The following represents a selection of research projects currently being undertaken by Centre staff and members.

**Muslims on Campus: University Life for Muslim Students in Australia**

**Researchers:** Jan Ali, Kevin Dunn, Peter Hopkins and Adam Possamai

The dynamics and social effects of growing religious and socio-cultural diversity at universities have been under-researched across the world. There is still much to be known about how universities, as micro publics, can better encourage inter-faith and inter-cultural understanding and interaction in light of their diversifying populations. Given contemporary political concerns about the future of multiculturalism and inter-faith cohesion, this project seeks to understand the ways in which students negotiate religious diversities in Australian universities. It focuses specifically on the multilayered aspects of Muslim students’ experiences, subjectivities and perceptions of campus life, as an underrepresented voice in social research. Peter Hopkins’s 2011 study into the experiences of Muslim students on UK university campuses found a number of complex and subtle ways in which the institutional space of the university worked to marginalise Muslim students. From unequal access to facilities and resources to a social culture which emphasises alcohol consumption, Hopkins’s research demonstrates the exclusionary and discriminatory ways in which universities operate, despite efforts and policies aimed at promoting tolerance and diversity.

This project seeks to conduct case studies in three Australian universities and is a precursor to a much larger project aimed at developing research-based models of best-practice for religious inclusion and intercultural understanding in the British and Australian university contexts.

*If you are a current or recently graduated Muslim student in/from an Australian university, the research team would appreciate your participation in the project via the completion of an online survey (opens in a new window).*

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