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**Abstract:**

**Coping with Muslim stereotyping post 9/11: ethnic minority engineers in Germany**

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The German engineering sector is widely regarded as an important pillar of economic stability which greatly contributes to their success as an exporting nation. As a profession, German people rate engineering very highly (Koppel 2013) and it is a relatively well paid profession, especially for graduate entrants (Bispinck 2013). Nonetheless, there are concerns that there are labour shortages in some areas of engineering (VDI: Verein Deutscher Ingenieure 2010) raising concerns regarding current and future skills shortages. This would seem to allow for seamless career paths in engineering. However, for those from Turkish and North African backgrounds and who are associated with the Muslim faith, this is not always the case.

This paper draws upon interviews with twenty four German engineers, seventeen of whom were from a Turkish or North African background. The data indicates that being associated with the Muslim faith creates challenges for a seamless career path. However, the participants identified various coping strategies that have helped them to navigate their routes into, through and sometimes out of the engineering profession.

At a time of negative stereotyping and heightened prejudice across the World towards workers associated with the Muslim faith, this collaborative research provides an insight into the career challenges faced by highly educated and skilled workers when they are viewed as being from a Turkish or North African background, particularly when this is intersected with their actual or perceived religious beliefs.

References:

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