hokkien and Teochews in Singapore lasted over 10 days and left at least 400 dead and 300 houses burnt.

Over a hundred years later in 1964, race riots in the country led to 36 deaths and 560 injured.

In recent years, incidents involving race have also made headlines.

Anecdotes have surfaced of how people from minority races are discriminated against when looking for housing or job opportunities.

These examples show how primordial markers of identity, such as race, religion and language, have been a source of conflict in Singapore over the years.

Schoolchildren celebrating Racial Harmony Day. An NUS professor has called for a Singapore where people discuss privilege openly, without denigrating any group. ST FILE PHOTO

In a bid to focus on the Singaporean identity, one must be cautious not to create a division between Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans, including permanent residents.

With nearly 40 per cent of the population in Singapore being foreigners, that divide could be very destabilising if not managed properly, said Ms Corinna Lim, executive director of the Association of Women for Action and Research (Awarer), at a conference on identity this week.

Groups could fall through the cracks, such as migrant spouses with Singaporean children, and the creation of different categories of people here can result in dangerous divides like first class or second class, she said.

The local-foreign divide has

been hotly discussed over the years in Singapore.

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews said this is a fault line that has become more apparent due to changes in economic strategy. He said: "When Singapore shifted its focus to be a regional and global hub, and adopted a more liberal immigration policy, the concerns about migrants became more apparent, especially when more Singaporeans felt threatened with job losses and a rise in cost of living."

During the 2011 General Election, an immigration policy seen as too lax amid an influx of foreigners was possibly the most emotionally and politically charged issue, as Singaporeans complained about overcrowding and perceived unfair job competition. The Government subsequently introduced a range of tools to tighten the inflow of foreign workers at every skill tier, such as high foreign worker levies and stricter criteria for S Pass and Employment Pass holders.

The concerns of LGBTQ people are important, and one cannot say to any group that their concerns are illegitimate or exaggerated, Finance Minister Lawrence Wong acknowledged earlier this week.

"Every Singaporean deserves a place in our society, regardless of his or her background, status or racial or cultural identity," he said at a conference on identity.

Other emerging divides include those between people who are pro-vaccine and anti-vaccine, especially amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Also circulating on social media are anti-vaccine perspectives, in

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial tension... but it's exacerbated, and it's intertwined with class differences. That is something we cannot ignore."

Institute of Policy Studies principal research fellow Matthew Mathews, highlighted several divides that emerged elsewhere but are also present here. "Different cohorts have different lived experiences and are informed by their context might view the world differently. In some times feel that people in particular generations may be hampering social progress towards inclusion in a detrimental direction," he said.

In the Singapore context, age is such a factor that relates to educational attainment and ability to navigate the digital world."

Expert Professor Walid Jumblatt Abdullah from Nanyang Technological University's School of Social Sciences said Singapore has to go beyond cursory or superficial statements about how inequality matters and think deeper about what meritocracy truly means.

He pointed to the rise of populism in the West and in Asia, say-

ing. "There's racial