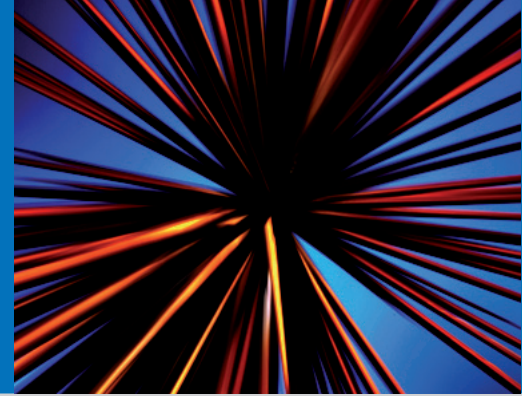


MARC Research Profile

Multi-Faith Spaces: Symptoms and Agents of Religious and Social Change



Organisations are increasingly attempting to accommodate religious diversity via the provision of multi-faith spaces (MFS). Some are small and mono-functional (located in airports, universities, hospitals, shopping malls, etc); others take the form of dedicated buildings or complexes, where different religions inhabit and utilise their own sacred space(s), whilst sharing collective 'secular' facilities. Here individuals can, notionally, come together to pray, relax, learn, discuss... even shop or play.

Within these spaces a tentative rapprochement between belief systems might occur, and as a consequence MFS have received overt political endorsement, with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) noting the importance of 'shared spaces for interaction'. However, despite the hope that they may help shape a more integrated, inclusive and tolerant society, MFS have so far received little attention as works of architecture, or spaces that shape, and are shaped by, ongoing socio-religious discourses.

This project aims to better understand the genesis of such spaces (as an academic concern) and to assist in their further development (as a practical intention). Accordingly, project outputs will include peer-reviewed journal papers and conference dissemination, alongside a professionally curated travelling exhibition, and a best practice compendium. The aim is to engage policy practitioners, academics, stakeholders and the general public, in an ongoing dialogue around the continued expansion of multi-faith facilities.

Website

www.manchester.ac.uk/mfs

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