

Title

Religious nurture in Muslim families

What this Study Contributes

The project aims to describe and explain how children of primary school age and under are brought up to be Muslims. The topic of religious nurture is of interest in relation to all faiths, but given the diversity of schools of thought and ethnic groups amongst British Muslims, there is a strong argument for a detailed study of Islam in particular. Since there has already been attention paid by researchers to Muslim adolescents and 'young people' in recent years, the intention for this proposed project is to focus on families with children of primary school age and younger.

Team

Principal Investigator: Dr Jonathan Scourfield (Cardiff)

Co-Investigator: Dr Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff)

Research Assistants: Asma Khan (Cardiff), Sameh Otri (Cardiff)

University

Cardiff University

Award

Phase 1 Large Grant £364,560

Research Partners

Organisations including the Muslim Council of Wales, SOBIS (School of Basic Islamic Studies) and Pakistani Educational and Cultural Association have advised the project and helped with recruitment.

Approach

- Secondary analysis of the Home Office Citizenship Survey
- Interviews with adults and children in 60 Muslim families in Cardiff

- Oral and photographic diaries from children in 30 families

- Participant observation with 15 families

Findings

Project finishes **October 2010**, but preliminary findings can be read in the booklet 'Bringing Up Muslim Children' produced:

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/research/researchprojects/religiousnurture/publications/research%20findings.pdf>.

Activities and Outcomes

- 'Religious nurture in Muslim Families', *South Wales Echo*, 12th July 2008: http://findarticles.com/p/news-articles/south-wales-echo-cardiff/mi_7993/is_2008_July_12/social/ai_n38959017/.
- In September 2008 Principal Investigator Jonathan Scourfield and other researchers were interviewed on Radio Ramadam Cardiff.
- *Family Fun Day* 20th June 2010, Cardiff, for local Muslim families including bouncy castles, face painting and the chance to learn more about the project.
- *Working with Muslim Children and their families – A free practitioner seminar*, 24th June 2010, Cardiff, designed to increase the knowledge base of education, health and social care staff in relation to working with Muslim children and their families.

Further Information

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/research/researchprojects/religiousnurture/>