Responding to Crisis: PRS after 9-11

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Articles

Dr Gary Bunt - Studying Islam after 9-11: Reflections and Resources

This is a substantial review of the current situation with numerous relevant links.

Reports


General Comment

In the light of the cataclysmic events of September 11 2001, new considerations have emerged in relation to the study of Islam and world religions. Whilst these can appear to be footnotes in relation to the 'bigger picture', they could have a fundamental impact on approaches to the study of religion, and indeed to wider academic concerns. Sensitive issues are raised, particularly those associated with perceptions of 'the other', and the formulation of academic material in a rapidly shifting global context. Within PRS learning environments, how should lecturers present and evaluate course materials, especially those tackling themes such as jihad, martyrdom, and the place of religion in the contemporary world? Is it possible or necessary to be academically 'impartial' to world events of this scale, and can PRS disciplines help to inform approaches towards these issues? There are also some important social concerns; particularly the attendant stress and psychological damage an event of this magnitude can have on students and lecturers (not just those whose disciplines may be 'associated' with the event). For example, what is the impact on Muslim students in university settings, facing a new media barrage focused on their religion, and (in some quarters) an attendant increase in prejudice and tension? Through the PRS Subject Centre, these questions relating to the construction of appropriate pedagogical responses will be debated via a discussion list, although no answers will be guaranteed.

If you wish to take part in an email discussion of these topics with a view to perhaps making some of them clearer through published papers, please email us at enquiries@prs-ltsn.ac.uk.

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