Report on Muslims in Britain

VC heads Runnymede Commission

A major report published yesterday on attitudes to Islam has concluded that hatred of Muslims in Britain is becoming “more explicit, more extreme and more dangerous.” Vice-Chancellor, Gordon Conway, chaired the commission which undertook the enquiry on behalf of the Runnymede Trust, the independent think-tank on race relations and cultural diversity. This is the first investigation of its kind and it is already provoking a great deal of attention from the media - itself a significant source of anti-Muslim prejudice according to the report’s authors.

The report identifies a range of features of anti-Muslim prejudice and examines the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia - dread or hatred of Islam and of Muslims - and the dangers which this poses. Islamophobia, it concludes “is an ingredient of all sections of the media and is prevalent in all sections of society.”

According to the report, there are a number of key features of Islamophobia. These include the portrayal of Muslim cultures as monolithic, intolerant of pluralism and dispute, patriarchal and misogynistic, fundamentalist and potentially threatening to other cultures. A further, and particularly disturbing feature of Islamophobia is its apparent acceptability. As the report claims, “the expression of anti-Muslim ideas and sentiments is increasingly respectable.”

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The Cost of the Sol?

Many Britons retiring to areas of southern Europe are finding better local health care and higher quality of life than at home, according to a recent ESRC funded study headed by Russell King (EURO). The study, *International Retirement Migration: a new welfare agenda in southern Europe*, highlights changing trends in European migration and how some southern European countries perceive retired people as the source of economic gain.

The study found that of the 1,000 retired expatriates interviewed in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Malta, most said they felt better for the move and were satisfied with the standard of local health and community services. According to the study, which was carried out in the Sussex European Institute, along with colleagues from the University of Exeter and the University of Sheffield, “They feel better off in general. The climate alone in most cases, alleviates the illnesses that elderly people suffer from, such as arthritis and bronchial problems.” Some retired people even made the move in accordance with their doctor’s orders.

“The surprising pattern was that the majority of people maintained they would stay put even if a spouse died, or if their health deteriorated,” said Russell. This, he says, is due to the positive new lifestyles they have found abroad; they have forged new social contacts and been reassured by better local community care, some of which is provided by the expats themselves on a voluntary basis. However, this also reflects on inadequate facilities in the UK, and a reluctance among family members to care for them if they were to return.

Many local municipalities see these pensioners as a source of economic benefit to the community, creating jobs and providing an additional flow of money into these regions. To encourage the retired to stay put, many municipalities have created local facilities geared specifically towards them. For example in some areas Foreigner’s Offices have been established which act as types of expats’ citizens’ advice bureaux. Also a new hospital near Marbella has been built with foreigners specifically in

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Help for the Homeless

Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the Meeting House Christmas Appeal which has now closed with a grand total of £1103 for the Emmaus Community for the homeless which is being established in Portsllade.

Temperance Fund

A new research fund has been set up to encourage study into the history of drinking. Called the James Hudson and Mark Hayler Memorial Fund, to commemorate the work of two temperance reformers, the fund has been created out of the remaining assets of the National Temperance Fund which has ceased to function.

Officers of the fund approached Sussex because of the work carried out by Sybil Oldfield (CCS) on the social consequences of drinking. They felt that the funds could not be put to a more appropriate use than to facilitate such research. The bursaries, normally between £500 and £1000 p.a. would support such study as the history and development of the drink industry, particularly in the UK, and its social consequences; the history of drinking habits resulting from the manufacture and sale of liquor and the personal and social consequences of the habit, including drinking offences; the history of licensing legislation and other social controls of the consumption of liquor; the history of the Temperance movement and the relationship of Christian activism and social reform movements in Britain c.1800-1950.

For further information and application details contact the Dean’s Office in CCS. Closing date is the last day of Spring Term.

Warning - Car Crime

Two secretaries in SOC have had their cars stolen in the past two weeks, one from the Refectory car park on Monday 3 February (black Ford Fiesta XR2 reg C212 CUV) and the other from the EDB car park on Monday 17 February (white Vauxhall GTE reg F132 HYJ). One was found abandoned and burned out, the other was found abandoned and damaged.

