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Future Horizons: Envisioning the Humanities and Social Sciences

25 March 2026 | 2.00pm – 5.30pm
Shaw Foundation Alumni House Auditorium



Can the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) still shape the future in an age increasingly dominated by artificial intelligence, climate crises, and social fragmentation? Future Horizons: Envisioning the Humanities and Social Sciences invites participants to reflect on this timely question through two engaging panel discussions that explore the challenges and emerging opportunities facing HSS today.

HUMANITIES

SESSION MODERATOR

Prof Fiona Williamson

Professor of Environmental History in the College of Integrative Studies, Singapore Management University

SPEAKERS

Prof Adam Clulow

Professor of History, The University of Texas at Austin

Prof Robbie Goh

Provost and Professor of Literature, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Prof Hsueh Ming Qu

Provost's Chair Professor of Philosophy, National University of Singapore

Dr Seng Yu Jin

Senior Curator and Director (Curatorial, Research & Exhibitions), The National Gallery Singapore

Prof Jesvin Yeo

Deputy Associate Provost (Strategy) and Professor at the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University

SOCIAL SCIENCES

SESSION MODERATOR

Prof Lionel Wee

Dean of FASS and Provost's Chair Professor of English, Linguistics, and Theatre Studies, National University of Singapore

SPEAKERS

Prof Kenneth Benoit

Dean and Professor of Computational Social Science at the School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University

Prof Mark Graham

Professor of Internet Geography at the Oxford Internet Institute | Senior Research Fellow at Green Templeton College | Research Affiliate in the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment

Mr Martin Tan

Chief Executive Officer of The Majority Trust

Assoc Prof Walter Theseira

Associate Professor of Economics, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Prof Yow Wei Quin

Head of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Cluster | Programme Director for the Design and Artificial Intelligence Undergraduate Degree | Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Chair Professor in Healthcare Engineering, Singapore University of Technology and Design

Future Horizons: Envisioning the Humanities and Social Sciences Roundtable

2:00 PM Registration

2:15 PM Welcome Remarks by Professor Lionel Wee (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore)

2:20 PM Humanities Panel

Moderator: Prof. Fiona Clare Williamson (Singapore Management University)

Prof. Adam Clulow (The University of Texas at Austin)

Prof. Robbie Goh (Singapore University of Social Sciences)

Prof. Hsueh Ming Qu (National University of Singapore)

Dr. Seng Yu Jin (National Gallery Singapore)

Prof. Jesvin Yeo (Nanyang Technological University)

3:40 PM Coffee Break

4:00 PM Social Sciences Panel

Moderator: Prof. Lionel Wee (National University of Singapore)

Prof. Kenneth Benoit (Singapore Management University)

Dr. Mark Graham (University of Oxford)

Mr. Martin Tan (The Majority Trust)

A/Prof. Walter Theseira (Singapore University of Social Sciences)

Prof. Yow Wei Quin (Singapore University of Technology and Design)

5:20 PM Closing Remarks by Professor Kenneth Benoit (Chair of the 2026 Ideas Festival and Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University)

5:30 PM End of Event

Moderators' and Speakers' Bios



Prof Kenneth Benoit

Ken is Dean and Professor of Computational Social Science at the School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University. His research focuses on computational, quantitative methods for processing large amounts of textual data, mainly political texts and social media.



Prof Adam Clulow

Adam Clulow is a historian of early modern Asia. His work is concerned broadly with the transnational circulation of ideas, people, practices and commodities across East and Southeast Asia.



Prof Robbie Goh

Robbie Goh is Provost and Professor of the Singapore University of Social Sciences, a position he has held since 1 October 2021. Prior to this, he spent 33 years at the National University of Singapore, most recently as Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science.



Prof Mark Graham

Mark Graham is Professor of Internet Geography at the Oxford Internet Institute, Senior Research Fellow at Green Templeton College, and Research Affiliate in the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment.

**Prof Hsueh Ming Qu**

Hsueh Ming Qu is Provost's Chair Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the National University of Singapore. His research interest is Early Modern, primarily the scholarship of David Hume.

**Dr Seng Yu Jin**

Seng Yu Jin is a Senior Curator and Director (Curatorial, Research & Exhibitions) at The National Gallery Singapore. His research interests cover regional art histories focusing on Southeast Asian art in relation to the history of exhibitions and artist collectives in Southeast Asia.

**Martin Tan**

Martin Tan is the Chief Executive Officer of The Majurity Trust, a philanthropic organisation with social impact programs in Singapore. Martin was formerly the Executive Director of Institute for Societal Leadership at Singapore Management University and Co-Founder of Halogen Foundation Singapore.

**Assoc Prof Walter Theseira**

Walter Theseira is Associate Professor of Economics at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. He has advised government agencies on economic research and served as a Nominated Member of Parliament in the 13th Parliament of Singapore.

**Prof Lionel Wee**

Lionel Wee is Dean of FASS and Provost's Chair Professor in the Department of English, Linguistics, and Theatre Studies at NUS. His main research interests include language policy, new varieties of English, and broader issues in sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and applied linguistics.

**Prof Fiona Williamson**

Fiona Williamson is Professor of environmental history in the College of Integrative Studies at Singapore Management University. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and Co-President of the International Commission for the History of Meteorology.

**Prof Jesvin Yeo**

Jesvin Yeo is Deputy Associate Provost (Strategy) and Professor at the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University. Her research interests are in cultural value, human experience and behaviour, and their applications in cultural heritage, education and wellbeing.

**Prof Yow Wei Quin**

Yow Wei Quin is the Head of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences cluster, Programme Director for the Design and Artificial Intelligence undergraduate degree and Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Chair Professor in Healthcare Engineering at the Singapore University of Technology and Design.
