

Challenges and Issues Faced by Australian Muslim Youth in the Presence of Personal and Societal Pressures

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Muslim youth have been under scrutiny over the last two decades from a radicalisation and countering violent extremism lens. They are often seen as a factor threatening social cohesion. This social pressure and the evolution of Muslim communities within western societies have produced new set of conditions and challenges for Muslim youth. Counterintuitively, the solutions and the way forward with respect to Muslim youth in Australia lies in the everyday experiences of Muslims and how they chart their lives in the presence of Islamophobic and societal challenges.

Muslim Youth Transformation research conducted by Mehmet Ozalp and Mirela Cufurovic have investigated where Muslim youth are with respect to their views, conditions under which they are charting their lives, resulting issues and challenges and the factors for successful negotiations of these challenges. The research enables a holistic understanding of Muslim youth from an individual, social and religious context, hence offer better solutions in dealing with issues affecting Muslim youth and social cohesion. The presentation, first, provides a critical analysis of the research conducted on Muslim youth to date. Second, it presents the findings from 250 online surveys completed by 20-28-year-old Muslim youth participants from around Australia.

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