

Gender, race and religion: intersections and challenges

Solomos, John; Bulmer, Martin

Postprint / Postprint

Zeitschriftenartikel / journal article

Zur Verfügung gestellt in Kooperation mit / provided in cooperation with:

www.peerproject.eu

Empfohlene Zitierung / Suggested Citation:

Solomos, J., & Bulmer, M. (2009). Gender, race and religion: intersections and challenges. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 32(2), 215-217. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870802632124>

Nutzungsbedingungen:

Dieser Text wird unter dem "PEER Licence Agreement zur Verfügung" gestellt. Nähere Auskünfte zum PEER-Projekt finden Sie hier: <http://www.peerproject.eu> Gewährt wird ein nicht exklusives, nicht übertragbares, persönliches und beschränktes Recht auf Nutzung dieses Dokuments. Dieses Dokument ist ausschließlich für den persönlichen, nicht-kommerziellen Gebrauch bestimmt. Auf sämtlichen Kopien dieses Dokuments müssen alle Urheberrechtshinweise und sonstigen Hinweise auf gesetzlichen Schutz beibehalten werden. Sie dürfen dieses Dokument nicht in irgendeiner Weise abändern, noch dürfen Sie dieses Dokument für öffentliche oder kommerzielle Zwecke vervielfältigen, öffentlich ausstellen, aufführen, vertreiben oder anderweitig nutzen.

Mit der Verwendung dieses Dokuments erkennen Sie die Nutzungsbedingungen an.

gesis
Leibniz-Institut
für Sozialwissenschaften

Terms of use:

This document is made available under the "PEER Licence Agreement". For more information regarding the PEER-project see: <http://www.peerproject.eu> This document is solely intended for your personal, non-commercial use. All of the copies of this documents must retain all copyright information and other information regarding legal protection. You are not allowed to alter this document in any way, to copy it for public or commercial purposes, to exhibit the document in public, to perform, distribute or otherwise use the document in public.

By using this particular document, you accept the above-stated conditions of use.

Mitglied der

Leibniz-Gemeinschaft



Gender, Race and Religion: Intersections and Challenges

Journal:	<i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>
Manuscript ID:	RERS-2008-0293
Manuscript Type:	Original Manuscript
Keywords:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6



Introduction

Gender, Race and Religion: Intersections and Challenges

Martin Bulmer and John Solomos

In this themed issue of *Ethnic and Racial Studies* we have brought together a selection of papers that address the intersections between gender relations, race and religion in our contemporary environment. Although written from the perspective of quite different national social and political situations, they are linked by a common concern to analyse from both a conceptual and a policy angle the interface between gender and other situated social relationships. As with the other themed issues we are producing during 2009 we make no assumption that the various papers included here speak with one voice. Rather we bring them together as a way to highlight the diverse conceptual and methodological challenges that need to be addressed when we explore the complexities of how race and ethnicity intersect with other social relations.

The issue of intersectionality is highlighted in the first paper by Anna Korteweg and Gökçe Yurdakul, which takes up the issue of how we can make sense of the phenomenon of honour killing in the Netherlands and Germany. This is a phenomenon that has attracted attention in both academic and public discourses in both countries and has led to intense debate within academic and public policy circles (Wikan, 2008; Buruma, 2006). Korteweg's and Gökçe's account represents a critical attempt to provide some insight

1
2
3 into the complex range of processes that shape the question of honour killing and the
4
5 social and political responses to this phenomenon.
6
7

8
9 The following two papers look at the intersections of race, racialisation and gender in two
10
11 rather different social environments. The paper by Judith McDonnell and Cileinne de
12
13 Lourenço draws on interviews with immigrant women from Brazil living in the Boston
14
15 area to explore their experiences of race, gender and ethnicity. The 30 face to face
16
17 interviews on which this paper draws are a valuable empirically focused account of the
18
19 interplay between race, ethnicity and gender in the construction of racialised and national
20
21 identities. They also help to highlight the often complicated ways in which ideas of race
22
23 and gender intersect in shaping patterns of racialisation. The paper by Gabriela Sandoval
24
25 concerns itself with the ways in which tobacco production in the Dominican Republic is
26
27 deeply imbued by the racialised and gendered structures that have developed over the
28
29 history of the republic. Sandoval's paper is concerned on the surface with the production
30
31 of cigars to be consumed as a commodity; an industry with a long history in the
32
33 Dominican Republic. She argues forcefully, however, that it is important to move beyond
34
35 appearances and explore the 'significance of racial, political and gendered symbolism
36
37 that is inscribed into tobacco'.
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

