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Centre for the
Study of Islam in the UK

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ISLAM UK CENTRE



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Public Seminar
Series 2024

Doctoral
Students

Research
Projects
2023-2024



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Muslim Council
of Wales

The Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK

The Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK was opened in September 2005 by Yusuf Islam, more widely known as musician Cat Stevens, in front of 400 guests. Islam is the second largest religion in Britain and, indeed, the world. There are 66,950 Muslims in Wales, about half of whom live in Cardiff itself (Census 2021).



Cardiff University is now a leading institution for scholarly research about Islam and Muslims in contemporary Britain. The Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK (Islam-UK Centre) is based within the School of History, Archaeology and Religion, which has a wealth of teaching expertise and a lively programme of research activity. We actively support Cardiff University's civic mission and putting communities at the heart of our work.

Within the School's degree programmes there are a range of possibilities for studying Islam and classical Arabic. The Centre has a strong and positive relationship with local and national Muslim communities, and indeed many local Muslims form part of the Centre's Management Board. We are proud of this partnership, and take seriously the importance of academic research also benefiting wider society. We envisage the Centre as an accessible, vibrant, and inclusive hub of learning about Islam in Cardiff, South Wales and the UK for Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Public Seminar Series 2024

Thursday 15th February 5pm

Dr. Muhammed Reza Tajri

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Navigating Religious Authority and Agency: Developing Shi'i Attitudes on British University Campuses

Chair: Michael Munnik

Dr Tajri is a lecturer and the Lead at Al-Mahdi Institute's Department of Studies in Comparative Religion.

He began 'seminarial' Shi'i Islamic studies at the Hawza Ilmiyya of London, followed by a BA in Islamic Studies at Middlesex. In Syria, he studied at Hawza al-Imām al-Khumayni Seminary and the University of Damascus. He has postgraduate degrees from Middlesex and Cardiff Universities, and this year, he completed his PhD at Lancaster University, examining the attitudes of Britain's Shi'a university students towards religious authority. Dr Tajri's research interests concern Muslims in the UK and Europe, contemporary Shi'ism, religious authority, and the impact of gender on religion.

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Book here for in person or online:

<https://forms.office.com/e/PaYnXsQsFvD>



Thursday 7th March 5pm

Dr Saleema Burney

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Veiled and Victimised? Muslim women as stewards of faith in secular public spaces

Chair: Sheam Khan

Dr. Saleema Burney is a sociologist of religion, published academic and Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham with experience of research in British Muslim communities. Her research interests include 'lived religion', how individuals negotiate religious identities in post-secular societies and the relationship between science and religion in society. She believes that together we can build a more cohesive and contemplative society to combat increasing division, and contributes to this through her professional and voluntary work.

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Book here for in person or online:

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Thursday 25th April 5pm

Dr Yunis Alam

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Inside out: ethnography, ethnicity and academia

Chair: Asma Khan

Yunis Alam is Head of Department, Sociology and Criminology at the University of Bradford. Yunis has researched and written around social cohesion and counter terrorism, everyday multi-culture and most recently explored sociological insights around cars, ethnicity and class.

He has published novels and short stories which also explore ethnicity, belonging and inequality through the prism of crime fiction. His current research and writing focusses on race, decoloniality in academia, and creative cultures.

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Thursday 20th June 5pm

Dr Jonathan Brown

Law Building, room 0.22

Stewardship in Islam: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Chair: Haroon Sidat

Jonathan Brown is the Alwaleed bin Talal Chair of Islamic Civilization at Georgetown University. He received his BA in History from Georgetown in 2000 and his doctorate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago in 2006. He has studied and conducted research across the MENA region, South and Southeast Asia, and South Africa. His book *Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction* (2011) was selected for the National Endowment for the Humanities' Bridging Cultures Muslim Journeys Bookshelf. He has published on Hadith, Islamic law, Salafism, Sufism, Arabic lexical theory and Pre-Islamic poetry. His current research interests include Islamic legal reform and a translation of Sahih al-Bukhari.

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Thursday 4th July 5pm

Dr Mahmood Chandia

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Evaluating the concept of Educational Stewardship for Muslims in Britain in the 21st century

Chair: Hanan Basher

Dr Mahmood Chandia is a graduate of Darul Uloom, Bury, UK, and of Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt. He not only qualified as an '*alim*' but has also completed a Doctoral research programme, receiving a PhD in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Manchester in 1999. Since 2002, he has worked at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), Preston, U.K. Alongside his professional duties, he is a community activist. He has published on a range of topics relating to religion in society, and in 2019 he published a complete translation of the Holy Quran in the English language in digital format (downloadable from www.EnglishQuranTranslation.org).

