

THE BURKINI DEBATE

Exploring Issues Of Identity, Gender And Politics



Ruth Ann Lake
Nice, France



SIETARITALIA

WHAT IS THE BURKINI POLEMIC?

The burkini was created by a Lebanese-born Australian woman.

The goal of the burkini is to marry swimwear with Islamic values.



The fabric: 100 percent polyester, is lightweight, breathable, resistant to chlorine, quick-drying — and provides UV protection.

AUGUST 23, 2016, NICE, FRANCE



Armed Police approach woman resting on the beach in a burkini...



Police obliged the woman to remove blue cover up



FRENCH PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTS

naked breasts represent France better than a headscarf



Manuel Valls gave a rousing speech in which he hailed the bare breasts of Marianne, a national symbol of the French Republic.....



“Marianne has naked breasts because she is feeding the people! She is not veiled, because she is free! That is the republic!”



August 26, 2016

France's highest administrative court, the Council of State, ruled against a decision by the mayor of the resort town of Villeneuve-Loubet to ban the burkini .

“clearly it was discriminatory against Muslim women, given that neither Catholic nuns in their habits nor women of European origin with sensitive skin – were forced to strip at the beach”.

*Sanam Naraghi Anderlini,
The Guardian,
August 2016*

“In Riyadh and the Riviera, women have to fight for the right to be themselves”



Is covering up really the issue....??



Women's Surf suits



Anti jellyfish stinger suits



Scuba diver suits

IS THE FACE COVERING THE ISSUE?



Is there something to hide?....



IN CHINA...



*At a beach outside
Qingdao, China, it's all
about covering up, to
protect against jelly fish
and against the sun....*

Wired Magazine

Meanwhile in Brighton, U.K.....



