



Cumberland Lodge

exchanging views, inspiring minds



CALL FOR PAPERS

Moving Beyond 'Us' and 'Them': Challenging Discourses of Religious Otherness and Building a More Inclusive Society

Monday 1st June 2015

Current political and social events such as the Communities Secretary's questioning of the compatibility of Islam with the British identity, the on-going Syria crisis, 'Trojan Horse' schools controversy and the debate over the failure of multiculturalism have made religious differences a contentious issue in UK public and political debates. Religious differences have increased fear of religious 'others'. Dialogue between and within groups becomes increasingly important to promote a peaceful society based on mutual respect and cross-cultural understanding. It is even more important in contemporary societies where assumptions about the 'other' result in labelling and categorisation, leading to feelings of injustice, socio-economic inequalities and religious tensions.

With this in mind, the Moving Beyond 'Us' and 'Them' conference, hosted by Cumberland Lodge in Great Windsor Park on 1st June 2015, aims to provide a forum to challenge the 'us' and 'them' divide – which is not a simple binary, but rather a complex relationship in which religion intersects with many other social divisions. Participants will discuss possibilities for reducing social divisions within and across groups as well as opportunities to build a more inclusive society in which the voices of Muslim and other minority religious groups are not simply heard, but also understood on equal terms to the majority religious and secular groups.

This one-day event will take an interdisciplinary approach, bringing together academics and students from the social sciences and humanities, as well as practitioners whose work deals with issues of social cohesion. We welcome individual and group academic papers and non-academic presentations and papers that address topical issues regarding the process of religious othering experienced by religious minority groups, the role of religious 'others', their relations with other social actors and their representation in the political, educational and employment domains. We are particularly interested in contributions that focus on defining current problems and on providing potential ways to resolve challenges associated with the following debates:

- Education: How can education act as a vehicle for bridging the 'us' and 'them' divide?
- Employment: How does religion affect (un)employment experiences and/or workplace interactions?
- Citizenship: How does religion and interfaith relations impact on political participation?

All submissions should include the following information:

- Indication of the main topical debate addressed (i.e. citizenship, education, or employment)
- A paper abstract or presentation summary (250 words max)
- A brief summary of your background and research/practice interests (100 words max)

Please send your submissions to movingbeyond@cumberlandlodge.ac.uk

Deadline for submission is 16th March 2015.

Notification of acceptance will be given by 31th April 2015.

For further information visit our webpage : www.cumberlandlodge.ac.uk/movingbeyond

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact the Organising Committee at movingbeyond@cumberlandlodge.ac.uk



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The Organising Committee