



# NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES AUSTRALIA

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## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



As an initiative of the Commonwealth Government of Australia, the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS) was established not only to provide outstanding higher education level programs, but also to meet the needs of Australia's Muslim community. The Centre is part of a larger action plan and package of funding created in close consultation with the Muslim community of Australia.

The University of Melbourne leads this consortium together with Griffith University and the University of Western Sydney, with the expectation of developing a world-class centre for Muslim and non-Muslim students of undergraduate and postgraduate Islamic Studies, as well as a range of Islam-related programs for the community. Research focuses not only on the key disciplines of Islam, but also on key issues facing Muslims and Islam in the West.

Since the establishment of the NCEIS in October 2007, academics, members of the Muslim community and students at all partner universities have been working to build bridges between Muslims and non-Muslims and to foster informed enquiry and knowledge of Islam. Education is the key for functioning diverse and multicultural communities.

In the two years since its establishment the NCEIS has been successfully delivering academic and community based programs across the University of Melbourne, the University of Western Sydney and Griffith University. It has hosted a number of high profile academics and Muslim leaders from across Australia and the world; substantially developed the undergraduate teaching program; and showcased cutting edge research through an Islamic Studies series published by the University of Melbourne Press (MUP), to name a few of its achievements.

All of this has been accomplished in close collaboration with the Centre's National Consultative Committee (NCC), the broader Australian Muslim community, academics and students across the three universities.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies, Australia.

**Professor Abdullah Saeed**  
**Director of the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies & Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies**  
**The University of Melbourne**



# INTRODUCTION

The National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS) was established in October 2007 by the Commonwealth Government of Australia to provide outstanding higher education level programs in Islamic Studies. Situated in the University of Melbourne's Sidney Myer Asia Centre, the NCEIS is a dynamic collaboration between the University of Melbourne, Griffith University and the University of Western Sydney, established to deliver world-class, multi-disciplinary programs. The Centre aims to meet the learning needs of aspiring and existing Muslim community leaders, as well as teachers, students and other professionals interested in Islam and Islamic culture.

The NCEIS aims to achieve an international profile among scholars and students of Islam, and to deliver teaching and research programs in Islamic Studies at national and international levels. The subjects

taught at each of the institutions have been developed through a unique process of consultation with key stakeholders from the Muslim community, as well as leading academics. The Centre brings together established expertise in teaching and research at the participating universities, and plays an important leadership role in public debates on contemporary Islam, particularly in the Australian context. The Centre offers professional development programs for the community, government, and corporate organizations. As well as its teaching and research programs, each NCEIS university offers established academic and community networks across the three states.

The Centre's association with the University of Melbourne, as its host institution, is of great importance to its growing national and international profile. The teaching, research and community engagement activities of the Centre at Griffith University

(Griffith Islamic Research Unit), and the University of Western Sydney (Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies) ensure our national presence. Through academic programs and resources, the Centre has fostered a close collaborative culture amongst its partners.

At the University of Melbourne, the NCEIS is housed in the Asia Institute, one of the five schools of the Faculty of Arts of the University. The Asia Institute offers six programs (Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, Arabic as well as Islamic Studies and Asian Studies) at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In all areas of the Centre's activity, it is supported by the Asia Institute's academic and professional staff as well.



## NCEIS Launch October 2007

The National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies was launched Tuesday 23 October 2007 at the Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne.

1. Prof. Abdullah Saeed (Director, NCEIS) and Prof. Glyn Davis (Vice-Chancellor, The University of Melbourne).
2. Dr. Salim Lakha (Development Studies, UoM), Dr. Abdul-Samad Abdullah (Islamic Studies, UoM) and Assoc. Prof. Mary Patterson (Head, School of Social and Environmental Enquiry, UoM)
3. Prof. Nancy Wright (University of Western Sydney), Prof. Paul Mazerolle (Griffith University), Hon. Andrew Robb, AO, MP, and Prof. Glyn Davis (VC, UoM).



# TEACHING AND LEARNING

The establishment of the NCEIS has provided the basis for development of both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Islamic Studies across Australia. The Centre delivers subjects across all three universities, utilising scholars with expertise in fields ranging from modern Islamic hermeneutics to economics and finance in Muslim societies. A shared course design, templates and study materials for each subject have been developed and are collaborated between the partner universities. The weekly face-to-face tutorials and lectures carried out at each university are supplemented by the use of online Learning Management Systems, which host readings and other learning materials, and foster student-instructor partnerships in each subject.