45 The interplay between religion and discourses of gender equality is the focus of the next
46
47 paper by Claudia Diehl, Mathias Koenig and Kerstin Rucksdeschel. Utilising research in
48
49 Germany among Turkish migrants and majority Germans the authors seek to explore the
50
51 ways in which religiosity both shapes and is in turn shaped by questions of gender and
52
53 ethnicity. Diehl *et al's* account suggests that attitudes to gender equality both immigrant
54
55 minorities and majority populations cannot be read through the lens of religion in any
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 simple fashion. Rather they suggest that attitudes to gender equality need to be seen as
4
5 the product of intersections between individual religiosity and wider social and cultural
6
7 transformations.
8
9

10
11 Following on from this account is the paper by Diana Van Bergen *et al* on the role of
12
13 suicidal behaviour among young immigrant women in the Netherlands. This is an issue
14
15 that has attracted some attention in public policy debates and in the popular media over
16
17 the years in a number of European countries. Drawing on detailed research on 115 case
18
19 studies of South Asian, Turkish and Moroccan young women that authors explore the
20
21 ways in which questions of family, religion and culture are interlinked with wider social
22
23 processes in shaping patterns of suicidal behaviour. In exploring this issue the paper also
24
25 goes on to suggest that there is a need to rethink Durkheim's classic account of 'fatalistic
26
27 suicide' in today's social and cultural environment.
28
29
30
31

32
33 The next paper by Zareena Grewal focuses on research in North American Mosques that
34
35 serve communities from Arab and South Asian backgrounds. Grewal's account provides
36
37 a nuanced insight into the ways in which colour, race and class play an important role in
38
39 choices of marriage partner's among Muslim Americans. Contrasting the attitudes of
40
41 parents and their children the paper suggests that questions of colour and race are
42
43 experienced differently across the generations and that in specific contexts religion may
44
45 provide a space for negotiating conflicting visions of the ideal marriage partner.
46
47
48

49
50 The paper by Amy Lutz and Stephanie Crist has a somewhat different focus, analysing
51
52 the issue of bilingualism among the children of Latino/a immigrants to the United States.
53
54 Drawing on detailed empirical research about both boys and girls Lutz and Crist set out
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 to explore the ways in which family relations, gender and language intersect to shape the
4
5 differential educational performance of Latino/a children.
6
7

8
9 The final paper in this issue is by Uvanney Maylor and it focuses specifically on the ways
10
11 in which constructions of the idea of blackness are made and re-made in specific work
12
13 and social environments. Maylor's account draws on original research in an educational
14
15 environment to explore how black is a social construction that is imbued with specific
16
17 meanings as a result of the ways in which racial identities and politics are inscribed with
18
19 meaning through both individual and collective experiences.
20
21

22
23 Taken together the eight papers we have included in this themed issue provide important
24
25 insights into the complex intersections of gender, race and religion in contemporary
26
27 multicultural societies. They are also suggestive that there is a need for more sustained
28
29 conceptual and empirical research on this field. As this research develops, we would
30
31 welcome the submission of more papers that seek to enhance our understanding of these
32
33 issues.
34
35
36
37
38
39

40
41 **MARTIN BULMER**

42
43 University of Surrey
44
45
46
47
48

49
50 **JOHN SOLOMOS**

51
52 City University London
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

References

BURUMA, I. 2006 *Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo Van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance*. London: Atlantic Books.
WIKAN, U. 2008 *In Honor of Fadime: Murder and Shame*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

For Peer Review Only