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Patrick Pillai, a sociologist, began his career as a journalist with the *New Straits Times* and was later a researcher at Malaysia's Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS). He studied at University Sains Malaysia, Penang, was a British Council scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and gained his doctorate in Migration Studies from the University of Malaya in 2006. His interests include migration, ethnic studies and the sociology of development.