**Undergraduate** Each of the three partner universities of the NCEIS offer a complete undergraduate 'major' in Islamic Studies through the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. The Islamic Studies major offers students a comprehensive study program in the key disciplines of Islam, and exposure to important theological, legal, philosophical, historical, social and political issues facing Islam and Muslims. Students will also learn the necessary tools and methods to develop a systematic approach to researching Islam.

**Postgraduate** Each of the individual universities of the NCEIS consortium provides postgraduate Islamic Studies programs. In addition to the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Islamic Studies) and the Masters of Islamic Studies offered through the University of Melbourne, NCEIS academic staff supervise both Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Arts by Research (MA) students at each of the partner universities.

**Master of Islamic Studies (University of Melbourne)** The Master of Islamic Studies delivered by the University of Melbourne

complements the NCEIS' undergraduate major in Islamic Studies. The program provides a platform for those who have not completed a BA in the field, as well as those who have already completed an undergraduate program in Islamic Studies.

**Research Higher Degrees** The NCEIS offers research supervision by its academics across a wide range of subject areas, such as modern Islamic thought, philosophy, politics, literature and law through the Masters by Research or Doctor of Philosophy degrees. The research conducted by these postgraduate Islamic Studies students contributes significantly to the research profile and activities of the NCEIS and ensures the ongoing vitality of Islamic Studies in Australia and internationally.

## The University of Melbourne

### Islamic Studies Program

The University of Melbourne is the host of the NCEIS and has taught Arabic and Islamic Studies for more than five decades. Research is conducted through the Asia Institute, the NCEIS and the Centre for Islamic Law and Society in diverse areas, including modern Islamic thought, philosophy, literature, gender and law. The strength of the program lies in the multi-disciplinary perspective it provides. Students in the Islamic Studies program at the University of Melbourne are encouraged to develop their interests in another area of study alongside Islamic Studies. This is intended to provide them with skills to analyse contemporary issues relevant to Islam and Muslim societies with a reasonable understanding of the Islamic world view, its value system, and in particular, historical experiences.

## Teaching

The University of Melbourne offers Islamic Studies at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels:

- ▶ Bachelor of Arts (BA) Islamic Studies Major
- ▶ BA Honours (Islamic Studies)
- ▶ Master of Islamic Studies (Coursework/ Minor Thesis)
- ▶ Master of Arts (Islamic Studies) by Research (MA)
- ▶ Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

## Staff

- ▶ **Prof. Abdullah Saeed** – Director, NCEIS. Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies. His research focus is negotiation of text and context, ijihad and interpretation in Contemporary Islamic Thought as well as Islam in the West.
- ▶ **Prof. Shahram Akbarzadeh** – Convener of Islamic Studies. Deputy Director, NCEIS. Prof. Akbarzadeh's areas of expertise include: Middle Eastern Politics, Central Asian Politics, Political Islam, US Relations with the Muslim World and Muslim Diaspora.
- ▶ **Dr. Muhammad Kamal** – Research interests include: Modern Islamic Thought, Philosophies of Hegel, Western Existentialism, Philosophies of Heidegger, Mulla Sadra's Existential Philosophy.
- ▶ **Assoc. Prof. Richard Pennell** – Research interests include: Modern Political History, History of North Africa, particularly Morocco and Libya, History of Criminal Trials Abroad and National Identity, History of Armed Jihad.
- ▶ **Mr. Redha Ameer** – Lecturer, Modern Islamic Thought.

- › **Dr. Christina Mayer** – Research interests include: Arabic Language Teaching for Specific Purposes, Role of Magic in Modern Arab Societies.
- › **Dr. Shakira Hussein** – McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellow. Research interests include: Muslim Women, Gendered Violence and Racialised Political Discourse.

## Griffith University

### The Griffith Islamic Research Unit

The Griffith Islamic Research Unit (GIRU) is the Queensland node of the NCEIS. The GIRU was established in 2005 as part of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University, to undertake research on Islamic and Muslim issues in an Australian and global context. GIRU provides a forum where scholars, intellectuals and students can present their insights, concerns, reflections and aspirations for the challenges and issues facing Muslims and Islam, with a view to contributing to a sustainable and pluralistic Australian society.