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Islam-UK Centre Doctoral Students

Afsan Redwan

PhD topic:

Quranic Hermeneutics; a study on the influence of English Quran translations on exegetical typologies.



My research examines the ever-growing number of English Quran translations and their potential

impact on exegetical typologies. I use a range of English Quran translations to showcase how their method impacts the mode through which the Quran is interpreted in English. The translations are from the modern day and represent a notable shift in 'doing translation'. Through this I aim to examine the unique features included in English translations which could represent an 'Anglophone genre of the Quran'. As such, this project grapples with the question of genre and religious scripture as well as challenging historical notions of translation.

My interest stemmed from experiencing a range of English translations during my Masters. In addition, English translations have played an important role in the spiritual development of my close family members. I hope this research contributes to illustrating how tools used in English translations are positive engagements with understanding the Quran.

I am in the fifth year and working on my thesis write-up.

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Fatima Khan

PhD topic:

Muslims in Britain and Disabilities: Experiences and Attitudes.

Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.



This study explores the experiences of and attitudes towards visual impairments (VIs) amongst British

Muslims. Within the corpus of disability studies, participant research projects are atypical due to the adoption of a "medical model". Additionally, while Islamic Studies is an extensive academic discipline, research on Islam and disabilities is limited to sacred texts and legal rulings. Consequently, the lived experiences of Muslims with disabilities and attitudes towards disabilities are neglected areas. The objective of this project is two-fold: firstly, to develop an understanding of the challenges faced by British Muslims with VIs; and secondly, to develop an understanding of the social stigma (if any) attached with VIs in British Muslim communities. The aim is to create a narrative into which the lived experiences of individuals with VIs are woven with an insight into the attitudes held by the wider British Muslim communities towards such impairments. This will (hopefully) not only give a voice to Muslims with VIs to express their experiences and raise awareness regarding the

challenges associated with having a disability, but also encourage an open dialogue within the Muslim and academic communities on disabilities.

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Fatou Sambe

PhD topic:

Converts and the Next Generation of British Muslims.

Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.



My research project explores the long-term post-conversion experiences of converts in Britain and the

particular intersection of converts having children, as well as the experiences of (adult) children of converts. I have conducted 46 in-depth interviews with 50 participants of diverse backgrounds from all over the UK.

I explore how converts navigate their new lives, community spaces and raising children, and how children of converts navigate their mixed backgrounds and extended Muslim and non-Muslim families.

Through my research, I am hoping to contribute to a better understanding of the varying identities and unique experiences of the current generation of Muslims in Britain and ultimately the heterogeneity of Muslim communities.

I am in the final year of my PhD and currently analysing the data I have collected during my fieldwork.

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Hanan Basher

PhD topic:

The Mental Health Needs of British Muslim Students in Higher Education.

Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.



Young people attending higher education experience common mental disorders at a

critical stage of their lives. In addition to these stresses, Muslim students face challenges such as Islamophobia, isolation, feeling othered and self-esteem issues that compound the negative impact on their mental health and thus overall wellbeing, academic achievement, and contribution. The study will use a qualitative approach involving undergraduate British Muslim students. The study aims to answer the following research questions: what are the mental health needs of Muslim students, and, to what extent are these needs met by mental health services in the higher education sector?

In light of the scarcity of culturally sensitive interventions that address the health inequalities faced by Muslim students, the research findings aim to contribute evidence-based recommendations to influence policy changes and develop students' mental health

services for better inclusion and acknowledgement of the increasingly diverse UK student population.

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Ifthahar Ahmed

PhD topic:

Understanding the Social Capital of Imams in Britain through Social Network Theories.

Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.



Over the past few decades, imams have been developing 'social capital' at varying levels. This project explores

when, how, and from whom imams acquire this 'capital', and the relationships that sustain it, through the framework of social network theories.

I am interested in learning what relationships imams 'value' when it comes to developing their social networks. What 'returns' do they expect to see from their investment in the maintenance of these relationships?

Three influential social network theories might help to answer this question: 'strong versus weak ties' theory, 'structural holes' theory, and the theory of 'homophily'.

