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TEO You Yenn received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley. She is Associate Professor and Provost's Chair in Sociology, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Inequality, at Nanyang Technological University.

Her research focuses on poverty and inequality, care/welfare regimes, gender, and class. Her work has been published in *Current Sociology*, *Economy and Society*, *Signs*, *Social Politics*, and *Development and Change*. She is the author of *Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society* (Routledge, 2011), *This Is What Inequality Looks Like* (Ethos Books, 2018) and *Unease: Life in Singapore Families* (Ethos Books, 2026).

Apart from academic writings, she contributes to public debate through public lectures and media commentaries. She is also a founding co-editor of [AcademiaSG](#), an initiative to promote Singapore scholarship and expand public discourse.

EDUCATION

University of California at Berkeley, Ph.D. in Sociology, 2005.
University of California at Berkeley, M.A. in Sociology, 2001.
University of California at Berkeley, B.A. in Sociology & Mass Communications, 1998.

RESEARCH

Class inequalities and poverty; minimum income standards; public policy and welfare; state-society relations and culture; gender; Singapore.

TEACHING

Classical social theory; Qualitative methodology in social research; Power, Politics, and the State; Sociology of Gender; Social Class and Inequality; Social Movements; Contemporary Social Theory.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025 NTU School of Social Sciences Teaching Award
2019 AWARE Woman of Insight Award, Association of Women for Action and Research
2019 Nanyang Technological University Provost's Chair in Sociology
2016 Feminist Scholar Activist Award, American Sociological Association Sex and Gender Section

2013 Nanyang Education Award (School), Nanyang Technological University
2001 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley

EMPLOYMENT

- Associate Professor, Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, September 2014-present.
- Head of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, 2016-2022.
- Assistant Professor, Division of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. December 2007-August 2014.
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. February 2006-December 2007.
- Graduate Student Instructor, Social Movements, UC Berkeley, Spring 2002.
- Graduate Student Instructor, Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis, UC Berkeley, Fall 2000-Spring 2001.
- Graduate Student Researcher, Berkeley Project on Equal Opportunity, Institute for the Study of Social Change (ISSC), UC Berkeley. Summer 1999-Spring 2000.
- Reader, Elementary Forms of Racial Domination. UC Berkeley, Spring 1999.
- Graduate Student Instructor, The Effects of Mass Media, UC Berkeley, Fall 1998.

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

- Principal Investigator. Ministry of Education (Singapore), AcRF Tier 1, 2026-29.
Project title: *Basic needs in contemporary Singapore: A minimum income standards study.*
- Co-Investigator. Association of Women for Action and Research, and Community Foundation of Singapore, 2019-21.
Project title: *Household budgets for families in Singapore.*
- Co-Investigator. Tsao Foundation Ageing Research Initiative, 2016-2018.
Project title: *Household budgets for elderly persons in Singapore.*
- Principal Investigator. Ministry of Education (Singapore), AcRF Tier 1, 2016-20.
Project title: *Work-life balance in contemporary Singapore: Cross-class comparisons.*
- Principal Investigator. Ministry of Education (Singapore), AcRF Tier 1, 2013-15.
Project title: *Everyday lives of the low-income in Singapore.*
- Nanyang Technological University, School of Humanities and Social Sciences Start-up Grant, 2009-2012. Project title: *The politics of family and welfare in Asia.*
- Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Research Grant, 2007.
- UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant, 2005.
- UC Berkeley Sociology Departmental Grant, 2005.
- National Science Foundation (USA) Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2003-2004.
- UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant, 2002.
- UC Berkeley Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, 2002-2003.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Teo, You Yenn. 2026. *Unease: Life in Singapore Families*. Singapore: Ethos Books.
- Teo, You Yenn. Forthcoming in 2026. *Krajobraz nierówności: Eseje o Singapurze*. Polish edition of *This is What Inequality Looks Like*. Poland: Tajfuny. <https://tajfuny.pl>
- 张优远. 2025. 《不平等的样貌》 China edition of *This is What Inequality Looks Like*. Shanghai: People's Oriental.
- 張優遠. 2022. 《不平等的樣貌：新加坡繁榮神話背後·社會底層的悲歌》 Taiwan edition of *This is What Inequality Looks Like*. Taiwan: Linking Publishing. <https://www.linkingbooks.com.tw/book/Book.aspx?ID=184661>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. *This is What Inequality Looks Like*. Singapore: Ethos Books. Paperback and ebook at: <https://www.ethosbooks.com.sg/products/this-is-what-inequality-looks-like>
Audio book at: <https://www.storytel.com/sg/books/this-is-what-inequality-looks-like-713691>
- Teo, Youyenn. 2011. *Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society*. London and New York: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Neoliberal-Morality-in-Singapore-How-family-policies-make-state-and-society/Teo/p/book/9780415593977>

Reports

- Ng, Kok Hoe, Wong Yee Lok, Teo You Yenn, Neo Yu Wei, Ad Maulod, Stephanie Chok. 2023. *Minimum Income Standard 2023: Household budgets in a time of rising costs*. <https://whatsenough.sg>
- Ng, Kok Hoe, Teo You Yenn, Neo Yu Wei, Ad Maulod, Stephanie Chok, Wong Yee Lok. 2021. *What People Need in Singapore: A Household Budgets Study*.
- Ng, Kok Hoe, Teo You Yenn, Neo Yu Wei, Ad Maulod, Ting Yi Ting. 2019. *What older people need in Singapore: A household budgets study*.

