

## **Chaplaincy and chaplaincy studies as the context for the development and contribution of Muslim Chaplaincy**

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### *Abstract*

This lecture will explore the development of chaplaincy and chaplaincy studies, as the wider context for the development of Muslim Chaplaincy, and its contribution to practice and research.

I will argue that in different geographical settings, to different degrees, chaplaincy has undergone a pluralisation, in regard to religion and belief, that has been accompanied by a wider diversification. Over time this has involved significant, but also contested, changes in chaplaincy identity and practice, to accommodate, respond to and enable this pluralisation. I will also explore how the professionalisation of chaplaincy has been interwoven with its pluralisation.

I will suggest that chaplaincy studies, as a field, has emerged within this changing context. Key features of the field have been, and continue to be: mapping the diversification, and changing identity and framing of chaplaincy; researching changing practice(s), including contested areas; and contributing to practice through professional development in organisational settings and university programmes. I will consider how the development of chaplaincy studies has also represented a professionalisation – of the study of chaplaincy. Earlier models of critical reflection on chaplaincy practice (including theological reflection) have been joined by models of social scientific research. These two strands have together contributed to chaplaincy studies having academic, professional and public credibility.

The lecture will conclude with a case study focusing on the development and study of chaplaincy in prisons in the European context. The case study will offer a particular example of the involvement and contribution of Muslim chaplaincy in/to chaplaincy and chaplaincy studies.

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<sup>1</sup> Revd Dr Andrew Todd is Director of the Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, and member of the European Research Institute for Chaplains in Healthcare. Prior to this he established the Cardiff University Centre for Chaplaincy Studies. He is a leading international authority in the field of chaplaincy studies, co-editing *A Handbook of Chaplaincy Studies* (Ashgate, 2015), and authoring numerous peer-reviewed international journal articles. Andrew was a member of the Steering Group for the research project that underpinned *Understanding Muslim Chaplaincy* (Gilliat-Ray, Ali, Pattison, Ashgate, 2013). Issues of religious diversity have been a sustained theme in his chaplaincy studies research, as evident in his chapter 'The Public Reconstruction of Religion and Belief in UK Prisons: Negotiating Diversity, Rights and Constraints,' in ed. Julia Martínez-Ariño and Anne-Laure Zwilling, *Religion and Prison: An overview of contemporary Europe* (Springer): 401-420, 2020.