I will be interviewing approximately 30 imams who will have a diversity of experiences, such as varied length of service, different ages, various educational and religious training backgrounds, and affiliation to different 'schools of thought'.

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Laiqah Osman

PhD topic:

Muslim Women in Britain and the Authority of Online Islamic Content.

Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.



Muslim women in Britain use, interact, and engage with different sources of Islamic authority. Since

the advent of Islam on the internet, media sources have become increasingly popular in facilitating this exchange. These can include, but are not limited to, fatwa websites, Islamic scholars' profiles on social media, Islamic Q&A shows/forums and the automation of Islamic legal literature. My research suggests that this development has significantly transformed women's role and, subsequently, the function of authority in this engagement.

By studying women's use of the internet to access religious knowledge, we will have a greater understanding of the impact that these sources have on their lived religious experiences. Using a gendered approach will also help us to explore the role of individual agency in their religious exploration, shifting the narrative beyond the traditional male guardians of knowledge.

This study has used a combination of traditional social science methods (semi-structured oral history interviews) and internet research (online ethnography) to understand how, and in what context, Muslim women use these

sources to guide and direct their religious practice.

This project is in the analysis stage, in preparation for write up in 2024.

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Nancy Kamal

PhD topic:

Understanding the effect of Islamic spirituality on coping with chronic mental health among British Muslim adults.



The burden of mental health conditions impacts individuals and societies across the globe. Mixed

depression and anxiety are the most common mental health conditions in the UK. Those these are prevalent amongst all sociodemographic groups, they are more common within minority communities including British Muslims. Employing a qualitative design, my study will aim to explore how British Muslims cope with their mental health status, with particular focus on Islamic spirituality practices that may help or hinder that process.

I am in the first year of my research and currently conducting literature searches that will assist me to discern general themes, potential gaps, and interests within the existing literature, which will signal areas of further exploration and give grounds to specificity.

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Sameeah Ahmed-Arai

PhD topic:

Women and the Mosque in Britain.

Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme



Scholars have taken the architectural typology of mosques to investigate Muslims communities' sense of identity and national belonging in Britain. However, these discussions homogenise worshippers in their portrayal of a singular, genderless experience. My research brings visibility to women's distinct relationship to the mosque. Spaces of prayer and worship often promise peacefulness and contentment. For this reason, my research builds on theories established in affective studies across humanities fields and architecture. Using a comparative analysis of mosques in Britain, I establish the way architectural choices influence the affective experiences of women in these spaces. I use various media, architectural documents, and interviews. I hope that this topic will stimulate new transdisciplinary theological research that acknowledges the embodied experiences which are intrinsic to worship practices.

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Shaista Chishty

PhD topic:

British Muslim women, Orientalism, and contemporary self-making.

Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme



Historically, portrayals of Muslims in news and popular culture have been problematic. Muslim women

in particular have been subject to changing (mis)representations. Increased opportunities for self-representation via social media suggests the potential to disrupt stereotypes and improve social inclusion. However, research indicates that young Muslim women are sometimes minimising 'Muslimness' for social acceptance and evidence is pointing to the emergence of an internalised Islamophobia among some Muslims.

My research is interested in exploring the relationship between popular historic depictions of Muslim women and how they perceive and present themselves today, specifically online.

In my work as a photographer and visual artist, I have observed the influences of dominant visual narratives and recognise the unconscious recreation of tropes in my professional photographic archive. I am interested in understanding the extent to which dominant narratives can be internalised and then recreated by marginalised communities.

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Activities in 2023



Dr Azim Ahmed visiting the last resting place of Amelia Kadija Baksh near Carmarthen in West Wales. Amelia Khadija Baksh passed away at the age of 26. Hers is the first recorded Muslim grave in Wales.



Members of the Jameel Educational Foundation visited Cardiff and had the opportunity to talk to members of the team as well as Jameel Scholars.



National Poet of Wales Hanan Isa, was presented with a 'pastwn' (a staff traditionally used to add emphasis or beat out a rhythm for their performances) made by the Centre's Development Officer Mark Bryant, his son Sami, and a colleague Pete Forward.



In May, Prof Hansjoerg Schmid, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, spent a week with Dr Mansur Ali and Prof Sophie Gilliat-Ray planning future publications and research activities.

