



Wednesday, 9 December 2020, 16:15-17:45

15.15 – 16.45 (UK)
10.15 – 11.45 (US East Coast)
07.15 – 08.45 (US West Coast)

Nasar Meer (University of Edinburgh)

“The Social Production of our Moral Indifference: Muslims, Whiteness and the Wreckage of Racialization”

Public Lecture at the Online Workshop “Intersections of Religion and Race: Law, Politics, and Everyday Life”, organized by the Department of Ethics, Law and Politics

Despite several decades of compelling scholarship, semantic disputes continue to dominate accounts of the racialization of Muslims, or Islamophobia. This talk will refuse the invitation to continue in this vein, and argue instead that European centred but global white supremacy cannot but be understood other than through an account of the racialization of Muslims, past and present. Beginning with terrorism undertaken on Utøya Island and the wider Norway attacks in 2011, in this talk Nasar Meer will argue that not only did this violence have a particular relationship to the racialization of Muslims, but also to a broader reticence to recognise Whiteness as a social, political and historical project against which non-white groups are racialized. Whiteness here is a ‘project’ from which some people who may define themselves as white today would have been excluded in the near past. Recognising this, it will be argued, is no less important to sifting through the wreckage of white supremacy, and a key challenge for grasping the ways in which the racialization of Muslims is uncoupled from other groups

Nasar Meer is Professor of Race, Identity and Citizenship at the University of Edinburgh, and is the Principle Investigator of the JPI ERA Net / Horizon 2020 GLIMER project, examining the governance and local integration of migrants and Europe’s refugees. He is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* and his books include: *Whiteness and Nationalism* (ed, 2020); *The Impact Agenda: Challenges and Controversies* (co-authored, 2020), *Islam and Modernity* (4 Volumes) (ed, 2017); *Interculturalism and multiculturalism: Debating the dividing lines* (co-ed, 2016); *Citizenship, Identity and the Politics of Multiculturalism: The rise of Muslim consciousness* (2015, 2nd Edition); *Racialization and religion* (ed, 2014), *Race and Ethnicity* (2014) and *European Multiculturalism(s)* (co-edited, 2012). He is a recipient of the Royal Society of Edinburgh Thomas Reid Medal for excellence in the social sciences, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FACSS) and a Fellow of Scotland’s National Academy (FRSE). He is the founding Director of RACE.ED.



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