

Visiting Fellow Report (2011-12)

This was a wonderful year at Cambridge. My research focused on a granulated understanding of British Muslim communities and theologies. In particular, I was interested in the understandings of Hakimiyyah, Shari‘ah, Khilafah, Ummah and Jihad in Shia, Sufi, Barelvi, Salafi, Deobandi, Modernist and Revivalist Muslim communities in Britain. I have a considerable way to go in my work, but Cambridge provided me with an absolutely great start. During the course of this year, I also wrote two conference papers on multiculturalism. The first was presented at a conference at the Mevlana University in Konya, Turkey and published in *Debating Multiculturalism 1* (Eds. Max Farrar and Omer Sener), The Dialogue Society, London: 2012, and the second was prepared for a conference on Shared Futures, jointly organised by the Centre and the British Council, which has now been published in an e-book at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/building-shared-future-citizenship/id543984960?mt=11>

During the course of the year, I also contributed to the enormously rich programme of activities at the Centre. I helped with developing and delivering its Contextualising Islam in Britain (CIB) II project; participated in all the two-day sessions of CIB II and commented in detail on various revisions of the final CIB II report, as now at:

<http://www.cis.cam.ac.uk/assets/media/cib2-complete-report.pdf>

I also made a significant contribution to the design of an Intensive Orientation Course on Islam and Muslims for senior professionals being discussed at the Centre and was given the opportunity to do some teaching on the Centre’s groundbreaking Cambridge-Azhar Imam Training Project – leading three separate sessions on Multiculturalism, Human Rights and Equality.

In my time at the Centre, I benefitted enormously from the University’s incredibly rich libraries and interaction with leading scholars and specialists at conferences and seminars organised by the Centre and the wider university (eg, the Reforms in Islamic Education Conference). I found the Research Day events organised by the Centre, where colleagues present their research work, particularly stimulating and useful. But my time and wonderful experience at the Centre would not have been possible without the staff at the Centre. I wish to record my appreciation and thanks particularly to Prof Yasir Suleiman, Dr Paul Anderson, Dr Saeko Yazaki and the administration staff at the Centre for being such first class colleagues over the year.

Mohammed Aziz