Issues raised in the Population White Paper (PWP)

- Justified immigration to help local businesses thrive and to create good jobs for citizens.
- PWP proposed to promote more marriages and children amongst couples.

Reactions to the passing of the motion of the PWP

- Citizens perceived it as the state favouring immigrants
- Academics criticised it for being "sociologically and politically naive"

Constructed by the state as an issue which largely has implications on economic development

Policy directed to manage

- Growing ageing population
- Ultra-low fertility rates
- Delayed marriage, family formation and childbirth

Family and family formation no longer a primary concern for young Singaporeans

- Advancement of women
- Expansion of higher education
- Late entry to workforce
- Personal aspirations
- Rise in singlehood

MIGRATION

Consequences of international labour migration into Singapore

- Growing concerns among citizens regarding the increasing migrant population
 - Tensions from perceived cultural (and economic) differences
- Greater cultural diversity

Population FERTILITY

"Population problem" in

Singapore

Challenges of a growing global

• Implications for economic

growth and productivity

• Environmental challenges

Cost of dependency

GES1035/GESS1025: LECTURE

population

Structure of policies hinged on encouraging marriage and self-reliance

Population, Family Policies and

the Naturalization of

Why do we need high fertility (amidst an ageing population)?

Fertility concerns have become a

national crisis as Singapore depends heavily on its human capital

- Growth and maintenance of potential labour force
- Foundation of military capability
- Sustain consumption (i.e in housing, transport, education etc)

Issue of low TFR is observed in many other cities as well but the issue is magnified in Singapore because it is a small country that lacks a hinterland

Factors influencing trends in family formation and fertility

- Rewards of paid work
 - Return of investments is almost immediate and affords individuals greater economic and social power
- Responsibility of childcareIntensive parenting
- Greater access to assisted reproductive technologies

Challenges concerning migration

- How to meet both the competing needs of the state and those of migrant labour
- Producing a liveable urban environment for a diverse migrant population, given space constraints
- Managing infrastructure (transport, housing etc)
- Maintaining national identity

Global ageing population patterns

- NCDs will be a major health burden
- More middle age people will have elderly parents still living
- 80% of elderly will be living in developing rather than developed societies

AGEING

Policy challenges

- Disproportionately larger ageing population Increasing dependency ratio Losing competitiveness due to loss of working population
- Concern over maintaining a sustainable pension and healthcare system

Recommendations for policies for managing ageing population

- Focus on the quality of life in old age
 - Foster successful ageing
 - Ageing-in-place and social inclusion
- Invest and develop elderly human capital

(Teo, 2014) Differentiated Deservedness Deservedness

People have different types of access and degree of public support depending on who they are and how they live (i.e how "deserving" they're constructed to be)

Interrogating social policy as a mode of governance in which specific performances of the familial are generated



- "Pro-family" policies tie specific practices to social support.
- Being deserving of public support means being able to perform "ideal" familial orientations (i.e doing employment, gender, sexuality, marital status, institutional dependence a certain way)