

Search:

Go

[More Options](#) | [Search Tips](#)

Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article **Singapore's Family Values: Do They Explain Low Fertility?**

Author *Alexius A. Pereira*

Abstract Many individuals and policy makers in Singapore believe that society's "family values" are being eroded because of processes such as rapid economic development, industrialization and globalization. They believe that this erosion is one of the most important reasons why fewer Singaporeans are getting married and having fewer or no children, as found in the Singapore Census of Population 2000. This paper analyses the Singapore-leg of the World Values Survey, conducted in 2002, which contains data on how Singaporeans value family, marriage and parenthood. It finds that Singaporeans generally still feel that the family is very important, that marriage is not an outdated institution, and that they would like to bear several children, if possible. Deeper analysis, however, uncovers some differences in opinion between "younger" and "older" Singaporeans, which might suggest that in the future significant value change might take place. This paper concludes that Singapore's contemporary family values are unlikely to be the primary reason behind the declining fertility and marriage rates. It concludes that Singapore must be facing a "social problem" as there is a sizable gap between society's aspirations and the reality.

[Print this abstract](#)

[more ...](#)