If anyone saw anything suspicious on the above days, could they please let Shirley Stay know on ext 8892.

BLUE TITS AND BIRTH CONTROL

Cain and Abel in the nest

Family planning for blue tits happens after birth, according to Martyn Stening of BIOLS. Sibling rivalry determines which and how many offspring survive and the odds are severely weighted against younger siblings.

Martyn’s research into bird behaviour has been helped by new policies for environmental management on campus. It is a common problem that care for trees can lead to a shortage of nest sites for those species which nest in holes. The University has compensated for this by putting up nest boxes and these have proved popular with the local tit population. The handy nests have made it possible to observe closely what is going on and to experiment by supplementing the diet in some nests.

The food supply seems to affect the time at which incubation starts and therefore how the hatching of the brood is spaced. Early hatchlings, if they survive, are bigger and get more than their fair share of the available food. If supplies are short, competition rules and the others rapidly go to the wall. This happens also in other species and in some the smaller hatchlings may even be eaten by their big brothers and sisters. It may seem cruel, but does ensure that some survive, reasonably well nourished, rather than all suffering equal deprivation. A rugged, but effective, method of matching family to food supply.

Only a very small proportion of the total number of hatchlings make it through their first winter to become parents themselves. Offspring from small, well-nourished, families are more likely to be among the winners.

Embedded System Support for European SMEs launched

The Centre for VLSI (Very Large Scale Integration) and Computer Graphics in the School of Engineering is involved in three European consortia, funded by the European Commission’s Open Microprocessor systems Initiative (OMI). Professor Paul Lister and his colleagues Dr Mike McNeill, Dr Graham Dunnnett and Dr Martin White have received funding of 100k ECU which has enabled the Centre to offer electronic system design support services for SMEs (small and medium enterprises) in the UK.

EUROMIC and DOMINIC are consortia which act as networks, pooling services, technology and design experience. IUN2 is a consortium of University partners that are offering similar dissemination and awareness activities for European universities.

Traditionally it has been difficult for SMEs to bring products to market containing complex embedded systems. However within Europe in the last few years many embedded microprocessor system components and design tools have been developed under the scope of the OMI. To increase the awareness of this and similar technology amongst SMEs, and to increase its accessibility the EUROMIC and DOMINIC consortia have been established. The Sussex team is running one-day seminars in the UK that include detailed technology discussions and advice on obtaining ESPRIT funding specially designed for small and medium enterprises.
Sussex physicists and astronomers will soon be plugged into one of the latest generation of supercomputers, thanks to a grant of half a million pounds from the HECFE to the newly-formed UK Cosmology Supercomputing Consortium. The grant was used to buy one of the new Silicon Graphics Origin 2000 supercomputers – the first in Europe – which has just been delivered to its new home in Cambridge. The Sussex members of the project are Peter Thomas, Mark Hindmarsh and Ed Copeland, members of the Astronomy Centre and the Centre for Theoretical Physics. The consortium is headed by Professor Stephen Hawking.

The other major sites, besides Sussex, are at Durham and Imperial College; however, Sussex is the only site with research interests spanning those of the whole consortium – in keeping with its interdisciplinary traditions.

The supercomputer will be used to simulate the evolution of the Universe, following billions of years of its history from the earliest moments of the Big Bang to the formation of galaxies. The results will shed light on the major problem of modern cosmology: how galaxies formed. The solution lies in the mysterious physics of the earliest moments of the Big Bang, but it will take the supercomputer and a unique collaboration between particle physicists and astronomers to be able to pin down the final answer. Which is almost certainly not 42.

Energy Efficiency

The Registrar & Secretary, Barry Gooch, is pictured receiving a briefing from the Residential Development officer, Della Madgwick, at the control panel of the new energy management system in East Slope, Phase II which was incorporated as part of last Summer’s major refurbishment programme. The Registrar, as Chairman of the University’s Energy Management Group, also visited Lewes Court where a similar system has been installed. These developments will result in improved efficiency of the heating and hot water systems, including early detection of faults.

