BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group Study Day

Making Sense of the Census
The SocRel Response

Venue: Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
Date: 18 June 2013 (9.45-5.00)

Summary

The UK government Office for National Statistics (ONS) administers a census questionnaire every ten years. The purpose is to provide data to inform decisions about policy and resource allocation. In 2001, for the first time in its 150-year history, the census contained a question about religious identity. That question was repeated, with a slight variation, in 2011 and results are prompting debate and discussion amongst academics, religious leaders, faith groups, non-religious groups and various other interested parties.

To help form a response from Socrel, we will construct a Socrel synthesis of analysis that can inform wider public debates at our annual Study Day.

The will be of interest to scholars in anthropology, geography, history, philosophy, practical theology, psychology, religious studies, sociology and social policy are interested from both empirical and theoretical viewpoints and to those working in specific faith traditions.

The event is £40.00 for BSA/SocRel members; £50.00 for non-members; £20.00 for SocRel/BSA Postgraduate members/unwaged; £25.00 for Postgraduate non-members.

Registration is available via the BSA website at the following address:
http://portal.britsoc.co.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT10280

For any further information, please contact Abby Day (A.F.Day@Kent .ac.uk) or Lois Lee (L.A.Lee@Kent.ac.uk)

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Programme

9.30-9.45
Registration

9.45-10.00
Welcome and Introductions, Dr Abby Day, Chair, Socrel

10.00-10.30
Correcting the Religious Response: How Qualitative Research Influenced the UK 2011 Census Design and Results
Dr Abby Day (Senior Research Fellow, University of Kent; Member, Office for National Statistics Academic Advisory Board for 2011 Census questions on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion)

10.30-11.00
Measuring Religious Affiliation in Great Britain: The 2011 Census In Historical and Methodological Context
Dr Clive D. Field OBE (British Religion in Numbers (BRIN), University of Birmingham)

11.00-12.30
Round Table: Behind the Categories

The 'Non-Belonging Christians' (NBC) Surveys 2009-2010
Dr Marion Bowman and Dr Mika Lassander (Open University)

How Many Thousands? The Problems of Counting UK Pagans
Dr Vivianne Crowley (Cherry Hill Seminary)

Superdiversity and the Census
Professor Martin Stringer (University of Birmingham)

Understanding 'Not Religious' Positions and Census Categories
Dr Lois Lee (University of Kent; Director, Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network)

12.30-1.30
Lunch

1.30-2.00
Putting the Census Result in Context: The Factors to Take Into Account

Professor Grace Davie (University of Exeter; Member, Office for National Statistics Academic Advisory Board for 2011 Census questions on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion)

2.00-3.30
Roundtable: Categories and Communities

A Census Balance Sheet from a Muslim Community Perspective
Jamil Sherif (Research and Documentation Committee, Muslim Council of Great Britain)

The Popularity of Paganism: Making Sense of the British Census Figures from 2001-2011
Dr Melissa Harrington (University of Cumbria)

Using Census Data to Shape Community Policy: The British Jewish Example
Jonathan Boyd (Executive Director, Institute for Jewish Policy Research)

Reflections from Church House
Dr Bev Botting (Head of Research and Statistics, Church of England)

3.30-3.45
Break

3.45-4.15
The BHA's 2011 Census Campaign: An Anthropological Observation
Dr Matthew Engelke (London School of Economics)

4.15-4.45
Less Christian, More Secular, and More Multi-faith? The Politics of the Census and Religious Statistics
Professor Paul Weller (University of Derby; Member, Office for National Statistics Academic Advisory Board for 2011 Census questions on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion)

4.45-5
Closing remarks