### Teaching

Griffith University offers Islamic Studies by coursework at the undergraduate level, and by research at postgraduate level:

- › Bachelor of Arts (BA) Islamic Studies Major
- › BA Honours (Islamic Studies)
- › Master of Arts (Islamic Studies) by Research (MA)
- › Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

### Staff

- › **Assoc. Prof. Mohamad Abdalla** – Founding Director of the Griffith Islamic Research Unit. His research interests include: Islam in Australia, Islamic Ethics, History of Islamic Civilization and Contextualization of Islamic Thought.

- › **Dr. Halim Rane** – Deputy Director of the Griffith Islamic Research Unit and NCEIS lecturer at Griffith University. His research interests include: the Israel-Palestine Conflict, Islamist Political Thought and Islam-West Relations.
- › **Dr. Mahmood Nathie** – Lecturer, Griffith Islamic Research Unit, and specialist in Islamic Banking and Finance. His research areas include: Islamic Equity Investment in Australia and the Evaluation of Islamic Banking and Financial Service Models.

## University of Western Sydney

### Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies

The Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies was established at UWS under the umbrella of the NCEIS in 2009, adding a new and important dimension to its research profile by focusing on the study of Muslim communities and how they fit into and adapt to secular societies. The research foci of the Centre include: how Muslim culture and communities evolve over time, how to encourage greater intercultural harmony within Australia, the future of multicultural Australia and the place of Muslim Australians within it, and comparative studies of international Muslim communities in cosmopolitan cultures.

### Teaching

The University of Western Sydney offers Islamic Studies by coursework at undergraduate level, and by research at the postgraduate level:

- › Bachelor of Arts (BA) Islamic Studies Major
- › BA Honours (Islamic Studies)
- › Master of Arts (Islamic Studies) by Research (MA)
- › Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

### Staff

- › **Prof. Bryan Turner** – Director of the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies, Professor of Social and Political Thought in the School of Humanities and Languages, UWS. His areas of expertise include: Sociology of Religion, Citizenship and Human Rights and Social and Political Theory.
- › **Assoc. Prof. Adam Possamai** – Associate Professor in Sociology and Acting Director (until 2011) of the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies at UWS. His areas of expertise include: Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Power and Deviance and Philosophies of Social Science.
- › **Dr. Steven Drakeley** – Areas of expertise include: Islam in Indonesia since Independence, Islam in South East Asia, Indonesian History and Historiography and Malaysian History.
- › **Dr. Jan Ali** – Community and Research Analyst and lecturer. Areas of expertise include: Sociology of Islam, Sociology of Migration, Identity, Diaspora Communities and Transnationalism, Social and Religious Movements, Islam and Modernity, Globalisation and Modernity, Cross-Cultural Communication, Research Methodology and Homelessness.
- › **Dr. Arathi Sriprakash** – Research Fellow. Areas of expertise include: Education and Social Change, Youth Studies and Socio-Cultural Diversity, and Sociology of Pedagogy.



# ACTIVITIES

The NCEIS has initiated and hosted a number of conferences and public lectures. These provide students, the Muslim community and the general public access to local and international experts in the field of contemporary Islam, particularly in the Australian context.

## Conferences

- › The Centre for Islamic Law and Society (CILS) and NCEIS Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference, November 2010
- › US Democracy Promotion in the Middle East Conference, October 2010
- › Shar'iah and Legal Pluralism Conference, July 2010
- › The Hopeful Exclusionary Politics of Islam in Australia: Constructing Alternative Geographies of Western Islam, April 2010
- › Diversity within Diversity: The Voices of Minorities within Minorities, a Melbourne based forum on the Australian Human Rights Commission Law, Religion and Human Rights Project, October 2009
- › Melbourne Conference on Somalia - 20 Years of Chaos and No Functioning Government: Where to From Here?, September 2009
- › Challenges to Social Inclusion in Australia: The Muslim Experience, November 2008
- › Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference, November 2008
- › Islamic Banking and Finance Symposium: Ethics and Financial Practice in Global Perspective, November 2008

## Key Lectures and Guest Speakers

The NCEIS Public Lecture Series aims to enhance the Centre's role in public debates on contemporary Islam, particularly in the Australia context. In doing so it provides access to local and international experts in the field. The following are some of its topics:

- › New Zealand Muslims: Islam, Multiculturalism and Religious Diversity, Prof. Paul Morris, October 2010
- › Islamic Piety Against the Family: From 'Traditional' to 'Pure' Islam, Dr. Santi Rozario, September 2010
- › Importance of Ramadan, Shaykh Yahya Safi, September 2010
- › The Strange Afterlife Of Islamism in Militant Laicism in Turkey, Dr. Christopher Houston, September 2010
- › Australian Muslims: Are there Barriers to Their Social Inclusion? Prof. Riaz Hassan, August 2010
- › The Future of Religion in Australia, Prof. Gary D Bouma, June 2010
- › Islamisation in Malaysia: An Analysis, Prof. Dato' Dr Sidek Baba, June 2010
- › The Middle East in Crisis, Prof. Gilles Kepel, Chair of Middle East and Mediterranean Studies at the Institute of Political Studies, Paris, April 2010
- › Muslims and the West: What Future? Prof. Ahmed I. Samatar, March 2010
- › Muslim Women and Gender Justice: Methods, Motivation and Means, Prof. Amina Wadud, February 2010
- › Muslim Leadership – USA Experience, Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, December 2009
- › Public Lecture & Question and Answer Session, former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, December 2009
- › Popular Religion in Indonesia's Islamic Growth Movement, Assoc. Prof. Julia Day Howell, October 2009
- › Shari'ah: Perspective from the Higher Objectives, Prof. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, July 2009
- › Muslim Diaspora Communities in the West: Marginalized Outsiders and Privileged Informants, Dr. Shakira Hussein, July 2009
- › Imprisonment of the Contemporary Arab Mentality – Causes and Remedies, Prof. Tarek Heggy, May 2009
- › The Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, Dr. Kylie Baxter, April 2009
- › Musawah – A New Global Network for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, April 2009
- › Radicalisation of Communal Loyalties & Protracted Violence in Lebanon, Prof. Samir Khalaf, April 2009
- › The Role of Islamic Civil Society Organisations in Building Indonesian Democracy, panel discussion, April 2009
- › Multiculturalism and the 'Islamic Question', Prof. Ghassan Hage, March 2009
- › Uzbekistan and Islamic Extremism, Women and Civil Society, Prof. Gulkhumor Tuychieva and Dr. Angeline Low, March 2009





# CURRENT PhD/MA STUDENTS

## The University of Melbourne

<b>Al-Hasany, Abdul</b>	The Development of Iraqi Shi'ite Political Thought from 1920 to 2003 (PhD)
<b>Amiruddin, Andi Muhammad Ali</b>	Islamic Syariah in South-Sulawesi in Indonesia (PhD)
<b>Asvat, Riyaz Ahmed</b>	Sufi Epistemology Encounters Modernity: The Shadhili Tariqa in Contemporary Society (PhD)
<b>Axiarlis-Akyuz, Evangelia (Imaan Aaliyah)</b>	From Conflict to Resolution: Turkey's Secular State and Political Islam (A Case Study of the Policies of the Justice and Development Party 2002 - 2008) (PhD)
<b>Bin Lukman, Burhanuddin</b>	Currency Exchange in Modern Practice - An Islamic Jurisprudence Comparative Study (PhD)
<b>Buckley, Anisa</b>	Muslim Women, Family Laws and the Challenges of Securing a 'Complete' Divorce: The Australia Experience (PhD)
<b>Ghazali, Alwani</b>	The Application of Dialogic Thinking in the Life History of Prophet Mohammad: Historical Analysis (PhD)
<b>Ghumkhor, Sahar</b>	Can the Muslim of the West Speak? (PhD)
<b>Hidayah, Nur</b>	Progressive Muslim Gender Discourse and Activism in Contemporary Indonesia: A Case Study of Rahima (PhD)
<b>Idris, Muhamad Razak</b>	The Concept of Change in the Philosophy of Mulla Sadra and Hegel: A Comparative Analysis (PhD)
<b>Kapoor, Uma Tiwari</b>	Not I But God In Me: A Study of Islamic Mysticism in South Asia (PhD)
<b>Kirazli, Sadik</b>	Conflict Resolution Methods of Prophet Muhammad During the Medina Period (PhD)
<b>Lakey, Elizabeth</b>	An Investigation into the Effects of Multicultural Policies and Secular Policies on Muslim Migrant Families in Melbourne and Paris (PhD)
<b>Levine, Ilya</b>	Tough Trades in the Wild East: the Conflicts and Complementarities in America's Pursuit of Counterterrorism, Liberalism, (counter) Hegemony, and Energy Security in Central Asia (PhD)
<b>Lum, Imran</b>	Negotiating the prohibition of Riba: Australian and British Muslim Attitudes Towards Conventional and Islamic Banking (PhD)
<b>McCarthy, Rachel</b>	Tariq Ramadan's Reconciliation: Islam, Political Liberalism and Secularism in Europe (MA)
<b>Miletic, Natalie</b>	The Changing Notion of Religiously Motivated Political Violence and Identity Re-Construction in Pakistan (PhD)
<b>Morsi, Yassir</b>	The West's Human? (PhD)
<b>Musa, Muhammad Adli</b>	Islamic Business Ethics in Malaysian Islamic Financial Institutions (PhD)
<b>Nasheed, Adam Muhammad</b>	An Analytical Study of Marriage and Divorce in Shari'ah and the Application of Shari'ah in Maldives under the Maldivian Family Law (MA)
<b>Roose, Joshua</b>	Key Social Influences Upon Identity Construction in Australian Born Young Muslims Aged 18-29 in Melbourne, Australia (PhD)
<b>Shumack, Richard John</b>	Muslim Epistemic Approaches to Islam as Public Truth in Pluralistic Western Discourse (PhD)
<b>Simpson-Gray, Kumuda</b>	America's Iran Policy in the Context of US Unipolarity (PhD)
<b>Supriyanto</b>	Capitalist Modernity and Muslim Political Discourses in Indonesia and Malaysia (PhD)
<b>Tan, Felix Thiam Kim</b>	Contextualising Political Islam in Malaysia and Indonesia (PhD)
<b>Tumbas, Nicholas Samuel</b>	What Role Does Islam Play in the Lives of the Socially Marginal in Levantine Society? (PhD)



