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UNIVERSITY

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Centre for the
Study of Islam in the UK

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ISLAM UK CENTRE



CANOLFAN ISLAM DG



Public Seminar
Series 2019

Doctoral
Students

Research
& News

Jameel
Scholars
2018 – 2019



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NUJ
NATIONAL UNION
OF
JOURNALISTS

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, formerly musician Cat Stevens in front of 400 guests.

Islam is the second largest religion in Britain and, indeed, the world. There are 46,000 Muslims in Wales, about half of whom live in Cardiff itself (Census 2011).



Cardiff University is now a leading institution for scholarly teaching 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. 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 the local Muslim community. Local Muslims form part of the Centre's advisory committee, and we are proud of this partnership. 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 2019

Wednesday 6th February 5pm

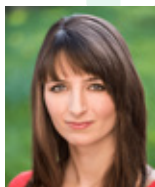
Dr Anabel Inge

John Percival Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff CF10 3EG
Room: 5.24

'The Making of a Salafi Muslim Woman: Paths to Conversion'

Anabel Inge

completed her PhD at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London, where she won the Arts and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Award and Walton Scholarship. She has taught courses on Islam and the Anthropology of Religion at SOAS (University of London) and King's College London.



Twitter: [@Anabel_Inge](https://twitter.com/Anabel_Inge)

Chair: *Riyaz Timol, Research Associate, Cardiff University.*

To book go online now: <https://anabel-inge.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wednesday 20th February 5pm

Haroon Sidat

John Percival Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff CF10 3EG
Room: 5.24

'What is 'authority' in Islam?'

Haroon Sidat

is completing his doctorate on the formation and training of British Muslim religious leadership, or Ulama, at the Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, Cardiff University, in 2019. He is an Imam and teaches a number of classic Islamic sciences.



He has a background in Economics, Finance and in Education. He is a consultant and sits on the advisory board of a number of charities.

Email address: haroon.sidat@hotmail.com

Chair: *Laiqah Osman, Jameel Scholar, Cardiff University.*

To book go online now: <https://haroon-sidat2.eventbrite.co.uk>



Some of our postgraduate students at Cardiff University's graduation ceremony in July 2018. Riyaz Timol, receiving his doctorate, and Kate Hodgson, Laura Jones and Jamilla Hekmoun receiving their MA Islam in Contemporary Britain.

Wednesday 6th March 5pm

Dr Fauzia Ahmad

John Percival Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff CF10 3EG
Room: 5.24

'The British Muslim Marriage Crisis'

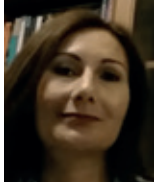
Fauzia Ahmad

is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London with research interests and publications focusing on gendered ethnic and faith identities. She specialises in Muslim families in Britain, second- and third-generation British Muslim women's identities, experiences of higher education, employment, social welfare, Muslim feminisms and Islamophobia. She is currently engaged in research with British Muslim men and women on their marital partner-searching strategies and relationships, as well as their experiences of divorce, legal and counselling services.

Email address: foz@txf.co.uk

Chair: *Ayesha Khan, Jameel Scholar, Cardiff University.*

To book go online now: <https://fauzia-ahmad.eventbrite.co.uk>



Wednesday 20th March 5pm

Dr Stephen Pihlaja

John Percival Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff CF10 3EG
Room: 5.24

'How technology influences what we believe'

Stephen Pihlaja

is Reader in Stylistics at Newman University Birmingham. Originally from Chicago, he has lived and taught in the UK, Japan, and Malaysia for the last fifteen years. His research tries to explain how people present themselves and their beliefs to diverse audiences. His new book *Religious Talk Online: the evangelical discourse of Muslims, Christians, and atheists* (Cambridge University Press) looks at the role of social media in inter-religious dialogue.

Email address:

S.Pihlaja@staff.newman.ac.uk

Chair: *Michael Munnik, Lecturer in Social Science Theories and Methods, Cardiff University.*

To book go online now: <https://stephen-pihlaja.eventbrite.co.uk>



Dr Michael Munnik gives a keynote presentation at the 16th Communication in the Millennium Symposium in Eskisehir, Turkey in April 2018.