Journal articles

- Teo, Youyenn. 2023. "Education as Care Labor: Expanding Our Lens on the Work-Life Balance Problem." *Current Sociology* 71(7): 1181-1382.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2018. "Whose Family Matters? Work-Care-Migration Regimes and Class Inequalities in Singapore." *Critical Sociology* 44(7-8): 1133-46.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2017. "Vignettes of poverty versus stories of inequality," *Media Asia* 43(3-4): 138-144.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2016. "Not everyone has 'maids': class differentials in the elusive quest for work-life balance." *Gender, Place & Culture* 23(8): 1164-78.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2015. "Differentiated Deservedness: Governance through familialist social policies in Singapore." *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia* 3(1): 73-93.

- Teo, Youyenn. 2015. "Interrogating the limits of welfare reforms in Singapore." *Development and Change* 46(1): 95-120.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2013. "Support for deserving families: inventing the anti-welfare familialist state in Singapore." *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* 20(3): 386-406.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2010. "Shaping the Singapore family, producing state and society." *Economy and Society* 39(3): 337-359.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2010. "Asian families as sites of state politics: introduction." *Economy and Society* 39(3): 309-316.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2009. "Gender disarmed: How gendered policies produce gender-neutral politics in Singapore." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 34(3): 533-558.
- Teo, Youyenn and Nicola Piper. 2009. "Foreigners in our homes: linking migration and family policies in Singapore." *Population, Space and Place* 15(2): 147-159.
- Teo, You Yenn. 2007. "Inequality for the greater good: gendered state rule in Singapore." *Critical Asian Studies* 39(3): 263-285.

Book chapters

- Teo, You Yenn. 2024. "Ordinary People Dream" pp. 3-35 in *Why Not? Thinking About Singapore's Tomorrow*, edited by Kanwaljit Soin and Margaret Thomas. Singapore: World Scientific.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2023. "The Singaporean welfare state system: A special focus on public housing and the Central Provident Fund," in *The Routledge International Handbook to Welfare State Systems: Towards Global Social Policy Science*, 2nd edition, edited by Christian Aspalter. London; New York: Routledge.
- Teo, You Yenn. 2022. "Growing up in an unequal society," pp. 62-92 in *Thinking of Children: The Singapore Children's Society Collected Lectures (2015-2021)*, edited by Singapore Children's Society. Singapore: World Scientific.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2022. "Educational Inequality and Development," pp. 392-404 in *The Routledge Handbook on Global Development*, edited by Kearnin Sims, Nicola Banks, Susan Engel, Paul Hodge, Jonathan Makuwira, Naohiro Nakamura, Jonathan Rigg, Albert Salamanca, Pichamon Yeophantong. London; New York: Routledge.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2021. "From public sociology to collective knowledge production," pp. 54-65 in *The Routledge International Handbook on Public Sociology*, edited by Leslie Hossfeld, E. Brooke Kelly, Cassius M. Hossfeld. London; New York: Routledge.
- Ng, Kok-Hoe, Yu-Wei Neo, Youyenn Teo, Ad Maulod, and Yi-Ting Ting. 2020. "Measuring needs and setting standards in Singapore," pp. 83-96 in *Minimum Income Standards and Reference Budgets: International and Comparative Policy Perspectives*, edited by Christopher Deeming. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.
- Teo, You Yenn. 2019. Foreword to *Hard at Work: Life in Singapore*, edited by Gerard Sasges and Ng Shi Wen. Singapore: National University Press.
- Teo, You Yenn. 2019. "Seeing a story to get to a case," pp. 34-43 in *They Told Us to Move*, edited by Ng Kok Hoe and the Cassia Resettlement Team. Singapore: Ethos Books.

- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “Small road, big road, personal roads, shared roads,” pp. 208-11 in *The Birthday Book: The Roads We Take*, edited by Cheryl Chung and Aaron Maniam. Singapore: The Birthday Collective. <https://hdl.handle.net/10356/147171>
- Teo, Youyenn. 2018. “Falling Short: Class and the Performance of the Familial,” pp. 96-111 in *Family and Population Change in Singapore: A unique case in the global family changes*, edited by Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and Shu Hu. London: Routledge. <https://hdl.handle.net/10356/147649>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2017. “Poor people don’t like oats either: how myths about poverty and wealth matter,” pp. 239-248 in *Living with Myths in Singapore*, edited by Loh Kah Seng, Jack Chia, and PJ Thum. Singapore: Ethos Books. Also published online at *New Naratif*, September 9, 2017. Available at: <https://newnaratif.com/research/poor-people-dont-like-oats-either/>
- Teo, Youyenn. 2017. “The Singaporean welfare state system: with special reference to public housing and the Central Provident Fund,” pp. 383-397 in *The Routledge International Handbook to Welfare State Systems*, edited by Christian Aspalter. London; New York: Routledge. <https://hdl.handle.net/10356/147650>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2016. “Undoing Differentiated Deservedness,” pp. 258-64 in *Singapore Dreaming: Managing Utopia*, edited by H. Koon Wee and Jeremy Chia. Singapore: Asian Urban Lab.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2015. “Childbearing in Singapore—Do we have real choices?,” pp. 217-226 in *Our Lives to Live: Putting a Woman’s Face to Change in Singapore*, edited by Kanwaljit Soin and Margaret Thomas. Singapore: World Scientific.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2014. “Population problems, family policies, and the naturalization of differentiated deservedness,” pp. 64-82 in *The Future of Singapore: Population, Society and the Nature of the State*, edited by Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir and Bryan S. Turner. London; New York: Routledge. <https://hdl.handle.net/10356/147651>
- Teo, Youyenn. 2013. “Women hold up the anti-welfare regime: how social policies produce social differentiation in Singapore,” pp. 15-27 in *The Global Political Economy of the Household in Asia*, edited by Juanita Elias and Samantha Gunawardana. Basingstoke, England; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Editorial work

- Special Issue on “Asian Families as Sites of Politics.” *Economy and Society* 39(3), August 2010.

