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.

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Public Seminar Series 2024

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**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-Imâm al-Khumaynî 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‘îsm, religious authority, and the impact of gender on religion.

Email address: tajrim@almahdi.edu

**Book here for in person or online:**
https://forms.office.com/e/PaYNx0sFVd

**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.

Email address: saleemaburney@gmail.com

**Book here for in person or online:**
https://forms.office.com/e/0jz6uX1Wy1
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.

Email address: M.Y.Alam1@bradford.ac.uk

Book here for in person or online: https://forms.office.com/e/73F18JAtV3

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.

Email address: brownj2@georgetown.edu

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

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).

Email address: MChandia@uclan.ac.uk

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

Email address: Redwan@cardiff.ac.uk

Fatima Khan

**PhD topic:**
Muslims in Britain and Disabilities: Experiences and Attitudes.

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.

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.

Email address: khanf23@cardiff.ac.uk

Fatou Sambe

**PhD topic:**
Converts and the Next Generation of British Muslims.

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.

Email address: Fatou@cardiff.ac.uk
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.

Email address: basherh@cardiff.ac.uk

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’.

Email address: ahmedi19@cardiff.ac.uk

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.

Email address: OsmanL2@cardiff.ac.uk

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 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.

Email address: kamalnt@cardiff.ac.uk

Sameerah 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.

Email address: ChishtyS@cardiff.ac.uk
**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

Islam-UK Centre,
School of History, Archaeology and Religion, John Percival Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff, CF10 3EU, UK
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 0121
Email: islam-uk@cardiff.ac.uk

Director
Professor Sophie Gilliat-Ray
Gilliat-RayS@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2251 0830
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
AhmedMA1@Cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 5634
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
BryantMW@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)7738 932376
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.

Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies
Maulana Dr Mansur Ali
alimm1@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 6297
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
MunnikM@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 5646
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
AbualiE@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2251 1684

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
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
Dr Asma Khan
asmakhan@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 5069

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.

Research Associate
Maulana Dr Haroon Sidat
Sidathe@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 5650

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

Research Associate
Dr Riyaz Timol
timolr1@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4884

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

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).

**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.
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:
Dr Asma Khan  Email: asmakhan@cardiff.ac.uk
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.

Abdul-Azim Ahmed: ahmedma1@cardiff.ac.uk
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.
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 focusing 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:
Dr Riyaz Timol  Email: timolr1@cardiff.ac.uk
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: Mark Bryant  Email: BryantMW@cardiff.ac.uk
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).

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](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

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Thursday 25th April 5pm  John Percival Building, room 0.01

Dr Yunis Alam

**Inside out: ethnography, ethnicity and academia**
Chair: Asma Khan

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Thursday 20th June 5pm  Law Building, room 0.22

Dr Jonathan Brown

**Stewardship in Islam: Historical and Contemporary Perspective**
Chair: Haroon Sidat

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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

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