



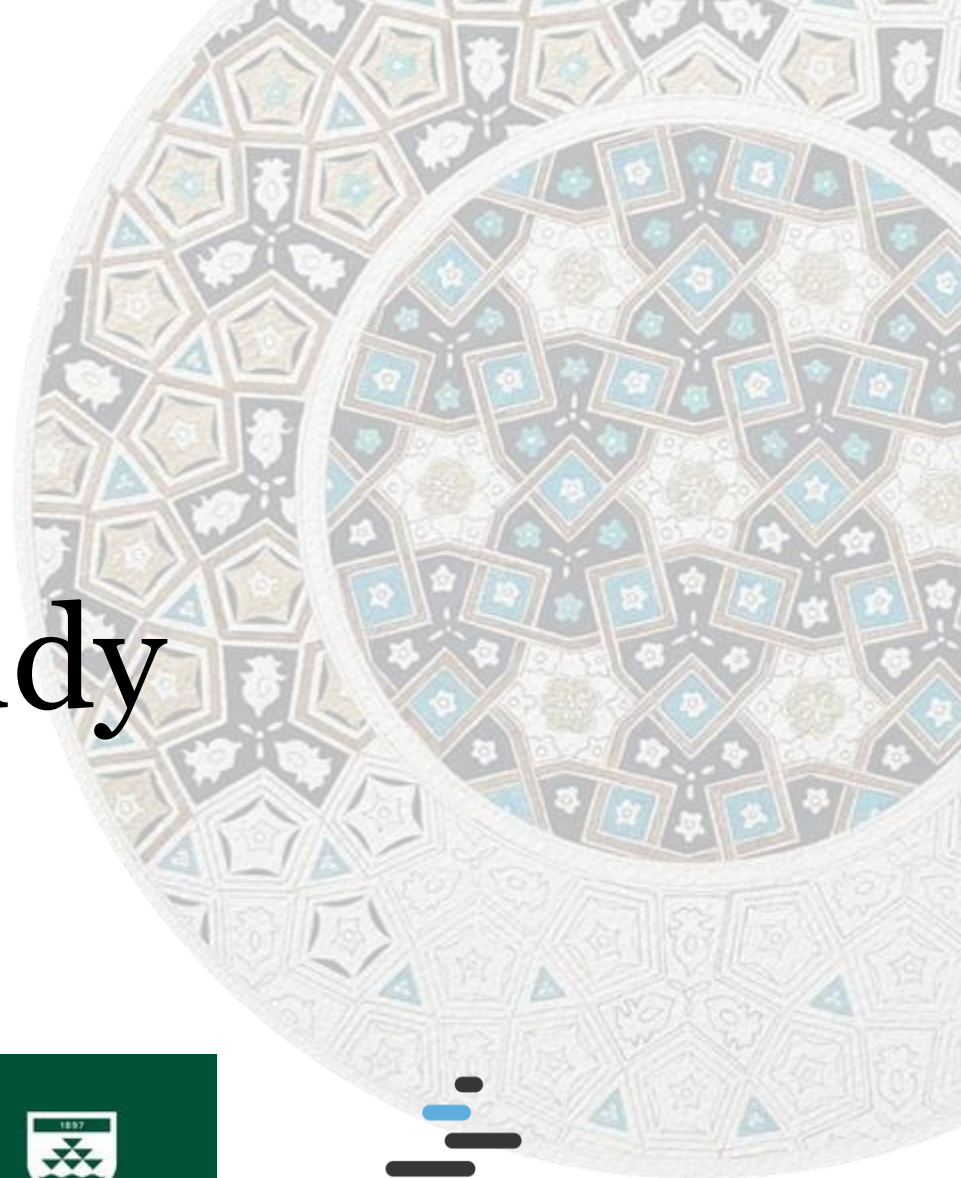
Amplifying Muslim Voices in Decision Making

Usman Afzali, PhD

PI – Muslim Diversity Study
Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
Lecturer (Teaching and Admin)
School of Psychology, Speech and Hearing
University of Canterbury



Muslim Diversity Study



Muslim Diversity Study

- Started in Feb 2023
- Examines the the social attitudes, values, resilience, flourishing, meaning-making, well-being, and the experiences of Muslims
- Examines the role of religion and religiosity
- Effects of these variables on each other
- Addresses under-representations of Muslims in the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS)

Afzali et al. (preprint). A national longitudinal study of Muslim diversity and flourishing in Aotearoa New Zealand: A quantitative study protocol.



