

# Research Plan at SOAS London and INALCO Paris TUFSS ITP 2009

*Ethnic and race relations and their impact on the integration  
of immigrants in host societies: The case of Maghreb/Muslim  
Immigrants in France*

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## Research in London

- ▶ Consult with professors on race and ethnicity on immigration issues and explore latest theoretical debates.
- ▶ Organize meetings with UK based social scientists specialized in ethnicity, race relations, identity and conflicts in other reputable UK institutions such as London School of Economics, University College of London, Oxford and Cambridge.
- ▶ Review of relevant references such as books, journal articles and other reference materials in possession of SOAS.
- ▶ Develop the final draft of the research proposal.
- ▶ Develop a plan of the field work.
- ▶ Develop the questionnaire for the field work.

## Research in Paris

- ▶ Consult more on the theoretical framework and methodology.
- ▶ Discuss with Professor at INALCO status of my research and the information and data collected from research in Japan and London.
- ▶ Agree on a research plan for the seven months in Paris.
- ▶ Conduct the field research.
- ▶ Initiate data analysis and research based on a selected theoretical framework and methodology.
- ▶ Finalize the findings of the field research.
- ▶ Publish the first article in an academic journal in consultation with my advisors in both TUFs and INALCO.

## Thesis Statement

- ▶ This research aims at investigating three main points: First, how identity and religion interact with ethnic and race relations which may result in conflicts and instabilities.
- ▶ Second, clarify which definition of race and ethnicity the French society is using and see its implication on the immigrants' integration.
- ▶ and third, to analyze basic notions within the French society and see their implications on the Arab/Muslim immigrant population in France. These notions are "Frenchness", "laïcité", citizenship, and "public space".

## The French Motto and the Dilemma



## Research Questions

- ▶ How does immigrant population (Arab/Muslims) perceive their identity and integration in the host society (France) in the aftermath of 9/11?
- ▶ How does the host society (France) perceive the identity and integration of its Muslim immigrant population in the aftermath of 9/11?
- ▶ How does the host society (France) perceive and define ethnicity and race?
- ▶ What does it mean to be French?
- ▶ How is the French society constructed?
- ▶ Integration or assimilation?

## Methodology

- ▶ The aim of this research is to understand people's perceptions.
- ▶ Abundant literature on Arab/Muslim migrants in France focuses on statistical data, legal and institutional aspects.
- ▶ Although these studies are very important, it is very important also to note that such studies alone are not enough to capture the situation and further understand its meanings.
- ▶ People's perceptions are very critical as reality, by its common sociological ascertain, is not important if something is real or not, it is the fact the people believe in its reality that makes it real in its consequences.
- ▶ This research is anti-fundamentalist as it assumes that reality is a social construction.

## Methodology continued

- ▶ This research will follow a most dominant combined approach in which both quantitative and qualitative methods will be used with qualitative as the dominant.
- ▶ Long Interviews followed by questioners to validate them will be conducted.
- ▶ A random sample of non immigrant French citizens from: A) a moderate size city of France where small numbers of different ethnic minorities reside; B) a big urban centre such as Paris will be selected.
- ▶ Moreover, a random sample of French Muslim immigrants will also be selected and interviewed.

## Thesis Outline

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Theoretical debate:
  - on race and ethnicity
  - on immigration: assimilation, multiculturalism
- ▶ Empirical Literature review on Muslim immigrants in France:
  - Push, pull factors
  - Integration or assimilation of Muslim immigrants in France with comparison to Muslim immigrants in UK.
- ▶ The French integration/assimilation model: a call for inclusion or exclusion/integration or segregation:
  - The method
  - Integration or assimilation
- ▶ Conclusion.

## References

- ▶ “*Social Integration: Approaches and Issues*”; UNRISD Briefing Paper No. 1 World Summit for Social Development; March 1994
- ▶ Allievi, Stefano, “*sociology of a Newcomer: Muslim Migration to Italy—religious visibility, cultural and political Reactions*” cited in AL-SHAHI, A., & LAWLESS, R. (2005). *Middle East and North African immigrants in Europe*. London [u.a.], Routledge.
- ▶ Jenkins, Richard, “*social anthropological models of inter-ethnic relations*”, cited in REX, J., & MASON, D. (1986). *Theories of race and ethnic relations*. Cambridge [Cambridgeshire], Cambridge University Press.
- ▶ Morris J. MacGregor, Jr. (1985), “*Integration of the Armed Forces 1940–1965*”, Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington D.C.
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**Thank you**

