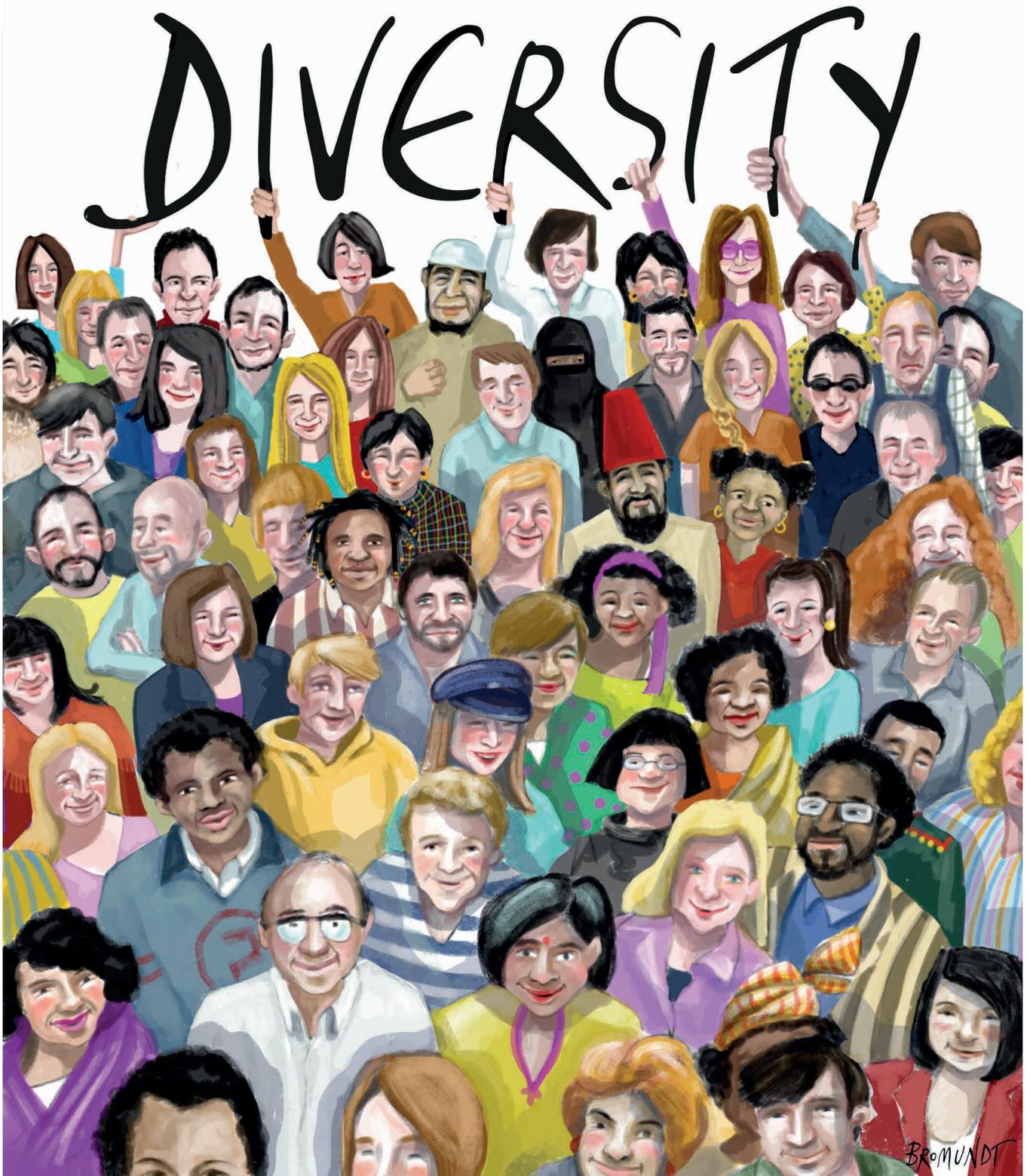


# HSG Focus

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## EQx – The Elite Quality Index

Economists are always looking for ways to measure and predict how our societies and countries will develop and achieve success. With this in mind, researchers from the University of St.Gallen, along with academic and strategic partners from around the globe, have created the Elite Quality Index (EQx). The Research from Tomas Casas, Research Institute for International Management (FIM-HSG), and Guido Cozzi, Institute for Economics (FGN-HSG), measures and ranks the quality of elites.



*Photo: University of St.Gallen (HSG)*

In seeking to develop a global metric for long-term economic and human development, Tomas Casas, the director of the China Competence Center, argues that it is possible to forecast future growth and the overall success of a country by the quality of their elites. Whether a country's elite class invests and creates value in their country or whether they expropriate value from their society is an accurate method of predicting future economic development.

As other indexes that track the global economy, such as the World Bank's Doing Business Index or the WEF's Global Competitiveness Report, the data from the EQx has been organized into a competitive

ranking. Moreover, the EQx is an important resource to help leaders and policy-makers understand how their actions directly affect general welfare and prosperity. Cozzi notes that EQx can provide data and insight to help governments, academics and business to help them understand how their actions contribute to economic outcomes.

Casas, Cozzi and their team have used over seventy indicators and looked at 32 countries to see if there was evidence that elites created value or extracted value from their countries. The country scores and global rank provide insight into the positive or negative role elites play in their given societies.

No matter what our thoughts and views are on elites, their importance and their political, economic, and social effect in all countries around the world warrants our attention. In compiling this data, the EQx seeks to elicit a discussion among academics and initiate conversations with political, business and societal leaders. The EQx allows for an analytical approach to these conversation as it have developed a comprehensive architecture to determine the quality of the elites in a given country.

This being the first of what will be an annual report, Singapore is ranked first in the 2020 ranking. The city state's business elites are by far the highest value creators on the planet. Rounding out the top five are Switzerland (2nd) and Germany (3rd), the U.K. (4th) and the U.S. (5th).

The Elite Quality Index (EQx2020) can be found at: [elitequality.org](https://elitequality.org)

*Gordon Longlois*