Book Reviews

- Teo, Youyenn. 2025. Review in *Asian Journal of Social Science*, March (Volume 53, Issue 1) of Chua, Beng Huat (2024) *Public Subsidy, Private Accumulation: The Political Economy of Singapore’s Public Housing*. Singapore: NUS Press.
- Teo, You Yenn. August 14, 2020. “What we know shapes how we imagine affects how we live together—Book review of *90 Years in Singapore* by Irene Lim.” *New Mandala*: <https://www.newmandala.org/book-review/90-years-in-singapore/>

- Teo, Youyenn. 2011. Review in *Asian Journal of Social Science*, June (Volume 39, No. 3), of Werner, J. (2009) *Gender, household and state in post-revolutionary Vietnam*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Teo, Youyenn. 2011. Review in *Pacific Affairs*, September (Volume 84, No. 3), of Barr, Michael D. and Zlatko Skrbis (2008) *Constructing Singapore: Elitism, Ethnicity And The Nation-Building Project*, Copenhagen: NIAS Press.

Newsletters etc.

- Teo, You Yenn. 2024. "The irresistible (if complicated) allure of familial love." Keynote essay for Kerry Cheah's photography exhibit *National Service*. Singapore: Exactly Foundation. http://www.exactlyfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ns_kerry_ebook.pdf
- Ng, Kok Hoe and Teo You Yenn. 2023. "Keywords: Living Wage." *AcademiaSG* <https://www.academia.sg/explainer/keywords/living-wage/>
- Ng, Kok Hoe and Teo You Yenn. 2022. "A living wage for Singapore." *SID Directors Bulletin* 2022 Q2, published by the Singapore Institute of Directors. <https://whatsenoughsg.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/sid-directors-bulletin-2q-2022-p14-19.pdf>
- Teo, You Yenn and Ng Kok Hoe. January 14, 2022. "How people think about basic needs." *The Karyawan*, published by the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP). <https://karyawan.sg/how-people-think-about-basic-needs/>
- Teo, You Yenn. October 1, 2020. "Special topics: A sociology of gender." <https://www.academia.sg/special-topics/special-topics-a-sociology-of-gender/>
- Ng, Kok Hoe, Teo You Yenn, Neo Yu Wei, Ad Maulod, Stephanie Chok. April 11, 2020. "Basic needs and the COVID-19 crisis." <https://whatsenoughsg.wordpress.com/2020/04/11/basic-needs-and-the-covid-19-crisis/>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2020. "Wretchedness and absurdity: thoughts on Bong Joon-Ho's Parasite" *Arts Equator*, February 18. <https://artsequator.com/wretched-parasite/>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2019. "Doing: the work of dreaming." M1 Peer Pleasure Youth Theatre Festival. Available at: <https://peerpleasure.org/2019/our-process-reflections.html>
- Teo, Youyenn. 2018. "Singapore, a great place to raise kids...for whom?" *Global Dialogue* 8.2, International Sociological Association. Available at: <http://globaldialogue.isa-sociology.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/v8i2-english.pdf>
- Teo, You Yenn and Jolene Tan. 2018. "Interview with Teo You Yenn, on *This is What Inequality Looks Like*. February 19, Ethos Books. Available at: <https://www.ethosbooks.com.sg/blogs/interviews/interview-with-teo-you-yenn>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2017. "When thinking poverty, also think inequality." October 17, Ethos Books. Available at: <https://www.ethosbooks.com.sg/blogs/news/tagged/teo-you-yenn>
- Teo, Youyenn. 2017. "Singapore Sociology: After Meritocracy," *Global Dialogue* 7.1, International Sociological Association. Available at: <http://isa-global-dialogue.net/singapore-sociology-after-meritocracy/>
- Teo, Youyenn. 2015. "Governance, Welfare, and the Familial in Singapore," *Asian Family Matters*, Changing Family in Asia Cluster Research Brief Series No. 26, May, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Available at:

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/docs/downloads/Reports-and-Proceedings/CF-ResearchBriefSeriesNo26.pdf>

- Teo, You Yenn. 2015. "Support for single parents will strengthen our society," AWARE, February 11. Available at: <http://www.aware.org.sg/2015/02/support-for-single-parents-will-strengthen-our-society/>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2014. "Context, Interests, and Unintended Consequences: Lenses for Seeing, Comprehending and Engaging with the World," *HSSE Online: Research and Practice in Social Studies Education* 3(2), November. Available at: <http://www.hsseonline.edu.sg/journal/volume-3-issue-2-2014/context-interests-and-unintended-consequences-lenses-seeing>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2013. "Pro-Family' Policies Need Rethinking, Parts 1 and 2" AWARE, March 28. Available at: <http://www.aware.org.sg/2013/03/pro-family-policies-need-radical-rethinking-part-1/> and <http://www.aware.org.sg/2013/03/pro-family-policies-need-rethinking-part-2/>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2012. "Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: Institutionalising the Logics of Neoliberalism," *ISA eSymposium for Sociology*. Available at: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/publ/E-symposium/E-symposium-vol-2-2-2012/EBul-Teo-Jul2012.pdf>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2005. "Women, Procreation and the Nation's Good: Fertility Policies Through the Years." *Awareness: A Journal of the Association of Women for Action and Research* 12: 30-40.
- Teo, You Yenn. 2006. "Producing Singaporeans: Family Policies and their 'Latent' Effects." Asia Research Institute Working Paper, No. 77, October. Available at: <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/Publication/Detail/584>

