

MCB ReDoc Workshop

Islamophobia @2012: Challenges and Strategies

Saturday 24 November 2012 10:00-17:30
SOAS, Room G3

This Workshop is convened to mark 15 years since publication of the Runnymede Trust report in 1997 first put Islamophobia on the political and public policy agenda. It brings together an invited group of participants to think through and critically assess the lessons learnt, the challenges outstanding, and the ways forward on racism and Islamophobia.

The aim is to draw up a balance sheet of the present situation in the areas of legislation, political and civic engagement, media and education, data collection and monitoring, academic research and public policy, policing and security, and social inclusion, and to map the gaps and strategic priorities for the work ahead

Core Themes:

- Academic Research and Public Policy
- Law and the Legal Framework on Discrimination, Equality and Diversity
- Data Collection and Monitoring
- Policing and Securitisation
- Racism, the Far Right and the Mainstream
- Media, New Media and Popular Culture
- Education and Society
- Political and Civic Engagement.

Workshop Participants:

Talha J. Ahmad, Barrister. Chair of the Membership Committee of the Muslim Council of Britain.

Zaheer Ahmad MBE is President of the National Association of Muslim Police.

Azad Ali, is Head of Community Development and Engagement at ENGAGE, and chair of the Muslim Safety Forum; he is also the Vice-chair of UAF and an executive member of StopWatch, a trustee of East London Mosque and a presenter on Islam Channel.

Ruhana Ali is a Citizens UK Community Organiser in Tower Hamlets, teaches on the Community Organising MA at Queen Mary University of London. She is co-author of *A New Covenant of Virtue: Islam and Community Organising* (Citizens UK, 2012).

Chris Allen is Lecturer in Social Policy at the Institute of Applied Social Studies, University of Birmingham, and the author of *Islamophobia* (Ashgate, 2010).

Humayun Ansari OBE is Professor of History of Islam and Culture at Royal Holloway, University of London. His most recent publications include *From the Far Right to the Mainstream: Islamophobia in Party Politics and the Media* (co-edited with F. Hafez, Campus Verlag, 2012).

Mohammed Abdul Aziz is Director of Centre for Public Education, Woolf Institute, Cambridge; PhD Student on Nohoudh Scholarship at SOAS and Vice-Chair at the Equality & Diversity Forum.

SamiaBano is Lecturer in the School of Law at the University of Reading and the author of *Muslim Women and Shari'ah Councils: Transcending the boundaries of Community and Law* (Palgrave, 2012).

Rob Berkeley is Director of the Runnymede Trust

Gargi Bhattacharyya is professor of sociology and public policy at Aston University and member of UCU NEC. She is the author among others of *Dangerous Brown Men: Exploiting Sex, Violence and Feminism in the 'War on the Terror'* (Zed, 2008).

YahyaBirt is a Visiting Fellow at the Markfield Institute of Higher Education and has written over a dozen academic articles on aspects of Muslim life in Britain, including on Islamophobia and its relation to identity politics and state policies towards British Muslims

ShenazBunglawala is Head of Research at ENGAGE.

James Carr is a doctoral researcher in the Department of Sociology in the University of Limerick. He is in the third year of his research on Islamophobia and State data collection practices in the Republic of Ireland.

Gill Cressey is Senior Lecturer in Applied Community and Social Studies at Coventry University, and a trustee of Muslim Youth Work Foundation; recent consultancy includes an evaluation of the work of REWIND, an intervention to challenge Far Right Islamophobic and racist views.

Abdullah Faliq, Head of Research at The Cordoba Foundation and chair of the Enough Coalition Against Islamophobia.

Denis Fernando, is a social rights campaigner and a leading member of One Society, Many Cultures, and the Lesbian and Gay Coalition Against Racism.

RaziaKarim is a senior lawyer at the EHRC with expertise in equality and human rights law.

Humera Khan is an independent researcher and consultant and founder member of An-Nisa Society.

Muhammad G. Khan is Tutor in Youth and Community Work at Ruskin College, Oxford, and the author of *Young Muslims, Pedagogy and Islam: Contexts and Concepts* (Policy Press, 2013).

