

The Muslim Airport Story: How practices of surveillance unite old and young



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The Airport Story

Problem practices:

- ❖ Multiple stops and multiple agencies
- ❖ Pulled aside under gaze of fellow passengers
- ❖ Initial interaction – verbal and non-verbal
- ❖ Questioning that is disrespectful and lacks face validity
- ❖ Petty discourtesies (e.g., keeping loved one's waiting)
- ❖ Unable (unsafe) to question or complain



But I Am British...



I can understand where they were coming from, but this is my home. I consider Scotland my home. Why am I being stopped in my own house? When I get singled out, who am I now? I know who I am, but who does he feel I am? [m, 20s]

...And A Devout Muslim



Had she been dressed as a slapper let's say and she was clinging onto my arm, we would have just boogied on through like two lovebirds and then nothing would have happened. [m, 50s]

The Experience of Humiliation...

...disrespect and identity denial

...public degradation (reduced in eyes of others)

How do people perceive me being pulled over. Even when I'm walking around after I'm thinking who saw that? [m, 40s]



...powerlessness (unable to act on identity)

It's common play amongst Muslims, don't ever object to any questions because it's easy as you're objecting, you're locked up for sixty days. [m, 20s]

Does This Matter?



Withholding cooperation

...they treat you like a criminal, and then I reduce my contact with the police. [m, 50s]

Changing social interactions

...if something goes wrong, like on the airplane, I can't get involved. [m, 40s]

Understanding young men's rage

...he's not been in trouble and when you do that to people like him, you're just going to push them to the edge. [m, 40s]

Changing Perceptions of Authorities

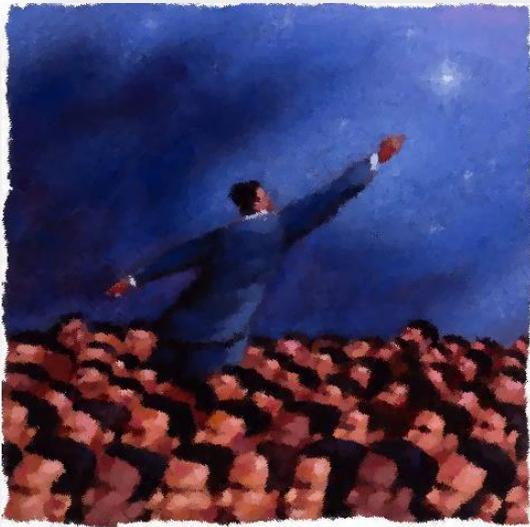
I don't sort of listen to Authority figures now because I respect them []. That sort of disappeared and it's just I think I respect you out of sort of like a formality, like I have to respect you. So I have to listen to what you say, but it doesn't mean I respect you on the inside. [m, 20s]

Questioning:

- ❖ Motives (morality & integrity)
- ❖ Competence



Shifts In Community Leadership



Where am I driving my community to? Am I actually wanting them to feel that the police are your saviours and there's no problem and you're not felt as the other and you should integrate fully?' [m 30]



What Can Be Done?

Airports are complex spaces: multiple agencies and multiple agendas (commercial and security)

Guiding principles for evaluation of policy & practice:

- ❖ Recognition of shared group membership through
 - ❖ Differentiation tactics
 - ❖ Facilitation of legitimate intentions
 - ❖ Procedural justice

- ❖ Communication and voice

Thank You