Commentaries

- Teo, You Yenn. June 25, 2024. "How I've stayed an academic (thus far)." *AcademiaSG* <https://knowledgepraxis.academia.sg/blog/2024/06/25/teo-youyenn/>
- Teo, You Yenn and Ng Kok Hoe. October 9, 2023. "How minimum income standards can help us build a more inclusive society." *AcademiaSG* <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/minimum-income-standards-for-an-inclusive-society/>
- Lim, Linda and Teo You Yenn. June 9, 2023. "The ultra rich and the myth of a philanthropic dividend." *AcademiaSG* <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/ultra-rich-philanthropy-or-taxes/>
- Teo, You Yenn. October 22, 2022. "Inequality and social good: a new culture of shared wellbeing requires reforming a system that promotes individualism." *AcademiaSG* <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/inequality-and-social-good/>
- Teo, You Yenn. August 13, 2022. "Finding paths to housing security amidst the many roads that lead to homelessness." *AcademiaSG* <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/homelessness-report/>
- Teo, You Yenn and Ng Kok Hoe. October 13, 2021. "How study drew up what makes for basic living standard in Singapore." *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/how-study-drew-up-what-makes-for-basic-living-standard-in-singapore>. Also translated to Chinese and published in *Lianhe Zaobao* <https://www.zaobao.com.sg/forum/views/story20211108-1211224>.

- Teo, You Yenn. February 24, 2021. “Be decent mother, go through PSLE”: when children’s education becomes parental care labor.” *AcademiaSG* <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/be-decent-mother-go-through-psle-when-childrens-education-becomes-parental-care-labor/>
- Teo You Yenn, Ng Kok Hoe, Neo Yu Wei, Ad Maulod and Stephanie Chok. July 1, 2020. “Security and independence are basic needs.” <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/security-and-independence-are-basic-needs/> Also published on Rice Media, July 3, 2020: <https://www.ricemedia.co/current-affairs-commentary-security-independence-basic-needs-minimum-income-standard-mis/>
- Teo, You Yenn, Cherian George, Linda Lim, Ja Ian Chong. April 18, 2020. “Academia (and knowledge) in the age of pandemic.” <https://www.academia.sg/editorial-april2020/>
- Teo, You Yenn. April 9, 2020. “In this zombie apocalypse, your homework is due at 5pm.” *Academia.sg* <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/in-this-zombie-apocalypse-your-homework-is-due-at-5pm/> Republished on *Rice Media* on April 10, 2020: <https://www.ricemedia.co/current-affairs-commentary-zombie-apocalypse-homework-due-5-pm-covid-19-hbl/> and on *Discover Society* on April 17, 2020: <https://discoversociety.org/2020/04/17/in-this-zombie-apocalypse-your-homework-is-due-at-5pm/>
- Teo, You Yenn, and Ng Kok Hoe. March 17, 2020. “Crisis is exactly the time to make structural changes to address poverty and inequality.” *Academia.sg*. <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/crisis-is-exactly-the-time-to-make-structural-changes-to-address-poverty-and-inequality/>
- Teo, You Yenn, and Ng Kok Hoe. August 13, 2019. “Making sense of data: Household income and expenditure, basic needs and inequality.” *The Edge*. <https://www.theedgesingapore.com/issues/inequality/making-sense-data-household-income-and-expenditure-basic-needs-and-inequality>
- Teo, You Yenn, and Ng Kok Hoe. June 4, 2019. “\$1,379 needed for basic needs? This is how Singapore’s seniors agree on this baseline.” *Today Online*. <https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/s1379-month-needed-basic-needs-how-singapores-seniors-agree-baseline> (Also translated to Chinese and published in *Lianhe Zaobao* on June 20, 2019: <https://www.zaobao.com.sg/zopinions/views/story20190620-965960>, and to Malay and published in *New Naratif* on July 2, 2019.
- Ng, Kok Hoe, and Teo You Yenn. May 23, 2019. “How to achieve a basic standard of living for older people in Singapore.” *The Edge*. <https://www.theedgesingapore.com/how-achieve-basic-standard-living-older-people-singapore> (Also translated to Chinese and published in *New Naratif* on July 2: <https://newnaratif.com/journalism/如何协助年长者达到基本生活水平/>)
- Teo, You Yenn. April 11, 2019. “Academic Freedom in Singapore and the ‘Fake News’ Law.” *New Naratif*. <https://newnaratif.com/journalism/academic-freedom-in-singapore-and-the-fake-news-law/share/xuna/eaab05200f0645e4451f748dc85ef7a> (Also translated and published in Chinese on April 27, 2019).
- Teo, You Yenn. March 7, 2019. “Let’s talk about a living wage: Singapore should consider a society-wide approach to raising low wages.” *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/lets-talk-about-a-living-wage-singapore-should->

consider-a-society-wide-approach-to-raising (Also translated to Chinese and published in *New Naratif* on April 16, 2019).

