

Global Communities Research Group



The Global Communities Research Group has two distinct workstreams - **Policing, counter-terrorism and communities** and **Migration, ethnicity and faith**.

Policing, counter-terrorism and communities

In the decade since the attacks of 9/11, international security responses have been underpinned by the notion of a 'war on terror', through which communities - particularly Muslim communities - have been identified and problematised as 'suspect'. Nonetheless, both pre and post 9/11, community-based counter-terrorism strategies have emerged, involving engagement and partnership work between community members and police officers. Overt policing in relation to preventing terrorism is an emerging field of policy and practice. Community initiatives are innovative and challenge traditional responses to terrorism.

This research strand focuses on examining questions of legitimacy, accountability, trust and governance in relation to engagement and partnerships between police and communities for the purposes of counter-terrorism. Members of the **Global Communities Research Group** have excellent links with police and community and other practitioners, enabling rich and exploratory study of community-based strategies.

Migration, ethnicity and faith

Over the past two decades we have entered a new era of migration. Multiple variables of difference in the ethnicity, immigration status, rights and entitlements, age and gender profiles and patterns of distribution of new migrants, means that the UK and many other developed countries, are now home to the most diverse populations ever experienced. The onset of super-diversity challenges traditional multicultural models of representation, welfare provision and community relations, originally based upon an understanding of migrants as large and geographically contained clusters of post-colonial migrants. It also raises a wide range of questions about the ways in which identities are formed, communities evolve and policies develop.

This research strand focuses on examining questions around the nature of changes, their impacts on society, and the responses of communities, politicians, policymakers and practitioners, following the advent of new migration and in the context of an already diverse population. Members of the migration, ethnicity and faith workstream have developed a range of innovative approaches to exploring these questions, including recruiting, training and working closely with multi-lingual community researchers and using social networking techniques. Members have wide ranging links with civil society organisations, communities, politicians, policymakers and practitioners. These links and methods facilitate detailed and wide-ranging investigation of changes and responses from multiple perspectives.