*"My research in the area of Islamic Studies stems from an interest in the future of multiculturalism, secularism and identity politics in western societies. Having moved to Melbourne from New Zealand to specifically pursue postgraduate study at NCEIS, I've found the academic and professional staff, as well as my fellow students to be a great wealth of knowledge and support. With the aim of understanding and celebrating diversity within Australia, the promotion of community activities and research makes NCEIS an exciting place to learn and contribute."*

**Rachel McCarthy**  
The University of Melbourne  
National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS)



*"My research is in the field of international migration and specifically the debates about incorporating Muslim immigrants into their host societies. The National Centre of Excellence in Islamic Studies (NCEIS) plays an important role in the public debates in this area. As a Muslim immigrant myself, I am delighted to be part of a research institution that enhances understanding between Australians of diverse faith groups. During my short time in this research centre at Griffith University, I have made valuable academic contacts, developed important networks and gained necessary skills required in my field of research. I am pleased with the support and guidance I receive from my supervisory team, namely Dr Halim Rane and Dr Ian Woodward."*

**Abdi Hersi**  
**PhD candidate (Sociology)**  
 Griffith University  
 National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS)



*"If we want to imagine the state of Muslims in the foreseeable future, it is imperative that one undertakes a study of Muslim youth today. My research at the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies has focussed on the study of Muslim youth through the lens of popular culture. Being based in the University of Western Sydney has given me the opportunity to embark on a comparative study of two globalized, multicultural and secular cities - Sydney and Singapore - where I come from. I am also privileged to be part of a centre whose members hail from a wide range of disciplines such as sociology, history, cultural studies and geography, hence giving it a vibrant and dynamic environment."*

**Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir**  
**PhD candidate (Sociology)**  
 University of Western Sydney  
 National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS)

## Griffith University

<b>Al-Khatib, Nader</b>	Globalisation and Human Rights in Jordan (PhD)
<b>Abdullah, Muhammad</b>	A Synthesis Between the Pedagogical Principles of the Islamic Tradition and Contemporary Educational Thought (PhD)
<b>Faris, Nezar</b>	Qualitative Tests of Leadership Process in Australian Islamic Organisations (PhD)
<b>Han, Eulalia</b>	Australia's Policy Towards the Israel-Palestine Peace Process: Influences and Implications (PhD)
<b>Hersi, Abdi</b>	Concepts of Immigrant Incorporation, Citizenship and Belonging: Examining the Perspectives of Australian Muslims, Members of the Wider Public and the State (PhD)
<b>Ibrahim, Anwar</b>	Democracy and Anti-Corruption in Malaysia (PhD by publication)
<b>Ibrahim, Nada</b>	Intimate Partner Violence in the Diverse Australian Muslim Community: Exploring Attitudes, Beliefs and Direct Involvement (PhD)
<b>Khokhar, Nadeem</b>	Humanism in the Islamic Tradition: An Appropriate Model for Co-Existence (MA)
<b>Lewis, Melea</b>	A Jurisprudential Examination of the Intersection of 'Western' and Islamic Understandings of Corruption (PhD)
<b>Lourigan, Shawn</b>	Political Statements and their Impact on Islamic Representation in the Australian Media Post 9/11 (MPhil)
<b>Meszaros, Kristy</b>	Protective Factors Against the Radicalisation of Muslims (PhD)
<b>Rahimullah, Riyad</b>	Prevalence and Attitude of Radicalisation Among Australian Muslim Youth (PhD)
<b>Soliman, Emad</b>	Australian Muslim 'Australianness' and Sense of Belonging (PhD)
<b>Shepherd, Greg</b>	Cultural Impacts on Arab Students' Motivation to Learn English: Implications for University Internationalisation Policy (PhD)
<b>Thomsen, Patrick</b>	The Role of Islam in the Politics of Contemporary Iran (MA)
<b>Xhepaj, Klodian</b>	Consumer Preferences and Attitudes Toward Islamic Branches of Conventional Banks (PhD)
<b>Zubair, Kamil</b>	Socially Responsible Investment: Islamic Ethical Portfolio Performance in Australia (PhD)

