Trojan Horse Coming to a School Near You: Race, Religion and Securitization

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For some, the ‘Trojan Horse’ saga associated with the Birmingham, London and Bradford schools represents a worrying trend of creeping ‘Islamification’ of publicly funded schools. For others, the story signifies the on-going racial patholigisation of Britain’s Muslim communities. One thing is for certain, the current debate marks a significant moment in the nature and function of the neo-liberal state as it re-frames race relation policy in Britain in light of the securitization agenda. This paper aims to critically assess the Trojan Hose controversy in light of the Ofsted inspection reports and also the independent reviews published by Birmingham city council (Kershaw 2014) and the DoE (Clarke 2014). This paper intends to argue that this controversy marks a significant milestone in the embedding of the securitization agenda in Britain’s inner city schools through the medium of the PREVENT agenda. It further argues that one of the best ways of understanding the Trojan Horse saga is by locating it within a broader sociological and historical context of the functioning of the racial state (CCCS 1982; Golberg 2002)