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The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies

The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies is a new centre based at the Department of Criminology and the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

The field of hate studies is broad, inter-disciplinary and one which is increasingly relevant to regional, national and global policy and activism. As a result of our on-going collaborative work with professionals from different environments we recognised the need for a Centre whose goal is to help organisations respond effectively to hate crime and related themes of prejudice and bigotry. Understanding these themes and knowing how to deal with the challenges posed by an increasingly diverse and multicultural society are important to multiple fields of work. Drawing on our skills and expertise, we will be offering a range of professional development and training programmes aimed at those whose work overlaps with the broad field of hate studies.

The success of the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies will be built around a range of activities, all of which create new collaborative opportunities in the field of hate studies. These activities include:

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD), consultancy, evaluation and training
- Research on issues of regional, national and international significance
- Conferences, seminars and practitioner-orientated workshops
- An Academic Network for cross-disciplinary debate and knowledge exchange
- Opportunities for personal development and further study, including the supervision of PhD research
- The production of educational resources such as short films, audio material and written reports

The Centre will be a key driver of knowledge exchange and information sharing amongst scholars, practitioners, activists and policy-makers.
Professional Development Opportunities

We will provide professional and personal development opportunities on three levels, designed to be of benefit to both learners and employers. The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies will offer expert knowledge and guidance to ensure that anyone taking part in its programmes receives the best possible development within this challenging and fast-moving field.

Workshops and short courses

Short courses aim to enhance the learner’s knowledge and work skills within the field of hate studies. The Centre will run short courses on the broad area of hate crime and on a range of more specific issues and challenges. After attending these one- or two-day courses learners will receive a certificate of completion from the University of Leicester.

Online modules

The Centre will run short online modules which are ideal for people who want to learn informally about a subject for personal or professional development and who need the flexibility to learn in their own time. Learners may receive credits for the completion of each module which could be built upon to achieve a qualification from the University of Leicester.

Further study

The University of Leicester provides a stimulating academic environment where students from around the world engage in informed debate, develop their knowledge and skills, and contribute to a wider understanding of their subject area. The Centre is able to draw from a wide range of academic expertise across different disciplines and would welcome PhD and MPhil applications within the field of hate crime and other related areas.
Research, Evaluation and Other Tailored Services

In-house training, consultancy and evaluation
We recognise that different organisations require support, advice and training in different areas. For this reason we offer a range of bespoke, tailored packages for in-house training and consultancy which are specific to that organisation so as to meet particular areas of concern or development. These services also include independent evaluation of a particular project or programme of activities, monitoring the success of intended outcomes, or research around a particular set of issues or challenges.

Research
The University of Leicester has a global reputation for research and academic excellence and is firmly established as a leading institution in the field of hate crime. The Centre is supported by an Academic Network which acts as a cross-disciplinary forum for knowledge exchange and will help to generate fresh research ideas and opportunities for collaboration.

Events
The Centre hosts conferences, seminars and guest talks on a wide range of themes relevant to those working in the field of hate studies. These events are opportunities to hear from scholars, campaigners and practitioners and to keep abreast of ongoing developments in policy and research.
The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies can offer continuing professional development on a range of themes, as outlined below:

- Cyber hate
- Disabilist hate
- Diversity and ‘difference’
- Hate and extremism
- Hate crime laws
- Hate offenders
- Homophobic hate
- International hate crime policy
- Introduction to hate crime
- Islamophobia
- Multiculturalism
- Racially motivated hate
- Religiously motivated hate
- Responding to hate crime
- Supporting victims of hate
- Transphobic hate
Expertise

The services provided by the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies will be coordinated by **Dr Neil Chakraborti** and **Stevie-Jade Hardy**. The Centre will also be supported by an Academic Network consisting of experts from across the University and its activities will be overseen by an Advisory Board of senior professionals and scholars with a wealth of relevant experiences.

**Dr Neil Chakraborti** is a Reader in Criminology at the Department of Criminology, University of Leicester. He is also the Chair of Research on the Board of Trustees for the Howard League for Penal Reform and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. Neil has published widely in the fields of hate crime and victimisation, and has an extensive track record of conducting research and working in partnership with policy-makers at an international, national and regional level. His past research includes a series of groundbreaking studies on rural racism and ‘othering’, analyses of policing diversity strategies, and evaluations of public authority responses to targeted violence and harassment. He is currently leading a major study of hate crime victimisation funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and is part of a European Commission-funded study of European populist movements and the use of hate speech.

**Stevie-Jade Hardy** is the Lead Researcher for the Leicester Hate Crime Project, Britain’s biggest study of hate crime victimisation. She has a vast experience of engaging with a wide range of communities through her roles within the Youth Offending Service, Victim Support and as a Mental Health and Disability Project Manager. She is in the process of completing doctoral research exploring the concept of everyday multiculturalism and hate crime motivation, and has an established track record as a trainer, facilitator and researcher in the field of hate studies.
The Leicester Hate Crime Project is a two-year study of people’s experiences of hate crime and their expectations of agency responses. The study is based on the accounts of people from all kinds of different backgrounds, communities and walks of life who have been victimised simply because of who they are – whether this be their race, religion, disability, gender identity or any other feature of their identity which makes them somehow ‘different’ and vulnerable to prejudice and bigotry. The research team have worked with the widest collection of groups ever to have been included within a study of this nature in order to identify ways that criminal justice agencies, local authorities and other organisations can respond more effectively to the needs of diverse communities.

Understanding Hate Crime Victimisation

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Image © Paddy McGuinness/Alamy
Tackling Extreme Hate Groups

One of the most notable political developments of the last few years has been the growth of far-right groups on a national and international level. One recent example within the UK has been the English Defence League who have used provocative and aggressive demonstrations in areas with large Asian populations to campaign about Sharia Law and extremist Islam. Academics from the University of Leicester have conducted researched on extreme movements and the use of racially and religiously motivated violence by members of such organisations.

Image © Jeffrey Blackler/Alamy
This research is exploring the lived experiences of veiled Muslim women as victims of Islamophobia in public places in Leicester. Against the backdrop of heightened concerns about Islamist terrorism and debates about the integration of Islam and Muslims in the West, the study investigates the nature of hate and prejudice targeted towards veiled Muslim women and the wider harms associated with it. In light of the ‘invisibility’ of this victimisation, the aim of the research is to increase awareness of the consequences of Islamophobia upon victims, their families and wider Muslim communities and also, to increase community cohesion by identifying ways to improve the service and support offered to victims of anti-Muslim hate crime.
Unpicking Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism and multiculturalist policies have come under increasing criticism within the last decade leading to a renewed emphasis on national identity, social cohesion and immigrant integration. What seems to be absent from these debates is recognition that most of the world’s societies today are ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse, and it is within these micro-geographies that multiculturalism continues to shape everyday life. This research explores the everyday lived reality of multiculturalism and investigates the way in which different groups negotiate, experience and make sense of multiculturalism.

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