- Teo, You Yenn. February 22, 2019. “Merdeka Generation Package: Time to move beyond one-time 'packages.’” *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/merdeka-generation-package-time-to-move-beyond-one-time-packages> (Also translated to Chinese and published in *New Naratif* on March 22, 2019).
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “What Singapore’s fertility debate teaches us about inequality: More schemes won’t work unless we look at big picture.” *The Straits Times*, July 16. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/learning-from-the-past-to-resolve-the-inequality-problem>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “Lack of social mixing is a symptom of inequality, not a cause.” *The Straits Times*, June 7. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/lack-of-social-mixing-is-a-symptom-of-inequality-not-a-cause> (Also translated to Chinese and published in *Lianhe Zaobao* on June 29, 2018: <https://www.zaobao.com.sg/forum/views/opinion/story20180629-871080>)
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “Let’s talk about meeting needs, not just equality of opportunity.” *The Straits Times*, May 30. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/lets-talk-about-meeting-needs-not-just-equality-of-opportunity>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “Don't silo inequality into a low-wage or education problem.” *The Straits Times*, May 11. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/tackling-inequality-vigorously>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “Why investing in early childhood education cannot be the primary solution to inequality.” *Channel News Asia*, May 9. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/early-education-tackling-inequality-teo-you-yenn-10213584> (Also translated to Chinese and published in *Lianhe Zaobao* on June 1, 2018: <https://www.zaobao.com.sg/forum/views/opinion/story20180601-863639>)
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “The economy as a means to an end, not an end in itself.” *The Straits Times*, February 23. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/the-economy-as-a-means-to-an-end-not-an-end-in-itself>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2018. “When kids say ‘I lazy what.’” *The Straits Times*, February 4. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/when-kids-say-i-lazy-what>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2017. “Let’s talk about poverty and inequality today.” *The Straits Times*, October 17. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/lets-talk-about-poverty-and-inequality-today>
- Ng, Kok Hoe and Teo You Yenn. 2017. “Civil society’s role cannot be to provide public goods.” *The Straits Times*, June 5. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/civil-societys-role-cannot-be-to-provide-public-goods>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2017. “Speak about inequality, not just inclusion.” *The Straits Times*, May 4. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/speak-about-inequality-not-just-inclusion>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2016. “Why low-income parents may make ‘poor choices.’” *The Straits Times*, March 10. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/why-low-income-parents-may-make-poor-choices>

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- Teo, You Yenn, and Jolene Tan. 2014. “Celebrate all families on International Day of Families.” *The Straits Times Online*, May 15. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/celebrate-all-families-on-international-day-of-families>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2014. “What are you teaching child by the way you treat maid.” *The Straits Times*, March 18. <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/what-are-you-teaching-child-by-the-way-you-treat-maid>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2014. “Be there for all the different families.” *The Straits Times*, January 11. <http://www.aware.org.sg/2014/01/an-inclusive-approach-to-family/>
- Teo, You Yenn. 2013. “The trouble with limited paternity leave.” *Today*, June 17. <http://www.todayonline.com/commentary/trouble-limited-paternity-leave>
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CONFERENCES

- “Beyond CSR, annual days of service, and philanthropy: community and its virtues,” Panel on Community and the Market, IPS Singapore Perspectives, January 20, 2025.

- “Uneasy: Inside Families in a ‘Pro-family’ Regime,” Panel on Global Political Economy of Households, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), 27-29 June, Limerick, Ireland.
- “Gendered doings of work and family in contemporary Singapore,” Workshop on Gender and Family Caregiving in East Asia, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 22-23 September 2023.
- “Gendered choices: Inequalities at the intersection of work and family,” Asia Research Institute 20th Anniversary Roundtable Series: Changing Family in Asia, 14 October 2021.
- “‘Be decent mother, go through PSLE’: Education as care labor,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 10, 2021, online.
- “MIS Singapore: One Year On,” MIS Global Symposium, organized by CRSP (online due to COVID-19), July 22-23, 2020. Joint presentation with Ng, Kok Hoe, Neo Yu Wei, Ad Maulod, Stephanie Chok, Wong Yee Lok.
- “Inequality as lens,” Singaporean Researchers Global Summit, National University of Singapore, August 7, 2019. <https://teoyouyenn.sg/2019/08/11/inequality-as-analytical-lens/>
- “Inside Families: Work, Parenting, and Class in Contemporary Singapore,” NTU-ANU Joint Symposium, Changing Patterns of Unions, Families and Kinship in Asia, 21-22 Feb 2019.
- “Work-care-migration regimes and class inequalities,” International Sociological Association XIX World Congress, July 19, 2018, Toronto, Canada.
- “MIS in Singapore,” Minimum Income Standards (MIS) Symposium, Loughborough University, Centre for Research in Social Policy, July 10-11, London, UK. Joint paper with Ng Kok Hoe, Neo Yu Wei, Ad Maulod, Ting Yi Ting.
- “Falling Short: Class and the Performance of the Familial,” International Sociological Association, Joint Conference of RC06 (Family) and RC41 (Population), Singapore Family and Population Changes: Book launch (II), May 17, 2018, Singapore.
- “‘Still ok,’ not ok: precarious in Singapore,” Asia Research Institute Conference, “Living in an Age of Precarity: Living and Lives in 21st Century Asia,” February 27-28, 2017, Singapore.
- “The Vignettes of Poverty Are Not the Same as the Stories of Inequality,” Temasek Foundation International, Asia Journalism Forum, Singapore, September 23, 2016. Video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnLGxQB4uBg>
- “Watch the (care) gap: class differentials and the struggle for work-life balance,” Mini-workshop, “The Global Migration of Gendered Care Work,” Vienna, Austria, July 9, 2016.
- “Class differences in performing the familial,” Centre for Research on Families & Relationships International Conference: Unequal Families & Relationships, June 13-15, 2016, Edinburgh, UK.
- “Watch the (care) gap: class differentials and the elusive quest for work-life balance,” Social Service Research Centre Conference, “Working with low-income families: Challenges and Innovations,” April 21, 2016, Singapore.
- “Falling Short: Performing the familial while low-income in contemporary Singapore,” Centre of Family and Population Research Conference, “Singapore Families and Population Dynamics,” April 28, 2015, Singapore.
- “Excluded: being poor in Global City Singapore,” New Silk Road Workshop: Looking

