

Event – Have Lunch With...

Tuesday 24th November – London College of Communication

Itinerary

13:00 Registration
13:05 Keynote starts
13:15 Q&A session begins
14:00 EVENT ENDS

Panellists



Aaqil Ahmedaaquil Ahmed, Commissioning Editor and Head of Religion & Ethics

Aaqil has been in post for over six years. He joined from Channel 4 where he was the Commissioning Editor for Religion and the Head of Multicultural Programming. His role involves being the overall Head of Religion for the BBC across TV, Radio, News and On Line.

Over the past six years he has commissioned projects as diverse as The Life of Muhammad, The Preston Passion, Sacred Rivers with Simon

Reeve and Quitting the EDL: When Tommy met Mo. He also led the in-house team's coverage of the Papal visit and the award winning 50th anniversary of Songs of Praise.

At Channel 4 he commissioned award-winning and genre-defining projects such as Inside The Mind of the Suicide Bomber, Saving Africa's Witch Children, Priest Idol and The Qur'an. Prior to joining Channel 4 in 2003, he spent over ten years in production at the BBC working on a rich mix of programming from Panorama to Everyman.

He is a Professor at The School of Media and Performing Arts, Middlesex University; a regular speaker and writer on the Media and Cultural Diversity and has contributed as a group member or chair to various educational and work related groups from formerly being a trustee of the Runnymede trust to being a steering group member of the religion and society programme.

Aaqil is currently a board member of Mosaic (mentoring organisation set up by Prince Charles), Chair of the Creative Diversity Network Commissioning Group, a patron of the Curriculum For Cohesion, a Trustee of the London Rugby League Foundation and the President of the BBC Black and Asian Workers Forum.

Lawrence Larley, Academic and Media Specialist

London College of Communication (LCC) Senior Lecturer Lawrence Larley has more than 15 years industry experience as a producer and creative strategist. He has worked for the BBC, ITV and Viacom International Networks. Lawrence recently directed a project between LCC and Jay-Z's Shawn Carter Foundation, which resulted in four students from LCC working at Roc Nation in New York on a cultural exchange programme.



Formerly a Contributing Editor for Touch Magazine, Lawrence has also written for Music Week, Now, The Daily Record, Time Out and The Guardian. Lawrence authored and co-produced Usher The Ultimate Entertainer (Radio documentary) for BBC Radio 1. Other notable credits include 'An Afternoon With Al Green' for the Arts Council, which he produced, and the global trending 'How Hip Hop Changed The World' for Channel 4, which he produced alongside Idris Elba.

Lawrence is the Creative Director for Question Media Group, (a boutique engagement agency). Question Media Group recently produced an award winning 12-part radio drama for Unicef around the education and prevention of HIV, Lawrence also executive produced 5 short films for Channel 4s Random Acts strand. He was recently named as 'One of the most influential black people under 40 in the UK'.

Rimsha Ahmed, London College of Communication Students and Islamic Society Committee Member University of the Arts London

Rimsha Ahmed, is a final year Illustration student at London College of Communications. She has helped organised events as part of the committee for the Islamic Society and ran joint events with the African and Caribbean Society. Last year, Rimsha created a debate event to examine Free Speech and Charlie Hebdo.



**Host - Bee Tajudeen
Education Officer at SUARTS & Content Developer at Shades Of Noir**

Bolanle (Bee) graduated in 2015 from London College Of Communication with a degree in Public Relations.

She is currently the 2015/2016 elected Education Officer for SUARTS and previously Vice President of London Communication. Bee has a strong understanding of policy, diversity and inclusion in higher education and the media.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

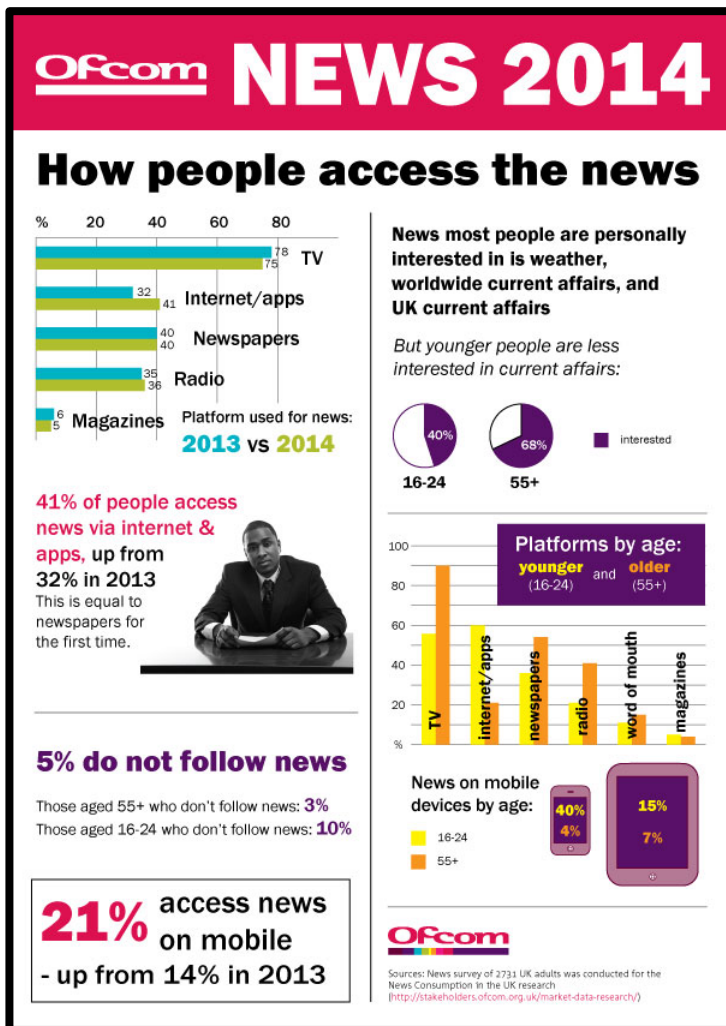
Race, Religion and Free Speech: The Power of Social & Broadcast Media