Centre Contacts

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Director
Professor Sophie Gilliat-Ray
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Professor Sophie Gilliat-Ray is the founding Director of the Islam-UK Centre. In 2019 she was elected as a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and in 2020 was appointed an OBE in the New Year Honours list. She was Chair of the Muslims in Britain Research Network between 2014-2017, and Chair of the BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group 2018-2021. Professor Gilliat-Ray has been associated with successful research and other grants worth over £4.8m and has authored numerous books and peer-review journal articles. She is currently Associate Editor of the *Journal of Muslims in Europe*

and has a book coming out with Oxford University Press in 2024: *Chaplaincy and Seafaring: Faith at Work* (with H. Sampson, N. Turgo, and W. Cadge), as well as other publications on the topics of Muslim chaplaincy and research methodology.

Deputy Director and Research Associate

Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed
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Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed is Deputy Director of the Islam-UK Centre and Research Associate. He is currently researching the history of Muslims in Wales through innovative oral history methods and community-based researchers. Previously he has worked on the role and function of British mosques. He serves as Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Wales.

Development Officer

Mark Bryant
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Tel: **+44 (0)29 2087 0121**



Mark Bryant provides essential administrative and technical support for the Centre. This includes managing the database and website and promoting the Centre's work via social media. He is a member of the Centre's Advisory Board and is working on the various projects within the Jameel Research Programme.

Mark is currently developing the online teaching and learning aspects of the Centre's provision.

Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies

Maulana Dr Mansur Ali
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Dr. Mansur Ali is a senior lecturer in Islamic studies at Cardiff University. He is a Darul Uloom

graduate as well as holding a degree from the prestigious Al-Azhar University, Egypt, and postgraduate degrees from the University of Manchester. He is interested in Hadith studies, Islamic legal theory, *fiqh al-fataawa*, Muslim chaplaincy, and Islam and bioethics. Currently he is researching various aspects of organ transplantation and Islam. In addition to his post at the University, he is also a khatib at Darul Isra Mosque, Cardiff, UK. In 2015 he was the recipient of the British Imams and Scholars Award.

Senior Lecturer in Social Science Research Methods

Dr Michael Munnik
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Dr Michael Munnik teaches two undergraduate modules concerned with religion and the news, and digital religion. His expertise was developed during his doctoral

research at the University of Edinburgh, supported by the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World. His interest in news media and journalistic practice is informed by his prior professional experience as a broadcast journalist in Ottawa, Canada. Michael serves as Director of Learning and Teaching for the School of History, Archaeology and Religion.

Research Associate

Dr Eyad Abuali

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Dr Eyad Abuali is a research associate working on the 'Legacies of Learning' project. His focus is on

the intellectual, social, and cultural history of Sufism and other forms of Islamic mysticism. He is particularly interested in processes of institutionalisation and the formation of Sufi communities in the medieval period, as well as analysing the production and transmission of knowledge in premodern Islamic contexts. His research engages with theories of embodiment, emotions, material culture, as well as sensory history. He has previously held positions in large research projects in the Netherlands and Berlin.

Research Associate

Dr Asma Khan

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Asma is Research Associate on the 'Transformational: Converts in British Muslim Life' project. Additionally, she writes and



researches on the topics of Muslim Mental Health, and the labour market experiences of British Muslim women. Asma is a mixed methods researcher who enjoys working on co-produced projects with third sector organisations. Through her research and related activities, she looks for opportunities to highlight the experiences of people who belong to marginalised social groups, and to amplify their perspectives on what it means to be included and to live a healthy, happy and productive life.

Research Associate

Maulana Dr Haroon Sidat

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and descriptive approaches to Islam. Recently, he has been involved in research on imams in Britain and he is now part of the 'Legacies of Learning: from Turath to Transformation' project which explores the Islamic intellectual legacy to answer humanistic and civilizational concerns in the modern world. His recent paper 'Competing Spaces of Religious Belonging: Deobandi Debates on Interest/Usury as a Case Study' explored the question of Muslims living in the West in light of Islamic law.

Haroon is a religious scholar of Islam and academic with an interest in the intersection between normative

Research Associate

Dr Riyaz Timol

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Dr Riyaz Timol is a Research Fellow at the Centre, and Principal Investigator of the major research project

'Understanding British Imams'. His PhD on the British branch of the transnational Islamic movement Tablighi Jama'at was shortlisted for the 2018 BRAIS - De Gruyter Prize in the Study of Islam and the Muslim World. In 2021, he co-edited a volume on *Leadership, Authority and Representation in British Muslim Communities* as part of a Special Issue of the international journal 'Religions'. Riyaz's disciplinary approach is within the sociology of religion and his research interests include intergenerational transmission of Islam in Britain, ethnographic methodology, and Muslim religious leadership in the West.

