

OVERALL COORDINATOR



The European Union Centre (EU Centre) in Singapore is supported by a consortium of the three public universities in Singapore – the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Singapore Management University (SMU).

In transition to a new funding model by the EU, the Centre also partnered with Universitas Indonesia, University of Malaya and Maastricht University to successfully apply for funding under the Jean Monnet Network to support research and outreach on challenges to multilateralism and multiculturalism. The grant for this Network is from Sep 2016 – Sep 2019.

A Partnership of



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CHALLENGES TO MULTICULTURALISM AND MULTILATERALISM

Jean Monnet Network



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ABOUT THE NETWORK



The Jean Monnet Network on Challenges to Multiculturalism and Multilateralism in Europe and Southeast Asia – Policy Research and Debate (CMM Policy R&D) is a network comprising the EU Centre in Singapore (supported by NUS, NTU and SMU), Universitas Indonesia, University of Malaya and Maastricht University. The two broad research themes that the Network has chosen to focus on – Multiculturalism and Multilateralism, centre around the issue of managing diversities within societies in Europe and Southeast Asia, and between nations and regional organisations in the international society.

Besides research and publications, the Network will also organise Summer Programmes, bringing together students from South-East Asia and Europe, as well as Workshops and Seminars, in order to inform the debates and generate dialogue on these issues.

RESEARCH THEMES

MULTICULTURALISM



Multiculturalism emerged as a concept and policy to accommodate ethnic and religious diversities in societies. In recent years, we are getting a chorus of voices about the failure of multiculturalism. Yet, the reality is more complex. We live in the age of globalization, and more and more societies are becoming diverse and multi-ethnic because of increased mobility. While diversities should be celebrated, there is also need for societies to have an honest and open discussion on how to manage these diversities. Under this broad ambit of Multiculturalism, the CMM network will explore different sub-themes related to increasing diversities and polarization in societies in Europe and Southeast Asia.

1. Migration and Multiculturalism
2. Cultural Pluralism and Identity Politics
3. Political Polarisation and Fragmentation

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MULTILATERALISM

Multilateralism – the practice of co-ordinating national policies in groups of three or more states based on a set of generalised principles of conduct – is a key feature of international relations. However, this “principled multilateralism” runs up against three fundamental difficulties. First, the acceptance of multilateralism varies from states to states. Second, some domains (e.g. trade) are more amenable to



multilateralism than others (e.g. defence), but many multilateral organisations are

charged with managing a multitude of policy areas. Third, the proliferation of non-state actors means that traditional multilateralism, designed for governing inter-state relations, is approaching its limits. Against this backdrop, the CMM network will stimulate debate and research on the following three sub-themes:

1. Regionalism – EU and ASEAN
2. EU’s and ASEAN’s “Record” in Multilateralism
3. Geopolitics and Geo-economics