

READY - Religious Education and Diversity

Sharing experiences of, and approaches to,
teacher education in the context of
"Education and Training 2020" (ET 2020)



READY
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY

Multiplier Event at University College London (UCL), June 13th, 2017



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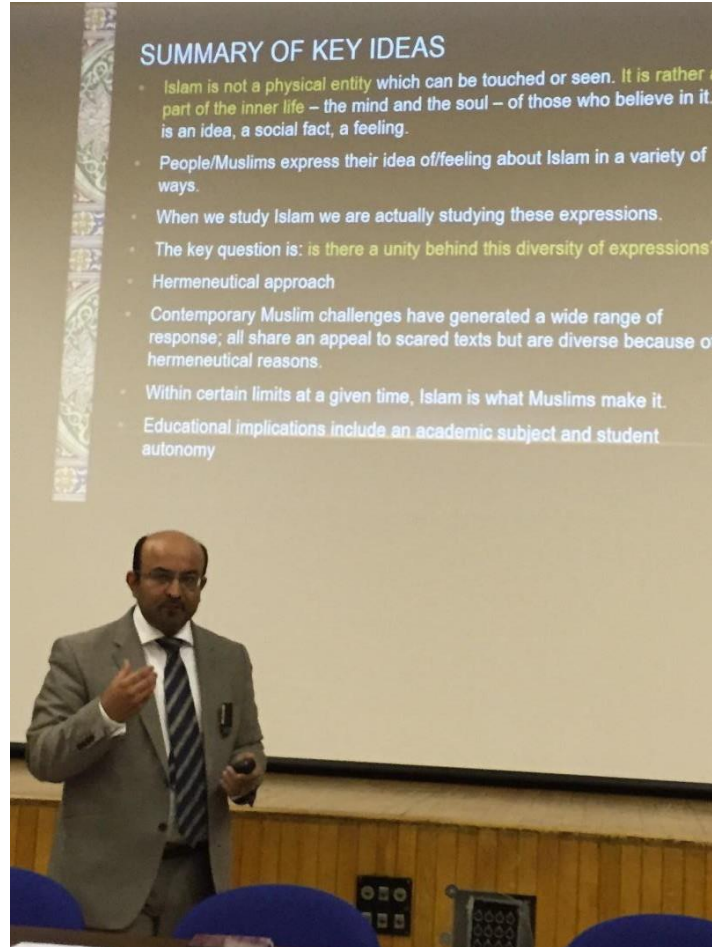
The London Multiplier event in July 2017 was hosted by the team at UCL Institute of Education. Delegates gathered from around England and were teachers, teaching placement mentors, ITE tutors and academics of religion and education. Dr Farid Panjwani opened the day with his keynote lecture that challenged normative and essentialists notions of Islam as a unified faith and encouraged us to consider a constructivist understanding of Muslims across time, geography, texts, beliefs and practices.

READY colleagues from Germany and Austria explained the origins and scope of the project and UCL IOE student teachers shared their insights into the impact that their involvement with the READY project had had on their experiences as student teachers. This process of reflecting revealed that all students felt significantly more aware of diversity and, as a result, more committed to highlighting this in their lessons. Those students who visited Vienna on an exchange study visit discussed how their initial preconceptions, of denominational RE being very different to the English neutral RE, were dispelled after in-depth conversations with Austrian RE teachers and observations of lessons. They were surprised that the common goal of learning both about and from religions transcended language barriers as they were able to engage with the lessons' aims.

Dr Elizabeth Arweck brought an in-depth analysis of data collected from a single school that presented young people's attitudes to diversity. Dr Arweck's observations presented us with a voice that did not seem to tread so carefully around diversity as we adults were doing during the conference. Diversity was expected by most of the young people that Dr Arweck interviewed and many students expressed a dislike for being thought of as representatives of a particular diversity in lessons. This presented a dilemma for teachers for whom a diverse classroom is to be celebrated and drawn upon as examples of authentic expressions of beliefs. In group discussions and plenary, talk turned to the importance of the serious consideration of diversity that lies beyond the classroom and returns the teacher to subject knowledge, planning for encounters with people of faith and the RE pedagogies that support an understanding of diversity across and within faiths and non-religious life stances.