Principal Investigator

PRIMO (Prison-based Interventions for Muslim Offenders)

Professor Matthew Wilkinson

WilkinsonM8@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)29 2251 1806



Matthew Wilkinson is Professor of Religion in Public Life at Cardiff University, UK and Principal

Investigator of PRIMO: Prison-based Interventions for Muslim Offenders.

PRIMO is the largest ever academic research programme on Islam and Muslims in prison. The vision of PRIMO is to shape a future where all Muslim people leaving prisons are connected to God, compassionate toward others, environmentally conscious, and responsible members of society. Matthew's latest book is based on the experiences of 279 Muslim prisoners, *Islam in Prison: finding faith, freedom and fraternity* (Bristol University Press, 2022).

Project Director
PRIMO (Prison-based
Interventions for Muslim
Offenders)

Lucy Wilkinson
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Lucy brings to the role 30 years of project management experience in the financial, health and

academic sectors.

Most recently, she has successfully project managed to completion the research programmes Curriculum for

Cohesion (2012-2017) and Understanding Conversion to Islam in Prison (2018-2021) at SOAS University of London.

Honorary Visiting Professor
Professor Ron Geaves



One of the pioneers of the study of Muslims and Islam in the UK, Professor Geaves continues to

research the lives of Britain's earliest Muslim communities through the lens of Abdullah Quilliam and the Victorian mosque created in Liverpool. He is a Trustee of the Abdullah Quilliam Mosque working with the Abdullah Quilliam Society to restore the original premises into a Heritage Museum. He remains involved in assisting Muslim Colleges to obtain accreditation.

Honorary Research Fellow
Dr Ayesha Khan

Dr Ayesha Khan completed her doctoral studies at Cardiff University (2020), in the Sociology of Religion and British Muslim Studies. The interaction between transnational Sufism



and the sociological landscape in Britain have led to new forms of Sufi expression. Ayesha's research

defined the concept of 'post-tariqa' Sufism, exploring diversity within religious practices and what young British Muslims interpret as Sufism. Using ethnographic and netnographic research methods, she looked at how British Muslims 'consumed' and 'produced' religious expression in physical and online spaces, in a commercial culture.

Ayesha is a research and policy specialist, and founder of the charity CareStart. She is passionate about bridging research and policy and using this to overcome inequalities amongst grassroots communities. She is currently working as a management consultant in the private sector, and leading her charity, CareStart.

[@IslamUKCentre](https://www.instagram.com/IslamUKCentre)
[facebook.com/IslamUKCentre](https://www.facebook.com/IslamUKCentre)



The team getting together in person for the Centre's Annual Symposium

Current Centre Projects

Legacies of Learning: From Turath to Transformation

This three-year project aims to explore Islamic scholarship during an historical period of exceptional intellectual and scientific growth in the Islamic world. Through the themes of “institutions and space” we will look at the relationship between people while conceptualising affect, changes in bodily behaviour, and ties of belonging. We will engage with the various disciplines of Sufism, law, philosophy, kalām, and areas of scientific and esoteric learning. Our plan is to draw on sociological and anthropological concepts of space in the historical analysis of institutions. This allows for thematic overlap with contemporary issues in education today. In addition, our outreach program includes a series of monthly podcasts where we invite scholars to talk about their work and its relationship to our project. The aim is to bring some of the defining principles and meanings of Islamic education to the fore, potentially re-shaping approaches to modern education

For further detail please contact the project team:

Dr Haroon Sidat Email: Sidathe@cardiff.ac.uk



Transformational: Converts in British Muslim Life

Overview

The aim of this three-year project is to explore how converts play a role in shaping Muslim communities in Britain by exercising leadership in public and religious life. We will explore how converts demonstrate leadership in three distinct areas: academia, religious leadership, and the cultural and creative sectors.

Research Aims

- **Examine** what resources – social, economic, cultural and religious - Muslim converts use to achieve positions of leadership
- **Explore** the extent to which Muslim converts in leadership positions feel that they hold unique positions as ‘bridge builders’ between British Muslim communities and wider society
- **Understand** the extent to which the ‘integrative potential’ of Muslim converts informs their personal and professional development
- **Share** the experiences of Muslim converts in leadership positions to inform and improve recognition of their contributions to British Muslim communities, and wider British society.