A Directors UK (2015) report published titled 'UK Television - Adjusting The Colour Balance. BAME Directors Working in UK Television Production' is the result of research into the current

employment rate of BAME directors across all programme genres in UK television. The research found that only 1.5% of programmes were made by a BAME director, while BAME directors make up just 3.5% of the directing community. Does the lack of BAME directors have an affect on the way stories are told in the media?

Trevor Phillips, former equality chief officer stated 'the media have become "terrified" of discussing race issues and multiculturalism has become a "racket". Social media was subsequently set ablaze with a visible division of opinions after his show, Things We Say About Race. This year has been a catalyst for issues

about race and religion. It is now time to reflect about Media's narrates news stories on race, religion and free speech by exploring the most debated, popular, even contentious hashstags this year.



#BritishValues

As Kieran Yates said: **"What the fuck are British Values?"**, mocking David Cameron and Teresa May's **Islamophobic rhetoric**. With the rise of **both Islamic and British Extremism**, is it time the media grasp the

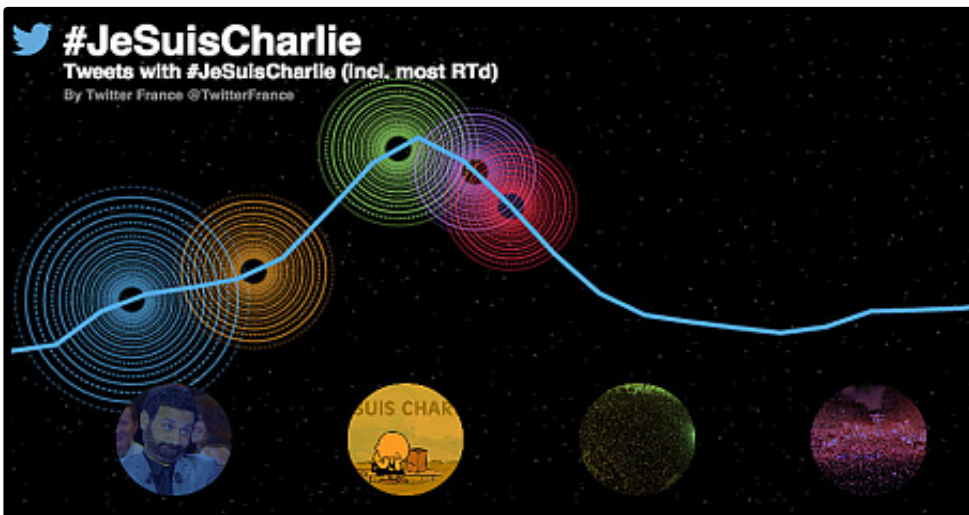


huge difference of non-white and white communities in Britain? Should the media also hold the government to account for not placing an emphasis on white British citizens who don't have so called 'British Values'?

#JeSuisCharlie

On the 7th January 2015, 12 French Journalists were unfortunately killed in a terror attack after cartoon images depicting Allah were used in popular satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. The media and many in the public saw this as a direct attack on free speech. In the hours that followed the hashtag, Je Suis

Charlie, was trending and is now one of the most popular hashtags in twitter history. Charlie Hebdo's satirical take on race and religious issues continue to be a talking point about free speech censorship and inciting racial hatred.



This graph posted by @twitterfrance showing the popularity of the hashtag over time with a peak at 9:30 on the morning of January 7th.

#BlackLivesMatter



In the same week, as the aforementioned terror attack, over 2000 Nigerians were killed in a terrorist attack in, Baga, Nigeria.

However the Western media was widely

criticised, social media commentators said they had failed in reporting the gravity of the incident.



Leaving some to ask, if it was racism that valued 2000 Nigerian lives less than 19 Charlie Hebdo victims?

