

# Swinging within Cultures: Hybrid Identities and negotiating belonging



**DR NADA IBRAHIM**





Cultural confusion



Identity crises



language



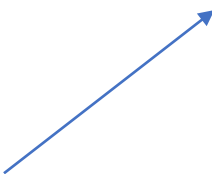
mother culture



dominant culture



notions of self



stereotypes



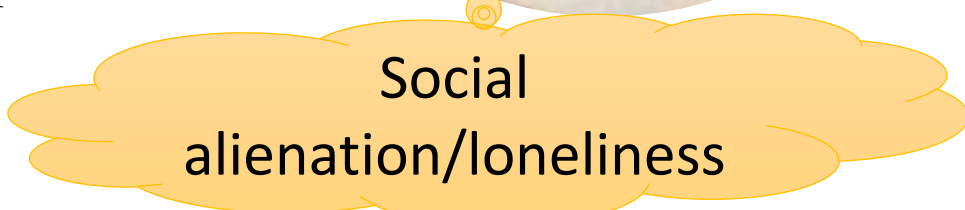
Racism/  
discrimination



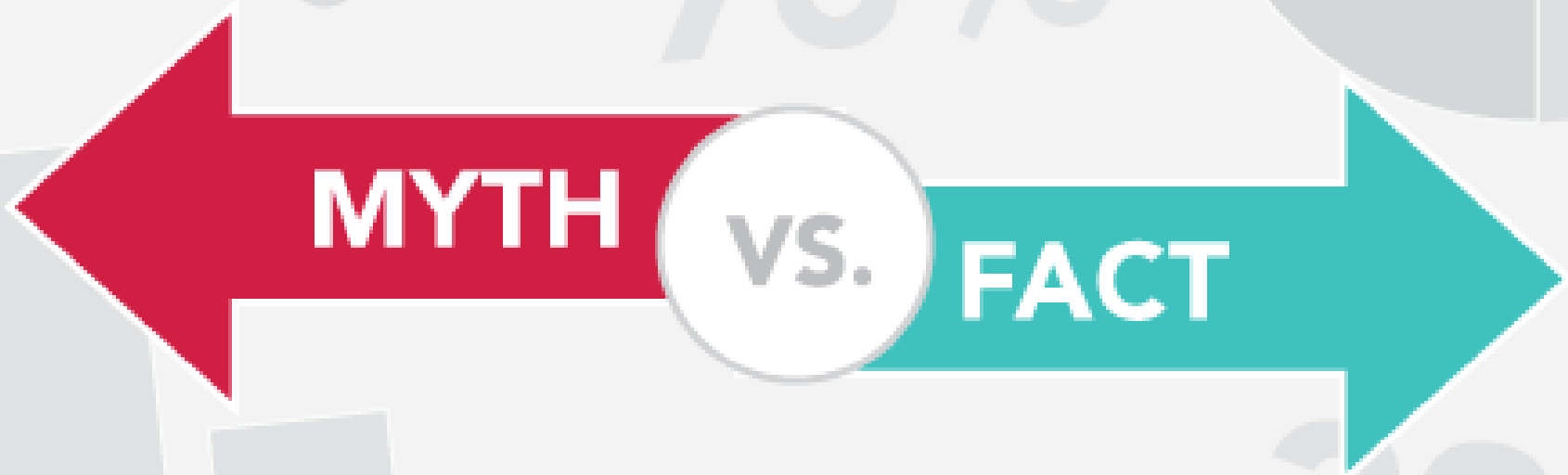
socio-political  
climate



unequal  
opportunities



Social  
alienation/loneliness



## Consequences

- Shape **understanding** of an issue
- Victim **blaming**, Perpetrator **excusing**, **Minimising** impacts

Heritage out,  
Assimilation in



Heritage in, With  
ISOLATION



Heritage in, Dominant in

who | am &  
How | am who | am

# INTEGRATION

PICK & CHOOSE FROM CULTURES

UNIQUELY BLEND DESIRABLE ELEMENTS

I AM HYBRID

DYNAMIC

FLEXIBLE

NOVEL



# Using hybrid identity



1

reconcile **heritage** & **mainstream** cultural connections

2

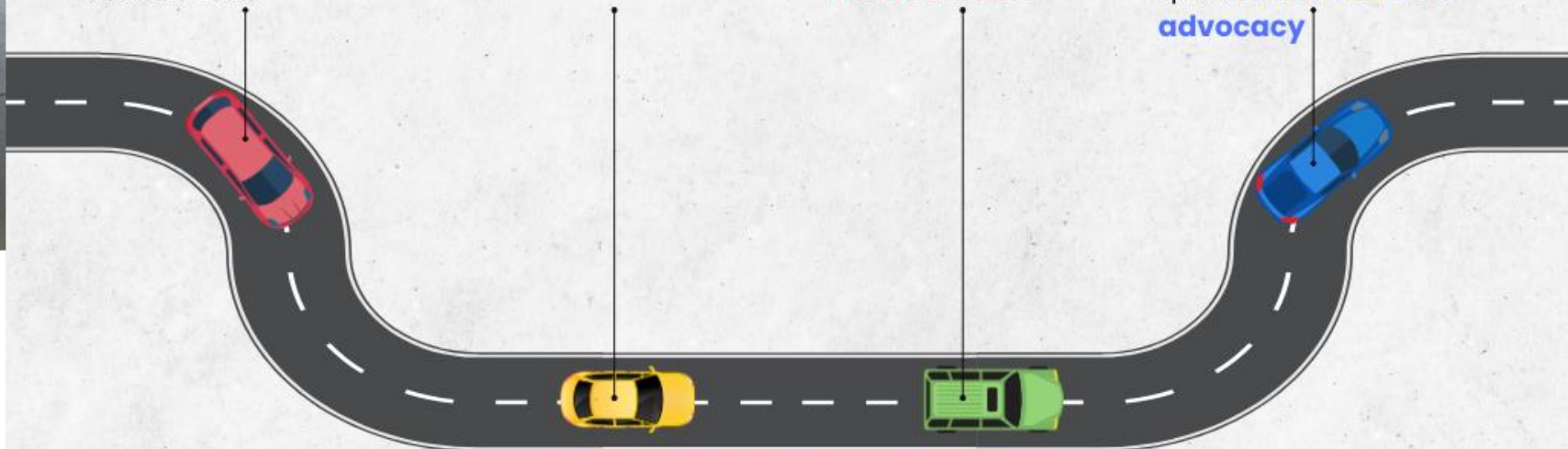
stories of **social integration** and **solidarity**

3

amplify **educational** and **professional achievements**

4

create ethical safe spaces in **mainstream media**, **family matters** narratives, quick **naturalisation advocacy**





Bridge  
cultural gaps

Stable  
identities

Promote  
acceptance

# References

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- Evolvi, G. (2017). Hybrid Muslim identities in digital space: The Italian blog *Yalla*. *Social Compass*, 64(2) 220–232.
- Paul O'Connor (2011) Everyday Hybridity and Hong Kong's Muslim Youth, *Visual Anthropology*, 24:1-2, 203-225, DOI: 10.1080/08949468.2011.528337
- Smeeta Mishra & Faegheh Shirazi (2010) Hybrid identities: American Muslim women speak, *Gender, Place & Culture*, 17:2, 191-209, DOI: 10.1080/09663691003600306
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[Nada.Ibrahim@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Nada.Ibrahim@flinders.edu.au)



**Ph: 08 8201 3527**

**Staff Homepage:**

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/nada.ibrahim>

# Contact Details