

Institution: Bath Spa University		
Unit of Assessment: 28: History		
Title of case study: Changing Attitudes to Muslim Migration and the Muslim World: shaping history making, public discourse and public sector training.		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2000 - 2020		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Professor Sarah Hackett Professor Iftikhar Malik	Professor of European History Professor of International History	25/3/2013 - present 1/9/1995 - present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2013 - 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		
<p>1. Summary of the impact</p> <p>Research at Bath Spa University has supported the formation of a more nuanced public discourse and greater understanding of Islam and Muslim minority communities in a range of international, national and local contexts. Hackett's and Malik's work has broken down stereotypes and expectations relating to Islam and Muslims and the West, and has created a fuller awareness of the complex history of Muslim migration. The research has given British Muslims the opportunity to reveal and reflect on their personal migratory experiences, providing a voice and a sense of agency and belonging for smaller and more peripheral Muslim communities. It has also shaped wider public discourse and enhanced public knowledge with regards to national and local Muslim migration histories, and issues of integration, race and social cohesion. Research has influenced the national-level debate in Britain regarding the development and creation of archival collections relating to Muslim communities in the UK, and it has contributed to the training of public sector staff, civil servants, diplomats, and military and security personnel.</p> <p>Hackett and Malik have a shared desire to use history to ensure greater social and cultural understanding and cohesion in the UK. Their research is especially important in an era of polarised views, creating new narratives through the promotion of informed, balanced discussions. The sharing of their ideas beyond academia has led to "a deepened understanding of the complex histories and narratives of Muslim communities, changing actions and behaviour" (E1), contributing "actively and positively to a present and future in which social integration and coexistence is possible and in which conflict can be healed through knowledge" (E5).</p>		
<p>2. Underpinning research</p> <p>Research by Hackett and Malik explores neglected histories of Muslim migrant communities in urban and rural areas, and works to expose the complexity of the entangled histories between the Muslim world and the West. They have carried out research individually and collaboratively (for example as the Bath Spa University leads on the NURSLING project researching higher education in Uzbekistan), as well as collaborating within the activities of the Bath Spa University <i>Global Citizenship & Identities Research Group</i>.</p> <p>Neglected Stories</p> <p>Hackett and Malik's research has produced new, historically contextualised knowledge on migration, integration policies, and Muslim communities in Europe and beyond. Hackett has published the first historical comparative study of post-war Muslim migrant integration in British and German cities, exploring the impact that Britain's and Germany's different national-level immigration policies and frameworks have had on migration, integration and diversity policies (R1). This research also examines the long-term integration of Muslim migrant communities in previously unexplored city contexts. It draws upon neglected archival material as well as creating new oral histories, and challenges the notion that Islam has been detrimental to ethnic minorities' experiences of migration and integration.</p> <p>Hackett has explored the history of South Asian and Turkish Muslims in post-1945 Newcastle upon Tyne and Bremen, gaining new insights on integration through historical, cross-country and cross-city nature research (R2; R3). Her research also explores the neglected subject area of</p>		

integration of Muslim migrant communities in more rural settings, examining the relationship between Muslim migrant integration and rural Britain (R4). Using the county of Wiltshire as a case study, Hackett delivers an unprecedented insight into some of Britain's more rural migration policies and Muslim migrant communities, both of which have remained largely invisible despite their robustness, diversity, and vibrancy. This research draws upon a vast amount of primary material, including extensive research across numerous local government archives and 38 oral history interviews. Overall, the research carried out for this project champions the benefits of shifting attention away from the major conurbations of Muslim settlement and challenges way in which the British rural landscape is perceived and portrayed.

Entangled Histories

Research by Hackett and Malik has been key in exploring the complex relationships between the Muslim regions across Asia and Africa and the West. One strand of Malik's research involves the creation of a theoretical and historical framework for understanding Pakistan's complex political and cultural history, for example in works on the impact of 9/11 and Pashtun identity and geopolitics in Southwest Asia (R6). Another strand of research explores the process of cultural transfer that underpinned processes of modernisation, and addresses the effect of changing geopolitics on diasporic communities in Europe and the United States (R5).

