I. DISCRIMINATION - not just by the color of skin but also based on cultural differences

"The true mark of a civilized society is the respect it pays to minorities and to strangers," - the Prince of Wales

II. MORMONS

a. What to study about them?
   1. impact of modernization and secularization upon this subculture
   2. mormon involvement in politics
   3. mormon relationships with ethnic groups
   4. sex roles and the position of women
   5. the growth of Mormonism

b. Why? Why do we care - what good can come from it?

   Fear of the other. Knowledge will reduce fear

c. Academics have been hesitant to study religion -

   Why?
   1. unscientific topic,
   2. not a market for it; in academic journals or the religion itself
   3. those who might be the most interested in the religion might have biases - really love it or really hate it.
   4. Not easy to get access subcultures - academics who are already members may not want to alienate their friends and family.

d. Trends in Mormon scholarship

   1. moving away from treating the belief system as pathological
   2. movement toward a scientific method
   3. Creation of institutes and journals (1970s)
   4. Prior Focus: ecological; economic; family/fertility
   5. New Focus: Modernization, Secularization and Accommodation; Public Image; Politics; Migration/conversion; Race relations; sex roles
e. Conclusion - Neglected areas:
1. social stratification and the distribution of power
2. parent-child relationships
3. proselytizing
4. conversion
5. exportation of Mormonism
6. defection
7. secularization process:
   a. singleness and divorce
   b. erosion of patriarchy
   c. delinquency and deviance

III. MUSLIMS

a. The Muslim Question: West versus Islam

b. How did these fears come about?
   1. international political disputes
   2. rise of politico-religious Islamic groups
   3. terrorism; 9/11

c. Imagery of Islam

Israeli-Palestinian conflict; Libya (promoting terrorism, etc.); gulf war; hijab (headscarf); now 9/11 - Hamas

Danish Academic - P.8 Images of Muslim Men

Newspaper Cartoons

d. Muslim Identity

1. tend to identify first as Muslim then by ethnicity or nationality. Is this so surprising?

2. Distinct religious identity growing out of social exclusion and political disenchantment. Is this so surprising?

4. depiction of Islam as a monolithic, global entity essentialist in nature and rigidly adhering to centuries old traditions

e. Research suggests otherwise:

1. Family Structures in Flux
2. Patriarchal family structure similar to those found across the world
3. As assimilation increases:
4. fewer children; an increase in one-parent families (increase divorce); increase in cohabitation; growth in single-person households.

f. Conclusion: Muslims are a becoming politically more assertive - is this a good thing or a bad thing?