## University of Western Sydney

<b>Baker, Michael</b>	Islamic Revivalism in Australia: Collision or Convergence? (PhD)
<b>Chusjairi, Juni</b>	Framing Terrorism in Indonesian Media: A Study of Terrorism News Reports in Indonesian Magazines, 2002-2009 (PhD)
<b>Drage, Terri</b>	Tasawwuf in Pakistan: The Effects of State Policy Both Internally and on Pakistan's Perceived Global Integrity (PhD)
<b>Forest Jones, Ian</b>	Identifying the Influence and Effect of Christian Motorcycle Clubs on the Culture of Patched Motorcycle Clubs (PhD)
<b>McGuire, John</b>	With Us or Against Us? Hegemony and Ideology within American Comic Books 2001-2007 (PhD)
<b>Mahbuba, Farjana</b>	Muslim Women's Gender Perceptions in Urban Bangladesh (PhD)
<b>Nasir, Kamaludeen Mohamed</b>	A Comparative Study of Muslim Youth Culture in Sydney and Singapore (PhD)
<b>Nixon, Alan</b>	The Rise of the New Atheism (PhD)
<b>Salter, Brian</b>	Recreating the Sacred: The Effect of Religious Belief on Social Organisation in Two Intentional Communities (PhD)
<b>Worthington, Lisa</b>	Australia Muslim Women at Work (MA)



# NCEIS RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Since its inception in 2007, the NCEIS has continued to develop its research profile by producing quality publications and supporting Research Higher Degree students complete their Masters and PhD research. This has been undertaken with consideration of community needs. Each of the three NCEIS partner universities have unique research strengths, fostered by the knowledge of their staff and relationships with the Australian Muslim Community.



Research Papers are published in peer-reviewed online publications, which are designed to widely disseminate some of the most recent research on Islam. The NCEIS Research Papers are multidisciplinary publications that promote vigorous and original research on various aspects of Islam and Muslim affairs. They cover a diverse range of topics that represent the breadth of research excellence in the field. NCEIS Research Papers are online publications, available via the NCEIS website: [www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au)

Melbourne University Publishing (MUP), in conjunction with the NCEIS, produces a research publication series. The Islamic Studies Series is edited by Prof. Shahram Akbarzadeh, and has an international advisory board of scholars distinguished in the field of Islamic Studies.

**Issue 1: *Islam the Question of Reform*  
Edited by Benjamin MacQueen, Kylie Baxter and Rebecca Barlow**

This volume addresses the evolving and dynamic discourse that surrounds the question of Islamic reform. The perspectives examined in this volume avoid superficial or apologetic examinations of Islam's political and social role, scrutinising the religion's public role and questioning the validity of dogmas that have acted as tools of empowerment for existing elites for centuries.

**Issue 2: *Identity, Education and Belonging* by Fethi Mansouri and Sally Percival Wood**

This volume examines the social and educational experiences of Arab and Muslim Australian youth against a wider political backdrop. Arab and Muslim Australian youth have long faced considerable social obstacles in their journey towards full integration, but as the discourse of insecurity surrounding these conflicts intensifies so too do the difficulties they face in Australian society.

**Issue 3: *Political Culture and Conflict Resolution in the Arab World, Lebanon and Algeria* by Benjamin MacQueen**

This volume develops a method for examining the explanatory capacity of political culture in relation to the issues of civil war and conflict resolution in Lebanon and Algeria. It demonstrates how political culture operates to shape the form and affect the legitimacy of conflict resolution processes.