Ahead to Global Asia, February 13-14, 2015, Singapore.

- “Not everyone has maids: work-life balance policies and their class differential effects in Singapore,” XVIII International Sociological Association’s World Congress of Sociology, July 13-19, 2014, Yokohama, Japan.
- “Hidden and kept apart: being poor in wealthy Singapore,” (with Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir). SUNY Stonybrook conference “How Class Works,” June 5-7, 2014, New York.
- “Citizenship and its exclusions in Global City Singapore,” 38th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, November 21-23, 2013, Chicago, USA.
- “Differentiated Deservedness: governance through familialist social policies,” Conference “Reconstituting Southeast Asian Families: Transnational Impacts and Local Dynamics,” Institute for East Asian Studies, Sogang University (SIEAS), Seoul, Korea, May 23-24, 2013.
- “Making good men and good women: The Singapore state and its ‘population problem,’” 37th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, November 1-4, 2012, Vancouver, Canada.
- “Women hold up the non-welfare state: gendered assumptions and consequences of social policies in Singapore,” Griffith University Global Political Economy of the Household in Asia Workshop, September 24-25, 2012, Brisbane, Australia.
- “The vicious cycle of self-reliance: Welfare reform and its limits in Singapore,” Second ISA Forum of Sociology: Social Justice and Democratization, August 1-4, 2012, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- “Not a welfare state: examining the sustainability of the Singapore Model,” 13th Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Sociological Association, December 3, 2011, Hong Kong.
- “Welfare for the few: an analysis of the intersections of welfare and the familial in Singapore,” Annual Conference of the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee 19, August 25-27, 2011, Seoul, Korea.
- “Neoliberal morality in Singapore: Institutionalizing the logics of neoliberalism,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, June 23-25, 2011, Madrid, Spain.
- “Making choices amidst increasing burdens: a feminist analysis of Singapore’s pronatal policies,” Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), 25th Anniversary Forum: Women’s Choices, Women’s Lives, March 5, 2011, Singapore.
- “Family as first line of defense: the (re)production of heteronormativity through welfare in Singapore,” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Thematic Session on Citizenship in Southeast Asia, August 2010, Atlanta, Georgia.
- “Gender disarmed: How gendered policies produce gender-neutral politics,” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Section on Political Sociology Paper Session: Politics, Sexuality, and Gender. August 2007, New York, New York.
- “Shaping the Family, Producing State and Society,” Asia Research Institute International Conference on The Changing Asian Family as a Site of (State) Politics. 26-27 April 2007, Singapore.
- “Foreigners in our homes: linking migration and family policies in Singapore,” co-authored with Nicola Piper, Asia Research Institute Workshop on International Migration and Social Development. 20-21 November 2006, Singapore.
- “Of family policies and ‘latent effects’: the production of citizen subjects in Singapore,”

- 7th Asean Inter-University Seminars on Social Development. July 2006, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- “Inequality for the greater good: gendered state rule and its consequences in Singapore,” Asia Research Institute Symposium on Gender Studies in Asia: Peoples, Politics and Power. September 2004, Singapore.
 - “No Economy, No Singapore: Weddings, Babies, and the Development Project,” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Section on Economic Sociology, Refereed Roundtable. August 2004, San Francisco, California.
 - “Public Problems, Private Solutions: Negotiating care-giving dilemmas in Singapore,” Asia Research Institute Conference “The Changing Asian Family: A Support System with Holes?” May 2004, Singapore.
 - “Producing Citizens: State Rule, Ideal Mothers and ‘Pro-Family’ Policies in Singapore,” American Sociology Association Annual Conference, Section on Sex and Gender, Refereed Roundtable. August 2003, Atlanta, Georgia.
 - “Beyond the Western Script: Forging Hegemony in Post-Colonial Singapore,” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Section on Asia and Asian America, Refereed Roundtable. August 2002, Chicago, Illinois.

