

Professor Momin Rahman

Queer/Muslim/Canadian: Understanding Queer Muslim Experiences and Finding Pathways to Belonging

In this paper I detail the qualitative results of a large-scale study conducted on the experiences and identities of queer Muslims in Canada. I begin with a brief discussion of my theoretical model of homocolonialism and queer Muslim intersectionality that frames the standpoint methodology of centring queer Muslim knowledge. I also point out how this approach can refine dominant assumptions about identity categories and their experiences of oppression. I then provide a summary of the demographics of our interview data and then I illustrate the five core thematic clusters in our results, drawing on the specific interviews. These comprise the two main cluster themes of identity intersections and spirituality, as well as three further clusters centred on family relationships, the absence of community groups and the overarching culture of Islamophobia and homophobia experienced in the west and through Muslim communities. I conclude with an illustration of where there are shared areas for anti-oppression between queer Muslims, mainstream LGBTQ populations and mainstream heteronormative Muslims, as a beginning to identifying how we might build such understanding and alliances.



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Momin Rahman is a Professor of Sociology at Trent University in Canada. His current research is on the conflicts between LGBTQ identities and Muslim cultures, and the experiences of LGBTQ Muslims, including a funded research project on LGBTQ Muslims in Canada. He has presented this work at international academic conferences and at private policy meetings such as the United Nations Human Rights Council. He has published over 40 chapters and articles and 4 books: *The Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics* (2020, co-edited with Michael Bosia and Sandra McEvoy, Oxford University Press), *Homosexualities, Muslim Cultures and Modernity*, (2014, Palgrave Macmillan), *Gender and Sexuality* (2010, with Stevi Jackson, Polity) and *Sexuality and Democracy* (2000, Edinburgh University Press). He has also been active in promoting equity issues through the Canadian Association of University Teachers, helping to produce an Equity Toolkit as well as publishing work on the difficulties of recognizing systemic racism in the academic profession, including a forum for the *Millennium Journal of International Relations* in 2021.