O'Connor, Paul James, University of Queensland, Australia

The Ambiguity of *Halal* Food in Hong Kong: Young Muslims and Everyday Multiculturalism

The paper discusses how Hong Kong's multiethnic Muslim youth negotiate *halal* food whist living in a Chinese city where meat, and particularly pork, is central to local cuisine. The youth express a local disposition, participating in Hong Kong culture whilst having an ambivalent, or completely uninvolved, relationship with its food. These accounts demonstrate the lived everyday nature of multiculturalism, where the youth themselves, faced with circumstances for which there are no guidelines, have to negotiate what is culturally and morally appropriate individually. This paper argues that *halal* food, for young Muslims in Hong Kong, is one of the biggest everyday challenges they face. The Hong Kong setting provides a profound contract to accounts of Muslim youth in the West, which often focus on extremism, violence, and ideological discrimination. The paper concludes by addressing the values of an international perspective to cultural studies, particularly in addressing multiculturalism beyond the West.