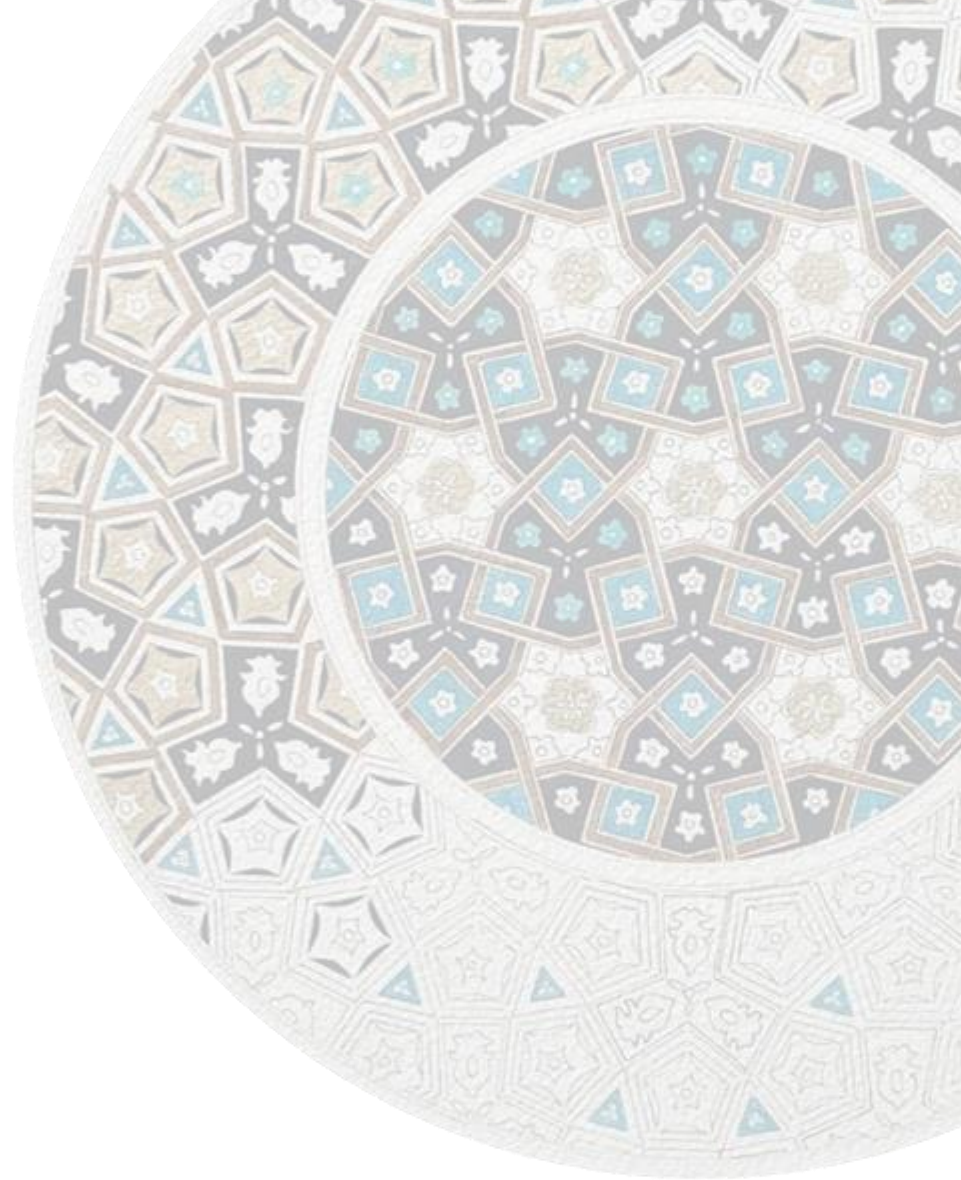
Questionnaire

- Postal/online questionnaire
- Large multidisciplinary research team
- Sample contains ~48k unique people, or 1.45% of the adult NZ population.

