

## M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>				
The Coventry Muslim History Project – Towards a West Midlands Vernacular of Islam and Muslim Life				
<b>LEAD INSTITUTION</b>				
Name of HEI institution	Coventry University			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PARTNER ORGANISATION</b>				
Name of organisation	Coventry Muslim Forum			
Website	<a href="https://coventrymuslimforum.org/">https://coventrymuslimforum.org/</a>			
<p>The Coventry Muslim History project will take a place-based approach to uncover the Muslim history of Coventry and to develop a vernacular of Islam as experienced in Coventry. Underpinned by action research, it will use a multidisciplinary clutch of methods to work with local communities to uncover their stories.</p> <p><b>Project:</b> The Coventry Muslim History project is a collaboration between Coventry University and the Coventry Muslim Forum. The project will focus on uncovering the history of Islam and Muslims in Coventry setting it within Coventry's wider history. It will explore the experiences and journeys of Muslims in Coventry and the West Midlands, as they made this city their home. Methodologically, this project is underpinned by action research and will work with local communities to uncover their stories. According to Dr Abdullah Shehu, Chair of the Coventry Muslim Forum:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">History is about benefiting the future. Recognising the contributions of diverse Muslims to Coventry is key to understanding the full history of this city. Without recognition of historical contributions, people are forced into stereotypical or siloed thinking. Coventry is diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural. Through this project, I hope that young people across the city and particularly those from minoritised backgrounds recognise what their great-great grandparents have done for the city.</p> <p><b>Process:</b> This exciting project will seek to record histories of Islam in Coventry emphasising the development of its institutions (for example, mosques, madrassas or educational institutions, negotiating faith provision with the NHS). Drawing on Ammerman's ideas of lived religion (2021), this doctoral project will also explore every day lived experiences of religion such as those driven by ethnic or cultural diversity within Coventry's Muslim communities for example in food choices and provision, dress and clothing, gender relations, social and cultural events, educational attainment and professional/work related networks. Methods used will include archival (recordings, images and other resources), oral history and geographical methods including mapping of population changes and a survey of the physical built environment to explore architectural transformation and changes in how existing architecture is used by new communities.</p> <p><b>Place:</b> Potential applicants will work closely with the supervisory team to set a context for this history and to lead this doctoral project. They will be supported fully by the supervisory team who have lived experience, intellectual insights and excellent networks that will help the candidate to trace the</p>				

history that this project aims to uncover. This is an important work that could potentially uncover the history of a marginalised community, while also developing a model that may be used with other communities and in other local areas.

**Person:** This project will need a variety of skills / knowledge to be delivered. A passion for history, for all things Coventry and some understanding of the trajectories of Muslim or other minority groups would be excellent. However, what the right candidate needs most, is a drive to undertake community-focussed and meaningful research. The supervisory team will be more than happy to support the student know training and professional development to fill any gaps in their skillset.

**HOW TO FIND OUT MORE.** Please email the lead university supervisor if you want to find out more about this CDA project.

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Professor Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	<a href="mailto:ac0967@coventry.ac.uk">ac0967@coventry.ac.uk</a>