READY Conference Agenda

<http://www.readyproject.eu/uploads/files/1518967736READYCAg.pdf>

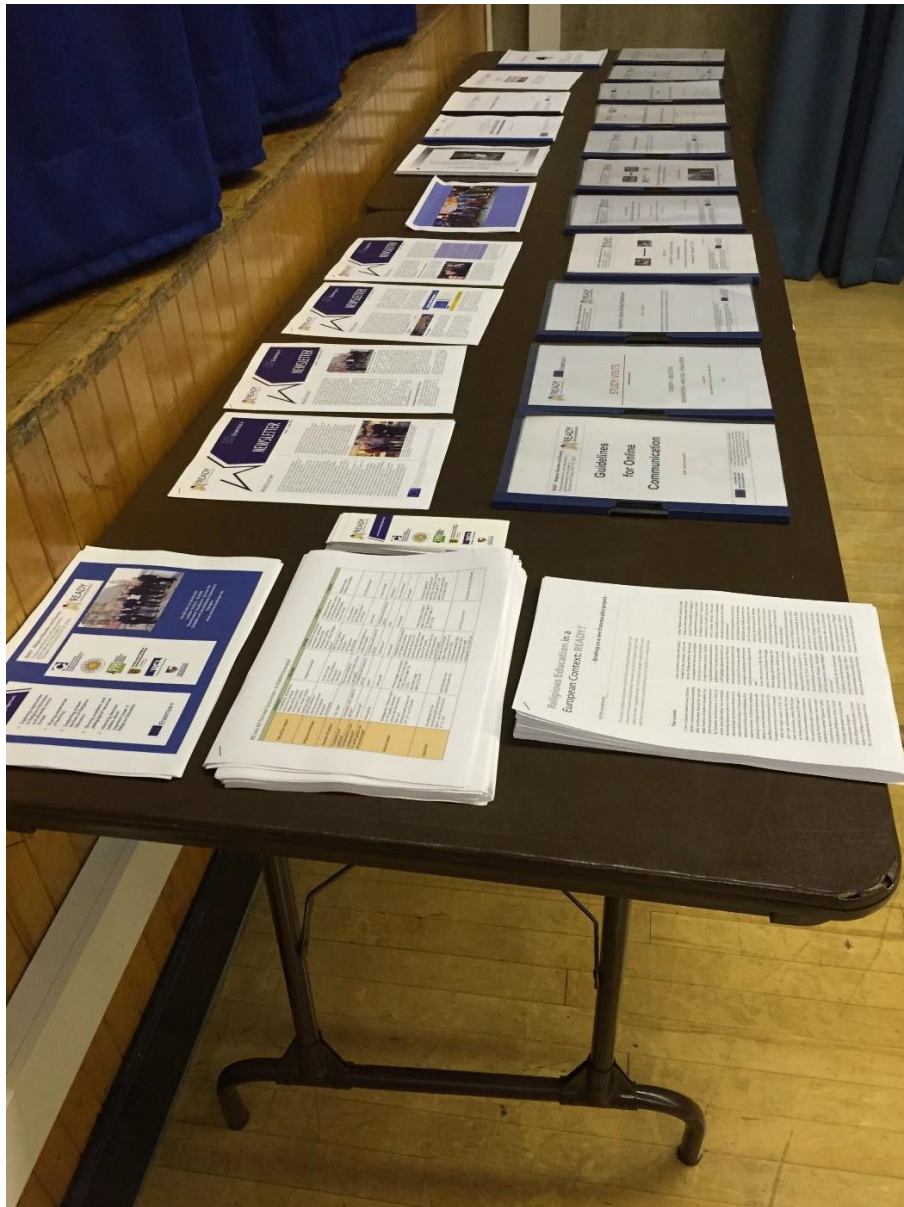


Farid Panjwani, Religion Diversity and Hermeneutics

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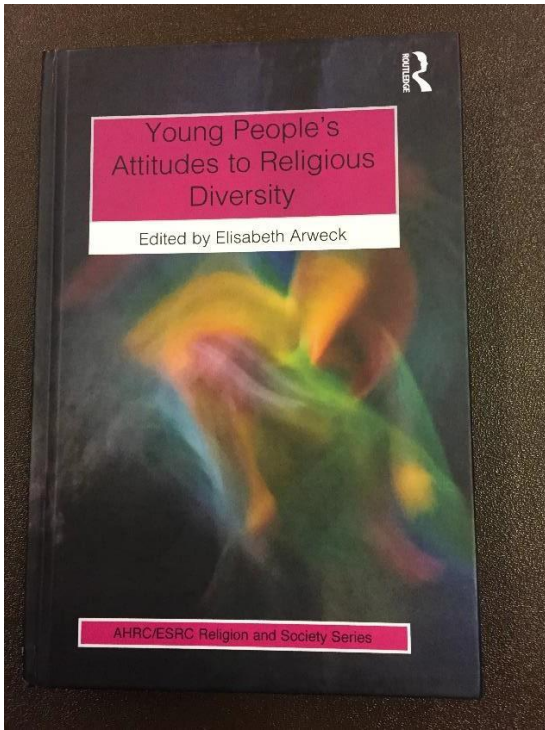
Islam and Diversity: 17 Mosques

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READY – the project and its “intellectual outputs”

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**13:45 – 15:15 Key note Dr Elisabeth Arweck:
Young People's attitudes to religious diversity**

