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Foreword

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Foreword

Social scientists have always been fascinated with communities. Since the events of September 11th 2001, there has been a new political, social and economic discourse on West-European Muslims. The papers that have been published in this volume are from a workshop that was held on 15th December 2011. The two international online refereed journals Global Built Environment Review (GBER – www.globalbuiltenvironmentreview.co.uk) and South Asian Cultural Studies (SACS – www.southasianculturalstudies.co.uk) along with three universities (Edge Hill University, The University of Huddersfield UK and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) organised this event at the University Campus Oldham. The aim of this workshop was to critically evaluate the changing attitudes regarding religious and ethnic understandings and conflicts within both the Muslim and the host communities in Western Europe and beyond. A number of papers were presented at this event. The audience was made up of academics, representatives from the statutory and voluntary sector and undergraduate and postgraduate students.

I would like to pay particular thanks to the University Campus Oldham, and the University of Huddersfield, which funded this workshop. Furthermore, thank you to the administrative staff and students that helped out at this event and Tasleem Shakur editor of GBER and SACS, Natalie Tebbett: Assistant Editor of SACS and Kevin Burke: Assistant Editor of GBER.

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