**Issue 4: *Islam and the Australian News Media* Edited by Halim Rane, Jacqui Ewart and Mohamad Abdalla**

Few issues have captured media headlines over the past two decades like Islam and Muslims, and much of what the Australian public knows about Islam and its followers is gleaned from the mass media. This incisive collection brings together the research and insights of academics, editors, and journalists on the representation of Islam and its impact on social relations.

**Issue 5: *Challenging Identities – Muslim Women in Australia* Edited by Shahram Akbarzadeh**

Muslim women in Australia are at the forefront of a culture war, and not necessarily by choice. As visible representatives of Islam, veiled women face discrimination and abuse and carry the stigma of a culture frequently deemed unacceptable and

inferior. *Challenging Identities* questions the assumption of incompatible 'Australian values' and 'Islamic values', and provides valuable first-person accounts from the lives of Muslim women in Australia.

**Issue 6: *Muslims in Australia: The Dynamics of Exclusion and Inclusion* Edited by Samina Yasmeen**

*Muslims in Australia* examines the diversity of Muslim views in Australia and portrays the varied ways in which Muslims traverse spaces of inclusion and exclusion – often within their own communities. The book suggests ideas on how to encourage and sustain acceptance and social cohesion within the wider community in Australia.

**Issue 7: *Islam and Contemporary Civilisation: Evolving Ideas, Transforming Relations* by Halim Rane**

The most complex debates and dilemmas between Islamic culture and Western civilisation are discussed in this release. Topics include Muslim thought, Islamic law, and human rights, as well as the Middle East conflict between Israel and Palestine. Halim Rane points out that ignorance and lack of knowledge about the Islamic world must be overcome to achieve advanced mutual understanding between the Muslim world and the West.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## National Consultative Committee (NCC)

The NCC provides advice on the programs of the NCEIS and on Muslim community needs across Australia. The establishment of the Committee illustrates the importance that the NCEIS places on the knowledge and skills of Muslim community representatives from a variety of backgrounds. The Committee reflects a cross-section of Australia's Muslim communities, and also includes NCEIS academic staff and an Australian Government representative. As the NCEIS develops, the NCC will provide an increasingly pivotal link between the community, partner universities and programs. In 2010 NCC membership included:

Dr. Hass Dellal, Chair, Australian Multicultural Foundation, Melbourne  
Mr. Ramzi El Sayed, Islamic Council of Victoria

Dr. Amin Hady, Imam and Academic, Sydney

Assoc. Prof. Mohamad Abdalla, Imam and Academic, Griffith University, Brisbane  
Ms. Samah Hadid, Youth Representative, NSW

Hajj Ali Dirani, Shia Community, Melbourne  
Mr. Ikebal Patel, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Canberra

Prof. Abdullah Saeed, Academic, Melbourne  
Prof. Samina Yasmeen, Academic, Perth  
Ms. Sherene Hassan, Islamic Council of Victoria

Ms. Nadia Gani, Youth and Women's Representative, Adelaide

Dr. Jan Ali, Lecturer, Community and Research Analyst, Sydney

Ms. Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Youth Representative, Brisbane  
Representative, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra

## Community Projects

A range of projects, designed to benefit and engage the Muslim community, are chosen to target areas specifically in need of research, training and/or development in line with the objectives of the NCEIS. A variety of projects, addressing needs from youth and education to working with Imams, have been delivered with the support of various partner organisations.

## Upcoming Projects

- ▶ *Seminars for professional staff, public servants, students, teaching staff and service providers working with the Muslim community*

- ▶ *New Converts Support Network Resource*
- ▶ *Muslim youth dialogue and discussion with local Imams*
- ▶ *Muslim youth camp*
- ▶ *Good Connecting Course – Marriage counselling*
- ▶ *Expressions: The life of a Muslim (Art Exhibition)*
- ▶ *A Guide on Muslims for the Legal Profession and Law Enforcement*
- ▶ *My Dress. My Image. My Choice*

## Past Projects

- ▶ *Train the Trainers course in Da'wah and Dialogue*
- ▶ *Imams Forum*
- ▶ *An Introductory Workshop on Faith-Based Counselling with Muslim Communities, in various locations*
- ▶ *Australian Family Law for Muslims Program*
- ▶ *The City Circle Seminars*
- ▶ *Conferences and Public Lecture Series*
- ▶ *Multifaith Classroom and Teacher's Resource Kit*
- ▶ *Indigenous Muslim Youth Conference*

## Community Programs

The NCEIS has presented a number of successful community programs at the suggestion of the National Consultative Committee, with a view to providing professional development, training and engagement in Islamic Studies to the Australian community.