What we measure?

- Big-Six Personality
- Social Dominance Orientation
- Right-Wing Authoritarianism
- Ambivalent Sexism
- Patriotism
- Nationalism
- Affect toward different ethnic groups
- Attitudes toward Multiculturalism
- Immigration
- Schwartz Values
- Subjective Wellbeing
- Satisfaction with Life
- Body Image
- Self-Esteem
- Psychological Distress
- Health ratings
- Climate change beliefs
- Attitudes toward the environment
- Intergroup contact (positive and negative)
- Voting behaviour
- Political party support
- Perceived discrimination
- Felt belongingness
- Colour-blind ideology
- Ethnic identity

Findings so far



New Zealand national identity and attitudes towards Muslims and diversity

Exploring New Zealand National Identity and Its Importance for Attitudes toward Muslims and Support for Diversity

**Kumar Yogeeswaran¹ M. Usman Afzali¹ Nadia P. Andrews¹ Elizabeth A. Chivers¹
Meng-Jie Wang¹ Thierry Devos² and Chris G. Sibley³**

¹ University of Canterbury, New Zealand, ² San Diego State University, USA, ³ University of
Auckland, New Zealand

National
identity

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Now

Prejudice toward Muslims in New Zealand: Insights from the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study

Chris G. Sibley^a, M. Usman Afzali^b, Nicole Satherley^a, Anastasia Ejova^a, Samantha Stronge^a, Kumar Yogeeswaran^b, Michael Grimshaw^b, Diala Hawi^c, Zahra Mirnajafi^d, Fiona Kate Barlow^d, Petar Milojev^a, Lara M. Greaves^a, Sarah Kapeli^a, Elena Zubielevitch^a, Logan Hamley^a, Maria C. Basabas^a, Marvin H. Wu^a, Chloe Howard^a, Carol H. J. Lee^a, Yanshu Huang^d, Christopher Lockhart^a, Joaquín Bahamondes^a, Sam Manuela^a, Taciano L. Milfont^e, Ryan Perry^f, Nikhil K. Sengupta^g, Nickola C. Overall^a, John H. Shaver^h, Geoffrey Troughton^a, Danny Osborne^a, and Joseph Bulbulia^a

^a University of Auckland, NZ; ^b University of Canterbury, NZ; ^c Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar; ^d University of Queensland, Australia; ^e Waikato University, NZ; ^f University of Melbourne, Australia; ^g University of Kent, UK; ^h University of Otago, NZ

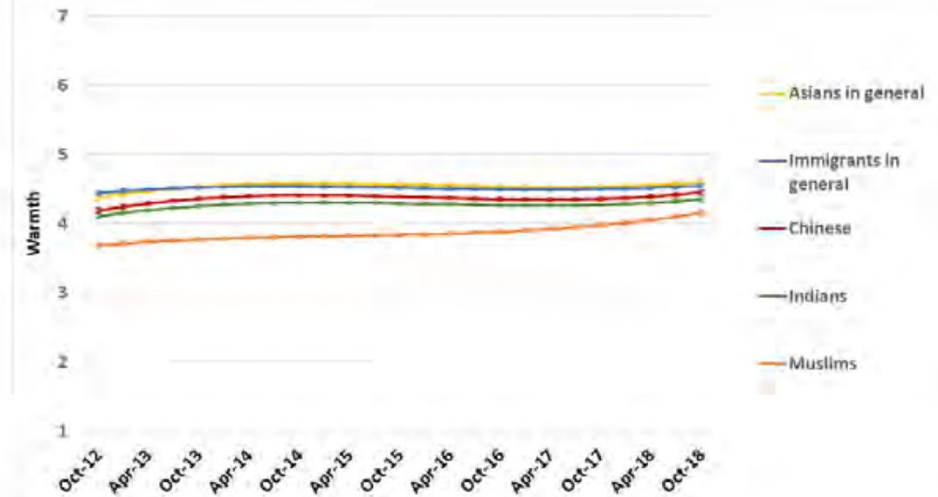


Figure 9. Latent growth curves representing the average rate of change in feeling thermometer ratings toward 'Asians in general', 'Immigrants in general', 'Chinese', 'Indians' and 'Muslims.' Growth curves were estimated separately for ratings of each group, and the curves represent model-implied values based on the parameters reported in Tables 7-11.