OR IS IT THE FACT THAT THE ***COVERING IS CONNECTED
WITH A RELIGIOUS BELIEF?***

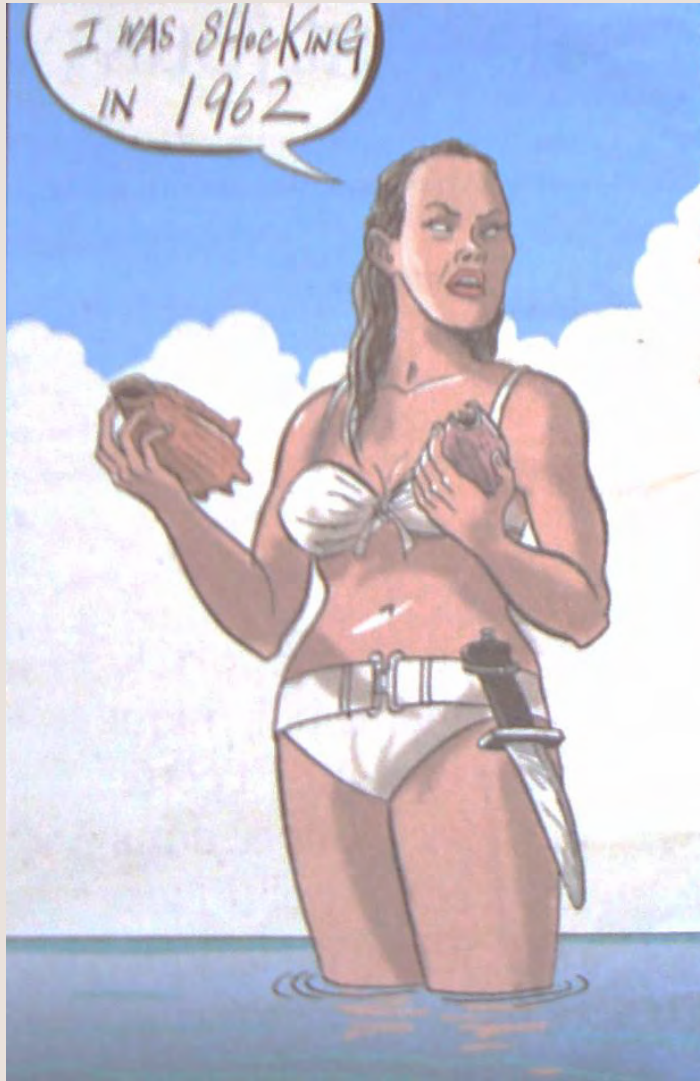


ASPECTS OF THE BURKINI POLEMIC IN CONTEXT FOR INTERCULTURALISTS



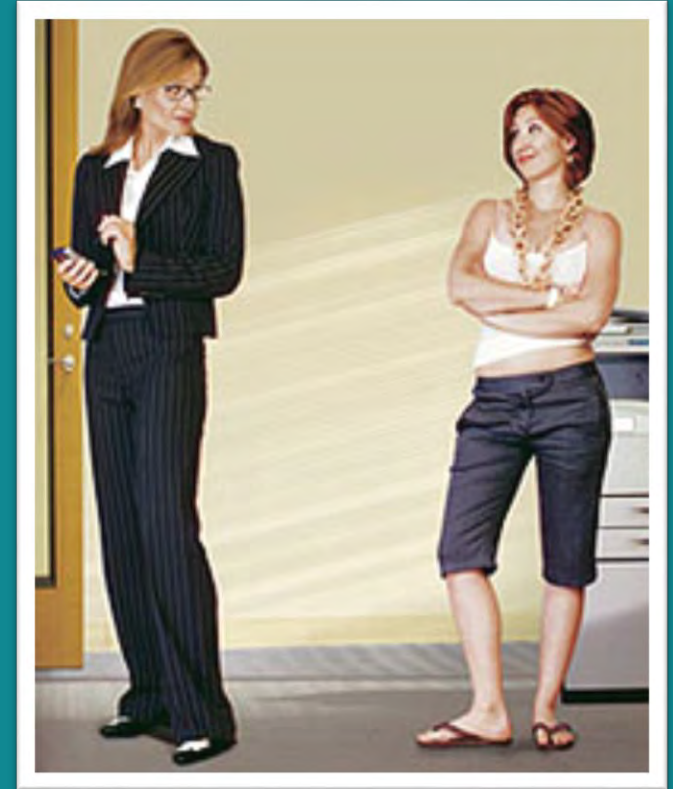
- Identity politics plays a big role
- What is “appropriate dress” for women in different cultures and within different contexts and environments?
- Is the burkini a “provocation”, a “visible symbol of the subjugation of women” or simply an expression of “free speech”?
- How can Interculturalists deal with these issues in education and training?

WHAT IS SHOCKING AND WHAT IS ADMISSABLE?



EXPECTATIONS VIOLATIONS THEORY AND WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE?

- Expectancies are primarily based upon social norms *
- Violations of expectancies cause arousal or anger and compel the recipient to initiate a series of cognitive appraisals of the violation**
- When individuals wear clothing that is deemed inappropriate for a given situation, or when an individual's clothing does not seem to match their perceived status or position in the community, this can constitute an expectancy violation.*** This often leads to Judgement.



* Judee Burgoon, research on proxemics, 1970s

** Floyd, K, Interpreting and Evaluating Expectancy Violations Research, Human Communication Research, 1999

*** Dunbar, Noah, "Clothing and Teacher Credibility, ISRN Education, 2012

SYMBOLS OF OUR IDENTITY...



How can Interculturalists deal with these issues in Education and Training?



- Information Campaigns
- Working to Change Perceptions : *Reframing*
- Creating Person to Person Contact

Information Campaigns:
Covering up is NOT at odds with Feminism....

Women's March for equal rights



*Muslim feminists reclaim the hijab
to fight the patriarchy*

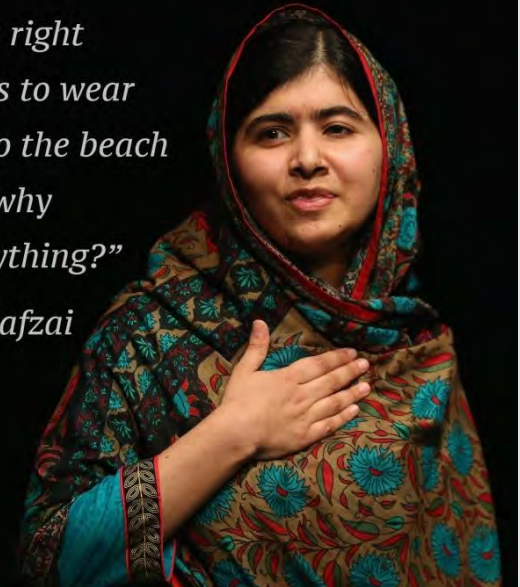
Standing up for women's rights is Not connected
to what people wear on the beach....



