

## **'Excluded Urban Youth and Religious Discourse in the Trans-local City'**

**School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion**

**Research Project Field-work and Interim Outputs –**

**September 2010**

**Dr Chris Shannahan**

### **Research Project Fieldwork**

In line with the research project aims and objectives as laid out in the project 'Theoretical Framework' the selection of fieldwork partners has been guided by the need to reflect the religious and cultural diversity of the city of Birmingham, within which this research project is based. In an attempt to reflect this diversity and to develop project outputs and outcomes that engage with the experience of a wide-range of urban youth and religious/ethnic communities three youth projects which reflect the diversity of the city of Birmingham have been approached and agreed to work as field-work partners on the basis of the project commitment to the methodology and principles of Action Research.

Fieldwork is therefore sited in:

- A youth project working primarily with Black-British youth (begun May 2010, ongoing)
- A youth project working primarily with Muslim-British youth (due to begin October 2010)
- A youth project working primarily with White-British youth. (provisionally to begin January 2011)

It is anticipated that the ethnographic fieldwork of the project will comprise of three phases in relation to each of the youth project fieldwork partners:

1. Deep engagement – ongoing and intense over 4-5 months.
2. Continuing Involvement – less intense, but regular visits to the project over approximately 3 months.
3. Reflecting back and Action Development – working alongside each youth project to reflect back on the conclusions drawn from fieldwork and to begin the initiation of grass-roots community actions identified in the project theoretical framework (ongoing beyond the project).

### **Interim Research Project Outputs – September 2010**

1. April 2010 – Chris Shannahan delivered conference paper entitled 'Negotiating Faith on the Coventry Road: British-Muslim Youth Identities in the 'Third Space' at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington D.C (see link to conference paper and power-point presentation on Chris Shannahan's staff web page).
2. Journal article based on the Washington DC conference paper submitted for publication in the Journal *Culture and Religion* (August 2010).