

BROWNBAG LUNCHTIME TALK

From Los Angeles to Singapore: Researching Urban Diversity and Environmental Design in Cities of Global Immigration

DATE AND TIME30 March 2023,
12 - 1pm**DR FELICITY HWEE-HWA CHAN**Fellow,
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities**VENUE**Think Tank 19
(2.304)

SYNOPSIS - Global immigration introduces demographic and cultural diversity into urban environments that have implications for co-existence and collective life in cities. As such, diverse urban environments are recognized as double-edged sword spaces that are potentially creative, but also vulnerable to social fragmentation and conflicts. These conditions present a complex combination of socio-cultural and socio-spatial challenges for cities that require new ways of planning urban public environments. Drawing on empirical research in Los Angeles and Singapore, this talk presents how urban diversity is researched in these two cities of immigration, and discusses how the findings offer insights into design qualities that enable diverse neighbourhoods and their public spaces to offer opportunities for productive inter-cultural learning and place belonging.



Dr Felicity Hwee-Hwa Chan
Fellow,
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DR FELICITY HWEE-HWA CHAN is a Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities. Trained in urban planning and social science research, she enjoys doing comparative urban research that first seeks to understand the urban conditions and relational dynamics of a place, and then offer practical socio-spatial insights for the crafting of policies and plans that enable social inclusion and place enjoyment. She received her Ph.D. in Policy, Planning and Development from the University of Southern California and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, Germany. She is the author of the book *Tensions in Diversity: Spaces for Collective Life in Los Angeles* published by the University of Toronto Press in 2022.