*"I believe it's a woman's right
to decide what she wants to wear
and if a woman can go to the beach
and wear nothing, then why
can't she also wear everything?"*

- Malala Yousafzai

sheknows



COUNTERING PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO IMMIGRATION WITH INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

January 9, 2017, CEPR The Centre for Economic Policy Research, Japan study

Exposure to fact based information in Japan was found to increase an individual's likelihood of supporting immigration by between 43% and 72%. This suggests that information campaigns are a very promising avenue for policymakers aiming to redress hostility to immigration.



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CHANGING PERCEPTIONS, REFRAMING

In countries like the U.S., the UK, Greece, Italy and others, the proportion of people who agreed that there are too many immigrants in their countries fell sharply when people were told how many foreigners actually reside there.

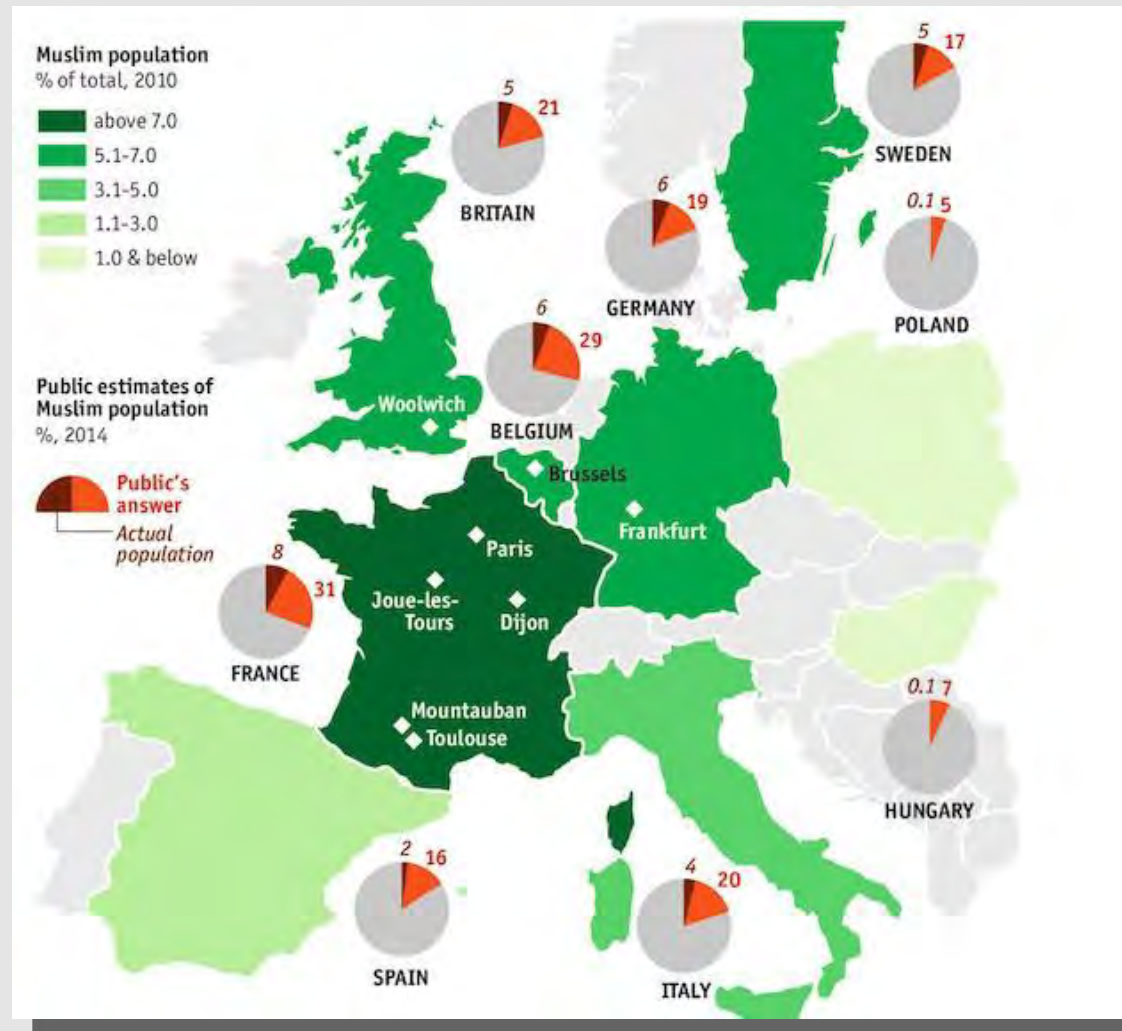


Many Europeans are not aware that the British diaspora, some 5 million people, is the eighth largest in the world.

Source : International Organization for Migration

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS, PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Actual and Perceived Numbers of Muslims in Western Europe



What are some effective approaches to bridging the gaps...???

An example from Ireland, In Bill Clinton's eulogy to Martin McGuinness he stated that he had managed to... “expand the definition of ‘us’, and shrink the definition of ‘them’”.



It's not a zero sum game.... Economists point out the benefits of immigrants to Europe.. **Lets focus on the FACTS:**

- 1) Demographics, Germany, Italy, Greece all countries with low fertility rates and declining population, who will pay for our pensions?
- 2) Growth in the immigrant population has increased pressure on public services, this is more than compensated by increased tax revenues
- 3) Immigrants constitute important consumer groups in some countries
- 4) Autogrill: Our immigrant workers are a vital source of enrichment in Italy
- 5) A significant number of health care workers, doctors, nurses and caretakers in Europe are immigrants in their European country of residence, filling a critical shortage

1. European Commision: Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies
2. UK, Huffington Post
3. European Commision: Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies
4. Caritas e Migrantes, Rapporto Immigrazione 2014
5. OECD Study on Foreign Born health care professionals

PERSON TO PERSON CONTACT, AN EXAMPLE FROM CANADA



"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition
Today, clouds and sunshine, a few showers and thunderstorms, high 80. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 68. Tomorrow, sunshine, high 82. Weather map appears on Page B18.

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Mouhamad and Wissam Ahmed with their newborn daughter, Julia, and Liz Stark, one of the family's sponsors in Canada.

Refugees Hear a Foreign Word: Welcome

How Canadians Adopt Syrian Families With Nowhere Else to Go

By JODI KANTOR
and CATYRN KINHORN

TORONTO — One frigid day in February, Kerry McLong drove to an airport hotel here to pick up a family of Syrian refugees. She was cautious by nature, with a job poring over insurance data, but she had never even spoken to the people who were about to move into her basement.

"I don't know if they even know we exist," she said.

At the hotel, Abdullah Mohammad's room phone rang, and an interpreter told him to go downstairs. His children's only belongings were in pink plastic bags, and the family's docu-

ments lay in a white paper bag printed with a Canadian flag. His sponsors had come, he was told. He had no idea what that meant.

Across Canada, ordinary citizens, distressed by news reports of drowning children and the shunning of desperate migrants, are intervening in one of the world's most pressing problems. Their country allows them a rare power and responsibility: They can band together in small groups and personally rescue — essentially adopt — a refugee family. In Toronto alone, hockey moms, dog-walking friends, book club members, poker buddies and lawyers have formed circles to take in Syrian families. The Canadian government

says sponsors officially number in the thousands, but the groups have many more extended members.

When Ms. McLong walked into the hotel lobby to meet Mr. Mohammad and his wife, Eman, she had a letter to explain how sponsorship worked: For one year, Ms. McLong and her group would provide financial and practical support, from subsidizing food and rent to supplying clothes to helping them learn English and find work. She and her partners had already raised more than 40,000 Canadian dollars (about \$30,700), selected an apartment, talked to the local school and

says sponsors officially number in the thousands, but the groups have many more extended members.