Collaborative Approach

The project is informed throughout by our collaborative work with our research partner, the Convert Muslim Foundation. We are guided by a steering group who have expert knowledge of British Muslim converts.

Who will benefit?

Findings from this project will be shared in several ways, with the aim of creating positive impacts for British Muslim communities.

For further details, please contact:

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Islam in Wales/Islam yng Nghymru

Muslims have been part of the fabric and history of Wales for well over a century. There is, however, very little research on the history of Islam in Wales. The project seeks to remedy this knowledge gap and make more accessible and widely known the histories of settlement, contribution, and community-making of Welsh Muslims.

Since the project began in 2021, it has documented archival material, news stories, oral histories, and more, to tell the story of Muslims in Wales. The goal now is to establish an archive of interviews, records, and important documents

related to Muslim settlement in Wales that is publicly accessible for future researchers, to author a book on the history of Islam in Wales, and to produce a travelling exhibition for use in museums, schools, and mosques to bring this research into the wider community.

For more information, or to support the project as a Participant Researcher, please contact the project team.

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Mark Bryant: bryantmw@cardiff.ac.uk



Opening of Nur al-Islam/Peel Street Mosque in Cardiff 17th July 1947. Shaykh Abdullah Ali al-Hakimi is pictured, along with a young James Callaghan, then MP and who would become Prime Minister of Britain.

PRIMO (Prison-based Interventions for Muslim Offenders) 2022-2026

PRIMO is designing and testing a rehabilitative strategy to enable Muslim prisoners to use their Islamic faith to build successful lives both in prison and post-release.

PRIMO aims to bring about an enduring and tested improvement in the way that Islam affects life in prison for the sustainable well-being of prisoners' lives and for the knowledge and well-being of criminal justice professionals.

PRIMO is supported and guided by a world-class team of criminal justice practitioners, Muslim community figures, leading theologians of all faiths and people of none, and criminologists.

PRIMO is funded independently by the Dawes Trust.



The legacy of PRIMO will be five-fold:

1. A fully tested six-week PRIMO Muslim Stewardship Course for People in Prison with a weekly 'Friday Reflection' on National Prison Radio, together with Muslim Prison Chaplains who are trained and qualified to deliver the PRIMO Muslim Stewardship Course.
2. A Cardiff University accredited PRIMO Diploma for Muslim Prison Chaplains for their Continuing Professional Development, in partnership with HMPPS Chaplaincy.
3. A tested, accredited module to be delivered during Prison Officer Entry Level Training (POELT) called PRIMO Muslim Stewardship Course for Prison Officers.
4. A Prison Service Instruction that makes changing religion in prison safe and ensures that it is properly supervised by the relevant religious authority.
5. A comparative international dataset on the practice of Islam in prisons in England & Wales and the USA, together with an international pilot of PRIMO Muslim Stewardship Course for People in Prison in the USA.

For further details, please contact:

Mrs Lucy Wilkinson, PRIMO Project Director

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Understanding British Imams Phase 2, 2023-2026

Imams are the largest group of Muslim religious professionals in Britain who work principally within mosques leading prayers, delivering sermons, and providing guidance to their congregations. While their roles have diversified to include pastoral care, marital counselling or inter-faith activism alongside broader generational shifts, the work of British imams has only rarely been studied in-depth.

Phase 1 of this project consisted of comprehensive fieldwork which collected data from circa. 1200 UK mosques, completed interviews with 40 imams from diverse backgrounds and surveyed hundreds of ordinary British Muslims. Phase 2 is focussing on publishing outputs, disseminating findings and working closely with imams and key stakeholders, including mosque management committees, to explore how project data might contribute to positive change in British Muslim communities. The project hopes to create a lasting reference point for

future research on Muslim religious leadership in the West.

For further details, please contact:

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Discovering Muslims in Britain: for Key Stage 3

Discovering Muslims for RE aims to support Religious Education (RE) in schools through the development of a fully resourced Key Stage 3 scheme of work investigating Muslims in Britain. Based on the Islam-UK Centre's hugely successful Muslims in Britain Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), we aim to embed sociological perspectives on religion in the RE classroom by using cutting-edge sociological research and academic scholarship in teaching resources to draw attention to the lived experiences of Muslims living across Britain. These resources feature interviews, photographs and accounts from Muslims on Islam, their identities as Muslims, and contemporary issues, and they will be freely

available to download and edit. Alongside the resources, we have designed an accompanying accessible Professional Learning course.

