



Young People's Attitudes to Religious Diversity

Tania ap Siôn presented an overview of the quantitative strand of the Young People's Attitudes toward Religious Diversity project at the International Conference on The Abrahamic Religions and Interreligious Relations at University of Navarra, Spain in March 2016.

The quantitative strand of the Young People's Attitudes towards Religious Diversity Project, conducted by the Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit, set out to capture data from over 2,000 students living in each of the four nations of the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) and from London as a special case. While participation was voluntary, all students attending participating schools were invited to take part. Anonymity and confidentiality were assured. In total, nearly 12,000 students submitted thoroughly completed questionnaires. The project concentrated on schools within the state-maintained sector, but sought to obtain roughly equal numbers of students within each of the five areas attending schools with a religious character and without a religious foundation.

The aim of the presentation at the conference was to collate, present and assess the findings from this survey. Highlights from the research include:

- students who are themselves religiously motivated hold more positive attitudes towards religious diversity;
- there is no evidence that schools with a religious character produce students who are less accepting of people from other religious faiths;
- religious education does work in the sense of leading to attitudes that promote community cohesion, lessen religious conflict, and promote the common good.

The research paper has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Beliefs and Values*.