Brian Klug is Senior Research Fellow & Tutor in Philosophy at St. Benet's Hall, University of Oxford. His latest book is *Being Jewish and Doing Justice: Bringing Argument to Life* (Vallentine Mitchell, 2011).

Mohammed Kozbar is Director of Finsbury Park Mosque and a senior representative of the British Muslim Initiative.

KarimaLaachir Chair of the Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and co-editor of *Resistance in Contemporary Middle Eastern Cultures: Literature, Cinema and Music* (Routledge, 2012).

SeánMcLoughlin is Senior Lecturer in Religion, Anthropology & Islam at the University of Leeds, and the current chair of the Muslims in Britain Research Network.

Abdul-Rehman Malik is a London-based journalist, educator and organiser. Formerly with *Q-News – The Muslim Magazine*, he is currently programmes manager for the Radical Middle Way.

Maleiha Malik is professor of Law at King's College London and editor of *Anti-Muslim Prejudice: Past and Present* (Routledge, 2010).

EhsanMasood is a science journalist and has been the editor of Research Fortnight since 2009. He is the author of the *British Muslims: Media Guide* British Council and Association of Muslim Social Scientists, (2006), and of the British Council report on its *Our Shared Europe* initiative (2008).

ShamimMiah is Senior Lecturer in Religion and Education at the University of Huddersfield.

Berenice Miles is an education and equality consultant. She is the author and consultant for the Crown Prosecution Service pack for schools on racist and religious hate crime, in association with the National Union of Teachers and the Anthony Walker Foundation.

Heidi Safia Mirzais Emeritus Professor of Equalities Studies in Education at the Institute of Education, University of London. Her latest book is *Respecting Difference: Race, faith and culture for teacher educators* (with Veena Patel, IoE, 2012)

Leon Moosavi is Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Liverpool. His recently completed PhD thesis is entitled *Islamophobia, Belonging and Race in the Experiences of Muslim Converts in Britain*.

Peter Morey is Professor of English and Postcolonial Studies at the School of Arts and Digital Industries, University of East London, and co-author of *Framing Muslims: Stereotyping and representation after 9/11* (Harvard UP, 2011).

Saqeb Mueen is Editor of RUSI.org and sits on the Editorial Board of the Royal United Services Institute.

Marwan Muhammad is spokesman of the French monitoring and advocacy organisation Collectif Contre L' Islamophobie en France.

Farooq Murad is Secretary General, of the Muslim Council of Britain.

Chris Nineham is a national officer of *Stop the War Coalition* and founder member of the Enough Coalition Against Islamophobia; he is co-author of *The War on Terror - Ten Years On* (Stop the War, 2011)

Bob Pitt is editor of the media monitoring website Islamophobia Watch. While at the Mayor of London's office he helped to prepare the Mayor's response to the parliamentary bill that resulted in the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006.

Scott Poynting is professor of Sociology at Manchester Metropolitan University and co-editor of *Global Islamophobia: Muslims and Moral Panic in the West* (Ashgate, 2012).

Asim Qureshi is the Senior Researcher for the human rights NGO Cage Prisoners and author of *Rules of the Game: Detention, Deportation, Disappearance* (Hurst, 2009).

Muzammil Quraishi is Senior Lecturer in Criminology & Criminal Justice at the University of Salford. His latest publication is *Researching Racism* (Sage, 2013).

Robin Richardson is Director of the educational consultancy Insted, former Director of the Runnymede Trust, and consultant and editor for numerous reports including *Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All* (1997) and *Islamophobia: Challenges Issues and Action* (2004).

Jamil Sherif is special advisor to the MCB Secretary General.

David Tyrer is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Political Theory, Liverpool John Moores University. His publications include *Race, Crime and Resistance* (with Tina Patel, Sage, 2011), and *The Politics of Islamophobia: Race, Power and Fantasy* (Pluto Press, 2013).