Wednesday 3rd April 7pm

James Fergusson

Glamorgan Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, Committee Rooms 1 & 2

'Islam – Another British Religion?'

James Fergusson

is an award-winning author and foreign correspondent, specializing in Islamic affairs. His book on Nato's campaign in southern Afghanistan, *A Million Bullets* (2008), was the British Army's Military Book of the Year. *The World's Most Dangerous Place* (2013), about Somalia, was short-listed for the Orwell Prize. His latest book, *Al-Britannia, My Country* (2017), which argues for a new approach to Britain's growing Muslim community, was described by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams as 'a seriously necessary book.' He is currently researching a book on water politics in Israel-Palestine. He is married with four children and lives in Edinburgh.

This seminar is given in partnership with the National Union of Journalists.

Email address:

jferg@blueyonder.co.uk

Chair: *Martin Shipton, Media Wales Chief Reporter and Father of the National Union of Journalists Chapel in Cardiff.*

To book go online now: <https://james-fergusson.eventbrite.co.uk>



Islam-UK Centre Doctoral Students

Ayesha Khan

PhD topic:

Exploring contemporary Sufism amongst young British Muslims.



Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.

Project summary:

The interaction between transnational Sufism and the sociological environment in Britain has led to new forms of Sufi expression. Through a qualitative approach, my study seeks to explore contemporary forms of Sufi expression amongst young British Muslims. This will contribute towards understanding the diversity of religious practice and what young Muslims interpret as Sufism. Through my study I ask: What are the currents forms of Sufi practice amongst young British Muslims? What is the role of social media in contemporary religious expression? What does this new Sufi phenomenon tell us about Islam in contemporary Britain?

Now in the third year of my doctoral study, I am analysing the data I collected through participant observation in Sufi-affiliated organisations and online research of Sufi expression on social media. Alongside my studies, I serve as an executive committee member of the Muslims in Britain Research Network (MBRN). We hold annual conferences and bring together academics, students,

professionals, researchers, journalists and practitioners to encourage and promote the study of Muslims and Islam in Britain.

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/research-students/view/545130-khan-ayesha>

Email address:

khana43@cardiff.ac.uk

Haroon Sidat

PhD topic:

Formation and Training of British Muslim Religious Leadership: An Ethnography of a Dar al-Uloom in Britain.



Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.

Project summary:

My research provides the first “insider” ethnographic account of life inside a traditional Islamic seminary, or a Dar al-Uloom in Britain. Given the context of large numbers of young, educated British-born Muslims looking to religious scholars and imams for religious guidance, and the focus on Dar al-Ulooms from many stakeholder groups, this research is a timely intervention. I argue that this traditional Dar al-Uloom is undergoing adaption and transition, albeit reflectively. This is led by a young generation of scholars acting as bricoleurs: creating new forms of hybridisation while remaining within the ambit of tradition.

Furthermore, my research uncovers the multifaceted ways religious authority is constructed and maintained in the Dar al-Uloom. The thesis challenges the commonly held view that Dar al-Ulooms are engaged primarily in producing imams while providing alternative ways of conceptualising religious leadership.

By looking at the theory of religious embodiment, the thesis bridges the “expectations gap” by clarifying what the *raison d’être* of a Dar al-Uloom is: the transmission and preservation of knowledge through pious practicing Muslims. Reflective of a thinking tradition, however, the Dar al-Uloom is engaged in a balancing act between the embodiment of piety and the production of scholarship. More broadly, I hope to help answer questions about the sociology of religious professionals, religious education and formation, and changing patterns of religious authority and leadership within the Islamic tradition.

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/research-students/view/155628-sidat-haroon>

Email address:

SidatHE@cardiff.ac.uk

Laura Jones

PhD topic:

Observing Ramadan in Britain.



Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.

Project summary:

I am in the first year of my PhD which aims to explore British Muslim experiences of fasting and observing the holy month of Ramadan.