PUBLIC LECTURES/SEMINARS

- Closing remarks, “Singapore Budget 2026: Enduring problems in uncertain times,” Social Inclusion Project (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS) and Centre for the Study of Social Inequality (NTU), February 13, 2026.
- “Rethinking Inequality,” Singapore Polytechnic Graduates Guild, January 16, 2026.
- “Inequality in Singapore,” guest speaker for course on “The rocky road to SDGs,” Ridge View Residential College, National University of Singapore, November 7, 2025.
- “Investigating varying relationships to and meanings of money,” Associates Workshop, Centre for the Study of Social Inequality, October 3, 2025.
- Keynote address, “Inequality as analytical lens,” Population Association of Singapore Annual Conference, “Inequality and Demography: Intersecting Paths,” May 15, 2025.
- Keynote address, “Social class and the problem of inequality,” Social Studies Chapter Learning Fest, October 18, 2024.
- Panelist, Conversation on Economic Inclusion, McKinsey Consulting, October 11, 2024.
- Speaker, “Improving Social Mobility Outcomes for Children and Youth,” SHINE Children and Youth Services, May 27, 2024.
- Panelist, “Public Subsidy/Private Accumulation: Public Housing and Social Inequality in Singapore,” Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, May 2, 2024.
- Panelist, panel on “The 5Cs: out of touch, outdated, or out of reach?” Harvard Club of Singapore, April 3, 2024.
- Speaker, “Inequality and basic needs,” Tembusu College, National University of Singapore, March 14, 2024.
- Panelist, Launch of Pink Dot 2023, Singapore, May 17, 2023.
- Speaker, “Ways of thinking about inequality,” Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDIphy) in Physics, National University of Singapore Department of Physics, May 9, 2023.

- Panelist, Raffles Institution Festival of Ideas, March 9, 2023.
- Speaker, “Everyday consequences of inequality,” Singapore Management University Lien Fung Colloquium, September 8, 2022.
- Panelist, “Inequality and Social Good,” Singapore Economic Policy Forum 2022, Economic Society of Singapore, October 18, 2022.
- Speaker, “Poverty, inequality, and housing in Singapore,” Global Asia Research Center, National Taiwan University, June 15, 2022.
- Speaker, “Inequality as lens,” St Joseph’s Institution International, June 1, 2022.
- Speaker, Conversation on TIWILL, Hwa Chong Institution, April 12, 2022.
- Speaker, Understanding Inequality, Nanyang Girls’ High School, February 17, 2022
- Panelist, “Beyond the bare necessities: gender and the minimum income standard in Singapore,” Association of Women for Action and Research (Aware), January 13, 2022.
- Speaker, “Research projects and the enterprise of knowledge production,” Masterclass for the 16th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, June 30, 2021.
- Speaker, *This is What Inequality Looks Like* Book Club, NTU Sociological Society, January 6, 2021.
- Speaker, “Education as care labor,” Centre for Family and Population Research Seminar Series, National University of Singapore, November 13, 2020.
- Panelist, “PAP vs PAP: The Book Talk,” Teh Tarik with Walid and AcademiaSG, November 11, 2020.
- Panelist, “COVID-19 SPOTLIGHT Roundtable on New Vulnerables,” Centre for Strategic Futures, PMO, August 6, 2020.
- Panelist, “The ground speaks: Civil society after GE2020,” Ethos Books, July 26, 2020.
- Speaker and co-organizer, “Beyond the Pandemic: What have we learned and have still to learn,” Academia.SG Webinar, May 1, 2020.
<https://www.academia.sg/webinar01052020/>
- Speaker, Ethos Books Festive Sale, “In conversation with Teo You Yenn and Kirsten Han,” The Substation, Singapore, November 30, 2019.
- Speaker (with Ng Kok Hoe): “What is enough and how are we to decide,” Straits Clan, Singapore, August 30, 2019.
- Speaker at Temasek Society, “Inequality in Singapore,” Temasek Club, Singapore, May 30, 2019.
- Panelist, public launch of research report (with Ng Kok Hoe, Neo Yu Wei, and Ad Maulod): “Household budgets for older people in Singapore: How much is enough?” Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, May 22, 2019.
- Speaker at “Dialogue on (in)equality,” Yale-NUS, March 19, 2019.
- Panelist, “Voicing the voiceless,” Singapore Writers Festival, November 4, 2018.
- Panelist, “Poverty has a woman’s face II,” 1880 Club, October 15, 2018.
- Speaker, “Inequality: How it works, why it matters,” National University Hospital Grand Round, October 5, 2018.
- Public lecture, “Growing up unequal,” 12th Singapore Children’s Society Lecture, Singapore, September 15, 2018.

- Speaker, “This is what inequality looks like—a conversation between Kwok Kian Woon and Teo You Yenn.” NTU School of Social Sciences Alumni Association, Singapore, August 31, 2018.
- Panelist, launch of AWARE report “Poverty Has A Woman’s Face,” Association of Women for Action and Research, Singapore, August 11, 2018.
- Speaker, “This is What Inequality Looks Like—a conversation with the author,” Pulse!, Books & Beer, and Ethos Books, Singapore, August 5, 2018.
- Speaker, “This is What Inequality Looks Like,” CHIJ St Theresa, Singapore, June 22, 2018.
- Speaker, “If Step 1 is Disrupting the Narrative, What is Step 2?” at the 2018 Adventurous Fellowship: Inequality Camp, organized by Geylang Adventures and Skillseed, Singapore, June 9, 2018.
- Panelist, “The Future of Education of Children from Low-income Families.” Community in Review 2018, organized by the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) and Centre for Research on Islamic and Malay Affairs (RIMA), Singapore, March 24, 2018.
- Public launch of *This is What Inequality Looks Like*, in conversation with Alfian Sa’at. Ethos Books, Singapore, February 2, 2018.
- Panelist, “Thoughts on advocacy,” Symposium “Is Social Work Advocacy Dead?” organized by SW101, October 6, 2017.
- Panelist, “Poverty is not just about poverty,” Roundtable on Poverty in Singapore, organized by Future of Singapore, September 16, 2017.
- Speaker, “Poverty and inequality in contemporary Singapore,” Senior Management Programme, Civil Service College, July 20, 2017.
- Panelist, “Read widely, think broadly, stay dreamy,” panel on “Envision new prospects for a collective Singapore psyche” at the 2017 Pre-University Seminar, Catholic Junior College and the Ministry of Education, May 30, 2017.
- Public lecture: “‘I want my children better than me’: the challenges of parenting in Singapore,” Global Asia Research Cluster, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore National Library, January 24, 2017.
- Panelist, “The Vignettes of Poverty Are Not the Same as the Stories of Inequality,” Temasek Foundation International, Asia Journalism Forum, Singapore, September 23, 2016.
- Speaker, “Performing the familial: social class and its implications,” Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore, August 26, 2016.
- Panelist, “The Singapore Story versus Singapore’s Stories,” at Apa Itu Activist: A Forum on Civil Society, “Imagining our way out of the Singapore Story,” Singapore, August 20, 2016.
- Panelist, “Watch the (care) gap: class differentials and the elusive quest for work-life balance,” panel on “Realities of Poverty” at The Social Mission Conference, organized by Caritas Singapore, August 13, 2016.
- Panelist, “Step 1: Disrupt the narrative,” Roundtable “Let’s Talk #2: Poverty and Inequality in Singapore,” Singapore, May 28, 2016.
- Panelist, “Poor people don’t like oats either: imagining poverty, constructing deservedness,” Living with Myths: A project exploring Singapore’s pasts and futures, July 20, 2015, Singapore.