Feedback from our original resources aimed primarily at Key Stage 3 has led to us to adapt the original resources to be used by primary school teachers.

To find out more and how to access these resources and training visit the project website at <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/explore/find-a-project/view/2412788-discovering-muslims-in-britain-for-key-stage-3>

For further details, please contact:

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Members of the Islam-UK Centre Management Board

Professor Vicki Cummings

Chair of the Management Board and Head of the School of History, Archaeology and Religion

Ali Abdi

Partnerships and Facilities Manager, Community Gateway, Cardiff University

Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed

Deputy Director, Islam-UK Centre

Dr Mansur Ali

Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies

Waqaus Ali

Member of the Executive Board for the Global Association of Islamic Schools

Mark Bryant

Development Officer

Venice Cowper

Diversity and inclusion manager, Cardiff University

Prof Sophie Gilliat-Ray

Director, Islam-UK Centre

Jamilla Hekmoun

Research Fellow, Woolf Institute, Cambridge

Akmal Hanuk

Cardiff Business School

Hisham Hellyer

Non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Ed Kaneen

Co-Principal, Cardiff Baptist College

Samina Khan

Former Equality Diversity and Community Development Manager at Cardiff and Vale College

Saleem Kidwai OBE

Founder of the Muslim Council of Wales

Jehangir Malik

Director for British Muslim Civil Society Project

Ghazala Mir

Professor of Health Equity and Inclusion, University of Leeds

Umar Nawaz

Imam, Madina Mosque Cardiff

Sameh Otri,

Engineering Lecturer at Cardiff and Vale College

Dewi Parry

Digital Learning Manager, Cardiff Learning and Teaching Academy

Abyd Quinn-Aziz,

Reader in Social Work, Cardiff University

Jed Rual

Cardiff University Research Commercialisation Team

Vineeta Simms

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Muhammed Tajri

Lecturer in Arabic at the Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham

Dr David Wyatt

Community Engagement, School of History, Archaeology and Religion



Members of the team at the BRAIS conference hosted by the Aga Khan Centre, London

All seminars will be held both online and in person at 5pm in the John Percival Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff, CF10 3EU, Room: 0.01 except the seminar on Thursday 20th June (Jonathan Brown) which will be held at 5pm in Room 0.22 Law Building, Museum Avenue.

Please note that photographs and a video will be taken of the lectures. Cardiff University will assume the consent of all those in attendance and those that appear in the media footage taken. Photographs and videos are taken with the view to use in University and link organisations' websites, marketing materials and related media coverage. If you DO NOT agree to this, please inform a staff member on the evening. If you do wish to withdraw permission at a later date you must inform Mark Bryant in writing (BryantMW@cardiff.ac.uk).

Front Cover:
The Arab Room, Cardiff Castle designed by William Burges in the 1880's. Photo by permission on Cardiff County Council.

Diary of Public Seminars 2024

Thursday 15th February 5pm

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Dr. Muhammed Reza Tajri

***Navigating Religious Authority and Agency:
Developing Shi'i Attitudes on British University Campuses***

Chair: Michael Munnik

Book here for in person or online: <https://forms.office.com/e/PaYNxQsFVd>

Thursday 7th March 5pm

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Dr Saleema Burney

***Veiled and Victimised? Muslim women as stewards of faith
in secular public spaces***

Chair: Sheam Khan

Book here for in person or online: <https://forms.office.com/e/Ojz6uX1Wy1>

Thursday 25th April 5pm

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Dr Yunis Alam

Inside out: ethnography, ethnicity and academia

Chair: Asma Khan

Book here for in person or online: <https://forms.office.com/e/73F18JatV3>

Thursday 20th June 5pm

Law Building, room 0.22

Dr Jonathan Brown

Stewardship in Islam: Historical and Contemporary Perspective

Chair: Haroon Sidat

Book here for in person or online: <https://forms.office.com/e/4eiu0t8ScS>

Thursday 4th July 5pm

John Percival Building, room 0.01

Dr Mahmood Chandia

***Evaluating the concept of Educational Stewardship
for Muslims in Britain in the 21st century***

Chair: Hanan Basher

Book here for in person or online: <https://forms.office.com/e/TRwhGRZfqh>

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