## Myer Foundation Project: Education with Muslims

This three-year initiative has been undertaken by the NCEIS Melbourne, led by Prof. Shahram Akbarzadeh and supported by the Myer Foundation in association with the Australian Curriculum Studies Association. The project delivers a series of seminars and resources for school educators aimed at enhancing their cultural awareness about Muslim students, their communities and the wider Muslim world. Focusing on primary and secondary schools in Victoria and New South Wales, the project is open to educators from all independent, Catholic and public schools. With the aim of raising awareness and understanding of Muslim cultures in Australia, schools will be able to develop their own approach to supporting harmonious relationships between Muslim students and their communities.

## Muslim Counseling Program

With funding from the NCEIS, Psych Central offered the Muslim Counseling Program in 2009. Muslim psychologists developed a program for Imams, Muslim community leaders and other relevant stakeholders to gain basic counseling skills so that they may respond to the growing needs of the diverse Muslim community. The program was delivered in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

## The City Circle

The Melbourne City Circle sessions are jointly supported by Logie-Smith Lanyon Lawyers and the Islamic Council of Victoria and hosted by the NCEIS. The monthly gatherings act as forums for intellectual discourse, spiritual nourishment, community activity and social networking. The City Circle aims to facilitate the development of a distinct Australian Muslim identity and to assist in building community cohesion by developing friendship and cooperation between Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

Topics have included:

- ▶ *Freedom of Religion: Article 18 of the ICCPR: its interaction with Islam*, Prof. Abdullah Saeed, November 2010
- ▶ *The Politics of Assimilation*, Mr. Yassir Morsi, October 2010
- ▶ *Muslims and the Australian Story: On the Road to Political Participation*, Mr. Waleed Aly and Mohammed El-Heissy, July 2010
- ▶ *Judaism in Australia: Challenges in the 21st Century*, Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwngant, June 2010
- ▶ *Islam and the Media: Muslim Responses to Biased Reporting*, Dr. Nasya Bahfen, May 2010
- ▶ *Shi'a Islam: Its Impact in Australia and the Muslim Community*, Sheikh Jihad Ismail, April 2010
- ▶ *Islam in Indigenous Australia*, Dr. Peta Stephenson, March 2010
- ▶ *Muslim Minorities, Minarets and Modernity*, Mr. Issam Nabulsi, February 2010
- ▶ *Technology, Society and the Potential Impacts on Religion*, Mr. Pete Williams, November 2009
- ▶ *Challenges for Religion & Faith in the 21st Century*, Dr. Philip Freier, October 2009
- ▶ *Islamic Finance & Global Financial Crisis*, Dr. Abdul Rahim Ghouse, July 2009
- ▶ *Hope Behind Bars*, Aziz Cooper, June 2009
- ▶ *Gender Issues in Islam*, Prof. Abdullah Saeed, May 2009
- ▶ *National Human Rights Consultation*, Mr. Waleed Aly, Maria Bhatti and Emily Howie, April 2009
- ▶ *Barack Obama's Presidency, Implications for Muslims*, Prof. Joseph Camilleri, March 2009

# GOING FORWARD



NCEIS will continue to build and sustain the teaching, research and community programs it has successfully created since its establishment in 2007.

The NCEIS will be exploring how its existing subjects will also be delivered across Australia, strengthening its knowledge base and interaction with the community across Australia. The National Consultative Committee will continue to play an integral role in informing NCEIS programs and activities, which will further serve to invigorate the Centre.

The Centre will continue to assist and work closely with the Muslim community in developing a program of Islamic Studies specifically aimed at second generation Australian Muslim men and women (as a community based project).

The NCEIS will also continue to foster links with all levels of Australian government in policy development and training.

A number of new research grants and proposals are under way at each of the three universities, and these will assist the Centre in its research and community engagement activities and strengthen its research profile at an international level. This gives the opportunity for Research Higher Degree

students at both the Masters and PhD levels to have access to further resources, knowledge and academic supervision.

The continued refinement of the NCEIS undergraduate program and the development of a number of postgraduate subjects in Islamic Studies will see the Centre further expand its excellence in teaching across the three universities.

In light of its success over the past three years and its ongoing commitment to becoming the national leader in Islamic Studies teaching and research in response to the needs of the Muslim and wider communities, the NCEIS looks forward to a successful and productive future.







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