Malik's most recent work examines Muslim experiences relating to the legacies and memorialisation of the slave trade and offers a more autoethnographic account (R7) of research and public engagement across borders, focusing on urban centres such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Lahore, Isfahan, Fez, Konya, Pisa, Palermo, Helsinki and London, and mapping cultural and intellectual mainsprings that have been fashioned by historical crosscurrents. This publication demonstrates the breadth of Malik's knowledge and research expertise through its exploration of Muslim heritage across four continents, where cultures share commonalities beyond the narrowly defined premise of conflicts.

Dissemination

Hackett and Malik employ historical research in order to dispel misconceptions about Islam and Muslim communities, as well as highlighting connections between communities in different parts of the world. They work individually and collaboratively on public-facing activities and events, engaging with a range of stakeholders, including policymakers, teachers, diplomats, police officers and refugee groups. For instance, in March 2016, both researchers participated in a Roundtable, "Suspected Communities" at the Red Brick Building in Glastonbury, speaking on the subject of Muslims in Britain; the purpose of the event was the creation of greater awareness on issues faced in an increasingly plural Britain.

3. References to the research

R1: Hackett, S (2013) [Foreigners, minorities and integration: the Muslim immigrant experience in Britain and Germany](#). Manchester University Press, Manchester

R2: Hackett, S (2017) ['The 'local turn' in historical perspective: two city case studies in Britain & Germany.'](#) *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 83 (2). pp. 340-357

R3: Hackett, S (2014) ['From rags to restaurants: self-determination, entrepreneurship and integration amongst Muslim immigrants in Newcastle upon Tyne in comparative perspective, 1960s–1990s.'](#) *Twentieth Century British History*, 25 (1). pp. 132-154

R4: Hackett, S (2020) [Britain's rural Muslims: rethinking integration](#). Manchester University Press, Manchester

R5: Malik, I H (2003) [Islam and modernity: Muslims in Europe and the United States](#). Pluto Press, London

R6: Malik, I H (2016) [Pashtun identity and geopolitics in Southwest Asia: Pakistan and Afghanistan since 9/11](#). Anthem, London

R7: Malik, I H (2020) [The silk road and beyond: narratives of a Muslim historian](#). Oxford University Press, Karachi

Underpinning grants:

- Hackett (Co-I), *Immigrant integration programs in European Cities from the mid 1940s to the 1970s* (2019), Tom Hedelius och Jan Wallanders Stiftelse, EUR243,000

- Malik (project team member), [SLAFNET](#) (2015-2020), H2020-MSCA-RISE-2016 (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange), EUR1,107,000
- Hackett and Malik (project team members), *NURSLING* (2015-2019), Erasmus+ KA2 funding, EUR751,046

4. Details of the impact

Research by Hackett and Malik has had impact in three key areas: shaping wider public discourse and enhancing public knowledge of the Muslim world and Muslim migration; changing archival and museographic practice in order to give a voice to Muslim migrant communities; and training public sector staff, civil servants, diplomats and military and security personnel. The Director of the Muslim Institute notes the significance of Bath Spa University research and public engagement in this area, since it “has challenged stereotypes and erroneous assumptions about the history of the Muslim world” (E1).

Shaping wider public discourse and enhancing public knowledge of the Muslim world and Muslim migration

Hackett and Malik have shared their research with the wider public through print and broadcast media, in the UK and abroad, as well as organising and taking part in a series of public-facing events (E2).

Both researchers have been consulted widely by the media (E2). Malik has made over 100 media contributions since 2014, including 40 appearances on BBC Urdu (part of BBC World Service, BBC Urdu is watched by millions on TV and has highest radio reach among international broadcasters in Pakistan). He has contributed to *Beyond Belief* on BBC Radio 4, as well as being featured on international (France 24), national (Skai Television, Greece; Dunya TV, Pakistan) and local media (Awaaz Community Radio; High Wycombe). Hackett has acted as an academic expert for BBC Radio 4, and has been interviewed by numerous publications, including the Brazilian newspaper *Folha de S. Paulo* and *The Economist* (E2). Both researchers frequently write pieces for public-facing blogs and websites including *The Conversation*, the Centre of Islamic Studies at SOAS’s *MuslimWise* blog, and the North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS) blog (E2).