Fasting in Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and something that is maintained by a diverse range of Muslims, even those who may be considered 'less practising' in other respects. It is an occasion which has gained attention in the mainstream media, with news coverage and specific radio and TV programmes broadcast during the month; in the commercial sector, with supermarkets offering Ramadan promotions; and in politics, with politicians delivering Ramadan greetings. Despite this, academic literature on Ramadan in the UK is sparse, thus the reason for this study.

I will explore the significance and experience of Ramadan for British Muslims primarily by analysing Ramadan diaries of research participants. I also hope to undertake ethnographic observation of Ramadan events and activities to capture communal aspects of the month. The study aims to shed light not only on how Muslims observe and practice the month, but how the month is 'observed' by wider

society through, for example, the media and initiatives where Muslims reach out to non-Muslims during Ramadan.

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/research-students/view/1383458-jones-laura>

Email address:
JonesLA24@cardiff.ac.uk

Laiqah Osman

PhD topic:

Muslim Women in Britain and the authority of online Islamic content: Assessing the emergence of Fatwa Shopping on religiosity.



Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.

Project summary:

The advent of popular Islamic Media (Fatwa websites, Scholars on social media, Islamic Q&A TV shows and the automation of Islamic legal literature), has significantly transformed the way Muslim women in Britain access religious instruction/guidance from sources of Islamic authority.

In the context of the securitization of Islam in Europe, this study consciously chooses not to research the online activity of Muslim women through a lens of radicalization/terrorism. Instead, it has been vital to focus on exploring the nuances of their religious experiences in comparison to their male counterparts. Furthermore, exploring individual agency in religious exploration has been central to

understanding the shift of power and control between preachers and the female truth-seeker.

This study will use a combination of qualitative and quantitative research (an online ethnography and oral history interviews) to understand how, and in what context, Muslim women use – and often exploit – these sources to guide and direct their religious practice. I aim to contribute towards a greater understanding of how women construct their own standards of religious authority in the way they engage with their faith online.

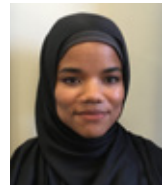
<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/research-students/view/1383459-osman-laiqah>

Email address:
OsmanL2@cardiff.ac.uk

Fatou Sambe

PhD topic:

Converts to Islam and the next generation of British Muslims.



Generously funded by the Jameel Scholarship Programme.

Project summary:

While there has been much research on native converts to Islam often with a focus on female conversion, motivation, and identity formation, as well as gender issues, what has been neglected is work addressing long-term post-conversion experiences of Muslim converts and 'the next generation' children of converts.

continued overleaf

Islam-UK Centre Doctoral Students

Fatou Sambe continued

My research project explores the 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 further investigate the unexplored area of convert support groups and their role in the lives of converts and convert children.

In my research project, I aim to explore what it means to become a Muslim and raise (Muslim) children. How do converts navigate their new lives, community spaces and raising children, and how do children of converts navigate their mixed background and extended Muslim and non-Muslim families? I also consider how historical, socio-political factors and contexts in Britain shape their experiences.

My interest in this topic was developed during previous research with Scottish and German convert women for my undergraduate dissertation as well as my own background as the daughter of a convert mother. 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.

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/research-students/view/1383460-sambe-fatou>

Email address:

SambeFB@cardiff.ac.uk

Jameel Scholars 2018-19 Masters Students

Seherish Abrar

After completing a BA in 'Religion and Education'

I became interested in the ways Muslims interact with the modern world while retaining their Islamic identity. The MA programme offers a holistic insight into the experiences of British Muslims, and its sociological nature allows one to engage with Muslim communities. These factors drew me to the MA, which has equipped me with an appreciation of the diversity of Muslims in Britain. Coming from a northern town in England, my interaction with Muslims was somewhat limited, however being at the Centre has allowed me to broaden my experiences as well as challenge my own perceptions.



such as educational and occupational barriers. The MA programme at Cardiff University is helping me to develop the research skills and knowledge necessary for further exploration of my research interests through the Masters dissertation and for personal career development.

Muhammad Belal Ghafoor

The Jameel Scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to undertake this MA. I have studied at two traditional Islamic seminaries: Jamia al Karam (Retford) and Suffa Tul Islam (Bradford). I then took a BA in Islamic Studies at the University of Leeds and a Diploma in Contextualised Islamic Leadership at Cambridge Muslim College. I was attracted to this MA because of its interdisciplinary programme, equipping students with skills required to undertake high-quality research on Muslims in Britain. My interest lies in the education and training of future Muslim leadership in Scotland, an area which until recently has had little academic attention. Muslims are the youngest religious community in Scotland, and I hope that my sociological assessment of programmes will help develop education in this field.



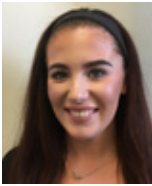
Thomas Fletcher

Having completed a BA (Hons) Religious and Theological Studies at Cardiff University, the Jameel Scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to further my studies with the renowned staff at the Islam-UK Centre. Both my undergraduate degree and my voluntary- and paid-work with Muslim communities in Cardiff and Newport has helped foster an interest in the issues affecting these communities,



Megan Richards

I completed my undergraduate degree here at Cardiff



University in History and Religious studies, with particular interests in Islam, and modern socio-economic history in Wales and England. Being given the opportunity to continue my studies at the Islam-UK centre has already enabled me to develop the knowledge that I gained in my undergraduate degree. Although challenging, I am enjoying the experience as a young postgraduate, gaining the skills necessary to undertake my own research. My dissertation will focus on the engagement and participation of Muslim women in sport, in Wales. I look forward to starting my work placement with the EYST, on projects to increase BME participation in sport. The opportunities available to students at the Centre are great.

Rory Wade

I began my academic journey in 2015 by studying Politics and Religious Studies – having had an interest in the contemporary presence of religion in public life. During this time I attended interfaith events held at the Dar Ul Isra Mosque and though this gained an interest in the Muslim communities' interaction with mainstream society. I am undertaking the MA in Islam In Contemporary Britain as a Jameel Scholar in order to gain further insight into present debates and issues facing Muslims in Britain.



Dr Mansur Ali delivering a lecture on Organ Transplantation in Islam at the International conference on Organ Transplantation in Islam, Western Sydney University, Australia, November 2018.

MA in 'Islam in Contemporary Britain'

Scholarship on Islam and Muslims in Britain is now an established and rapidly growing field. There is an urgent need to continue to develop new scholars from a range of backgrounds and experiences who can critically evaluate emerging debates and appreciate the rich diversity within British Muslim communities.

This interdisciplinary programme, drawing upon the fields of history, sociology, and religious studies, examines the history and settlement of Muslims in Britain and the dynamics that shape contemporary Muslim communities.

We look at how Muslims have engaged with local and national government in relation to matters such as education, social policy, and chaplaincy, as well as the growth of Muslim community infrastructures such as mosques and charities. During the course of the MA, students receive a thorough grounding in social science research methods and theories and acquire a set of transferrable skills that will equip them for a range of careers. Students can undertake volunteering projects during their studies.

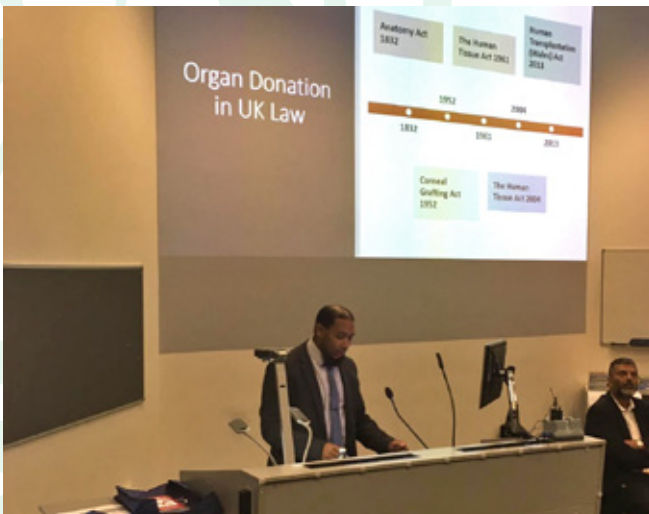
Full scholarships through our Jameel programme are available. Follow our communications channels, such as our website, for application information in the new year.

For more information, please contact:
Postgraduate Administrator:

Email:
SHARE-PG@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)29 2987 0903

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught/courses/group/islam-in-contemporary-britain>



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 Gilliat-Ray is Director of the Centre and was awarded the Sankore University



award for Excellence in Education at the Muslim News Awards in 2006. She was also presented with an Achievement Award in 2012 by the Muslim Council of Wales during National Interfaith Week.

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/73020-gilliat-ray-sophie>

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 closely with the Director in

supporting the re-running of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Muslims in Britain. Mark completed the MA 'Islam in Britain' in 2009, and was employed as a research assistant for the 'Islamic Gardens' project funded by BGCI in 2010.

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/72960-bryant-mark>

Lecturer in Islamic Studies

Maulana Dr Mansur Ali

alimm1@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: **+44 (0)29 2087 6297**

Dr Mansur Ali studied classical Islamic studies and Arabic at Darul Uloom Bury, UK and Al-Azhar University Cairo, Egypt. He then completed his postgraduate studies in Middle Eastern Studies (Hadith studies) at the University of Manchester researching for a PhD dissertation on the '*Importance of the Isnad in Al-Tirmidhi's Sunan*'. He is interested in Hadith studies as well as applied Islamic theology and bioethics. He has authored a number of books and academic journal articles on the subject of Hadith, chaplaincy, drug addiction and Islamic theology, and practical theology. Currently he is working on a research project entitled 'Our bodies belong to God: The human transplantation act (Wales) 2013 and Cardiff Muslims' response to it'. 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 (BISCA).

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/72994-ali-muhammad-mansur>

Lecturer in Social Science Research Methods

Dr Michael Munnik

MunnikM@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: **+44 (0)29 2087 5646**

Dr Michael Munnik is Lecturer in Social Science Theories and Methods.



He completed his doctorate at the University of Edinburgh, supported by the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World. For his thesis, he examined relationships between mainstream journalists and Muslim sources in Glasgow, Scotland. His work concerns the production of news about Muslims in Britain rather than the product itself, and he draws on personal experience to inform his research: Dr Munnik worked for eight years as a journalist in Canada before coming to the UK for postgraduate study. In addition to his work with the centre, Dr Munnik is Publications and Communications Officer for the Sociology of Religion Study Group of the British Sociological Association.

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/153675-munnik-michael>

Research Associate

Dr Riyaz Timol

Timolr1@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 29 2087 4884

Dr Riyaz Timol obtained his PhD from the Islam-UK Centre in June 2017 on the British branch of the transnational Islamic movement Tablighi Jama'at, and currently works as a Research Associate. His disciplinary approach is within the sociology of religion and his research interests include ethnographic methodology, intergenerational transmission of Islam in Britain and the relationship of Islam with modernity. His current work maps the way accounts of contemporary Islamic revivalism intersect with secularisation theory in Europe and he teaches the MA module 'History and Development of Muslim Communities in Britain'.



<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/1095169-timol-riyaz>

Research Associate

Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed

AhmedMA1@Cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 5634

Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed is researching British mosques and their role and function, as well as the histories and settlement of Muslims in Wales. Abdul-Azim has also worked in the third sector, undertaking policy orientated projects exploring equality legislation, refugee resettlement, and social housing, as well as leading a



large South Wales based youth-work project.

Abdul-Azim's research interests include contemporary religion, mosques, and Muslim congregations.

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/1383875-ahmed-azim>

Honorary Visiting Professor

Professor

Ron Geaves

GeavesR@cardiff.ac.uk

Professor Ron Geaves has held a Chair in Religious Studies at the University of Chester (2001-2007) and a Chair in the Comparative Study of Religion at Liverpool Hope University (2007-2013). He joined the Community Religions Project at the University of Leeds in 1988 where he began to work on the transmigration of South Asian religions to Britain, especially Islam. He completed his PhD thesis 'Sectarian Influences within Islam in Britain' which was published as a Community Religions Monograph. He has researched Islam in Britain since that time, publishing several books that explore British manifestations of Sufism.



He is an early member of the Muslims in Britain Research Network and chaired the body from 2006 to 2009 and remains a lifetime member of the committee.

He has also been Secretary of AUDTRS, the scholarly body representing all departments of religion in the UK. His work remains focused on the application of religious knowledge to real life affairs and he is a passionate believer in advocacy. As a consequence, he has been involved in a number of projects bridging academia to government, law, architecture and media.

His work on the theory and method in the study of religion, *The Study of Religion* went to second edition in 2014. Professor Geaves's new book, *Islam and Britain: Muslim Mission in an Age of Empire* (2017) is published by Bloomsbury Press. He is currently working on the history of Islam in Britain in the Edwardian era and is continuing his work on the Deobandi movement.

<http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/islamukcentre/professor-ron-geaves>



@IslamUKCentre



facebook.com/
IslamUKCentre



Students and staff of the Islam-UK Centre attending the Muslim Council of Wales annual Interfaith Dinner September 2018.

National Union of Journalists

We are committed to developing dialogue between academia and civil society. In 2019, we are partnering with the National Union of Journalists for our final public lecture. Here are a few words about them: “The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) is the voice for journalism and journalists in the UK and Ireland. It was founded in 1907 and has more than 30,000 members. The NUJ represents journalists working across the media – as staff, casuals and freelancers at home and abroad. NUJ members work in broadcasting, newspapers, news agencies, magazines, books, public relations, photography,

videography and new media. The NUJ stands up for journalists and journalism and is committed to the protection of the right to freedom of expression. It fights to defend the right of journalists to operate in the public interest, and to do so without interference from government or vested interests of any type.

Mae Undeb Cenedlaethol y Newyddiadurwyr (NUJ) yw llais i newyddiaduraeth a newyddiadurwyr ym Mrhydain ac Iwerddon. Sefydlwyd yr undeb ym 1907, ac mae ganddo fwy na 30,000 o aelodau. Mae'r NUJ yn cynrychioli newyddiadurwyr sy'n gweithio

ar draws y cyfryngau – fel staff, achlysurol a llawrydd, adref a thramor. Mae aelodau NUJ yn gweithio mewn darlledu, papurau newydd, asiantaethau newyddion, cylchgronau, llyfrau, cysylltiadau cyhoeddus, ffotograffiaeth, fideo, a chyfryngau newydd.

Mae'r NUJ yn cefnogi newyddiadurwyr a newyddiaduraeth, ac mae'n ymrwymedig i warchod rhyddid llferydd. Mae'r undeb yn amddiffyn hawl newyddiadurwyr i weithredu yn y diddordeb cenedlaethol, heb ymyrraeth gan y llywodraeth neu buddiannau breiniedig o unrhyw fath.

Members of the Islam-UK Centre Management Board

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

Dr Mansur Ali, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Department of Religious & Theological Studies

Ali Abdi, Partnerships and Facilities Manager, Community Gateway, Cardiff University.

Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed, Research Associate, Islam-UK Centre

Mark Bryant, Development Officer, Islam-UK Centre

Laura Davies, Head of Communications, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Cardiff University

Jennifer Dunne / Ruth

Coombs, Equality and Human Rights Commission for Wales

Dr Richard Gale, Lecturer in Human Geography School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University

Prof Sophie Gilliat-Ray, Director, Islam-UK Centre

Dr Meraj Hasan, Association of Muslim Professionals, Cardiff

Eleanor Hewett, Senior Development Manager, Development and Alumni Relations, Cardiff University

Gillian James, Head of Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service, Cardiff Council

Samina Khan, Community Liaison and Development Manager, Cardiff and Vale College

Saleem Kidwai OBE, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Wales

Dr Michael Munnik, Lecturer in Social Science Theories and Methods, Islam-UK Centre

Megan Richards, MA Student, Cardiff University, student representative

Dr Nathan Roberts, Head of Education Support, Student Experience and Education Support, Cardiff University

Dr Riyaz Timol, Research, Associate, Islam-UK Centre

Dr David Wyatt, Community Engagement, School of History, Archaeology and Religion

Cardiff University's first MOOC

"Muslims in Britain: changes and challenges" will be offered again in 2019!

Develop your understanding of Muslims and their faith through an exploration of communities in Britain.

Starts: 4th March 2019
Duration: 4 weeks
Study Time: 4 hours pw

About the course

Islam is the second largest religion in the world today and dominates much of the current geopolitical discourse. People are increasingly bombarded by dramatic and at times disturbing headlines. Yet general knowledge of Muslims and their faith can be poor. There is consequently a need for a balanced and well-informed understanding of the current debates around this internationally significant topic.

This course uses Britain as a case study to shed light on wider issues relating to the growth of Islamic communities across the culturally Christian and increasingly secularised Western World.

Topics include:

- Islamic Practice: An outline of Islamic practices and beliefs plus an introduction to the different viewpoints within Islam.
- History of Islam in Britain: An exploration of the longstanding associations between Islam and Britain, including Islamic influences on British society and the well-established connections between Britain and the countries from which many British Muslims originally hailed.

- Settlement Patterns: The origins and makeup of today's British Muslim communities.
- Cultural Diversity: Confronting the 'myth' of a homogenous Muslim community through an exploration of the various religious and cultural influences that characterise and inform Muslim communities in Britain today.
- Contemporary Debates: An examination of how the above topics feed into the contemporary debates and what the future might hold.
- Given current debates about multiculturalism, integration, and the spectre of fundamentalism, this course will appeal to a wide audience not only in Britain but far beyond.

Educators

Maulana Dr Mansur Ali, Mark Bryant, Professor Ron Geaves, Professor Sophie Gilliat-Ray, Dr Michael Munnik and Dr Riyaz Timol.

Requirements

The course is free-of-charge, and open to anyone with an interest in religion, culture and history, whether you are a beginner, experienced learner or returning to study.

www.futurelearn.com/courses/muslims-in-britain

What are MOOCs?

Massive Open Online Courses or MOOCs are short courses (4-8 weeks) presented online, free and open to all through the internet.

MOOC's through Cardiff University:

- If you have access to the internet you can take a MOOC as there is no entry requirement.
- Your commitment is typically 3-5 hrs of study per week.
- The courses are led by internationally recognised leading academics.
- Accessible on all mobile platforms – you can fit your learning around your own schedule. You can benefit from a collaborative learning experience with the support of your fellow learners.
- The MOOC will feature a variety of innovative learning platforms appealing to a range of learning styles.
- Having been through rigorous quality control processes, the course content will comply with the same high standards found in other Cardiff University courses.

All seminars will be held at 5pm in the John Percival Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff, CF10 3EU, Room: 5.24, except the seminar on Wednesday 3rd April (James Fergusson) which will be held at 7pm in Committee Rooms 1&2 of the Glamorgan Building at 7pm.

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 of Cardiff County Council.

Diary of Public Seminars 2019

Wednesday 6th February 5pm

Dr Anabel Inge

'The Making of a Salafi Muslim Woman: Paths to Conversion'

Chair: Riyaz Timol, Research Associate, Cardiff University

Book online now: <https://anabel-inge.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wednesday 20th February 5pm

Haroon Sidat

'What is 'authority' in Islam?'

Chair: Laiqah Osman, Jameel Scholar, Cardiff University

Book online now: <https://haroon-sidat2.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wednesday 6th March 5pm

Dr Fauzia Ahmad

'The British Muslim Marriage Crisis'

Chair: Ayesha Khan, Jameel Scholar, Cardiff University

Book online now: <https://fauzia-ahmad.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wednesday 20th March 5pm

Dr Stephen Pihlaja

'How technology influences what we believe'

Chair: Michael Munnik, Lecturer in Social Science Theories and Methods, Cardiff University

Book online now: <https://stephen-pihlaja.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wednesday 3rd April 7pm

James Fergusson

'Islam – Another British Religion?'

Chair: Martin Shipton, Media Wales Chief Reporter and Father of the National Union of Journalists Chapel in Cardiff

Book online now: <https://james-fergusson.eventbrite.co.uk>

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