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MEMO FROM LONDON

Charm Fails For a Leader In Need of It

A Political Prankster Loses His Biggest Bet

By SARAH LYALL

LONDON — One day in 2004, Boris Johnson was interrupted on his morning jog by a pack of tabloid reporters massed outside his house in North London. They asked about rumors that Mr. Johnson, then editor of The Spectator magazine and a member of Parliament, had once had an extramarital affair, gotten his lover pregnant and paid for her abortion.

The chronically disheveled Mr. Johnson, wearing voluminous shorts and a bandanna decorated with skulls and crossbones, responded with his usual cocktail of charm, bluster and obfuscation. Having already dismissed the story as "a completely untrue and ludicrous conjecture," and "an inverted pyramid of piffle," he cheerily advised the reporters to "go for a run, get some exercise and have a beautiful day."

He was lying. The reports were correct, and he was fired from his parliamentary job as the Conservative Party arts spokesman. But it didn't seem to bother him too much. Mr. Johnson has always had a knack for recasting disaster as farce, and he devoted his weekly newspaper columns to the virtues of being fired.

"Nothing excites compassion, in friend and foe alike," he wrote, "as much as the sight of you ker-splonked on the Tarmac with your propeller buried six feet under."

Mr. Johnson, 52, has had a singularly charmed life, always leaning forward on a Teflon cloud of charm and guile even as people

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EX-MAYOR UPENDS RACE TO SUCCEED BRITISH PREMIER

PRESUMED FAVORITE OUT

Shake-Up Suggests Next Party Chief Will Not Hinder 'Brexite'

By STEVEN ERLANGER
and STEPHEN CASTLE

LONDON — In a day of intrigue and betrayal, predictions about the next prime minister of Britain were overturned on Thursday as the presumed favorite, Boris Johnson, said he would not run after his ally in the Brexit campaign, Michael Gove, suddenly announced his candidacy.

Mr. Gove had once ruled himself out for the job. His U-turn Thursday wrecked Mr. Johnson's prospects and enhanced those of Theresa May, the home secretary, who had backed the Remain campaign but with little enthusiasm.

With Mr. Johnson out, the prospect of a race between Ms. May, 59, and Mr. Gove, 48, the justice secretary, also indicated that the next leader would not seek to keep Britain in the duty-free single market of the European Union if the price was no restriction on immigration from the bloc.

The sense that Mr. Johnson, the former London mayor, might try to reach a softer deal with Brussels, and his unwillingness to promise key jobs to Mr. Gove and other leaders of the effort to exit the European Union, helped doom his candidacy, legislators said.

Mr. Gove said Thursday that he

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Boris Johnson said he won't try to become prime minister.

JUNE IS IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH, USA

**IMMIGRANT
HERITAGE
MONTH**



Join the Movement!
[#IAmAnImmigrant](#)



*Hsin-Fen and Luis
Carlos, Tucson Arizona
Immigrants from Taiwan
and Mexico*



*Jeff and Colby, Lincoln
Nebraska, immigrants
from Germany and
U.K.*



*Illhan and Lulete,
Minneapolis Minnesota,
immigrants from Somalia*

*Illhan: “An elderly woman the other day said to me;
“I fight silently so that you are able to have a voice.”*

FACEBOOK , MEET A MUSLIM, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.



<https://www.facebook.com/MeetAMuslimCommunity/>



“Join us and meet your fellow community member an ordinary Muslim, talk to them. This is the best way to get to know them and get answers to any of your questions about their faith, practices, ISIS, treatment of women, terrorism, Sharia law, etc. They will be very Open and share their thoughts from their own personal experience and perspective. “

AS SIETARIANS, WHAT INFORMATION, REFRAMING AND
PERSON TO PERSON INITIATIVES CAN YOU TAKE PART IN?
WHAT ARE OUR CHALLENGES?



- As Interculturalist we have a lot of work to be done!!
- How can more research be funded, carried out and disseminated?
- How can we share information, be fact checkers and enable people to see the situation as it is and not in an exaggerated context?
- How can we utilize reframing techniques to put things into perspective?
- How can we carry forward with our *“business of creating intercultural awareness”*?

As Sietarians.....

HOW CAN WE CREATE PEOPLE TO PEOPLE BRIDGES?