Long-term
prejudice

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Now

Hate Begets Warmth? The Impact of an Anti-Muslim Terrorist Attack on Public Attitudes toward Muslims

Sadi Shanaah , Kumar Yogeeswaran , Lara Greaves , Joseph A. Bulbulia , Danny Osborne , M. Usman Afzali  & ...show all

Pages 156-174 | Published online: 09 Mar 2021

 Download citation  <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2021.1877673>

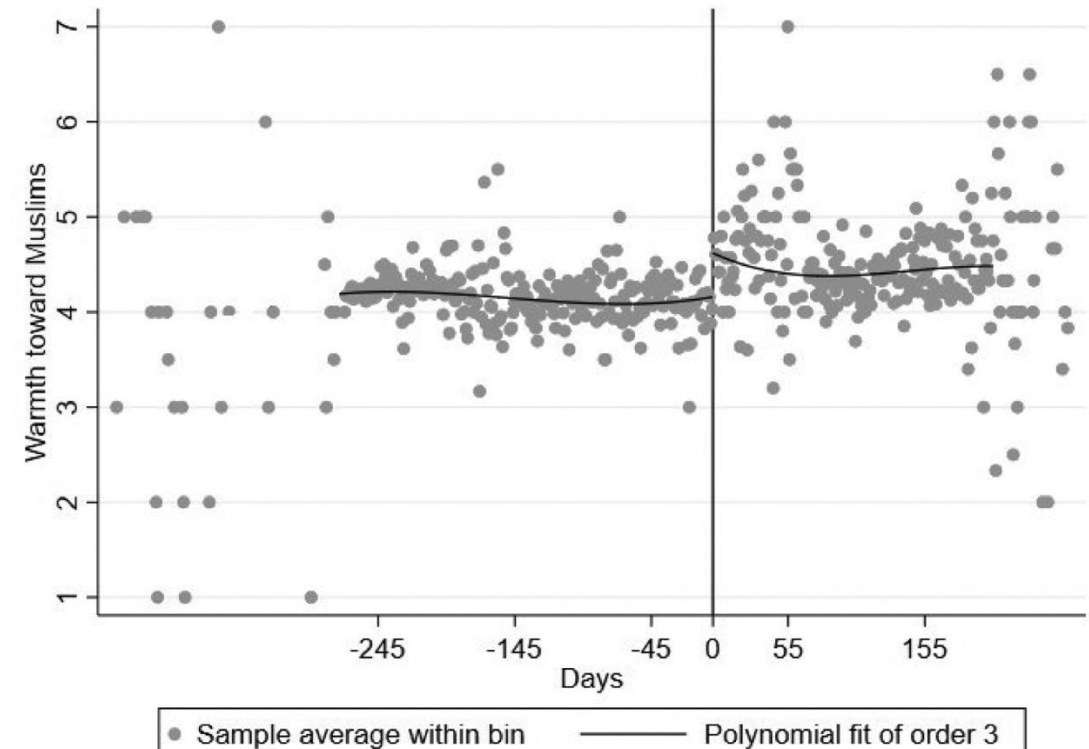


Terrorism and Political Violence >

Volume 35, 2023 - Issue 1

[Submit an article](#)

[Journal homepage](#)



Aftermath

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Now

Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 31 January 2022](#)

Psychological impact of far-right terrorism against Muslim minorities on national distress, community, and wellbeing

[Kate G. Byrne](#), [Kumar Yogeeswaran](#) , [Martin J. Dorahy](#), [Jessica Gale](#), [M. Usman Afzali](#), [Joseph Bulbulia](#) & [Chris G. Sibley](#)

Psyc
effects

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Now

Long-term causal effects of far-right terrorism in New Zealand

Joseph A Bulbulia , M Usman Afzali, Kumar Yogeeswaran, Chris G Sibley

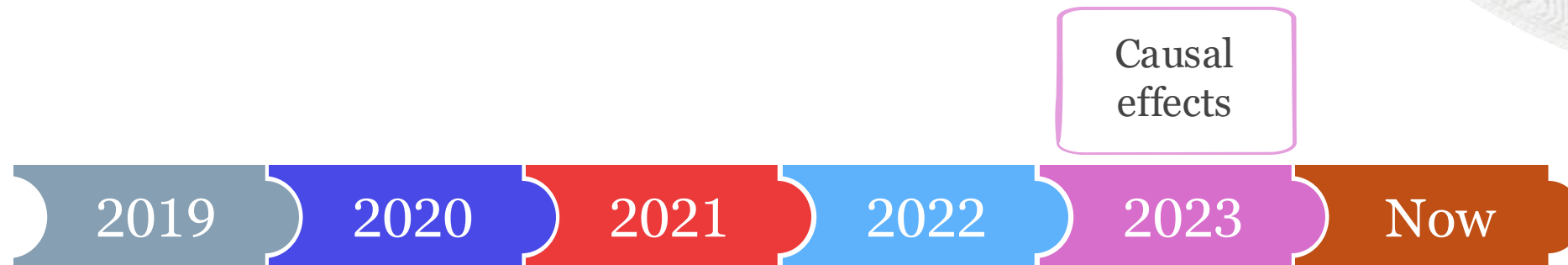
Author Notes

PNAS Nexus, Volume 2, Issue 8, August 2023, pgad242,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgad242>

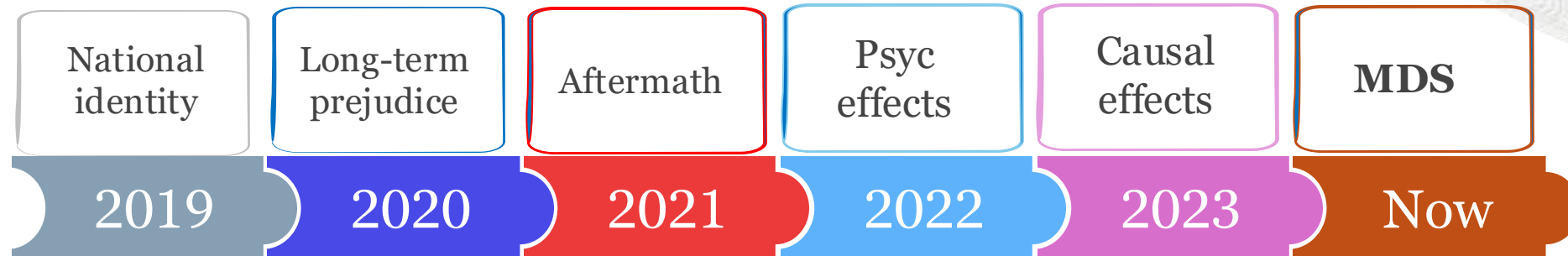


The Christchurch mosque attacks in 2019, committed by a radical right-wing extremist, resulted in the tragic loss of 51 lives. Following these events, there was a noticeable rise in societal acceptance of Muslim minorities. Comparable transient reactions have been observed elsewhere. However, the critical questions remain: can these effects endure? Are enduring effects evident across the political spectrum? It is challenging to answer such questions because identifying long-term causal effects requires estimating unobserved attitudinal trajectories without the attacks. Here, we use six preattack waves of Muslim acceptance responses from the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS) to infer missing counterfactual trajectories (NZAVS cohort 2012, $N = 4,865$; replicated in 2013 cohort, $N = 7,894$). We find (1) the attacks initially boosted Muslim acceptance; (2) the magnitude of the initial Muslim acceptance boost was similar across the political spectrum; (3) no changes were observed in negative control groups; and (4) two- and three-year effects varied by baseline political orientation: liberal acceptance was stable, conservative acceptance grew relative to the counterfactual trend. Overall, the attacks added five years of growth in Muslim acceptance, with no regression to preattack levels over time. Continued growth among conservatives highlights the attack's failure to divide society. These results demonstrate the utility of combining methods for causal inference with national-scale panel data to answer psychological questions of basic human concern.



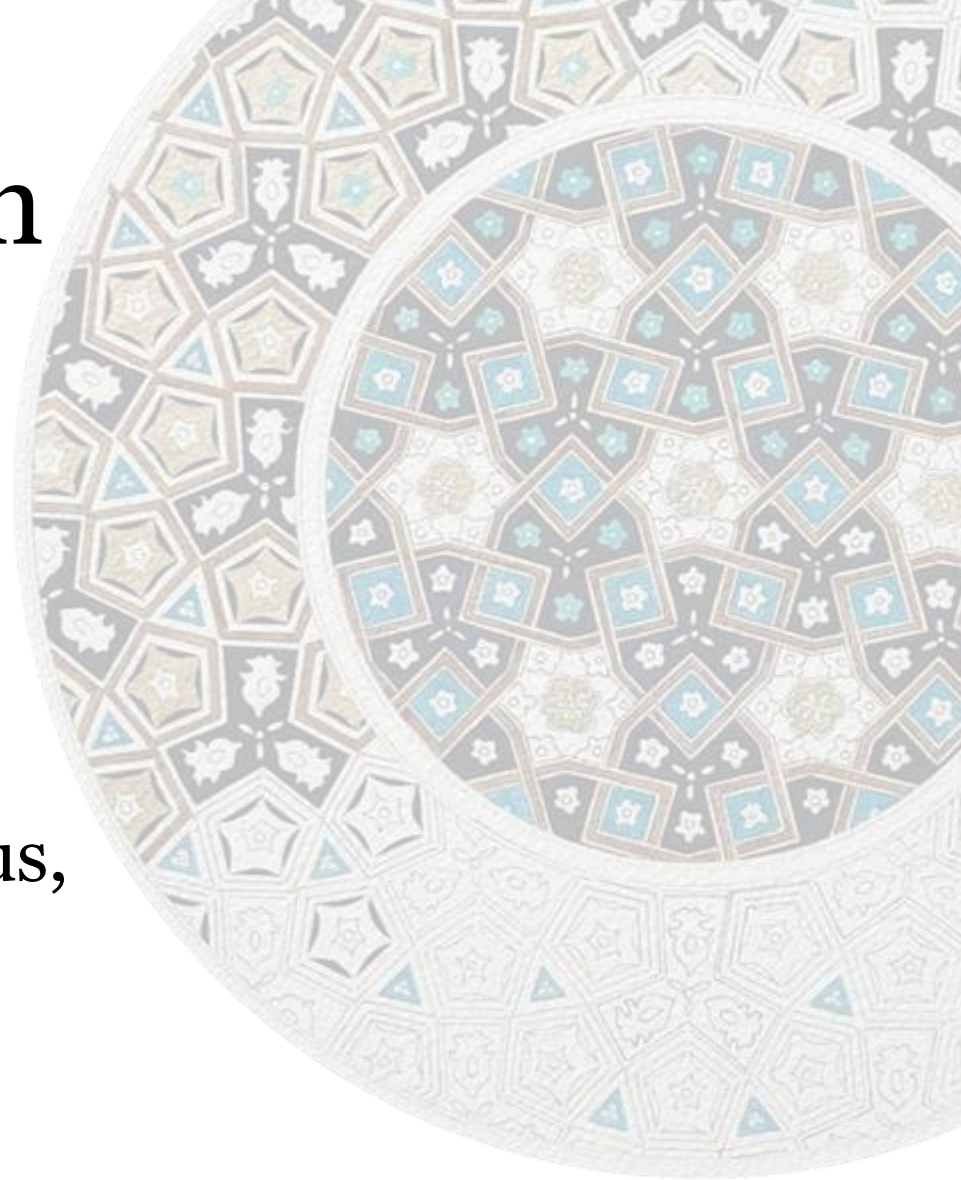
Considerations

- Muslim representation
- Muslims self perception
- Muslim resilience, flourishing, thriving
- Effects of religiosity



Pilot community consultation

- Feasibility
 - Languages
 - Participation
 - Dissemination
- $n = 29$
 - 7 languages
 - Woman > men
 - Community, religious, and ethnic groups



Muslim Diversity Study

- Representation: six cities
- Publications
- Opportunities
- Closeness to science
- Advocacy
- Talks in major cities and reaching out to organisations
- Ongoing consultation: E.g., potential objectionable items
- Social media



Muslim Diversity Study Wave 1 Timeline

- RA recruitment
- RA training
- Reaching out to family and close friends
- Community organizations
- Social media
- Lectures, talks, panels



What does and doesn't work?

- Change in approach based on feedback
- And, based on anecdotal evidence of what might or might not work
- Recommendations from other researchers (e.g., 15 March Study group – Uni of Otago).

Can we examine more systematically?

- Who?
- Screening and semi-structured interviews
- Enablers and challengers of collecting data from Muslim community in Aotearoa New Zealand: An in-depth qualitative exploration of research assistant experiences using NVivo and Copilot.

Aims

- Identifying enablers and challengers of data collection
- Present findings to future researchers

Afzali et al. (in preparation). Enablers and challengers of collecting data from Muslim community in Aotearoa New Zealand: An in-depth qualitative exploration of research assistant experiences using NVivo and Copilot.



Meaningful connections

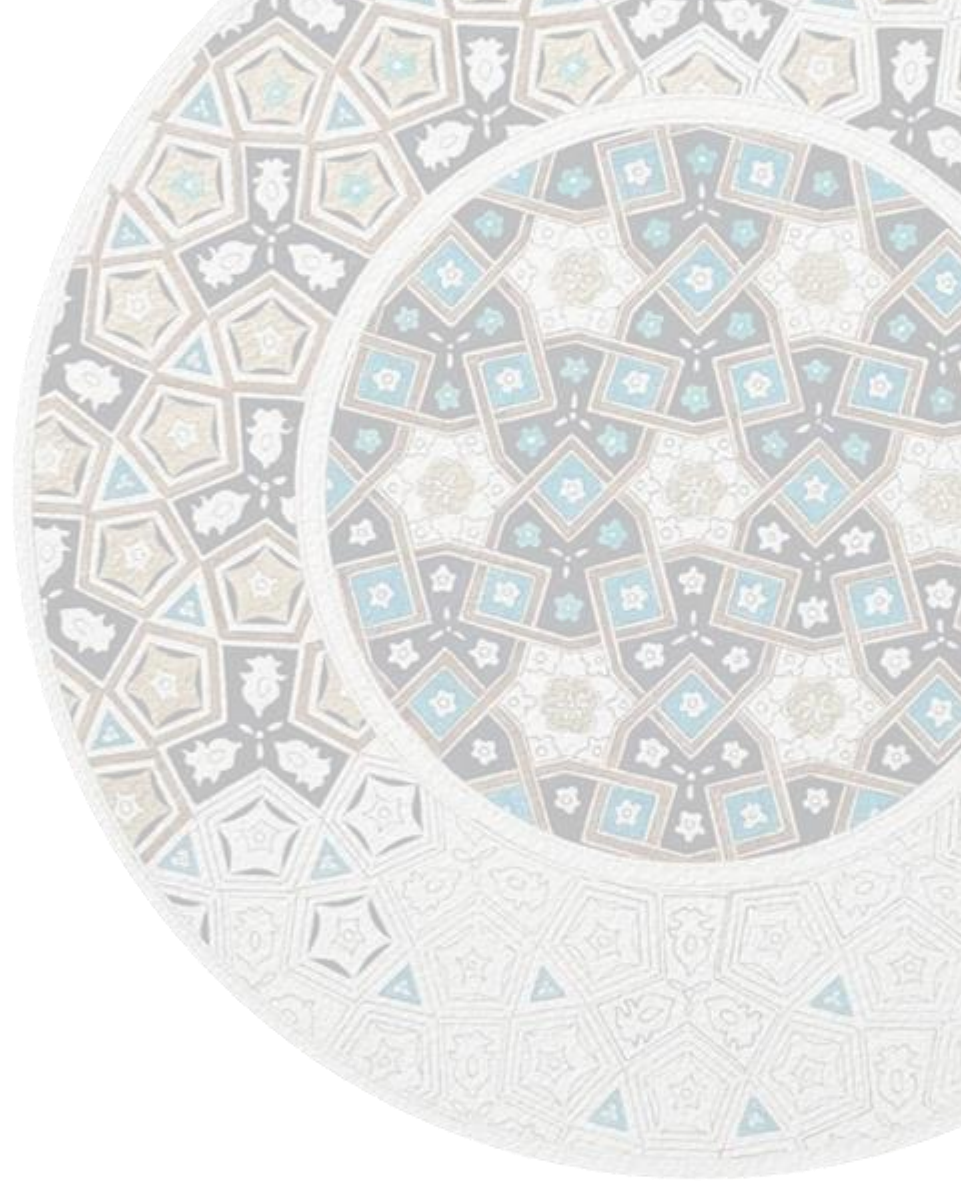
- Cultural connections
- Cultural events, and timing of these events
- Networking
- Leveraging community leaders to reach out to broader community members.

Contact dynamics

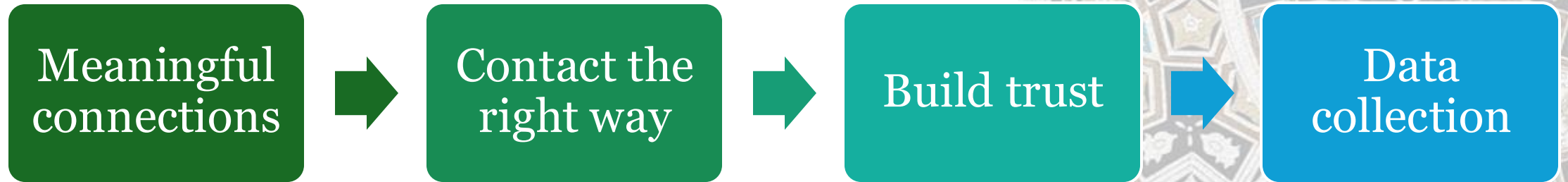
- Leveraging community leaders to reach out to broader community members.
- Visiting centres personally to build rapport
- Individual contacts (vs. group contacts)
 - Face to face



Trust building



Enablers



Afzali et al. (in preparation). Enablers and challengers of collecting data from Muslim community in Aotearoa New Zealand: An in-depth qualitative exploration of research assistant experiences using NVivo and Copilot.

No engagement

- Data privacy
- Sensitive/personal information
- Familiarity
- Paper vs online



No completion

- Distribution vs completion
- Authenticity of responses
- Length of the survey questionnaire



Positive feedback

- Studying Muslim issues
- Inclusivity, with well-worded questions that allowed for diverse responses.
- Appreciation of the effort to **collect data** and **understanding the importance** of the research.

Acknowledgements

Farah Shawkat

Jamila Badis

Hafsa Tameez

Oliver D'Souza

Ayse Tezcan

Zahra Haidary

MDS Auckland Team

MDS Wellington Team

MDS Dunedin Team

MDS Hamilton Team

MDS Christchurch Team

MDS Palmerston North Team

Acknowledgements



Prof Joseph Bulbulia
Victoria University of
Wellington



Prof Chris Sibley
The University of
Auckland



A/Prof Kumar Yogeeswaran
University of Canterbury



Lawyer Aarif Rasheed
Just Community

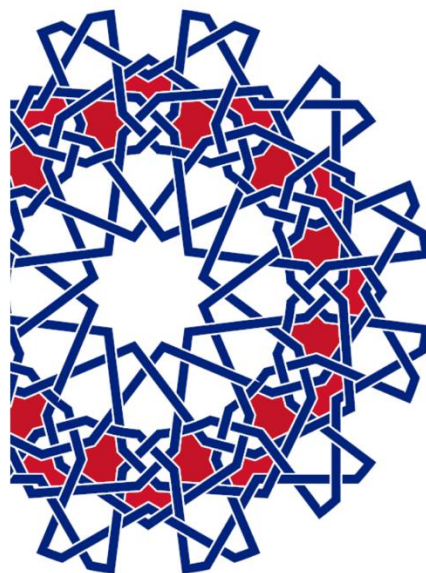
Templeton Religion Trust



TOPIC

The Muslim Diversity Study

The general scope of the Muslim Diversity Study is to study attitudes and values of Muslims in New Zealand. Learn more about our Muslim diversity study.



MUSLIM DIVERSITY STUDY

About the project

CONNECT WITH US



Thank you!