A Senior Journalist at BBC Urdu TV highlights the importance of Malik’s contributions on the network, noting that the BBC World Service has a global audience of hundreds of millions (over 300 million people a week in 2020) which includes “students, policy makers, opinion formers, women and influencers in those societies” (E3). The Senior BBC Journalist stated that Malik “with his measured opinion and analysis especially on extremely sensitive topics” had “played a vital role in enhancing cross-cultural understandings of such issues and also helped BBC audience to make better informed choices/decisions” (E3).

Hackett’s research “provided the backbone” of one episode of *Neither There Nor Here* on BBC Radio 4; the Series Producer was drawn to her research due to the ways in which it “stressed the positives, for example the flowering of an entrepreneurial spirit among Turks in [Bremen] which enabled many to achieve social mobility and a sense of belonging in Germany” and noted that following the broadcast a “number of people later commented to me that they now had a firm grasp on a subject of which they had hitherto been completely ignorant” (E4).

Malik is founding member of the Muslim Institute, a Fellowship society of thinkers, academics, artists, creatives and professionals with approximately 150 Fellows, which sits at the intersection of academia and wider society, providing a forum for critical thought and creativity. Malik is a frequent contributor (E2) to the Muslim Institute’s public talks, online debates, and its publication *Critical Muslim* (of which Malik is an associate editor). *Critical Muslim* is a quarterly print and online publication with an international readership in the thousands which encourages engagement from non-academic audiences. The Director of the Muslim Institute stated that Malik’s “accessible and approachable style” captured the imagination of those seeking to understand Islamic history, “as he provides a platform for marginalised voices in his work and interrogates dominant narratives by uncovering erstwhile unknown stories, bringing them to life” (E1). Malik’s involvement in the Muslim Institute and with *Critical Muslim* have also had an important impact on young Muslims in the UK:

Young people I have spoken to have said that after listening to Professor Malik's talks and reading his essays in *Critical Muslim*, they are learning for the first time the immense contribution of Islamic societies to knowledge production and our understanding of the world. (E1)

Professor Malik's display of a rich and multifaceted history offers [young Muslims] a chance to understand this identity as embracing and open and not limited and limiting. But even more than that, it additionally also offers young non-Muslims in the UK a chance to understand Islam and Muslim neighbours, co-students and fellow citizens as belonging to traditions and histories that are not inherently alien but that belongs to a common world. (E5)

In addition to media appearances and national and international events, both researchers have been involved in events aimed at local audiences and ethnic minority community members, addressing topics such as integration and social cohesion. Examples include large public-facing events 'Representations of Difference' in (November 2013) that promoted reflection, dialogue and discussion on the social implications of representations of difference, and 'Migration: Facts, Experiences, and Conversations with Refugees' (September 2017), which offered an opportunity to find out about the reality of the refugee experience (E2). Between 2013 and 2020, Hackett and Malik gave 38 public talks to over 3000 people in the UK alone, addressing audiences that included archivists, community leaders, police officers, policymakers, refugees and teachers, as well as interested members of the public (E2).

Changing archival and museographic practice in order to give a voice to Muslim migrant communities

Hackett's research revealed that the lack of archives relating to Muslim communities in the UK hindered academic exploration of their histories (E6a, p59). Through oral history interviews, Hackett was able to create archival documents relating to the history of Muslim migrant communities and, in doing so, had a positive impact on those populations, by giving them the chance to reflect on and reveal their personal migratory experiences, and providing them with a voice and a sense of agency: "amongst the interviewees there was often a sense of pride, delight, and sometimes intrigue, that there existed an interest in capturing the voices of such small rural Muslim communities" (R4).

To make minority histories available in a sustainable way, Hackett took part in The National Archives (TNA) 'Collections at Risk' project in 2016-2017, playing a key role in examining how (if at all) immigration and minority communities are represented in archival material in Britain. Hackett worked with a member of the Muslim community and TNA in order to identify areas of risk and opportunities for development (E6a, p59). Working on TNA's project allowed Hackett to help shape recommendations for the creation of new and the development of existing archives. Impacts of this project included establishing that Muslim communities would welcome advice and support on how to develop and maintain their collections and acknowledging the importance of sustained recognition of the Muslim community by archives and in higher education.

Hackett's involvement in this project helped to break down misconceptions between groups and to establish a collaborative way forward in documenting the histories of Muslim communities in the UK (TNA). An Archival Consultant involved in the 'Collections at Risk' project said that Hackett's "insights were eyeopeners in terms of helping the archival sector understand the context of Muslim life in relation to recordkeeping. They would inform any further work the sector undertakes in collaborating with the Muslim community" (E6b).

