

Public Lecture: 'Socialising Influences on Young People's Attitudes to Religion and Religious Diversity: Findings from a Nation-Wide Project in the UK'

Speaker

Dr Elisabeth Arweck
University of Warwick



Date and Time

Monday, 09 February 2015
11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Venue

Bankstown Campus
Building 23, Room G.40

RSVP

By Monday, 02 February 2015 (for catering purposes)
to SSAP-Travel@uws.edu.au

This is an open and free event.

Abstract

The presentation will draw on data from a three-year project (2009–2012) in the Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit (WRERU) at the University of Warwick, which explored the attitudes of 13–16 year-old pupils across the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland) towards religious diversity. The project was funded by the Religion and Society Programme of two major funding bodies in the UK: the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project took a mixed method approach, combining qualitative with quantitative data: focus group discussions with, and a survey by questionnaire of, young people in secondary schools.

The presentation will explore both sets of data in terms of the role which young people's families, especially parents and grandparents, play in shaping

their approaches to religion and religious diversity. Are there indications that religious socialisation is taking place in the home and that young people are linked into religious communities or does the data suggest that religious socialisation is weakening from generation to generation? Further, does the data show differences in religious socialisation (or its lack) between and within religions? And to what extent, if any, does locality matter?

These are questions which the proposed presentation will attempt to address in examining the discussions with the young people and their responses to the questionnaire.

Biography

Dr Elisabeth Arweck is a Senior Research Fellow in the Warwick Religions and Education Unit (WRERU) in the Centre for Education at the University of Warwick, UK. She completed her PhD at King's College London in 1999 on the subject of New Religious Movements.

Since joining WRERU in 2001, she has worked on a number of research projects focusing on young people, religion and (religious) education, which is also reflected in the range of her publications. Recent research has been concerned with young people growing up in mixed-faith families and young people's attitudes to religious diversity. A current research project explores the role of religion in times of austerity.

Elisabeth Arweck is a member of several national and international associations, both for the sociology of religion and religious education, and she is the editor of the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.