

## **Multi-directional Migration and Social Cohesion in Singapore**

### **Abstract**

As an entrepreneurial city-state, Singapore has embarked on place-branding and mega-projects to enhance its international image and competitiveness. At the same time, the 'software' of the global city is achieved through a range of migration policies that have implications for the social cohesion of the city-state. Building on arguments presented in *Citizens in Motion* (Stanford University Press, 2019), this presentation considers how analysing immigration, emigration and re-migration under the same analytical framework might illuminate new ways of approaching the topic of social cohesion. Taking seriously the multidirectionality of migration means giving attention to the citizenship constellations that are forged across migration sites as they shape the lives of citizens in motion and how they see themselves as members of multiple societies at a singular time or across time. Adopting such an approach towards migration research has important implications for how we understand notions and practices of social cohesion. Professor Elaine Ho considers the arguments above by examining the migration connections between Singapore and China, focusing on highly skilled and investor migrants.