Bath Spa University research has also shifted museographic practice. Hackett was an advisor for a new permanent gallery, "Destination Tyneside", which opened at Newcastle upon Tyne's Discovery Museum in July 2013. The gallery celebrates migration to, and the diversity of, Tyneside and was created after research by the museum revealed that minority ethnic communities in Tyneside felt that their stories, histories and voices weren't represented within the museum (E7a, p5). Gallery content relating to Muslim migration was informed by Hackett's research and publications, as well as Hackett's involvement through meetings and discussions with the curators. The project curator stated that Hackett's research "helped to give shape to the stories of migrants who have, over time, become an important part of the north east community

and economy through long-established businesses” (E7b). The response to the new gallery was positive, and it expanded the museum’s reach to include visitors from a wider range of ethnicities and backgrounds, as well as causing a significant number of visitors to rethink their views and opinions about migrants and migration on Tyneside (E7a, p14). One visitor said that exploring the gallery had helped them to feel they “belong to the International culture of Tyneside”, while a visitor of Yemeni origin had learnt for the first time about the Yemeni community which has been based in South Shields, a town at the mouth of the River Tyne, since the late 1800s (E7a, p13). The project curator concluded that:

the addition of Sarah’s work on the Asian migration and migrant experiences in Newcastle upon Tyne has been significant in stimulating conversation, supporting a better understanding and recognition of the positive contribution migrants make to the north east in cultural and economic terms. (E7b)

Training public sector staff, civil servants, diplomats and military and security personnel

Hackett and Malik have played an important role in training events that help to broaden attendees’ understanding of specific topics and issues, or familiarise them with a specific country or situation. These training events range from tailored sessions for individuals to briefings for groups of up to 100 people. Between them, Hackett and Malik ran 15 training events between 2014 and 2019, training a minimum of 140 people from a variety of backgrounds, including public sector staff, civil servants, diplomats, and military and security personnel (E2). Hackett has participated in regional training days on topics concerning faith and cultural awareness and has also taken part in small training events on the topic of integration. These events have been attended by Wiltshire County Council Community Engagement Managers and members/representatives of local ethnic minority communities. The training centred on the importance of integration and community cohesion in Wiltshire (E2).

Malik’s research expertise has led to ongoing work in training British Civil Servants, Diplomats, and EU officials. This training includes sessions for the Royal College of Defence Studies, the highly selective senior college of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom which trains senior members of national and international military and diplomatic organisations. Malik’s long-term association with Farnham Castle Intercultural Training has led to a focus on delivering bespoke Specialised Briefings to the Defence Sector, their Support Staff (and families) working in Pakistan; delivering 12 training sessions between 2014 and 2019 (E2). These briefings provided informed insights into the current political and economic situation, guidance about social ethics and etiquette, and support in enhancing cross-cultural communication skills. The Director of the training centre said “The feedback we receive from our delegates on Prof Malik’s work is, without exception, outstanding. They often take the time to specifically comment that they feel much better prepared for their roles as a result of their training” (E8). Examples of this feedback demonstrate the impact of these sessions: “I shall have a better understanding of the country and its challenges which will help me every day”; “I was very impressed by Professor Malik and his immense knowledge on Pakistan”; “Everything discussed was relevant and very interesting. It’s been a great basis to build on once I get there” (E8).

5. Sources to corroborate the impact

E1: Testimony from the Director of the Muslim Institute

E2: Database of media, public and training events. Estimated reach.

E3: Testimony from Senior Journalist at BBC Urdu TV (part of the BBC World Service Group).

E4: Testimony from the Series Producer of *Neither Here Nor There*, BBC Radio 4.

E5: Testimony from associate editor of Critical Muslim.

E6: Impact of The National Archives ‘Collections at Risk’ research: a) Article from *Archives*, b) Testimony from Consultant Archivist

E7: Impact of Hackett’s research on responses to the “Destination Tyneside” gallery: a) Report b) Testimonial from curator, and c) Review of “Destination Tyneside” in *Museums Journal*.

E8: Testimonial from Director of Farnham Castle Intercultural Training.