‘I bring my hijab, my colour and my culture into the classroom’: Making the Hidden Curriculum Visible

Khadija Mohammed

This workshop draws on qualitative research conducted with black and minority ethnic (BME) teachers from the West of Scotland. It examines the concept of the hidden curriculum and explores how BME teachers use their cultural, religious and linguistic identities in the classroom to benefit the children they teach. This workshop will include vignettes to prompt discussions on how the teachers’ diverse identities provoke and disrupt the implicit values, attitudes and beliefs children learn through the everyday experiences of attending school. By identifying the enablers and barriers to BME teachers utilising these skills, the research findings inform our understanding of teachers working in culturally diverse classrooms. If we are serious about equality and social justice, there are underpinning issues about the identities of BME teachers that require further exploration.

Khadija Mohammed - Co-founder and Chair of the Scottish Association of Minority Ethnic Educators (SAMEE).

Khadija is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education and Social Sciences at the University of the West of Scotland. She is Programme Leader for Childhood Studies and also a Teacher Educator. Her PhD contributes to discussions on Race Equality by exploring the lived experiences of BME teachers in Scotland with a focus on celebrating their cultural, linguistic and religious identities. Khadija also designs and delivers workshops on anti-racist education supporting educators to interrogate their own racialized, gendered and class-based positioning. These workshops encourage participants to examine how Whiteness functions and the impact of this on their day to day interactions with young people. Khadija is co-convener of the EIS Anti-Racist subcommittee, and was the recipient of the Scottish Trade Union Congress Equality Award in 2019. Khadija is also an elected member of the General Teaching Council for Scotland, representing teachers and lecturers based in Scottish universities providing courses of Initial Teacher Education.