Runnymede Commission Report

The membership of the Commission, which was set up last year, represents a wide range of expertise and diverse outlooks from a broad range of faiths. Members include the Reverend John Webber, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Trevor Phillips, Professor Akbar Ahmed, of Selwyn College Cambridge and Ian Hargreaves editor of the New Statesman. Its report will be distributed widely for comment and identifies potential areas for action. According to Professor Conway, “Islamophobia stereotypes Muslims. It inhibits British Muslims taking part in national debates and prevents their concerns and aspirations being voiced and heard. We need a better understanding of British Muslim communities and we must put a stop to islamophobia wherever it occurs in the media.”

The cost of the sol

mind, offering services such as bilingual medical staff.

In areas such as Torremolinos and Mijas, it was found that the retired tended to live in fairly concentrated estates creating a strong sense of community. However, these are inward-looking enclaves communities with little integration with surrounding Spanish society. By contrast, retired people in Malta and Tuscany were more tuned in to the local surroundings.

According to Russell, although the numbers of retired people in some of these areas appear to have peaked, these numbers are likely to start rising again in the future.

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With growing European integration, and with attempts to harmonise social welfare entitlements across Europe, inter-European migration is likely to become more commonplace. “It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that, around the coasts and islands of the Mediterranean, a new multicultural Europe of the elderly is being created. As an integrated Europe becomes a ‘single country’ as far as migration for EU citizens is concerned, the ‘snowbird’ and ‘retirement to the sun’ migrations that are so commonplace in the USA could become well established here.”

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## What's on...

### Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

#### Monday 3 March

1pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: A complete model of person identification. Mike Burton (Glazow), Biology Lecture Room.


2pm Particle Physics Seminar: Inhomogeneities in string cosmological models and in higher dimensional theories. M. Giovannini (Dannpi), room PB2A.

3pm Palmer Language Group Seminar: Bi-lingualism in Britain 400-600. Andrew Breeze (Pamplona), room A155.


5pm Women's Studies Graduate Division Seminars: "Patriotizing the Realm of the Nation": Prostitution and the "conditioning of England" question in 19th Century texts. Sabine Schulting, room D730.

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#### Tuesday 4 March

11.30am Idea of Europe special lecture series: Kinetic memories. Professor Gabriel Josipovici, Arts A2.


4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics Development Seminar: Signalling by Epstein Barr virus oncogene LMP-1. Dr. Martin Rowe (University of Wales College of Medicine), Biology Lecture Theatre.

5pm German Research Colloquium: Gershon and his brethren: the story of Scholom family. Renee Goddard (East Sussex), room A155.

5pm American Studies Open Seminar: Orthodoxy is my doxy, heterodoxy is the other fellow's doxy: dualism, multiculturalism and Ishmael Reed's art of oppositionality. Simon Booy, room D730.

5pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Culture, technology and ownership: the Expo 92. Dr. Penny Harvey (Manchester), room A71.

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#### Wednesday 5 March
11.30am Plant Science Seminar: UVB and environmental change: consequences for plants. Andy McLeod (Institute of Terrestrial Ecology), AFRC room 1B.

1pm IDS and Poverty Research Unit Seminar: Child poverty and social exclusion in Eastern Europe. Judith Harwin, IDS room 221.

1.30pm SCOAP Seminar: Orbital, angular momentum of the photon and its interaction with matter. Prof. Les Allen (Essex and St. Andrews), room PB2A.

2pm Queerly: Lesbian and Gay Studies Seminar: A brief history of GayPop: from liberation to liberation, Richard Smith (Gay Times), Arts A71.

2pm South Asia Workshop: Cultural crisis among the middle class in Thailand. Heather Montgomery, room C337.

2pm International Relations and Politics Seminar: The political economy of trade. Cheryl Schonhardt-Bailey (LSE), EDB room 125.

