



TASA The Australian
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**TITLE: Being and Becoming: Shifts in Identities and Practices among Migrant Muslim
Women in Australia**

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This paper examines shifts in the identities of migrant Muslim women in Australia as they live in multiple worlds as diasporic migrants in their new homeland. Their multiple cultural and religious worlds encompass experiences relating to their former homelands, including past experiences and memories, transnational communications and recent visits; and life in their adopted country, their interaction with other migrants and also with the wider Australian community. It is seen that terms sifting, negotiating and remaking embody the fluidity of the women's cultural, ethnic and religious identities and practices and are expressed in the duality of "being" and "becoming" (Hall, 2003). Concepts such as agency, positionality, adaptability and resistance are terms that describe these changes in identities. The paper examines changes to Muslim women's lives through the process of migration, in this case, to a western secular country. The study was conducted in two stages, initially from 2003 to 2005, and again in 2010, to provide a longitudinal representation of changes in the women's social, cultural, religious and ethnic relationships, identities and practices.