Assisting and Resisting the Racial State: Experiences of Young Pakistani Men in Dublin and Boston

By Craig Considine - considic@tcd.ie
Summary

My research explores how first- and second-generation men of Pakistani descent relate to—and are influenced by—Irish and U.S. racial states. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and semi-participant observation. Key issues discussed include Pakistani, Muslim, and Irish/American identities.
Importance
This study sheds light on how nation-states engage in racialisation (a process through which people/institutions reproduce the ideology of racism) which, in turn, contributes to racial hierarchies and varying degrees of Otherness amongst ethnic groups.
Outlook
First- and second-generation men of Pakistani descent apply different coping mechanisms to deal with Irish and U.S. racial states. These coping mechanisms emerge in reaction to fear and a need for survival. They can be offensive and defensive in nature.