



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

THE Awards 2019 – Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Institution/Nominee	Birmingham City University
Title	Muslim soldiers fighting in World War One
Key personnel	Dr Islam Issa
Submission	<p>Dr Islam Issa, Senior Lecturer in English Literature at Birmingham City University, has increased knowledge and understanding around the contribution of Muslim soldiers fighting for the allies during WWI, with his research revealing that at least twice as many had fought in the war (885,000) than had been previously reported (400,000).</p> <p>His work has increased cross-cultural and cross-faith awareness at local, national, and international levels. It has directly led to the UK Army changing its Diversity and Inclusion strategies, and has contributed to Greater Manchester Police's response to the 2017 Manchester bombing.</p> <p>The research has had major impact in raising public awareness of the contribution of Muslim soldiers, allowing a significant shift in perceptions of often-marginalised communities, and those who were largely overlooked during centenary activities. Prior to the research only 2% of the British public was aware of the extent of the Muslim contribution to the war.</p>