Akinola Davis Junior, **inspired by #blacklivesmatter activism** happening in America, decided to organise **a public rally #nigerianlivesmatter**. By promoting the rally on Facebook, the event amassed over 4000

Facebook users to click

attending. The focus of the

rally was to put Nigerian lives



into public consciousness, he stated “ **The solidarity the world showed for Charlie Hebdo massacre was**

not matched by the news of decimation of Baga in Northern Nigeria, where 2000 people were violently

murdered by the tyrants Boko Haram.” It was evident to see, the power of social media, that helped

“It was symbolic to see an **array of world leaders coming together to condemn violence and defend free speech**. We just wish that something on any scale could have been done for **the 2,000 people in Baga; the 17 who lost their lives** to a child suicide bomber; the **200 girls who went missing** and are yet to be recovered; the **5,000 refugees** in a neighbouring town; the **7,000-10,000 who fled to the border, and ultimately the 800,000 people now displaced from the terror** caused by the violence from the republics of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. **It's important that people also show solidarity with the loss of lives from countries and communities farther away.**”

Okay Africa. Akinola Davis Jrn

Junior put Black lives onto the public agenda. He was asked to speak about the impact of terrorism in the African continent in The House of Lords and parliament resulting in further press coverage around Black and Nigerian Lives.

Bahar Mustafa, Equality and Diversity officer, at Goldsmiths Student Union, tweeted, #killallwhitemen a term she argues is widely used in queer and lesbians circles because of the complex relationship between white men, power and privilege. In order to create a safe space, Bahar organised a BME women's only event, asking for no white people or men to attend.



She faced harsh public scrutiny, a petition to remove her from her student union post and was heavily berated in the media. Months later, she was summoned to appear in court to answer charges of: sending a threatening message and sending a menacing or offensive message via a public network. Feminist and student activist groups all around the country promptly decided to post statuses with

In May 2015, Goldsmith University's 'Diversity Officer', Bahar Mustafa, responded thus to accusations of racism following her use of the Twitter hashtag #KillAllWhiteMen:

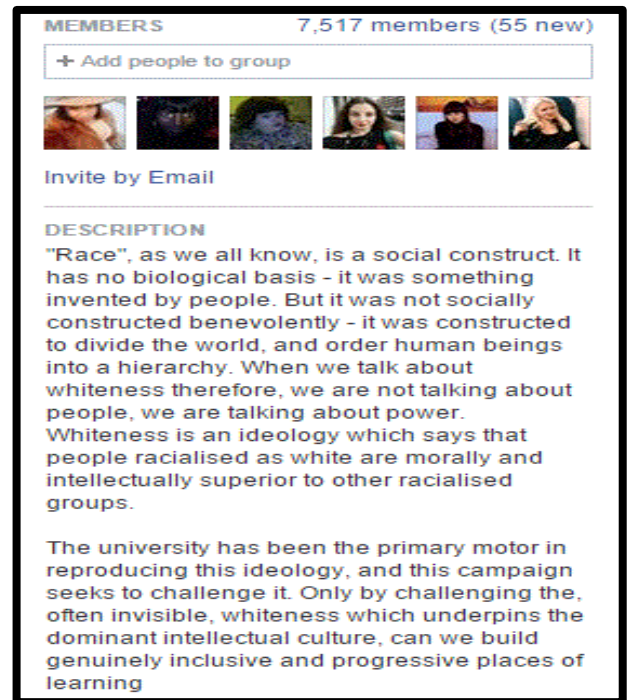
"It's a way of reclaiming the power from the trauma many of us experience as queers, women, people of colour..."

I, an ethnic minority woman, cannot be racist or sexist... Women of colour and minority genders cannot be racist or sexist, since we do not stand to benefit... Resistance to our resistance is futile."

Kill all white men? Resistance to our resistance is futile? Non-white women can't be racist? Not much of an apology, is it?

#IstandwithBaharMustafa and called out the hypocrisy of the CPS who fail to prosecute men who troll women with rape and murder messages on a day to day basis. The case was finally dropped, but does society stand with Bahar Mustafa?

The Why Is My Curriculum White campaign, has over 7,500 people in the Facebook group. The group is echoing genuine concerns about academia in the UK not representing all nationalities who have contributed in society. University officers up and down the UK are challenging their institutions to adopt a more inclusive curriculum. In the UK, the white, heteronormative curriculum begins in primary school. The UK also has one of the highest numbers of international students. The hetero-normative glaze on the curriculum is extremely worrying as the Dorling's research predicts that by 2020 a number of UK cities will be 'super diverse'. How will a white curriculum explore the experiences of those who do not define as white.



To Consider:

1. Does the broadcast media highlight fears and concerns of immigrant and migrant minorities living in the UK?
2. How is social media shaping the news with regards to those that could be described as on the margins in society?
3. Does social media have a tendency of creating echo chambers? Empowering for those within the chambers but not creating allies outside of the movement?
4. It is important to recognise the cultural currency that the broadcast media presents, how does this impact to the societal psyche? What could the broadcast teams do to even this out?
5. Where and who has the dominate voices in both social media and broadcast media and is there an agenda?