- Speaker, “Not everyone has ‘helpers’: work-life balance policies and their class differential effects in Singapore,” AWARE Roundtable, November 20, 2014, Singapore.
- Panelist, “Undoing differentiated deservedness,” Singapore Dreaming Project workshop, Asian Urban Lab, September 27, 2014, Singapore.
- Panelist, “Addressing gender and class inequalities through policy reforms,” Civil Service College-Australian National University Inaugural Conference on “Social Policy in an Era of Globalisation: Changes, Shifts, and Transformation,” September 10, 2014, Singapore.
- Speaker, “Support for Childcare: evaluating the possibilities and limitations for gender equality in public policy reforms.” Penang Women’s Development Corporation, August 13, 2014, Penang, Malaysia.
- Speaker, “Contexts, interests, and unintended consequences: lenses for seeing, comprehending and engaging with the world,” National Institute of Education’s Symposium on “Singapore’s Population Changes: The White Paper and Beyond,” April 22, 2014, Singapore.
- Speaker, “Differentiated Deservedness: Governance through familialist social policies in Singapore,” Raffles Institution (Junior College), Governance and Civic Engagement Programme, August 12, 2013, Singapore.
- Panelist, “Gendered citizenship in Singapore: good men citizens versus good women citizens,” National University of Singapore and Association of Women for Action and Research Joint Roundtable on Changing Definitions of Masculinity and Femininity in Singapore, May 12, 2012.
- Speaker, “Welfare and the familial in Singapore,” Singapore Management University Capstone Seminar Series, April 5, 2012.
- Panelist, “Support for childcare: evaluating the possibilities and limitations for equality in Budget 2012,” Association of Women for Action and Research Roundtable on Singapore Budget 2012, March 24, 2012, Singapore.

INTERVIEWS

- March 28, 2026. “‘Parenting shouldn’t feel that way’: Teo You Yenn’s book *Unease* questions how pro-family Singapore really is,” *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/life/arts/parenting-shouldnt-feel-that-way-teo-you-yenns-book-unease-questions-how-pro-family-singapore-really>
- January 22, 2024. “\$6693 is the Minimum Income Standard in Singapore today,” The Financial Coconut Podcast. <https://thefinancialcoconut.com/6693-is-the-minimum-income-standard-in-singapore-today/>
- October 4, 2023. “A discussion on the minimum income standard study,” Teh Tarik with Walid. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/34fSOM50p1mLWHGtUvEVFt?si=218bfdbec7e740fd>
- May 13 and May 27, 2022. “Does a family of 4 in Singapore need \$6,426 a month for basic living standard?” In Your Opinion Podcast (Parts 1 and 2), by *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/in-your-opinion-podcast-does-a-family-of-4-in-singapore-really-need-6426-a-month-for-a-basic-standard-of-living-pt-1>; <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/in-your-opinion-podcast-pt-2-does-a-family-of->

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- December 12, 2021. “What is ‘a basic standard of living?’ Podcast interview by SocialService.SG <https://socialservice.sg/2021/12/12/minimum-income-standard-mis/>
- October 17, 2020. “Interview with Teo You Yenn and Ng Kok Hoe: To tackle inequality, stop expecting the same rules to make a difference.” *Rice Media*. <https://www.ricemedia.co/current-affairs-features-idep-interview-teo-you-yenn-ng-kok-hoe-poverty-inequality/>
- August 26, 2019. “Hopes, dreams, and social policies: interview with Teo You Yenn and Ng Kok Hoe.” *The Edge Singapore*. <https://www.theedgesingapore.com/issues/passion-future/hopes-dreams-and-social-policies>
- Jagdish, Bharati. May 19, 2018. “Author of This is What Inequality Looks Like: Teo You Yenn.” *On the Record, Channel NewsAsia*. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/4Xc0sVfcv9KFWtTyb3PSoB?si=caeff79fba1c44a5>
- Corrie Tan, April 19, 2018. Podcast 38: “Underclass 《贱民》” Interview with Alvin Tan, Kok Heng Leun, and Teo You Yenn, *Arts Equator*. <https://artsequator.com/podcast-interview-underclass/>

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