Islam and Muslims in Australia: Settlement, Integration, Shariah, Education and Terrorism

Dr Jan A. Ali

Islam has long been a part of the multicultural landscape of major urban centres in Australia and encompasses a great diversity of theological, jurisprudential and cultural practices. Despite this, in popular discourse, media presentations and political debates Muslims are depicted as a homogeneous group. In this work I examine the growing presence of Islam and Muslims in Australia and how it is transforming, and transformed by, social, cultural and religious spaces. Islam and Muslims in Australia illuminates how socio-cultural, economic and political processes maintain and manage the ways Australian Muslims build their religious lives and identities and engage in the wider world, while facing the inevitable effects of modernity. I show how Islam and Muslims in Australia comprise diverse institutional processes and functions, social routines and norms, and sacred rituals and practices.

Jan A. Ali is Senior Lecturer in Islam and Modernity in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts at Western Sydney University. He was the Convenor of Islamic Studies in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and Community and Research Analyst in the Religion and Society Research Centre at the Western Sydney University. Jan is the Founding Convenor of the WSU Postgraduate Islamic Studies Network. He is a religious sociologist who specialises in Islam. His main sociological focus is the study of existential Islam. His published books are A Sociological Study of the Tabligh Jama'at: Working for Allah (2022, co-author); Organ Transplantation in Islam: Perspectives and Challenges (2022); Islam and Muslims in Australia: Settlement, Integration, Shariah, Education and Terrorism (2020); Islam in the West: Perceptions and Reactions (2018, co-editor) and Islamic Revivalism Encounters the Modern World: A Study of the Tabligh Jama'at (2012).