



## Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences

<p><b>Proposed Title:</b> Negotiating 'New Muslim' Identities: British Muslim Women in public and political spaces</p>
<p><b>School:</b> BLSS</p>
<p><b>Proposed Supervisory Team:</b> Dr. Nazia Hussein, Department of Sociology and Criminology Safina Din, School of Law Professor Rajinder Dudrah, School of Media Dr. Dionne Taylor, Department of Sociology and Criminology</p>
<p><b>Abstract:</b> In the context of UK counter terrorism policies identifying Muslim women as victims of their patriarchal 'community' (Rashid, 2014) and recent media trial of ISIS bride Shamima Begum, who was identified as the 'terrorist-monster' who should 'rot in hell' (Morgan, 2019; Vardy, 2019) the proposed research investigates the British Muslim women who do not meet such victim vs. dangerous binary. In the wake of the 2001 'riots' and the terror attacks of 11 September 2001, 7 July 2005, 22 May 2017 and 3 June 2017, Britain has experienced an intense political, media and policy scrutiny of British Muslims. Muslims have found themselves homogenized and 'flattened' into a single category or 'community' defined solely through faith, which is itself a shorthand for a range of pathologies. In particular, the Muslim woman wearing the <i>hijab</i> or headscarf has preoccupied the media and they face openly hostile reactions in a climate of state sanctioned gendered Islamophobic discrimination. The 'facts' about Muslims in Britain themselves challenge us to think anew. The 2011 Census for example, reveals engagement of a new generation of British Muslims with forms of political and social action around issues of faith – as well as other struggles for social justice around class and culture – suggesting an urgent need to rethink outmoded and simplistic ideas of religion, culture, ethnicity and difference. There are emerging talks about a group of 'New Muslims' who live in the suburbs, are politically and socially active building social capital across minority and majority ethnic groups, who use material objects like expensive cars as a symbol of their class and status, along with an active presence in the media, educational and occupational sectors (Alexander et. al., 2013). Using intersectionality as a critical feminist theory this research contributes to the above-mentioned shift in conceptualizing Muslim lives in Britain through investigating how the intersection of gender, class and religion is produced, experienced and performed by politically active British Muslim women in publicly visible positions.</p>
<p><b>Research Environment:</b> The student will be using departmental PG room, PG hub and the Library.</p>
<p><b>Applicant Requirements:</b> A student with an UG degree &amp; preferably an MA/ MSc in Sociology or another relevant field with some experience of interviewing and Social Media based research.</p>
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