Varun Uberoi is Lecturer in Political Theory and Public Policy at Brunel University. He is co-editor of *Options for a New Britain, Options for Britain II*, and author of *Nation-Building Through Multiculturalism* (forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan).

Abdool Karim Vakil is Chair of the Research and Documentation Committee of the Muslim Council of Britain, Lecturer in History at King's College London, and co-editor of *Thinking Through Islamophobia: Global Perspectives* (Hurst 2010).

Paul Vernell is Head of English at Abbeywood Community School and Joint Secretary of South Gloucestershire NUT. His writing on education policy and curriculum design include 'Tackling Islamophobia: a whole school approach' (in *Social Justice Re-Examined*, Trentham, 2012), and the co-coordination of the web-based primary and secondary teaching resources 'Tackling Islamophobia in the classroom'.

Doug Weeks is a PhD candidate at the University of St Andrews. His research is an ethnographic study exploring the link between UK counter-terrorism policy and extremism.

Jim Wolfreys is Senior lecturer in French and European politics at King's College London. His publications include *The Politics of Racism in France* (with Peter Fysh, Palgrave, 2003).

Jude Woodward was advisor to Ken Livingstone as Mayor of London 2000-08, and for his policies on community affairs to May 2012. She is an officer of Unite Against Fascism and One Society Many Cultures.

Kawsar Zaman, BCL Student at Mansfield College Oxford as Tun Mahathir Scholar of Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, former Vice-Chair of MCB Youth Committee.

Format:The emphasis of the meeting is on informed discussion among all participants with a few planned short interventions (5-7 minutes maximum) to get conversation going on each thematic area.

Programme:

- **Academic Research and Public Policy:**
 - AbdoolKarim Vakil, Brian Klug, Chris Allen, YahyaBirt
- **Legislation and the Law:**
 - Mohammed Abdul Aziz; Bob Pitt; SamiaBano.
- **Data Collection and Monitoring:**
 - Azad Ali;Muhammed Marwan; James Carr
- **Education:**
 - Robin Richardson; ShamimMiah; Gargi Bhattacharyya.
- **Media, Culture & Society:**
 - Peter Morey; Abdul-Rehman Malik; EhsanMasood;
- **Racism and the Far Right:**
 - Humayun Ansari; Jim Wolfreys; Chris Nineham; Gill Cressey.
- **Policing & Securitisation:**
 - AsimQureishi; Scott Poynting; Zaheer Ahmad.
- **Political and Civic Engagement:**
 - Ruhana Ali, ShenazBunglawala, Humera Khan

Schedule:

From 09:30 Arrival and Coffee

10 am Start:

Welcome: FarooqMurad

10:05 Academic Research and Public Policy:

AbdoolKarim Vakil, Brian Klug, Chris Allen, YahyaBirt

10:50 Legislation and the Law:

Mohammed Abdul Aziz; Bob Pitt; SamiaBano

11:30 Data Collection and Monitoring

Azad Ali; James Carr; Muhammed Marwan

12:20 Lunch break (and Zohr)

13:15 Education:

Robin Richardson; ShamimMiah; Gargi Bhattacharyya

(14:00-14:15 Pause: Asr)

14:15 Media, Culture & Society

Peter Morey; Abdul-Rehman Malik; EhsanMasood

15:00 Racism and the Far Right

Humayun Ansari; Jim Wolfreys; Chris Nineham; Gill Cressey

15:50 Policing & Securitisation:

AsimQureishi; Scott Poynting; Zaheer Ahmad

(16:05 Coffee break Pause: Maghrib, resume 16:20)

16:45 Political and Civic Engagement:

Ruhana Ali, ShenazBunglawala; Humera Khan

17:30 Close

Convened by AbdoolKarim Vakil, King's College London and KarimaLaachir, SOAS on behalf of the Research and Documentation Committee of the Muslim Council of Britain

This Workshop is part of **Islamophobia Awareness Month 2012** jointly coordinated by **the Muslim Council of Britain**, **ENGAGE**, and the **Enough Coalition Against Islamophobia**

Venue: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG. SOAS Location map and directions: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/visitors/location/maps/>