## Monday 3 March - Sunday 9 March

### Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

#### Wednesday 5 March
3.30pm USIE/GRECE Faculty Research Seminar: Evaluating the role of the work of the TTA. Ian Hestall (Rochester Institute), room B347.

4pm CMAIA Colloquium: Solitons in optically birefringent fibres. J. Elgin (Imperial), SMS room PB1A.


5pm English Graduate Colloquium: The negro anthology: Nancy Canard, modernism and race. Carole Sweeney, room D640.

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#### Thursday 6 March
10.15am Algebra Seminar: The number of points on an algebraic curve over a finite field. J.W.P. Hirschfeld, AFRC 1D.


2pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling: Using nonparametric regression to detect trends over time. Gareth Ambler (Royal Postgraduate Medical School), room PB2A.

4pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: Children's relationships and the development of social understanding and adjustment. Judy Dunn, Biology Lecture Room, EP 3.9.

4pm Research Seminar in Geography: Flexibility, specialisation and risk in the Sahel. Bill Adams (Cambridge), room D610.


5pm Sussex Development Lectures: Removing poverty: is economic growth the answer? Michael Lipton, room A1.

5pm Social and Political Thought: Human nature in socialists thought. Peter McLaverty (Politics and Public Policy, Lunon), room D630.

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#### Friday 7 March
2pm SPRU Seminar: What does climate change mean for a farmer in the Red River Delta of Vietnam. Dr. Mick Kelly (Climate Research Unit, UEA), EDB room 121.

4pm COGS Seminar: Coherence in thought and language. Paul Thagard (University of Waterloo, Canada), room PB2A.

4pm Applied Mathematics and Numerical Analysis Seminar: Anisotropic diffuse interface theories. Adam Wheeler (Southampton), SMS room PB1A.

4pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Unique white dwarfs accompanying recycled pulsars. M. van Kerkwijk (Cambridge), room PB1A.


### Miscellaneous

#### Undergraduate History Forum
2pm Wednesday 9 February: Mr Roger Davie of the East Sussex County Record Office will speak and also work through a practical will reading exercise. Room A155 all welcome. Convener Judith Kininmonth.

#### Six-a-Side Soccer
10am Saturday 8 March: At the Playing Fields. Prizes and trophy to be won. Max. 10 teams. Call 3950 or 8230.

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**Small Ads**

**SPAIN**: A few weeks avail in a 3 bedroom villa on hillside, overlooking sea, in a quiet setting. £400.00. 30 mins. east of Malaga Airport. £175 p.w. Contact Tricia Grassie ext. 8305.

**FOR SALE**: 1984 Ford Escort 1.6, 2-door, gold with all usual Ghia extras (sunroof, etc.). Exc. cond. with several improvements (e.g. new carburettor, starter motor and battery. Consistently serviced and cared for: with tax and MOT. £800.00. Contact 204967 (eve.) or ext. 2452.

**TOSHIBA** notebook for sale. Full colour screen, very modern, 420MB HD, trackboard mouse, manuals, adaptor, charger and carrying case. Comes with Win 3.11, Excel 5.0, Word 6.0 and lots of other software. Exe. cond. £775. Contact: 602310.

**NEED RESEARCH or admin help?** Sussex graduate, BA Hon Politics with Development Studies (2:1), now with MA Population Studies, is available for work as a Research Assistant or similar work. For more information contact Claire Mason: 688533 (24 hours).

**WANTED**: Reasonably priced room wanted for the duration of 28 April to 28 June for a visiting research fellow from Romania. Please contact George Alexiu, upalf@central.sussex.ac.uk or extension 2620.

**FOR SALE**: Professional running/aero-bic shoes for women. Saucony Jazz 5000, size 5 (UK). Barely used, injury forces sale. Cost £60, will accept £25. Call 683922(eve.).

**FOR SALE**: Vauxhall Astra E, 1200S, Beige, 2 door saloon. Very Reliable and Cheap. Ideal for students. No MOT, hence only £200. Phone: 689222.

**Bulletin**

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term, with copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk