

ADI

ALFRED DEAKIN INSTITUTE FOR
CITIZENSHIP AND GLOBALISATION



ADDRESSING THE NEW LANDSCAPE OF TERRORISM

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2016

CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND BOOKLET

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY | MELBOURNE CITY CENTRE
LEVEL 3, 550 BOURKE STREET MELBOURNE 3000

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands upon which Deakin University stands and we pay our respect.

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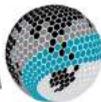
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STUDIES FORUM**



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CONFERENCE CONVENOR WELCOME



I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the speakers and delegates of the Addressing the New Landscape of Terrorism International Conference.

This conference brings together academics, policy makers and practitioners from Europe, the United States of America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Australia. Our goal is to exchange knowledge, provide critical advice on international approaches, practices and policies to preventing and minimising the risk of radicalisation and on countering violence extremism.

In 2015, we have witnessed a series of tragic events in Paris, Tunis and Sousse, Benghazi, Sana'a, Riyadh, Jalalabad, Baghdad, Suruc and Ankara, Cairo, Dhaka, Najran and Beirut. These events have sadly reminded us once again of the gravity and complexity of the challenge we are facing globally since the emergence of ISIS. The transnationalism and interconnectivity of this new type of hyper violent extremism calls for a more sophisticated understanding of the phenomenon that I believe cannot be achieved without empowering communities, and encouraging young people to be actors of positive social and political change.

The conference also seeks to bridge the gap between grassroots and front line practitioners, policy-makers and academics, while amplifying young peoples voices and

promoting their active participation as agents of change. Too often young people find themselves at the margins of a debate and of policies that concern and affect them directly.

I would like to thank our speakers and particularly our partners, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand, the Australian Intervention and Support Hub, the United States and French embassies for supporting this innovative conference. A special thanks goes to the conference administrator Lara Elmaoula and the volunteers.

At the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, we passionately believe that the countering of violent extremism can and must be done differently through a meaningful partnership with communities and rigorous academic knowledge and in the respect of democratic rules and pluralism, the rights of citizens and human dignity.

As Albert Einstein once said, "peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding". I hope the conference will show the way forward in this endeavour.

May peace be upon you,

Dr. Virginie Andre
On behalf of the Conference Convening Committee



CONFERENCE CONVENING COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DR. VIRGINIE ANDRE

**Conference Convenor,
Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and
Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)**



Dr. Virginie Andre is a research fellow with the Alfred Deakin Research Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, at Deakin University. Her expertise lies in the field of religious and political globalisation, and specifically in relation to Muslim political resistance and neojihadism. Virginie has expertise in terrorism and countering violent extremism, ethno-nationalism and conflict transformation, social media and youth radicalisation, and diasporic cultures in transition. She currently is working on a 4-year project to develop a broadcasting model to counter violent extremism, and a smaller comparative research project on youth and extremism in France and Australia. In the last ten years, Dr. Andre has researched diverse communities in Southeast Asia, Europe and Australia. She is also the editorial manager of the *Islam and Christian Muslim Relations Journal*; an associate researcher with the CNRS funded *Institut de Recherche sur l'Asie du Sud-Est Contemporaine* and a member of their scientific committee.

Virginie has coordinated Monash University's Counter Terrorism Masters Program, lectured in post-graduate university courses and briefed high level government and intelligence officials on issues relating to terrorism, social media and religion. She has also undertaken research projects for the European Union, the Victorian Department

of Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) of Thailand. Her latest publications are: "Apostasy and Blasphemy: A Clash of Two Freedoms" (with John L. Esposito, 2016), "Religious Citizenship and Islamophobia" (with Douglas Pratt, 2016), "Violent Jihad and Beheadings in the Land of Al Faton Darussalam" (2015), "A Fragmented Discourse in Religious Leadership in France: Muslim Youth Between Citizenship and Radicalization" (with Fethi Mansouri and Michiele Lobo, 2015) and "Merah and Breivik: A Reflection of European Identity Crisis" (with Shandon Harris-Hogan, 2015). 'The Janus Face of New Media Propaganda: Case of Patani Neojihadist YouTube Warfare and Its Islamophobic Effect on Cyber Actors' (2014), 'Mohamed Merah: From Petty Criminal To Neojihadist Terrorist' (with Shandon Harris-Hogan, 2013), "'Neojihadism' and YouTube: Patani Propaganda Dissemination and Radicalization"(2012). Virginie is fluent in French, Italian and Thai.

PROFESSOR SHAHRAM AKBARZADEH

**Conference Co-Convenor
ARC Future Fellow, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship
and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)**



Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh (PhD) is ARC Future Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University. He has an active research interest in the politics of the Middle East, and Islam in Australia. He has led two ARC projects on questions of Muslim integration. This research has resulted in a body of publications, including two research reports for DIAC, a number of refereed papers and two books: *Muslim Active Citizenship in the West* (Routledge: 2014 with M Peucker) and the *Routledge Handbook on Political Islam* (Routledge 2011). Professor Akbarzadeh is the Foundation Editor of *Islamic Studies Series* with Melbourne University Press.

PROFESSOR GREG BARTON

**Conference Co-Convenor
Chair in Global Islamic Politics, Alfred Deakin Institute for
Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)**



Greg is Research Professor in Global Islamic Politics in the Alfred Deakin Institute, Deakin University where he leads research on social inclusion and pluralism, Islam and civil society, democratisation, and countering violent extremism. He is the co-director of the Australian Intervention Support Hub (AISH), a pioneering collaboration between Deakin, ANU, AGD, AFP and DFAT working with agencies and community groups in developing responses to the challenge of violent extremism. He is Deputy UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific, is the co-editor of the journal *Islam and Christian Muslim Relations* and is a Senior Fellow with the UAE-based Hedayah Center in Abu Dhabi working on CVE. He is one of Australia's leading scholars of both modern Indonesia and of terrorism and CVE. From 2007 to 2015 he was the Herb Feith Professor at Monash University where he led research on radicalisation in the Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC).

For 28 years he has undertaken extensive research on Indonesia politics and society, especially of the role of Islam as both a constructive and a disruptive force. He has been active in the inter-faith dialogue initiatives and has a deep commitment to building understanding of Islam and Muslim society. The central axis of his research interests is the way in which religious thought, individual believers and religious communities respond to modernity and to the modern nation state. He also has a strong general interest in international relations, security studies and comparative international politics.

LARA ELMAOULA

**Conference Administrator, Research Assistant, Alfred
Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin
University (Australia)**



Lara Elmaoula is a research assistant at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University. She graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Masters of International Relations in 2013. Her current research on behalf of the NBTC involves examining the various social media platforms in Arabic to understand the impact of global neojihadist narratives (such as ISIS and AQ) on the conflict in southern Thailand in an attempt to identify online extremist narratives. Lara worked for Monash University's Global Terrorism Research Centre. She contributed to a report presented to the Department of Premier and Cabinet titled, "Perceptions of Multiculturalism and Security in Victoria: Rethinking Diaspora and Conflict."

She was instrumental in highlighting the role of sectarianism in fuelling conflict amongst the Lebanese and Syrian diaspora in Melbourne and Sydney following the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War. Lara's main areas of interest are Political Islam, Middle Eastern Politics and homegrown terrorism.

DEAKIN AND PARTNERS WELCOME

PROFESSOR JANE DEN HOLLANDER

Vice-Chancellor - Deakin University (Australia)



Professor Jane den Hollander has been Vice-Chancellor and President of Deakin University since July, 2010. At Deakin, Professor den Hollander introduced LIVE the future, an aspiration for Deakin to drive the digital frontier in higher education, harnessing the power, opportunity and reach of new and emerging technologies in all that it does. Professor den Hollander holds a BSc (Honours) First Class in Zoology and a Master of Science degree from Wits University, Johannesburg. Her PhD is from the University of Wales, Cardiff.

Professor den Hollander is a Board member of Universities Australia, Education Australia Limited and UniSuper Limited. She is Deputy Chair and Trustee of the Geelong Performing Arts Council, Chair of Skilling the Bay (an organisation focussed on ensuring the skills and jobs of the future in a transitional economy), member of the VERNet Board and a member of the Kardinia Park Steering Committee. Prior to taking up her appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, Professor den Hollander was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Curtin University in Western Australia.

PROFESSOR FETHI MANSOURI

Director - Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)



Professor Fethi Mansouri holds a Deakin University Alfred Deakin Research Chair in migration and intercultural studies and is the Director of the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation. In 2013 he was appointed Chair-holder, UNESCO Chair in comparative research on 'Cultural Diversity and Social Justice'. He is the editor of the Journal of Intercultural Studies and founding co-editor of the international journal of Social Inclusion. His most influential books include: 'Islam and Political Violence: Muslim Diaspora and Radicalism in the West', (2007); 'Political Islam and Human Security' (2008); 'Identity, Education, and Belonging: Arab and Muslim Youth in Contemporary Australia' (2008); 'Youth Identity and Migration: Culture, Values and Social Connectedness' (2009); 'Australia and the Middle East: A Frontline Relationship' (2011, second edition); and 'Migration, Citizenship and Intercultural Relations: Looking Through the Lens of Social Inclusion' (2011). His most recent books include: 'Muslims in the West and the Challenges of Belonging' (2012); 'The Arab Revolutions in Context: Civil Society and Democracy in a Changing Middle East' (2012); 'Global Perspectives on the Politics of Multiculturalism' (2014) and 'The Multicultural Challenge' (2015). Professor Mansouri's 2004 book 'Lives in Limbo: Voices of Refugees under Temporary Protection' was short-listed for the 2004 Human Rights Medals and Awards.

PROFESSOR GARY SMITH

Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Global Engagement, Deakin University (Australia)



As a Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) Professor, Gary Smith provides strategic leadership at Deakin University for brand, marketing and positioning of the University nationally and internationally, global engagement of the University through mutually beneficial international partnerships, national engagement of the university through cross-sectoral partnerships, meeting ambitious national and international growth targets for Deakin's four physical campuses and for the online Cloud Campus, enhancing graduate employment outcomes with industry cooperation.

Prior to this appointment he held positions at Western Sydney University as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and International) and Executive Dean, College of Arts.

Gary is a former Professor of International Relations at Deakin University and the University of South Australia. He is widely published in the area of Australia's engagement with Asia, and the international relations in the Asia Pacific. He has been a visiting professor at Renmin University in Beijing. For several years he was academic program director at CDSS, the senior executive college of the Defence Department.

His publications focus on Australia's regional relations and Australia's expanding engagement with Asia. Deakin University's own increased connections with Asia and other regions are part of a larger dynamic. Gary sees great opportunities for the University in deepening these connections - whether through international partnerships in areas of research and teaching that make a difference to communities, or in welcoming students to our campuses to learn alongside local students, or through many more Australian students studying abroad with our partners as part of their degree.

WILLIAM (BILL) ELISCHER

Director Counter-terrorism Middle East, Africa and South Asia Section. Counter-terrorism Branch - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)



Bill Elischer was born and educated in Perth, Australia. After initially working in advertising, he joined the British Army passing selection for 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery. Following training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst he commanded troops on four operational counter-terrorism tours in Northern Ireland. In 2003 Bill studied Arabic and was posted to British Embassies in Saudi Arabia, then Yemen to coordinate Counter-Terrorism programmes until he transferred to the Australian Army in 2007.

Bill joined DFAT in February 2010, as Director High Threat Section, responsible for security of Australia's diplomats in Islamabad, Baghdad and Kabul. In April 2012 Bill assumed a global diplomatic security remit as Director of Operational Security Section. In June 2013 Bill became Director, Defence and National Security Section, responsible for Defence liaison and contribution to its strategic planning, US Alliance issues, National Security, and strategic political-military cooperation issues. In October 2014 he became the first Director of Counter-terrorism Middle East, Africa and South Asia, responsible for bilateral and multilateral Counter-terrorism (CT) policy engagement and programs for those regions, Central Asia and Europe. This includes Foreign Terrorist Fighter policy issues and programs and advice on terrorist listings and sanctions.

LT. GEN. DR. PERAPONG MANAKIT

Commissioner, National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand (Thailand)



Dr. Perapong served in the Royal Thai Army before earning a PhD in Sociology from Bielefeld University, Germany. He lectured at university level in the three southern border provinces of Thailand. Moreover, he has worked for the Office of the National Security Council (NSC) as Deputy Head of Psychological and Public Relations Section of the Southern Border Provinces Commission of Thailand. Currently, he is the very first appointed Commissioner of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand; a position he has served for the past six years. Dr. Perapong is also the Chairman the subcommittee on Programming and Content Regulation and Subcommittee on Television Licensing as well as the working group on investigating the three Southern border Provinces of Thailand – an area that he has personal interest in.

JAMES (JIM) MANLOWE

Political Officer – U.S. Embassy in Canberra (Australia)



James (Jim) Manlowe is a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra where he covers issues concerning counterterrorism, countering violent extremism, the Middle East, and Africa. Prior to working in Canberra, Jim served as a consular officer in Chennai, India, specializing in temporary work visas. He has also lived and worked in various positions in Burma, Sri Lanka, Fiji, and Armenia. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Jim was a lawyer. He has worked as a family law judge, a legal aid attorney, and a law professor. He is admitted to practice in New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, and the Navajo Nation. He holds a Juris Doctor Degree from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. Jim also attended Monash University, Clayton Campus, as an exchange student.

DR. CATHERINE HODEIR

Higher Education Attaché – Embassy of France (Australia)



Since September 2012, Catherine Hodeir has held the role of Higher Education Attaché at the Embassy of France in Australia. She is a colonial and post-colonial history specialist, with particular interests in the 1931 Paris Colonial Exhibition and in how the CEOs of large corporate French colonial firms dealt with decolonisation. After graduating from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, she completed a PhD in Contemporary History at the Université Paris 1 Sorbonne.

Prior to her work in Australia, Catherine Hodeir taught History at the Université Picardie Jules Verne and worked as a lecturer in History and Business History at Sciences Po Paris. She has also worked as a consultant in Corporate History for the French firms Sodexo, Laser-Cofinoga, Fauchon and for the French lobby Union des Industries minières et métallurgiques / the Union of the mining and metallurgy industries. Catherine Hodeir was Commissioner for France for the Exhibition on the Centenary of the Statue of Liberty (New York Public Library, New York and Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris). She was recognised as a Young Leader at the French American Foundation, Paris, New York. Catherine Hodeir is a recipient of the Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour.

DR. CLARKE JONES

Co-director of the Australian Intervention Support Hub (AISH), Australian National University (Australia).



Dr. Clarke Jones is the co-director of the Australian Intervention Support Hub (AISH) based at Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet) in the Australian National University (ANU). AISH is a pioneering collaboration between the ANU, Alfred Deakin University, AGD, AFP and DFAT to work with community groups in developing responses to the challenges associated with violent extremism.

Prior to this appointment, Dr Jones worked for the Australian Government for over 15 years in several areas of national security including policing, military and intelligence. In 2010, he moved to academia and has been a visiting research fellow at RegNet in the ANU. Dr Jones's research covers violent extremism, radicalisation/prison radicalisation, deradicalisation/intervention and prison gangs. His pioneering research on terrorist inmate management and inmate social groups in the Philippines will be published by Routledge in 2016.

Since leaving Government, Dr Jones has also been working as a private consultant. He is currently completing a major review of Indigenous offender rehabilitation programs in Australia's correctional system for the Australian Institute of Judicial Affairs. He has also been advising the Philippine Government on the appropriate management of terrorist offenders, prison

gangs and prison reform in their correctional system. He has run many professional training programs for Philippine prison administrators and security staff in areas such as, anti-corruption, risk management, prison gang management and inmate classification.

In 2002, Dr Jones was the 2002 Chief of the Australian Defence Force Fellow and, based on this fellowship, he completed his PhD at the University of New South Wales in 2008. He also holds a Masters degree in criminology from RMIT University by research and an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice Administration.

Dr Jones is a regular expert commentator on both international and domestic media channels on terrorism and radicalisation issues and writes regular opinion pieces for print and electronic domestic and international media outlets. Dr Jones is also widely published in the areas of penology, prison gangs and terrorism.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1**WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY: GENESIS OF ISIS, TRANSFORMATION AND IMPACT****8:30AM – 9:00AM** **REGISTRATION****9:00AM – 9:30AM** **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY AND PARTNERS OFFICIAL WELCOME**

Vice-Chancellor, Deakin University

Prof. Jane den Hollander

Director, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation and UNESCO Chair,
Cultural Diversity and Social Justice, Deakin University

Prof. Fethi Mansouri

Director Counter-terrorism Middle East, Africa and South Asia Section, Counter-terrorism
Branch, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

William (Bill) Elischer

Conference Convenor, Deakin University

Dr. Virginie Andre

9:30AM – 10:15AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“Islamic State: the Rise and Reach of a Complex Terror Threat”

Dr. David Kilcullen (Former Chief Strategist CT White House, Australia/USA)

10:15AM – 11:00AM **“IDEOLOGIZATION, INTERNATIONALIZATION, AND THE NEW LANDSCAPE OF TERRORISM”**

Prof. Mark Sedgwick (Aarhus University, Denmark)

11:00AM – 11:15AM **MORNING TEA****11:15AM – 12:15PM** **SESSION 1: PHILOSOPHY AND IDEOLOGY**

Chair: Prof. David Cook (Rice University, USA)

“Islamic State, Iconoclasm and Heritage Destruction”

Dr. Antonio Gonzalez Zarandona (Deakin University, Australia)

“Understanding ISIS Propaganda Campaign: the Zeal for Jihad or the Lure of Hollywood?”

Mahmood Pargoo (Australian Catholic University, Australia)

“The Politics of Heritage Destruction under the ‘Islamic State’”

Assoc. Prof. Benjamin Isakhan (Deakin University, Australia)

12:15PM – 1:15PM

SESSION 2: SECTARIANISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Chair: Prof. Shahram Akbarzadeh (Deakin University, Australia)

“Daesh’s Strategic Fault Line in the Middle East: the Divide Between Shias and Sunnis”
Prof. Olivier Roy (European University Institute, Italy) via Video Recording

“Islamic State’s Sectarian Vision”
Prof. Greg Barton (Deakin University, Australia)

“Iranian Views of the Sectarian Knot”
Dr. James Barry (Deakin University, Australia)

1:15PM – 2:00PM

LUNCH

2:00PM – 3:30PM

SESSION 3: AL QAEDA AND ISIS – CHANGE OVER TIME

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Peter Lentini (Monash University, Australia)

“How ISIS has Changed the World Again”
Prof. Robert Pape (University of Chicago, USA)

“The Push and Pull Factors of Today’s Foreign Fighters Phenomenon”
Prof. Rik Coolsaet (Ghent University, Belgium)

3:30PM – 3:45PM

AFTERNOON TEA

3:45 – 5:15PM

SESSION 4: COMPARISONS OF DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCES

Chair: David Kilcullen (Former Chief Strategist CT White House, Australia/ USA)

“West African Islamic State: Is Boko Haram compatible with IS?”
Assoc. Prof. David Cook (Rice University, USA)

“The Four Pillars of Belgian Counter-Terrorism Strategy”
Luc Van Der Taelen (Belgian Federal Police, Belgium)

“From Tolerance to Exclusion”
Abdelkader Railane (COPEC, France)

“Russia and the ISIL Threat”
Assoc. Prof. Peter Lentini (Monash University, Australia)

5:15PM – 5:30PM

CLOSING DAY 1

Embassy of the United States of America

James S. Manlowe (Political Officer)

Conclusion from Conference Convenor

Dr. Virginie Andre (Deakin University, Australia)

Day 1 Ends

6:00PM – 7:40PM

DAVID KILCULLEN'S BOOK LAUNCH

David Kilcullen discusses his new book Blood Year with the Guardian Australia's Gay Alcorn.

RSVP essential to publicity@blackincbooks.com

DAY 2

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY: THE MOVEMENT

9:00AM – 9:10AM

WELCOME

Welcome from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) (Deakin University, Australia)

Professor Gary Smith

9:10AM – 10:00AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“The Force of Culture Versus the Culture of Force”

**Conversation between Medine Zaouiche (Don't Panik Youth Sport Association, France)
and Dr. Virginie Andre (Deakin University, Australia)**

10:00AM – 11:00AM

SESSION 1: GENDER AND TERRORISM

Chair: Dr. Debra Smith (Victoria University, Australia)

“The Islamic State of Cats: some Preliminary Considerations about Gender and Terrorism”

Prof. Michele Grossman (Victoria University, Australia)

“Political Islam and Masculinity: Muslim Men in Australia”

Dr. Joshua Roose (Australia Catholic University, Australia)

“Is Islamic Feminism the Antidote to Islamic Extremism?”

Reem Sweid (Muslims for Progressive Values, Australia)

11:00AM – 11:15AM

MORNING TEA

11:15AM – 1:00PM

SESSION 2: YOUTH AND ISIS

Chair: Professor Anita Harris (Deakin University, Australia)

“Fundamentalism for ‘Dummies’ and ‘Losers’: Religion, Youth and the Effects of ISIS Narratives on Radicalisation in the West.”

Assoc. Prof. Akil N Awan (University of London, UK)

“Equality and Inclusion, the Fight Against Radicalisation’s Forgotten People: Voice to the Youth”

Khaled Boutafalla (AMO Atmosphere, Belgium)

“Radicalisation, Redemption and Loss: Insights into the Young Muslim Mind”

Aisha Novakovich (Beyond Diversity Practitioner, University of Western Australia, Australia)

“Grassroots Efforts: Reap What You Sow”

Oussama Abou-Zeid (Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Advisory Group, Australia)

“The Need for an Alternative Narrative”

Omar Abdo (Islamic Council of Victoria, Australia)

1:00PM – 1:50PM

LUNCH

1:50PM – 3:50PM

SESSION 3: PREVENTING RADICALISATION IN SCHOOLS

Chair: Jenny Cleeve (Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, Australia)

“My Story – A Lesson to Learn From: Teaching Young People About the Realities of Jihad”

Mourad Benchellali (Former French Guantanamo Prisoner) via Video Recording

“Early Prevention in Schools – a Disputed Idea”

Dr. Ann-Sophie Hemmingsen (Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark)

“Education and Grassroots Interventionism”

Najeeb Ahmed (Prevent, UK)

“Paris Assistance to Victims (PAV) School Project”

Lyes Bouabdallah and Dr. Carole Damiani (Paris Assistance to Victims, France), Presented by Lyes Bouabdallah

“Reducing the Possible Risk of Radicalisation by Giving Students Tools to Discover and Understand the Diversity of Islam”

David D’Hondt (Change for Equality, Belgium)

“Critical and Collective Work around Hot issues – Radically for Complexity”

Sandrine Dochain (Change for Equality, Belgium)

3:50PM – 4:10PM

AFTERNOON TEA

4:10PM – 5:15PM

SESSION 4: ISIS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Chair: Prof. Michele Grossman (Victoria University, Australia)

“Counter-Narratives, Social Media and ISIS Online Recruitment. A Guideline.”
David Koehler (GIRDS, Germany)

“#Jihad: Terrorism, Social Media, and the Weaponisation of Digital Content”
Levi West (Charles Sturt University, Australia)

“The Use of Social Media by IS Supporters in Indonesia”
Noor Huda Ismail (Monash University, Australia)

5:15PM – 5:30PM

CLOSING DAY 2

Embassy of France
Dr. Catherine Hodeir (Higher Education Attaché)

Conclusion from Conference Convenor
Dr. Virginie Andre (Deakin University, Australia)

Day 2 Ends

7:00PM

CONFERENCE DINNER

Nirankar Restaurant – 174 Queen St, Melbourne

DAY 3

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19: PRACTICAL ACTION

9:00AM – 9:10AM

WELCOME

Co-Director of the Australian Intervention Support Hub (AISH)
Prof. Greg Barton (Deakin University, Australia)

9:10AM – 10:00AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“The Australian and International Response to Terrorism.”
William (Bill) Elischer (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia)

10:00AM – 11:30AM

SESSION 1: BROADCASTING MODEL AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Chair: Prof. Mark Sedgwick (Aarhus University, Denmark)

“Djihad (Jihad) - an Internal Struggle for Joint Action”

Ismael Saidi (Director and Comedian, Belgium) via Video Recording

“Effects, not Message Driven. Re-framing the Communications Challenge”

Ummit Sethi (Lapis Communications, UAE)

“Developing A Broadcasting Model to Countering Violent Extremism: A Community Based Approach”

Dr. Virginie Andre (Deakin University, Australia)

“The Role of Media in the Reduction of Extremism and Hatred- the Halal Life Approach”

Kaweenipon (Salim) Kateprasit (Halal Life/ Yateem TV, Thailand)

“Changing Lives From Inside – Roots TV”

Abdulrahim Elmi (Roots TV, Australia)

11:30AM – 11:45AM

MORNING TEA

11:45AM – 1:15PM

SESSION 2: HOW HAS ISIS CHANGED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF RADICALISATION?

Chair: Prof. Greg Barton (Deakin University, Australia)

“Radicalism within Muslim Communities; an Insider’s Perspective”

Abid Raja (Muslim Contact Unit, New Scotland Yard, UK)

“Religious Extremism, Islamophobia and Reactive Co-Radicalisation: The Circular Problematic Posed by ISIS”

Prof. Douglas Pratt (University of Waikato, New Zealand)

“The Mistreatment of My People: Victimization-by-Proxy and Behavioural Intentions to Commit Terrorism among Muslims in Denmark”

Milan Obaidi (Harvard University/EU Institute, USA/Italy)

“Beyond Doctrine: ISIS, Culture and Emotion”

Dr. Debra Smith (Victoria University, Australia)

1:15PM - 2:00PM

LUNCH

Screening of “Victims of Terrorism Testimonials”

(French Association of the Victims of Terrorism)

2:00PM - 3:30PM

SESSION 3: RETURNING FOREIGN FIGHTERS AND APPROACHES

Chair: Prof. Robert Pape (University of Chicago, USA)

“The Danish Approach to Returnees from Syria and Iraq”

Dr. Ann-Sophie Hemmingsen (Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark)

“The Engagement of EmridNetwork into the Deradicalisation Process: An Upstream and Downstream Work”

Laura Martin (EmridNetwork, Belgium)

“Anticipating Attacks by Returned Foreign Fighters”

Dr. David Malet (University of Melbourne, Australia)

“Terrorism Rehabilitation and Social Development Program. A Natural Extension of Our Commitment to Court-Based Rehabilitation and Existing Efforts to Counter Violent Extremism”

Robert Stary (Stary Norton Halphen Criminal Law Firm, Australia)

3:30PM - 3:45PM

AFTERNOON TEA

3:45PM - 5:15PM

SESSION 4: COMMUNITY APPROACHES

Chair: Dr. James Barry (Deakin University, Australia)

“From an Imported Consular Islam to A Broken Down light Islam: Which Islam for our Societies?”

Isabelle Praile (Muslim Executive of Belgium, Belgium)

“From Breaking to Building the Community - the Case of Finsbury Park Mosque”

Mohammed Kozbar (Chairman of Finsbury Park Mosque, UK)

“Strengthening Social Cohesion and Community Resilience and Preventing Violent Extremism in Victoria”

Mark Duckworth (Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, Australia)

“Assessing the Impact of ‘Countering Terror’ in Australia: Are Muslim Communities in Retreat?”

Dr. David Tittensor (Deakin University, Australia)

5:15PM - 5:30PM

CLOSING AND FAREWELL

Department of Foreign Affairs

William B. Elischer (Director Counter-Terrorism Middle East, Africa and South Asia Section, Counter-Terrorism Branch, Australia)

Conclusion from Conference Convenor

Dr. Virginie Andre (Deakin University, Australia)

Conference Ends

SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

OMAR ABDO

Executive Board Member, Islamic Council of Victoria (Australia)



An alumni of Deakin University with a Bachelor of Arts (Arabic)/Bachelor of Commerce degree (HRM), he is currently working within the IT industry. Omar has varied community experiences from hosting radio programs, coaching sports, managing youth groups and is currently the executive board member of the Islamic Council of Victoria overseeing the youth portfolio. Omar's passion focuses on enhancing community resilience and strengthening belonging.

“The Need for an Alternative Narrative”

Many young Muslims have lived most, if not the majority, of their lives under the framework of the global War on Terror. This is a climate that has routinely criminalised Muslims, questioned their allegiances to Australia and created a pervasive culture of suspicion and fear around their communities. We need to have a long hard think about the consequences of this climate.

OUSSAMA ABOU-ZEID

Community Activist/Co-Chair Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Advisory Group (Australia)



Community activist, Oussama Abou-Zeid (20), has been at the forefront of social change and multicultural advocacy for many years. In 2015 he was nominated to Co-Chair the Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Advisory Group,

working alongside State Ministers including the deputy Premier. Oussama was also one of four youth chosen to represent Australia at the 2015 Youth Summit in New York, where youth around the world exhibited their findings on how to combat Violent Extremism. In 2014 he was elected as Youth Premier of Victoria, elevating his role to the head of the Youth Parliament and positioning him as one of Victoria's foremost youth representatives. Elected by his peers in June of 2014, Oussama is building on his prolific reputation as a community leader and youth activist. Oussama hails from the Newport Islamic Society, inner west of Melbourne, where he has made a significant contribution to the civic life of the area. Already a well-established and respected leader of the Islamic community, Oussama was honoured as the 2013 Youth Citizen of the Year for Hobsons Bay for organising a football match between the Jewish and Islamic youth communities. Oussama has advocated for multiculturalism, tolerance and understanding in an area of Melbourne that is too often known for its division. Currently studying a Bachelor of Construction Management at Deakin University in Geelong, Oussama Abou-Zeid has a passion for Faith, Family, and AFL.

“Grassroots Efforts: Reap What You Sow”

My presentation will be addressed at how the role of communities plays a pivotal role in the fight against radicalisation. Despite terrorists responding to global trends and international events, the cause of their actions is a result of social disengagement. So through my experiences I'd like to share how it has shaped myself and the community around me. Something I can say I am experienced with is continuous youth engagement, and community empowerment. It's simple, we need to empower our communities, make their voice be heard, educate them, and fully support them in their ongoing challenges and endeavours.

NAJEEB AHMED

Prevent Coordinator, London Borough of Hounslow (UK)



Najeeb's current position is that of a Prevent Coordinator with the London Borough of Hounslow. He is also a Home Office registered Intervention Provider, an appointed Working Group Leader for the Communications and Narratives working group with the European Commission approved Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and a Consultative Partner for WLI, an organisation established to deliver a series of workshops and packages to assist community members and practitioners in their efforts to fully understand the dynamics of government-community engagement as a strategy and setting the narrative as a need. The same allowing for an understanding of grievances, prevention of crime through knowledge transfer, understanding the influencer factors which may lead to violent extremism, political discourse and legislation.

In 2010, following more than a decade of working with a wide range of diverse local communities, Najeeb was approached by the Home Office in the UK to assist in engaging with hard to reach communities across London in order to address issues pertaining to the radicalisation of young people from within those communities. Najeeb subsequently founded and established West London IMPACT, an independent, not for profit organisation, committed to fostering personal and social development amongst youth susceptible to violent extremism and criminality. The administration of the same was delivered through groundbreaking and subsequently award winning intervention methods which educated, empowered, built resilience and promoted participation in civic society.

As part of the same, Najeeb established and maintained close relationships with statutory and non-statutory partners such as the metropolitan police, probation services, the local authority and local faith groups as well as hosted diplomatic delegations from the US, Danish, Finnish and Saudi Arabian embassies amongst others. Najeeb has also given presentations at international level such as at the Google HQ in New York, discussing issues pertaining to the Pakistani diaspora in Europe for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and discussing the causes and evolutionary nature of violent extremism in Denmark, Canada, Egypt, Austria, Poland, Germany, France and a multitude of other countries.

“Education and Grassroots Interventionism”

The purpose of the presentation is several fold. Firstly, it is to understand the role of front line employees with a focus on teaching staff in preventing radicalisation and the pathways and methods necessary for positive engagement.

These include a competency framework allowing for an understanding of grievances, prevention of crime through knowledge transfer, understanding the influencer factors, which may lead to violent extremism, political discourse and how legislation is implemented. It also uses multiple agencies and competent persons in said engagement strategies, which are designed to build long-term resilience in those who may be identified as susceptible to violent extremism.

Secondly, it will investigate how grievances and vulnerabilities can be exploited by organisations such as the Islamic State and the roles of propaganda and social media within the same. The presentation will highlight how, using the power of graphic imagery and emotive language, young people are drawn into a world of deceit and false narrative. This section of the presentation will come with a warning as to the explicit nature of the content. Finally, the presentation will examine how, forming a truly grassroots intervention, the relationship between teacher and student can prevent radicalisation. Practical examples will be given outlining how innovative projects such as social enterprise schemes, public engagement and critical thinking skills and mentoring have drawn young people away from being radicalised or groomed and how success is mapped.

DR. VIRGINIE ANDRE

Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)



Dr. Virginie Andre is a research fellow with the Alfred Deakin Research Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, at Deakin University. Her expertise lies in the field of religious and political globalisation, and specifically in relation to Muslim political resistance and neojihadism. Virginie has expertise in terrorism and countering violent extremism, ethno-nationalism and conflict transformation, social media and youth radicalisation, and diasporic cultures in transition. She currently is working on a 4-year project to develop a broadcasting model to counter violent extremism, and a smaller comparative research project

on youth and extremism in France and Australia. In the last ten years, Dr. Andre has researched diverse communities in Southeast Asia, Europe and Australia. She is also the editorial manager of the *Islam and Christian Muslim Relations Journal*; an associate researcher with the CNRS funded *Institut de Recherche sur l'Asie du Sud-Est Contemporaine* and a member of their scientific committee.

Virginie has coordinated Monash University's Counter Terrorism Masters Program, lectured in post-graduate university courses and briefed high level government and intelligence officials on issues relating to terrorism, social media and religion. She has also undertaken research projects for the European Union, the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) of Thailand. Her latest publications are: "Apostasy and Blasphemy: A Clash of Two Freedoms" (with John L. Esposito, 2016), "Religious Citizenship and Islamophobia" (with Douglas Pratt, 2016), "Violent Jihad and Beheadings in the Land of Al Faton Darussalam" (2015), "A Fragmented Discourse in Religious Leadership in France: Muslim Youth Between Citizenship and Radicalization" (with Fethi Mansouri and Michiele Lobo, 2015) and "Merah and Breivik: A Reflection of European Identity Crisis" (with Shandon Harris-Hogan, 2015). 'The Janus Face of New Media Propaganda: Case of Patani Neojihadist YouTube Warfare and Its Islamophobic Effect on Cyber Actors' (2014), 'Mohamed Merah: From Petty Criminal To Neojihadist Terrorist' (with Shandon Harris-Hogan, 2013), "'Neojihadism' and YouTube: Patani Propaganda Dissemination and Radicalization"(2012). Virginie is fluent in French, Italian and Thai.

Developing A Broadcasting Model to Countering Violent Extremism: A Community Based Approach

In Thailand, while Patani militant extremist narratives populate the Internet, there is no evidence of the extremist narrative broadcasting on mainstream media. Television and radio are mainly accessed for entertainment purposes - primarily to watch Thai soaps and drama, children and game shows, and listen to music and religious programs. The findings in the first year of the research project titled "Strategic Communication, Narratives, Counter-narratives and Media Responses to Neojihadism in Southern Thailand" have indicated, however, the urgent need to develop a broadcasting model that would undermine local and global extremist narratives in Thailand and deliver a comprehensive package of counter messaging interventions to audiences across mainstream media and

social media. Data collected through consultations, interviews and focus groups on Muslim Public Opinion on Governance, Media and Extremism within the Muslim communities in Thailand in the second year have shown that, although limited, if not addressed, there is a real risk of radicalisation among Thai Muslim youth. Drawing on relevant international policies, programs and strategies and evidence based data, communication strategies and tools were identified to assist in building community resilience and countering violent extremism in Thailand. These tools are derived from the consultations with the Muslim communities across Thailand and in Europe, and are developed in partnership with the Thai Muslim communities. The approach adopted in developing the broadcasting model is a community-based approach by which the communities inform and shape the development of the model. The focus groups findings as well as two of the tools currently under development - "What is Your Jihad?" and "Chin Up Speak Up" - will be presented.

ASSOC. PROF. AKIL N. AWAN

Associate Professor in Modern History, Political Terrorism at Royal Holloway, University of London (UK)



Dr. Akil N. Awan is Associate Professor in Modern History, Political Violence and Terrorism at Royal Holloway, University of London. His research interests are focused around the history of terrorism, radicalisation, social movements, protest, and new media. He has written widely in these areas, both academically and in the popular press. Dr Awan is also regularly consulted by government bodies, think-tanks, media and other organisations in his fields of expertise, and has served in an advisory capacity to the UK Home Office, the Foreign Office, the US State department, the US Military, Council of Europe, and the OSCE amongst others. Most recently, he served as special advisor on Radicalisation to the UK Parliament; as academic expert on Genocide to the UK House of Lords delegation to Srebrenica; and as expert advisor on Youth Radicalisation to the United Nations. He is Founder and Chair of the Political Science Association's

Specialist Group on Political Violence & Terrorism. His books include Radicalisation and Media: Terrorism and Connectivity in the New Media Ecology (Routledge 2011), and Jihadism Transformed: al-Qaeda and Islamic State's Global Battle of Ideas (Hurst/Oxford University Press, 2016). He is on Twitter: @Akil_N_Awan

“Fundamentalism for ‘Dummies’ and ‘Losers’: Religion, Youth and the Effects of ISIS Narratives on Radicalisation in the West.”

In announcing the re-establishment of its so-called Caliphate in June of 2014, ISIS also revealed its global pretensions by declaring that it was now incumbent on all Muslims worldwide to swear fealty its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Unsurprisingly, the backlash from within the Islamic world against this flagrant usurpation of power and authority has been overwhelmingly negative. Nevertheless, the resurrection of even a notional Caliphate has resonated with a small but significant minority of Muslims, leading to many thousands of young men, in search of a cause, flocking to the ISIS banner. Indeed, ISIS has drawn foreigners from every corner of the globe, willing to fight and die for its nascent Caliphate. Some estimates place the number of foreign fighters within ISIS at up to 31,000 individuals, originating from no less than 86 different countries; a truly globalised mobilisation on an epic scale.

Many states have shown grave concern in their own citizens joining ISIS, particularly over the dangers inherent in the inevitable influx of returnees once the conflict is over. Indeed, we have already seen the first signs of foreign fighter blowback, as the violence of Raqqa, Homs, and Mosul has arrived to the streets of London, Brussels, Paris and New York. In order to stem the flow of willing young recruits to ISIS, we must understand and address the appeal that IS holds for young impressionable men in Western societies. Why does the narrative of groups like IS and al-Qaeda appear to resonate with them? This paper attempts to answer precisely these questions by providing a fuller, more nuanced understanding of some of the motivations for joining jihadist groups, and explores the relationship between religion, youth, individual motivations and larger Jihadist narratives.

DR. JAMES BARRY

Associate Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)



James Barry is an expert on religion in the Middle East, focusing on confessional and sectarian divisions, as well as the transnational links between the Middle East, and Australia and North America. He has carried out field work in Iran in 2010, 2014 and 2015, and has extensive knowledge of the key religious flash points between the major sectarian groups, in particularly how the ISIS group has played upon specific divisions to achieve its aims. He has focused deeply on the ways that religious symbols and rhetoric are used as a means of motivating and fostering boundaries within religious groups. He is currently an Associate Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation where he is researching the role of Islam in Iranian foreign policy. He speaks Persian and Armenian, and elementary Arabic.

“Iranian Views of the Sectarian Knot”

Iran is characterised as a major player in the sectarian game of the Middle East, cast as the provocateur of the ostensibly name “Shi’a crescent”, locked in a shadowy conflict with Saudi Arabia. Although the Iranian government considers the current sectarian divide to be out of their control, a viscous by-product of globalisation, they are working to harness it to their benefit. Using material from interviews conducted with members of the Iranian foreign ministry and academia in October 2015, in this paper the author will examine how the Islamic Republic aims to use sectarian differences to engage the West and win the propaganda war against its enemies. The Iranians point to the dogmatic bigotry of Sunni extremist groups such as ISIL and al-Qaeda, drawing a line between them and the Sunni states of the Gulf, and presenting the Islamic Republic as the first target and therefore on the front line in the fight against these extremists. In sectarian terms, the Islamic Republic depicts the Shi’a school as moderate, forward-thinking and progressive, with a form of political Islam that can successfully defeat extremism on an ideological and

governance level. While Tehran asserts the value of Shi'ism to a Western audience, at the same time they deny their aims are missionary, with the intention of convincing those in the Sunni world that the Iran model is shaped solely around democratic and republican institutions. Quietly, the few dissenting cynical voices within the Islamic Republic point to the reversal of the situation - the 30 years ago Shi'ism was the extremist sect and Sunnism was considered more moderate. In this paper, the author will argue that the ultimate goal for Iran is to win Western support in order to protect their rising regional power against the challenges of Israel and Saudi Arabia, and without tarnishing their image as a non-aligned power opposed to Western imperialism.

PROF. GREG BARTON

Chair in Global Islamic Politics, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)



Greg is Research Professor in Global Islamic Politics in the Alfred Deakin Institute, Deakin University where he leads research on social inclusion and pluralism, Islam and civil society, democratisation, and countering violent extremism. He is the co-director of the Australian Intervention Support Hub (AISH), a pioneering collaboration between Deakin, ANU, AGD, AFP and DFAT working with agencies and community groups in developing responses to the challenge of violent extremism. He is Deputy UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, is the co-editor of the journal Islam and Christian Muslim Relations and is a Senior Fellow with the UAE-based Hedayah Center in Abu Dhabi working on CVE. He is one of Australia's leading scholars of both modern Indonesia and of terrorism and CVE. From 2007 to 2015 he was the Herb Feith Professor at Monash University where he led research on radicalisation in the Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC).

For 28 years he has undertaken extensive research on Indonesia politics and society, especially of the role of Islam as both a constructive and a disruptive force. He has been

active in the inter-faith dialogue initiatives and has a deep commitment to building understanding of Islam and Muslim society. The central axis of his research interests is the way in which religious thought, individual believers and religious communities respond to modernity and to the modern nation state. He also has a strong general interest in international relations, security studies and comparative international politics.

"Islamic State's Sectarian Vision"

Sectarianism is clearly a dominant element in the current conflict in Syria and Iraq. It shapes the tactics and strategy of the Islamic State (IS) and features prominently in its propaganda and recruitment narratives. From its origins as Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) under Musab Al-Zaqarwi, in the wake of the invasion of Iraq in 2003, through to its entry into the civil war in Syria as ISIS, IS has exploited sectarian tensions and bitter grievances. Media reporting of the conflict often speaks of 'centuries-old' sectarian divisions as being a key underlying cause of the conflict. This paper argues that whilst hostility between Shia and Sunni communities has been exacerbated and exploited by IS and many of the other actors it is not the prime cause of the conflict nor does it have the deep roots in history that are commonly assumed. It concludes that the more pernicious sectarianism guiding and enabling IS is not Sunni-Shia sectarianism, or even Saudi-Iranian rivalry, but rather a particular form of exclusivist Salafism that is engaged in a global insurgency against mainstream Sunni Islam whilst presenting itself as defending Sunni interests against Shia error and aggression.

MOURAD BENCHELLALI

Former Guantanamo Bay Prisoner/Anti-Radicalisation Speaker (France)



Three months before September 11, 2001, Mourad Benchellali, aged 19, went to go to fight Jihad in Afghanistan, encouraged by his brother, a jihadist who served a severe sentence for having planned attacks in France. Mourad was captured

in Afghanistan in November 2001 at the age of 19. He was one of the first detainees of the United States Guantanamo Bay detention camps. He was transferred from US to French custody in July 2004. There, Mourad would be tried and convicted in 2007, but the French Court of Appeals overturned the conviction in February 2009. Currently a guest speaker in European schools and communities, Benchellali speaks about the radicalization of young Muslims, the dangers of ISIS and attempts to deflate the glamour depicted by extremist recruiters, citing his own experiences to young people as a reality check. He also published a book about his experiences entitled *Voyage To Hell*. And blogs at - <http://friendly-combatant.over-blog.com/>

“My Story – A Lesson to Learn From: Teaching Young People About the Realities of Jihad”

This presentation will draw upon Mourad Benchellali’s personal journey from joining the mujahedeen in Afghanistan pre-9/11, being captured by Pakistani forces and being imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay detention camp, to his current role as a guest lecturer in schools across France where he is teaching young people about the realities of jihad.

Mourad’s first-hand experience paints a realistic image of the not only the realities of jihad and fighting overseas but also acts as a source of legitimacy for French youth. According to him, French youth are attracted to ISIS’ propaganda and he believes that the failure of French society to address the grievances and concerns of young people in the 21st century and more importantly address the generational gap between the current generation of youth and previous generations are the underlying causes for the plight of French nationals to the Islamic State. Mourad will explain the intervention work he does within French schools in attempting to prevent radicalisation among school children and the important role schools play in preventing extremism. Finally, Mourad will outline the feedback he receives from schools following his speaking roles.

LYES BOUABDALLAH AND DR. CAROLE DAMIANI

Treasurer and Board Member, Paris Assistance to Victims (France)



Lyes Bouabdallah is the Treasurer and Board Member of Paris Assistance to Victims (PAV). Graduated in Finance (M.Sc) France. Lyes Bouabdallah is in charge of new projects development for PAV. Over the last few years, he has contributed to extend the scope of intervention of PAV. He is also, with Carole Damiani, the co-author of the project “Promoting children’s expression about terrorism.” He has participated in the establishment of the victims support plan after the Paris attacks.

Carole Damiani is the director of Paris Assistance to Victims (PAV), an association funded by the French Ministry of Justice, the City of Paris, the Regional Council of Ile De France and the Paris Prefecture. Doctor in clinical psychology, she has been in practice as a psychologist for victims for 25 years. She has developed an expertise in the holistic care of victims of penal infractions and terrorism. She teaches also at the university and is the general secretary of French Association for the Study of Stress and Trauma. She has written several books dealing with psychic trauma and victim therapy.

“Paris Assistance to Victims (PAV) School Project”

Following the January 2015 Paris attacks, PAV and the French Foundation (Fondation de France / FAVT) are developing a project to encourage school children to express themselves around the issue of terrorism. It aims at encouraging a better perception and understanding by the children of what terrorism is, and to equip teachers and parents with tools to better address the issue of terrorism with the students. The reference to terrorism in schools is extremely complex and multiple factors contribute to the creation and stagnation of the problem. The specificity of this problematic makes it difficult for professionals of the educational sector in the choice and positioning they need to adopt. The current project encourages a better understanding of pre-adolescent

students of what terrorism is, to equip teachers and parents with the tools that will allow them to discuss these issues with the students in an optimal manner. The project adopts a participative approach with many supports dedicated to exchanges between educational structures and the students themselves. This methodology aims to ensure that all the actions undertaken correspond to the needs and expectations of the beneficiaries and that all the participants take ownership of the objectives and outputs of the project.

KHALED BOUTAFALLA

Director, AMO AtMOSpheres (Belgium)



A Director of “AMO AtMOSphères”, a street work help service in Belgium, since 2011, Khaled Boutafalla has been working in the social sector for nearly 15 years. He is also a member of the Youth Commission of the League of Human Rights in Belgium and is the recipient of several mandates in the youth service sector. He plays a very active role in fields relating to school environment, the relation between young people and the police, but also on the issues of radicalisation.

“Equality and Inclusion, the Forgotten in the Fight Against Radicalism: Let’s Hear Young People”

My presentation will mainly focus on the youth question and its interpretation as a phenomenon, in view of my experience as a field worker. During my meetings with young people and their parents, the question often arises of the position left to young people in a society where in most cases they were born. Throughout their lives, they experience the pain of inequality at school, in the relationship between youth and police, the question of religion or the question of inequalities in the workplace. All these situations of institutional violence often result in young people withdrawing into themselves. The great majority of citizens demand the right to express themselves and to be part of the dialogue while paying particular attention that this dialogue is not a simple window-dressing; otherwise, it only results in increased unease and frustration and in feelings that their legitimacy in their world

is being undermined. Attention will be drawn as well to the response of politicians to this phenomenon and to the perception young people have of their response, with the risk that a solely repressive response exacerbates tensions. The fight against radicalism must above all pass through a fight against inequalities, which is the main argument of recruiters.

JENNY CLEEVE

Community Resilience Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Australia)



Jenny Cleeve is a Team Member in the Community Resilience Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). In her current role, Jenny supports the Victorian Government’s Ministerial Taskforce’s work to improve social cohesion and community resilience, and counter violent extremism. Her role involves engagement with Victorian communities, working with other Victorian Government agencies on policy and program development, and supporting the Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Advisory Group. Jenny has represented Victoria on the national Countering Violent Extremism Sub-Committee since its establishment in 2009. Prior to joining the Community Resilience Unit, Jenny has worked in a number of policy roles in the DPC, providing advice on issues relating to security, emergency management, international affairs, land use planning, natural resources, major projects and energy. Before joining the DPC, Jenny worked at the (former) Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Department of Treasury and Finance, the National Competition Council and the Productivity Commission. Jenny is a graduate of Murdoch University in economics and has an Executive Master of Public Administration from Monash University.

ASSOC. PROF. DAVID COOK

Associate Professor of Religion, Rice University (US)



David Cook is associate professor of religion at Rice University specialising in Islam. He did his undergraduate degrees at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2001. His areas of specialisation include early Islamic history and development, Muslim apocalyptic literature and movements (classical and contemporary), radical Islam, historical astronomy and Judeo-Arabic literature. His first book, *Studies in Muslim Apocalyptic*, was published by Darwin Press in the series *Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam*. Two further books, *Understanding Jihad* (Berkeley: University of California Press) and *Contemporary Muslim Apocalyptic Literature* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press) were published during 2005, and *Martyrdom in Islam* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2007) as well as *Understanding and Addressing Suicide Attacks* (with Olivia Allison, Westport, Conn.: Praeger Security Press, 2007), and other books. Cook is continuing to work on classical Muslim apocalyptic literature, translating the sources, such as Nu`aym b. Hammad al-Marwazi's *Kitab al-fitan*, as well as having recently become the co-editor for Edinburgh University Press' series on *Islamic Apocalyptic and Eschatology* (with Christian Lange of the University of Utrecht). He is also sponsoring research on Boko Haram's ideology, working with Ph.D. student Abdul Basit Kassem and Rice University Post-Graduate Fellow Michael Nwankpa on the group's texts and videos in order to translate them into English.

“West African Islamic State: Is Boko Haram Compatible with IS?”

With the recent closeness between IS and Boko Haram in Nigeria culminating in the swearing of allegiance on March 8, 2015, it is worth asking: are these two groups compatible? Boko Haram comes from a rather specific sub-set of Wahhabi beliefs that opposes all non-Islamic forms of education. Although Boko Haram has morphed into a regionally focused

Salafi-jihadi group during the period 2011-15, it is not clear that its leadership or ideology is a good fit with IS. This paper will explore the changes that Boko Haram has been going through as it becomes West African Islamic State, and what those changes mean for Nigeria and other states in the region

PROF. RIK COOLSAET

Professor of International Relations, Ghent University / Senior Research Fellow, Egmont, Royal Institute for International Relations (Belgium)



Rik Coolsaet is Professor of International Relations at Ghent University (Belgium) and Senior Associate Fellow at Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations (Brussels). He has held several high-ranking official positions, such as deputy chief of the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Defence (1988-1992) and deputy chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (1992-1995). He was invited to join the original European Commission Expert Group on Violent Radicalisation (established 2006) and the subsequent European Network of Experts on Radicalisation (ENER). His latest terrorism-related publications are: *Jihadi Terrorism and the Radicalisation Challenge. European and American Experiences* (Ashgate, October 2011), and *What drives Europeans to Syria, and to IS? Insights from the Belgian case* (Ghent/Brussels, Academia Press/Egmont Institute, 2015).

“The Push and Pull Factors of Today's Foreign Fighters Phenomenon”

Today's European foreign fighters are difficult to compare with the jihadis of the recent past. Several characteristics set them apart from their predecessors: on average, they are younger; the suddenness, speed and scale of the departures; their yearning to place themselves at the centre of events reflects a degree of narcissism that was largely absent among their older predecessors; their religious knowledge is even more superficial than their predecessors', as is their acquaintance with geopolitics. The foreign fighters phenomenon is now not so much the result of the standard radicalisation process,

but rather a more-or-less spontaneous response to everyday challenges in their direct environment. The primary engine now lies with a no future youth subculture. Vulnerability, frustration, and the perception of inequity are common traits among them. Escape to Syria is then one of a series of possible outlets, next to street gangs, rioting, drug trafficking, juvenile delinquency, or other deviant behaviour.

IS has a catalogue of solutions on offer for every one of the personal motives the potential volunteers carry with them: perspective, a feeling of finally being able to take control of their destiny, empowerment, belonging, fraternity, respect, adventure, heroism and martyrdom. It provides an alternative to drugs and petty crime, and an alternative society with clear and straightforward rules. IS also offers material wealth: a salary and a villa with a pool. Finally, it offers, for those who join in, power over others, and even sadism in the name of a higher goal. IS' solutions look all the more credible, since they are within immediate reach thanks to IS' seizure of large chunks of territory in Iraq and Syria. Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda was never in a position to do so.

DAVID D'HONDT

Religion Teacher, Change for Equality (Belgium)



David D'Hondt is a religion teacher in a professional and technical secondary school in Brussels (Molenbeek), Belgium. He obtained qualifications in the science of religion, Islamic religion, teaching religion and the question of mental health in lower socioeconomic families from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium (UCL). His research focused on youth and Islam in Brussels. For the past ten years, he has worked as a religion teacher with students aged between 16 and 22. The majority of his students are of Moroccan descent, with their families coming to Belgium during the period of Moroccan immigration in the 1960s and 70s, and are of the Islamic faith. His work with these students is based on providing them with the tools to discover, understand and analyse the diversity of religions, with a particular emphasis on Islam. He is a member

of Traces de Changement, a teachers based publication in Brussels, in which he has published a number of articles about teaching religion, notably Islam, to students and coordinated a dossier Laïcité et Religion à L'école in January 2013. He is also a member of La Revue Nouvelle, a Brussels based socio-political monthly publication, for which he is coordinating a dossier on radicalisation to be published later this year. He has participated in debates about radicalisation and Islamophobia at the Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis (Brussels), and has spoken about teaching youth religion in the context of radicalisation at a national level.

“Reducing the Possible Risk of Radicalisation by Giving Students Tools to Discover and Understand the Diversity of Islam”

David D'Hondt will show how he is trying to reduce the risk of his students becoming radicalised by teaching them about diversity within religions, and more specifically Islam. The method he utilises in his classes consists of asking the students to choose a religious topic they would like to discuss in class that is linked to the city they live in – in this case Brussels. By allowing the students to choose their topic anchored in their daily reality, it is possible to work on something concrete and contextualised. The students are then asked to discuss the diversity that inhabits the religion(s) linked with the topic that they have chosen, for instance, the Islamic veil or the youths leaving Brussels to join and fight for the Islamic State. They are asked to reflect upon the history of Islam, as well as study the different religious sources that are used around their topic. In the case of Islam these include the Quran, the *sīrah*, the hadiths and the *fiqh*. The students then read books, watch videos and importantly, interview an individual who will have something to say about the topic, for example a woman wearing the veil that previously had not, a mother of a young boy who died in Syria, an Imam, a taxi driver or a local grocer, in order to understand and deconstruct what sources they quote when they speak. The students will then try to place the individual on a document showing the diversity of the respective religion, and try to understand what that means when it is contextualised within their own daily lives and local context. The objective of this exercise is to give the students the tools to understand and be able to build upon a knowledge base about religion that they read, hear or a person that they meet, in order to enable the students to have a more critical understanding of discourses around religion and their interlocutor be it a religious leader or an online preacher.

SANDRINE DOCHAIN

Managing Editor, Change for Equality and Teacher (Belgium)



Sandrine Dochain is the managing editor of the journal TRACeS de ChanGements of the socio-pedagogical association ChanGements pour l'égalité (Change for Equality), who is responsible for the organisations of events and trainings. Sandrine has worked for 16 years in the specialised education system, with in the ordinary basic education system to develop projects aiming to assist pupils to become more competent with the language of the school. She was first an active campaigner for the association ChanGements pour l'égalité before becoming a permanent member and to continue to fight for a schooling system that does not reproduces socio-economic inequalities.

“Critical and Collective Work around Hot Issues – Radically for Complexity”

This is the story of a year 11 classroom in technical secondary education (a stream to which Belgian students are relegated to if they have failed to do well in the mainstream education) in which getting the pupils to work can sometimes be difficult. Their French and social sciences teacher together with an external trainer propose to the pupils to work together on a collective production. They accepted. The teachers had two conditions: the production has to be done through writing and has to be diffused to others than the group. The students chose to work on Laurent Louis, a Belgian politician well known for his populist, racist, conspirationist and homophobic statements. A hot topic which teachers and students worked on together rather than imposing ideas and formulating responses in place of the students. This experiment was initiated by teachers with the support of the teacher independent association ChanGements pour l'égalité throughout 2014 and 2015, following the rise of radicalisation in Belgium and the departures of many young Belgians to Syria. The idea underlying this particular experiment was to equip the students with critical thinking and reflection around media and news reporting so to make them more resilient

when exposed to extremist propaganda. In April 2015, the association organised a conference on the theme of youth and radicalisation bringing together various actors from street educators, to teachers and youth associations.

MARK DUCKWORTH

Chief Resilience Officer, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Australia)



Mark Duckworth is Victoria's first Chief Resilience Officer, a position he took up in May 2015. Working with and supporting a newly established Ministerial Taskforce, he leads Victoria's efforts to improve social cohesion and community resilience, and counter violent extremism. He is the Chair of the Expert Reference Group of the Research Institute on Social Cohesion (RIOSCO), established by the Victorian Government in 2015 to enquire into the benefits of diversity, how to develop strong communities and examine the factors which make communities resilient to extremism.

Mark is the interim Chair of the Risk and Resilience subcommittee of the State Crisis and Resilience Council. He co-chaired the Working Group that prepared the National Disaster Resilience Strategy that was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in February 2011. Before joining DPC, Mark worked at the Cabinet Office of New South Wales, the University of Sydney Law School and the Law Reform Commission of Victoria. Mark is a graduate of the University of Melbourne in history and law. He regularly presents at courses and conferences including for the National Security College. In the 2007 Australia Day Honours he was awarded the Public Service Medal for his work in establishing the National Counter-Terrorism arrangements.

“Strengthening Social Cohesion and Community Resilience, and Preventing Violent Extremism in Victoria”

Mark's presentation will explain the role of the State Government of Victoria's Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Taskforce, outline the Taskforce's approach to its

work, including building the evidence-base and co-production with communities, and describe our engagement with communities to co-design and implement new initiatives to support social cohesion in Victoria and community resilience to violent extremism in all of its forms.

WILLIAM (BILL) ELISCHER

Director Counter-terrorism Middle East, Africa and South Asia Section, Counter-terrorism Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)



Bill Elischer was born and educated in Perth, Australia. After initially working in advertising, he joined the British Army passing selection for 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery. Following training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst he commanded troops on four operational counter-terrorism tours in Northern Ireland. In 2003 Bill studied Arabic and was posted to British Embassies in Saudi Arabia, then Yemen to coordinate Counter-Terrorism programmes until he transferred to the Australian Army in 2007.

Bill joined DFAT in February 2010, as Director High Threat Section, responsible for security of Australia's diplomats in Islamabad, Baghdad and Kabul. In April 2012 Bill assumed a global diplomatic security remit as Director of Operational Security Section. In June 2013 Bill became Director, Defence and National Security Section, responsible for Defence liaison and contribution to its strategic planning, US Alliance issues, National Security, and strategic political-military cooperation issues. In October 2014 he became the first Director of Counter-terrorism Middle East, Africa and South Asia, responsible for bilateral and multilateral Counter-terrorism (CT) policy engagement and programs for those regions, Central Asia and Europe. This includes Foreign Terrorist Fighter policy issues and programs and advice on terrorist listings and sanctions.

"The Australian and International Response to Terrorism"

Australia has been active in regional counter-terrorism for over

a decade and the emergence of ISIL and its associated Foreign Fighter threat has prompted a further extra-regional expansion of Australia's practical counter-terrorism cooperation. The evolution of the threat into Australia's domestic security consciousness, the development of increasingly brutal and unpredictable tactics and the pervasiveness of toxic ideologies has prompted the development and a push for global adoption of new approaches. These are championed by international bodies that must adapt to meet the realities and requirements of 2016. Some approaches require the application of existing tools for new outcomes. In particular our approach to development is being reconsidered to provide innovative methods to address the drivers of radicalisation. This address will outline Australia's current international engagement on counter-terrorism and CVE, the action plans being put in place to coordinate global responses and the progress of efforts to harness development to achieve CVE outcomes.

ABDULRAHIM ELMI

Roots TV (Australia)



Mr Abdulrahim Elmi works as a freelancer community development officer. He specialises in working with at risk youth from all backgrounds. Mr Elmi is originally from Somalia but moved to the UK from a young age and graduated from the University of Liverpool in Marketing. Mr Elmi has always been passionate about changing young people's lives and mentoring them. He has worked intensely in juvenile prisons and community housing areas in the inner cities of London. He has also worked with young Muslim youth who are in danger of being radicalised or groomed. Mr Elmi moved to Australia in 2011. He has won several community awards from London youth initiatives and from the University of Kuwait; in Western Australia (WA) he was awarded the 2012 Children Week Awards.

One of Mr Elmi's recent projects is Roots TV. An exciting and fresh community-based YouTube Channel that provides a

platform for community groups to connect with each other. The channel aims to engage young at risk Muslim youth to learn the skills in media production and build an alternative pathway to violence and extremism

“Changing Lives from Inside – Roots TV”

Roots TV is an exciting and fresh, community-based YouTube Channel, that provides a platform for community groups to connect with each other. Roots TV focuses on community news, interfaith programs, sports and technology segments, as well as programs for children. Roots TV aims to reach diverse parts of the broader community in Western Australia, by providing a platform for our local Muslim organisations to have their voice heard. It is a non-profit skills development program located in WA which offers digital film-making and video production workshops to youth facing multiple barriers from social to employment. The targeted community is at risk youth. We use the term “at-risk” to define young people who show evidence of a combination of employment barriers that put them at risk of long-term unemployment and subsequent dependence on public funds for support either through the welfare system, the criminal justice system, and/or the health care system. Our solution is engaging the creative youth at risk. Roots TV aims to change the lives of at risk Muslim youth who might be involved with drugs or gangs. Through engagement in the program and support. This program and module is developed through my work on grass roots level with at risk youth for over 17 years. From prison visitation to running youth centres in London. Worked with immediate families who are affected by such problems and issues. Develop a platform for young people to learn the skills in media and short film production and use YouTube and social platform to promote their works.

PROF. MICHELE GROSSMAN

**Director of the Centre for Cultural Diversity and Wellbeing,
Victoria University (Australia)**



Michele Grossman is Professor of Cultural Studies and Director of the Centre for Cultural Diversity and Wellbeing. She has led or co-led a range of research studies into violent extremism and community experience, including Community and Radicalisation (2013, with Hussein Tahiri); Harnessing Resilience Capital in Culturally Diverse Communities to Counter Violent Extremism (2014, with Hussein Tahiri and Peta Stephenson) and Community Reporting Thresholds for Known or Suspected Involvement in Violent Extremist Foreign Conflict (2015). Professor Grossman contributes actively to the nexus between academic research and practitioner knowledge mobilisation through membership of the Expert Reference Group of the Research Institute for Social Cohesion in Victoria, Ministerial Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (Victoria), Victoria Police Chief Commissioner's Human Rights Strategic Advisory Committee, the Countering Violent Extremism National Research Panel and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's rostered list of experts on radicalisation leading to violence. She is currently working on projects relating to the role of women in violent extremism and foreign conflict (with Hussein Tahiri and Susan Carland) and an extension of the Community Reporting Thresholds study in the UK with colleagues from Huddersfield University.

“The Islamic State of Cats: Some Preliminary Considerations about Gender and Terrorism”

In the current landscape of terrorism analysis and studies, emerging analysis is being devoted to questions around the increasing role of women in terrorist influence and activity, particularly in terms of social media but also in relation to embodied forms of terrorist action and agency. In this sense, discussions around ‘gender and terrorism’ usually signal that we are about to speak on the topic of women and terrorism, given the new sense of urgency around applying gendered analyses to contemporary terrorist drivers, recruitment strategies, propaganda and agency, and evidence of enhanced involvement in terrorist influence and action by women in different parts of the world. ‘Gender’ in other words, is most often used as code for ‘female’ in this space. I want to suggest, however, that we need to use ‘gender’ not only as a lens to explore female involvement in contemporary terrorism, but to inquire more deeply into the negotiation of gendered constructs of identity and agency for male as well as female terrorists. Gender is a fluid concept, deeply linked to and reinforced or challenged by complex and intersecting transcultural contexts, and understanding how various gender tropes are navigated and mobilised by both men and women drawn to terrorism is critical if we are to advance both

conceptual and empirical knowledge in relation to terrorist identities, desires and behaviours.

PROF. ANITA HARRIS

Research Professor, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)



Anita Harris is a Research Professor in the Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University, Australia. She researches in the area of youth citizenship, youth cultures and participatory practice in changing times. She is completing an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship investigating intercultural relations amongst youth in multicultural cities in Australia and around the world ('Young People and Social Inclusion in the Multicultural City') and has recently undertaken a major project on 'The Civic Life of Young Muslim Australians'. She is the author of several books in youth studies, most recently Young People and Everyday Multiculturalism (2013, Routledge New York).

DR. ANN-SOPHIE HEMMINGSEN

Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies (Denmark)



My area of research is militant Islamism in the West with emphasis on Denmark. I primarily work empirically and study militant Islamism as a social phenomenon focusing on issues such as identity, social dynamics and attractions but also follow strategic and ideological developments. In addition to this, I am interested in historical and present interactions

between militant Islamism in the West and violent conflicts in other parts of the World as well as parallels between militant Islamism and other types of militant extremism.

Last but not least, I study counter-terrorism and prevention of radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism. Since 2008 I have been engaged in advising governments, municipalities and authorities on these issues and in training front line staff in Denmark. I recently published the report "An Introduction to the Danish Approach to Countering and Preventing Extremism and Radicalization" which introduces the development of the Danish approach, its structural arrangements and ideological foundations, its main actors and elements, and the challenges with which it is faced.

"The Danish Approach to Returnees from Syria and Iraq"

The Danish approach to dissuading individuals from travelling to Syria and Iraq and to receiving returnees from these areas is truly multiagency and multidisciplinary. It emphasises help to self-help and therefore relies heavily on methods such as mentoring, coaching and therapy as well as the provision of alternatives such as education or career advice. The approach is an extension of a decade's experience with efforts to counter and prevent radicalisation to violence and of four decades' experience with multiagency efforts in crime prevention. As this indicates, the approach is based on specific understandings of the phenomena, of the (welfare) state's role, and of how human behavior can be influenced which are highly relevant to anyone considering finding inspiration in it.

"Early Prevention in Schools - a Disputed Idea"

In a Danish context early prevention of radicalisation and extremism in primary and secondary schools is attempted but there is disagreement on how it is best done and two opposing schools of thought have emerged. One dictates confronting the issues head on by teaching about them, whereas the other, referring to experience from early prevention of substance abuse and suicide, seeks to avoid directly addressing the problem warning that this may create social exaggerations. The latter instead dictates including in the curriculum themes such as practical democracy, critical sense, online awareness, and understanding of manipulation and propaganda.

ASSOC. PROF. BENJAMIN ISAKHAN

Politics and Policy Studies, Convenor of the Middle East Studies Forum, Deakin University (Australia)



*Benjamin Isakhan is Associate Professor of Politics and Policy Studies and Convenor of the Middle East Studies Forum in the Alfred Deakin Research Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University, Australia. He is also Adjunct Senior Research Associate, Department of Politics at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa and an Associate of the Sydney Democracy Network at the University of Sydney, Australia. He is the author of *Democracy in Iraq: History, Politics, Discourse* (Ashgate, 2012) and the editor of 6 books including, most recently, *The Legacy of Iraq: From the 2003 War to the 'Islamic State'* (Edinburgh University Press & Oxford University Press, 2016 [2015]). He is a leading expert and regular commentator on Middle Eastern Politics, Democracy and Democratization across the Middle East, and Heritage Destruction in the Middle East. Ben's current research includes a 3-year funded project entitled 'Measuring Heritage Destruction in Iraq and Syria'.*

“The Politics of Heritage Destruction Under the ‘Islamic State’”

In late February 2015, the world was shocked by a slick propaganda film in which members of the terrorist organisation, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) could be seen destroying invaluable artefacts from Iraq's rich and diverse past in the Mosul Museum. In fact, such events are indicative of a much broader phenomenon in which groups like ISIS are actively targeting some of the world's most important and sensitive heritage sites. In both Syria and Iraq, ISIS have been responsible for the mass looting of ancient archaeological sites and the destruction of ancient buildings and statues. They have also destroyed untold numbers of religious sites that do not conform to their strict vision including churches, mosques, shrines and temples. Overwhelmingly, the heritage destruction done by ISIS and others has been framed as barbaric acts of wanton destruction

as the global community has struggled to understand and interpret, let alone craft suitable policy responses to, these acts of heritage destruction. This paper argues that the acts of heritage destruction conducted by ISIS are far from random moments of barbarity and are instead motivated by a very carefully crafted political ideology. This paper will document some of the most extreme instances of heritage destruction undertaken by ISIS and seeks to articulate a framework for interpreting the politics of this heritage destruction. It argues that underpinning ISIS attacks on heritage sites is a three-pronged ideology: sites are attacked as part of a broader campaign of cultural genocide in which non-Muslim minorities such as Yezidi's and Christians and their heritage sites are to be removed; sites are attacked along ethno-religious sectarian lines, in which Shia heritage sites are deliberately attacked as proxies for the fight against the Shia-Allawite government in Syria, the Shia dominated government in Baghdad and the broader geo-political struggle against Iran and other Shia entities (Hezbollah and various Shia militias); sites are attacked because of the iconoclasm of religious fundamentalism in which any pre-Islamic polytheism or post-Islamic religious 'innovation' is deemed heretical according to the strictest interpretations of Islam.

NOOR HUDA ISMAIL

PhD Candidate, School of Political and International Relations, Monash University (Australia)



Noor Huda Ismail is a PhD student of Politics and International Relations at Monash University on Australian Award Scholarship 2014. Prior to this, he worked as a special correspondent for the Washington Post Southeast Asia Bureau from 2002-2005. He then won British's Chevening Scholarship in 2005 to further his master degree on International Security at St Andrews University, Scotland.

In 2008, he established The Institute for International Peace Building in Indonesia. Ashoka, a global social entrepreneur organization awarded him as Ashoka Fellow 2013 as a social

innovator for civic engagement. Through the Institute, he reincorporates former political violence activists back into mainstream Indonesian society as well as empowering women in post conflict areas such as in Poso, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. His new documentary film, *Jihad Selfie* will be released on February 2016. His writings have appeared in a number of media outlets such as the *Washington Post*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Strait Times*, *The Jakarta Post*, *Tempo Magazine*, *Kompas*. He appears regularly on ABC TV, SBS TV, CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera TV to comment on security issues.

He also gave a TedX Talk in Hong Kong and a series of public lectures in more than 12 countries. He is now working closely with Google on how to use technology to counter the spread of violence ideology. He lives in Melbourne with his wife, Desy Ery Dani and two of his sons: Hiro (7) and Salman (5).

“The Use of Social Media by IS (Islamic State) Supporters in Indonesia”

The conflict in Syria has changed the nature of radicalisation in Indonesia from mere talk either in online and offline activities into actual violence action taking place at home or at the ground zero of the conflict. How far and what ways social media provides and supports the recruitment of Indonesians to join IS? Recruitment is a complex process and involves individuals engaging with a large amount of online propaganda material. Propaganda material is presented on a variety of social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook which are often linked into YouTube videos. In addition, recruitment also involves joining networks of radicalised individuals online by becoming “friends” with them or following trending issues. The paper will employ Manuel Castell’s work on the rise of the network society: that one of its key features is the networked connection between the local and global through the development of information technologies such to understand the phenomenon of social media as a powerful communication tool around the world (Castells 2002). Through this framework, it is clear that Indonesian foreign fighters have been employing innovative networks that are informal and using less visible means to mobilise supporters and build momentum.

KAWEENIPON (SALIM) KATEPRASIT

Production Director, Halal Life Magazine and Yateem TV (Thailand)



Kaweenipon (Salim) Kateprasit is Halal Life magazine’s and Yateem TV’s production director. Halal Life was created in 2011 with the view of reporting on Muslim daily lives and experiences in Thailand. Salim also works in the film industry where he has produced and edited TV shows and music videos. He was the film editor of national award winning films *Three Friends* by Atit Assarat and *True Mom* by M.L Mingmongkol Sonkul. He has also co-directed the short documentary *In between*, which won the second place for best documentary film at the ninth Thailand short film competition. In 2008, with the support of the Asian Network Documentary, Salim co-produced, wrote and directed the documentary *Muallaf (The Convert)* which tells the story of a young Bangkok Buddhist woman who married a Muslim man from conflict torn southern Thailand and how she adjusts to her new life while learning about her new faith. His second long documentary *Baby Arabia (2010)* follows one of the oldest Thai-Muslim bands specialising in the subcultural genre of Arab-Malay music and explores how the world of melody can be both faith-bound and joyously secular. Both documentaries were screened at several film festivals. His latest short film *Gaddafi* follows Gaddafi Muhammad, a 14-year-old boy in central Bangkok who was named after Libyan leader Gaddafi by his father, and is about to have his first identity card right at the time Gaddafi was killed. Through his social documentaries and Halal Life, Salim touches on pressing issues that Thai Muslims are facing as a community.

“The Role of Media in the Reduction of Extremism and Hatred - the Halal Life Approach.”

Although Thailand has not experienced terrorist attacks to the scale of Paris or the degree of sectarian tensions as is present in the Middle East, Thailand is nonetheless affected by international terrorism particularly through its mainstream mass media. The regular reporting of terrorist violence

by the Thai mass media and its particular framing of it has generated distrust and hatred towards Thai Muslims and growing sectarian tensions within the Muslim community. These tensions are negatively impacting the Thai community with anti-Muslim sentiment growing and the organisation of Islamophobic campaigns across the country such as the recent campaign against the building of mosques. These recent events demonstrate the role the media plays in the creation and expansion of conflict, which could potentially lead to violence.

Halal Life is an alternative media created by a group of young Muslim men and women who are concerned about the growing environment of mistrust and hatred towards the Muslim community as well as within the Muslim community itself, and how it could lead to inter and intra religious violence. In this view, Halal Life emphasises its content on the publication of stories, which are aimed to build mutual understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims in the hope of reducing hatred among Muslims and non-Muslims. At Halal Life, we believe hatred and misunderstanding are some of the main causes of violence. Our campaign, “No Space for Violence,” is one example of our work in this space that includes structuring messages and activities to raise awareness among people about violence and to invite them to join the campaign and spread out the value of non-violence.

DR. DAVID KILCULLEN

Former Chief Strategist CT White House (Australia/USA)



David Kilcullen is one of the world's foremost thinkers on counterinsurgency and military strategy. He was senior advisor to General David Petraeus in 2007 and 2008, when he helped to design and monitor the Iraq War coalition troop "Surge." He was then appointed special advisor for counterinsurgency to U S Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Before this, he was chief strategist in the Counterterrorism Bureau of the U S State Department, and he has also advised the UK and Australian governments, NATO and the International Security

Assistance Force. He is a former Australian Army officer and the author of three acclaimed books: The Accidental Guerrilla, Counterinsurgency and Out of the Mountains.

“Islamic State: the Rise and Reach of a Complex Terror Threat”

Dr. Kilcullen discusses the emergence of Islamic State within the context both of the failed “Global War On Terror” and large-scale military approach of the Bush Administration, and of the equally ineffective light-footprint counterterrorism and “Overseas Contingency Operations” of the Obama administration. Against the background of these Western strategies, the events of 2011--the Arab Spring, the killing of Osama bin Laden, the Syrian Civil War and the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq--enabled the rise of the Islamic State. But Al Qaeda, its affiliates, and other terrorist and extremist threats remain active, and have adapted--adopting methods such as guerrilla terrorism, the urban siege, leaderless resistance, and remote radicalisation--making them significantly harder to counter. All this, Dr. Kilcullen argues, demands a thorough rethink, and recognition of the failure of western governments and international institutions to successfully address the threat of violent extremism since 2001.

DANIEL KOEHLER

Director of German Institute for Radicalization and Deradicalization Studies (GIRD), (Germany)



Daniel Koehler studied religious studies, political sciences and economics at Princeton University and Free University Berlin. After having finished the postgraduate program 'Master of Peace and Security Studies' at the University of Hamburg as best of his class he specialised on terrorism, radicalisation, and de-radicalisation. He worked as a de-radicalisation and family counsellor in multiple programs. He developed several methodological approaches to de-radicalisation (for example family counselling methodologies) and published numerous articles and chapters on the topic. In addition he gave expert interviews for leading international news outlets such as

Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, National Public Radio, Rolling Stone Magazine, Associated Press, and the London Sunday Times. In 2014 he founded the German Institute on Radicalization and De-radicalization Studies (GIRDS, www.girds.org) and the first peer reviewed open access journal on de-radicalisation (www.journal-exit.de). He trained deradicalisation experts and built programs in countries like Canada, the Netherlands and Germany.

In June 2015 Daniel Koehler was named a fellow of George Washington University's new Program on Extremism at the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security. Due to his "pioneering" work in counter-terrorism he will help to design policies and resources for community based de-radicalisation programs in the United States. In 2016 he was appointed as court expert for the US Federal Court in Minneapolis to advise for deradicalisation options in numerous homegrown radicalisation cases.

"Counter-Narratives, Social Media and ISIS Online Recruitment. A Guideline."

The presentation will discuss the role of social media for ISIS recruitment and violent radicalisation based on their own propaganda and media 'empire' as well as the ISIS recruitment handbook. Research on counter-narratives is in its early infancy stages and so far it is almost unknown what works and what doesn't – and most importantly: why. The presentation will discuss three cases studies of counter narrative campaigns in the West and introduce some basic factors determining success or failure from the practitioner's perspective. One of the few campaigns considered to be successful is the 'open letter to Islamic State' initiative conducted by the international network "Mothers for Life" in summer 2015. This campaign will be discussed in-depth with insider material and first hand data on impact. Lastly, the problems and boundaries of social media, youth radicalisation and CVE will be mapped and discussed.

MOHAMMED KOZBAR

Chairman, Finsbury Park Mosque (UK)



Mohammed Kozbar is the chairman of Finsbury Park Mosque, one of the most prominent Islamic centres in the UK. Kozbar holds a masters degree in Charity Management at St. Mary's University. He is also a member of the Islington Faiths Forum representing the Muslim Community in North London and a regular IB Times UK columnist.

"From Breaking to Building the Community - the Case of Finsbury Park Mosque"

Every time the issue of young British Muslims going to Syria is raised, the same question is asked by both the media and the government: Why isn't the Muslim community doing more to stop these young people joining (ISIS)? For those who hold the belief that Muslims in the UK are "silent on terror" - they would do well to read the joint statement by the eight biggest London Mosques after the Paris terror attack of November 2015, they should read the Muslim Council of Britain open letter which signed by more than 300 Muslim organisations and published in the telegraph newspaper. But if we agree that the Muslim community should shoulder some responsibility to address this problem, simply putting all the blame and responsibility at the doors of our community will only risk alienating, marginalising and criminalising a new generation of Muslim youth.

Eleven years ago, Finsbury Park Mosque would not have been a place where anyone would want to come or be welcome. Eleven years ago, extremists from both sides, including the far right, used this Mosque to justify themselves. Within one day we managed to bring this Mosque to the community and transform it from a hostile to cohesive centre. It is now a community centre, which is open to everyone regardless of their faith or background. Under the current leadership, in addition to its religious services the Mosque offers a range of other programs, open to people of all faiths or none. These include a youth club, sports sessions for swimming, football,

IT and ESOL training, parenting skills sessions, community advice, as well as surgeries for MPs, local councillors and the police. It has opened its doors every week to a “meals for all” scheme for homeless, poor and vulnerable people. In October 2014, Muslims are a fundamental part of their society and an important part of the makeup of it. The Muslim community has at its core values that are truly human, values such as honesty, justice and equality, all intertwined in their faith and culture. Finally, violence breeds violence and this cycle must stop. Let us all start today by acknowledging that Muslims are part of their wider society and like all communities they need understanding and support, rather than hate and the criminalisation of their faith.

ASSOC. PROF. PETER LENTINI

Global Terrorism Research Centre and Department of Politics and International Relations, Monash University (Australia)



*Associate Professor Peter Lentini is the Founding Director of Monash University's Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC) and served as its Director from 2007-12. A specialist in Russian politics, and comparative terrorist, extremist and fringe political movements, he is author of *Neojihadism: Towards a New Understanding of Terrorism and Extremism? (2013)* and his scholarly articles in these areas have been published in *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, *the Australian Journal of Political Science*, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* and *the Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics*.*

“Russia and the ISIL Threat”

For most of its post-Communist existence, Russia has been fighting various Islamist insurgencies and terrorist campaigns within its borders. Although Russian citizens have been fighting for Islamist entities in Syria and Iraq from 2011, since ISIL declared the Caliphate in 2014, thousands of Russian citizens have gone abroad to expand and/or defend the so-called ‘Islamic State’. Within Russia itself, some Russian

citizens and residents have been plotting attacks and recruiting on its behalf, and providing it with other means of support. Russia is involved militarily in the fight against ISIL in Syria. Russian citizens have been victims of some high profile ISIL-claimed terrorist attacks in Tunisia and in the Sinai Peninsula. ISIL clearly threatens Russia and Russians. Additionally, there are some ISIL threats that come from Russia. Drawing primarily on official Russian documents and Russian media reports, this paper queries: What is the scope of the ISIL threat to and from Russia? How does ISIL compare to current and previous threats to Russia and Russians? How does Russia understand and frame the ISIL threat? Why do Russian citizens and residents fight and recruit for, or support ISIL? What measures has Russia implemented to combat ISIL, and how do they compare to previous Russian policies and practices to counter terrorism and violent extremism? What factors affect Russia's willingness or abilities to participate more fully in international efforts to defeat ISIL?

DR. DAVID MALET

Lecturer of International Relations, University of Melbourne (Australia)



*David Malet is a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Melbourne. Previously he directed the Center for the Study of Homeland Security at Colorado State University, and served as a defense and foreign policy aide to the former United States Senate Majority Leader. He is the author of *Foreign Fighters (Oxford University Press, 2013)*, has been researching this issue since 2005, and comments on it regularly for international media and government agencies. His other areas of research include transnational movements, US politics and policymaking, and social media communications. His second book, *Biotechnology and International Security*, is forthcoming from Rowman & Littlefield.*

“Anticipating Attacks by Returned Foreign Fighters”

Fears of attacks from returning foreign fighters against home or host countries has become perhaps the preeminent

international security concern of this decade. ‘Blowback’ or ‘bleed out’ by travellers has been a threat since the early 1990s. However, the scale of militants flocking to the Syria-Iraq conflict, calls by ISIS for supporters to launch independent attacks at home, and concerns about refugees have prompted many countries to enact unprecedented legislation to prevent citizens from leaving and from returning home, including rendering them stateless. It is impossible to prove a negative proposition – we can never know if foreign fighters blocked from returning to Australia or other countries would have been terrorists upon their return. But we can examine the records of returned foreign fighters from past cases, both for the jihad movement of the past 30 years and for other militant groups in international history. I argue that the evidence indicates that only a handful of returnees become involved in domestic plots, and fewer still pull off significant successful attacks. While returnees do pose a security threat, policy should be informed by realistic cost-benefit assessments, and not overreaction to ISIS.

LAURA MARTIN

Coordinator of Academic Training, European Muslim Research On Islamic Development (EmridNetwork) (Belgium)



Laura Martin is a Belgian graduate from The University of Strasbourg. After a Bachelor in Ancient Oriental Languages and Literatures at the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), she achieved a master in Arabic Studies at Strasbourg (France). Her main interests are female leadership and cultural practices in Islam. In view of deepening her analysis of the local variability of religiosity, in the light of the law, she is currently enrolled in a Master in Social Sciences of Religions (University of Louvain-la-Neuve). Her interest for the study of Islam in European societies, combined with the need for building inclusive identities made her join EmridNetwork (European Muslim Research on Islamic Development) where she currently is co-coordinator of the academic training “Religious and Social Sciences: Islam in the Contemporary

World”.

“The Engagement of EmridNetwork into the Deradicalisation Process: An Upstream and Downstream Work”

Based in Brussels, emridNetwork (European Muslim Research on Islamic Development) is an association where social issues related to Islam in Europe are discussed between experts, civil society, and both political and religious Belgian leaderships. The engagement of EmridNetwork consists in developing global strategies in order to 1) stimulate “inclusive identities”, which leads to 2) counter radicalisation on both short and long-term (special focus on the local ground, namely Belgium, via a global expertise). Regarding the societal issue of foreign fighters and their return in Belgium, however, no short-term solution can possibly be addressed. Thus, we insist on in-depth works, coping with the plurality of profiles of radicalised youth. We consequently assume there is no one way to deal with returning fighters, as the reasons of their departures and returns are diverse (e.g. once they are back, some intend to stay in Belgium in order to radicalise others, some have deserted Syria, and some others intend to go back to Syria). Retracing their engagement, analysing their acts at the light of the historical continuum appears essential. The privileged approach consists in understanding the inner logic of radical talks in order to be better deconstruct their ideology. Those contributions not only aim for a better management of return fighters, on both theological and social grounds, but will also help to counteract radicalisation, e.g. by curbing guilty feelings and isolation processes (which underlie steps toward radicalisation). Moreover, a constant attention is paid to media fuss and the risk of overlooking the social issues in favor of religious discourse.

AISHA NOVAKOVICH

Community Advocate, 'Beyond Diversity' Practitioner, and Law Student, University of Western Australia (UWA) (Australia)



Aisha is a community advocate who is passionate about building bridges between communities; issues surrounding multiculturalism; and combating domestic violence. At UWA, she graduated with Honours in Political Science and English. She is in her final year of Law. She currently works at UWA. Aisha is involved with several organisations including Roots TV; WA Muslims Reaching Out; West Australians for Racial Equality; and Orphan Aid. She recently joined the newly formed Multicultural Women's Advisory Group at WA Police. Previously, Aisha was a board member at Langford Islamic College and on the Management Committee of the Muslim Women's Support Centre. She previously sat on the Prime Minister's Muslim Community Reference Group; and Premier Gallop's Anti-Racism Steering Committee. Currently, Aisha is involved with delivering the program "Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations about Race" at UWA. She is also a nationally accredited Mediator. Aisha is married and mother to two very energetic boys, aged 12 and 8.

"Radicalisation, Redemption and Loss: Insights Into the Young Muslim Mind"

My presentation is semi-autobiographical and highlights my deeply personal experiences of embracing strong ideological Wahhabi and Salafi strains as an Australian teenager, as a means to provide some insight into the world of young radicalised Muslims. I will also outline some of the emerging themes from young people through the work I have done previously as a community volunteer; Youth leader; teacher and event organizer. I will propose that the leadership in this country, both within the Muslim community, and in broader Australia, still don't quite "get it" – the reasons why so many young Muslims are becoming radicalised and choosing to fight with ISIS. Paradoxically, the answers are simultaneously simple and complex. The need to listen, understand and reach out to our youth is more urgent than ever.

MILAN OBAIDI

PhD Candidate, Harvard University/EU Institute (USA/Italy)



Milan Obaidi is a PhD candidate under the supervision of Olivier Roy and James Sidanius. His current research explores the social and psychological factors that contribute to the motivations behind the radicalisation of some Muslim Europeans. In particular, Milan investigates the extent to which individual psychological needs, feelings and motives pertaining to the management of deprivation, victimization, uncertainty, group threat, and injustice are related to Muslim Europeans' attitudes towards committing and supporting violence in Europe.

"The Mistreatment of My People: Victimisation-by-Proxy and Behavioral Intentions to Commit Terrorism among Muslims in Denmark"

Islamist radicalisation is often explained by the suffering of Muslims in Islamic countries during Western-led wars. However, many terrorist attacks have been carried out by European Muslims with no personal experiences of war. Across two studies among Danish Muslims we tested if victimization-by-proxy processes motivate behavioural intentions to commit acts of terrorism. We used Muslim identification, perceived injustice of Western foreign policies, and group-based anger to predict violent and nonviolent behavioural intentions. More importantly, we compared path models of those Muslims who did and did not have personal experience of Western-led occupation, and we found similar effects in both groups. That is, vicarious psychological responses mimicked those of personally experienced adversity. In fact, participants born in Western Europe were, on average, more strongly identified with Muslims, perceived Western foreign policy as more unjust, reported greater group-based anger, and were more inclined to help Muslims by non-violent, but not violent, means.

PROF. ROBERT PAPE

Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago (USA)



*Dr. Robert Pape is a professor of political science at the University of Chicago and the director of the Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism (CPOST). He is a frequent commentator on terrorism and national security matters. His most recent book is *Cutting the Fuse: The Explosion of Global Suicide Terrorism and How to Stop It*.*

“How ISIS has Changed the World Again”

My talk will explain the rise of ISIS, its goals, targeting logic, and the group’s recent shift to spectacular attacks in the context of the global environment of suicide terrorism in the last 30 years. Over the past half-year we have seen a dramatic shift in the targeting patterns employed by ISIS. Moving from a focus on Iraq and Syria, ISIS has carried out complex attacks in Ankara, Beirut, over the Sinai, and Paris. A look at the data from our Suicide Attack Database, also shows that suicide attacks in Iraq and Syria declined substantially in the fall of 2015. What explains this change? The answer can be found in Iraq and Syria. There, since September 2014, ISIS has lost significant territory and faces the near term prospect of losing to a multi-prong offensive by the international coalition that could decisively cripple the terrorist group. What are the reasons for this and how are they connected to foreign occupation, the main driver of suicide terrorism? What is an effective strategy for the West to follow in taking the fight to the Islamic state and will it be possible for the anti-ISIS coalition members to prevent future Paris-Style attacks?

MAHMOUD PARGOO

PhD. Candidate, Institute for Social Justice, Australian Catholic University (Australia)



Mahmoud Pargoo is a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for Social Justice, Australian Catholic University in Sydney. He focuses on the transformation of Shi’ite jurisprudence from the perspective of post-positivist philosophies of science and law. His educational background includes Islamic Philosophy and Theology, Sharia and Islamic Legal Theory, and a MA in Philosophical Logic. Mahmoud speaks three main languages of the Middle East: Arabic, Farsi and Turkish. He is currently involved in research on the propaganda campaign of ISIS for recruitment of Western foreign fighters with a focus on the group’s audio/video releases. His comments on current affairs of the Middle East are published in Al-Monitor outlet.

“Understanding ISIS Propaganda Campaign: the Zeal for Jihad or the Lure of Hollywood?”

ISIS has launched an extensive propaganda campaign to recruit foreign fighters especially from the Western countries and it has been successful in recruiting thousands of them. But what are the nodal points in the ISIS’s discourse when it addresses the Western audience? Unlike scholars who analyse those messages in terms of jihad, hijrah and other religious terms, my investigation into more than 400 pieces of videos released by the group demonstrates that religious inclination is not enough to attract Western youth to jihad and that’s why ISIS videos invest in Western popular cultural frameworks such as Hollywood in order to attract the youth to join its cause. In the Hollywood narrative, the world is polarised into good and evil, in need of a hero to save the good from the evil by aggressive measures. This theme is intertwined with the hegemonic masculinity: the quest for significance and power, courage, toughness, adventure and family values. Furthermore, ISIS enshrines the values of equality, opposition to authority and fraternity in order to address the widespread inequality and injustice in which its Western audiences are engrossed. But these cultural roots

will not make an ordinary Muslim youth a jihadi since it does not provide the moral justification for killing and brutality. Thus another major role of the propaganda is to provide the moral justification by invoking the feelings of victimhood and being assaulted.

The common wisdom and practice in countering ISIS propaganda has been heavily focused on criticising and nullifying its religious doctrines in order to stop the youth joining its cause. But, in line with scholars like Olivier Roy, I would suggest that the religious frame does not provide a proper explanation why jihad is appealing to certain groups of youth in the west but we need to track the lure of jihad back to the very Western values in which these people have lived and are brought up. This paper will explore the roots of the group's appeal in the Western popular culture and will end up by proposing some short-term and middle-term policy recommendations to curb its propaganda and recruitment capacities.

ISABELLE PRAILE

Muslim Executive of Belgium (Belgium)



I am the former Vice President of The Muslim Executive of Belgium and I am currently a Member of the General Assembly. The Muslim Executive of Belgium is the official body head of faith interlocutor with political authorities on matters regarding the institutionalisation of Islam. A convert to Islam since 1984 and an autodidact trained in the field, I enhanced my expertise with studies in Arabic, a Gordon training in communication and active listening, a training as a development and intercultural mediation worker (“Brevet d’Aptitude à la Gestion d’Institutions Culturelles” (Certificate of Competency in the Management of Cultural Institutions) - CBAI (Brussels Centre for Intercultural Action). My personal identity experience as a citizen has led me to be involved in several issues. I have been a coordinator of the association of women citizens: “Kawthar”, as a member of the platforms for interreligious dialogue within the women group: SaRa” (No

Racism), ex-coordinator of a youth Muslim movement. I have been involved for more than 10 years in associations fighting racism and discrimination such as “MRAX”: a movement to combat racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. On 30 June 2015, I was heard by the Marcourt Ministerial Commission (Marcourt being the Minister for Higher Education) for the “Etude de faisabilité en vue de la création d’un Institut public d’étude de l’Islam” (Feasibility study with a view to creating a public institute for the study of Islam). I am involved in awareness-raising campaigns with public and political opinion on the propaganda of the extremist Wahhabi ideology, on the violation of human rights by the Saudi State and its terrorist involvement in the world.

“From an Imported Consular Islam to a Broken Down Light Islam: Which Islam for our societies?”

A brief description of the Belgian institutional background is an inescapable prerequisite for understanding the inner workings of the organisation of the Muslim faith in Belgium. Once this frame of reference has been assimilated, we will be able to address the various tensions that have been handed down for decades and the challenges arising from those issues. The Muslim communities of Belgium who come in their majority from Morocco and Turkey are confined under the control of their State of origin, right from the beginning of their economic migration. Saudi, Turk and Moroccan interferences take place with the agreement of the competent authorities and encourage two approaches between which Muslim citizens are taken hostage. On the one hand, we have the reading of an imported Consular Islam that suffers from radical influences that are inconsistent with society and Islam. On the other hand, we have a broken down light Islam that offers a watered-down vision of this religion, any religious practice that is judged “inconsistent” or too visible opening the way for numerous excesses, including discrimination at school, at work.

This non-recognition of the “authentic” Islam, a vehicle for a base of values that are in step with our society and the difficulty of recognising Muslims as full citizens and equal before the law, generate risks, including cultural withdrawal and a rejection of society: a rich breeding ground for the ideological germs of radicalism. Several decision paths could be considered on the condition that Muslim citizens reclaim a critical re-examination of certain “accepted” references and facts of the history of Islam and that policy makers and all the actors concerned with this issue do not have any motivation other than achieving social justice and peace in our country.

PROF. DOUGLAS PRATT

Professor of Religious Studies, School of Social Sciences,
University of Waikato (New Zealand)



Douglas Pratt is Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Social Sciences, University of Waikato, New Zealand, and Adjunct Professor (Theology and Interreligious Studies) at the University of Bern, Switzerland. He is also an Associate of the Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics [CSRP] at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and the New Zealand Associate of the UNESCO Chair in Intercultural and Interreligious Relations - Asia Pacific, based at Monash University, Melbourne. Professor Pratt is Research Team Leader (Asia & Oceania) on the University of Birmingham based project *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1900 (CMR1900)*. He is an Associate Editor of the journals *Islam* and *Christian-Muslim Relations* and the *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*. Pratt's most recent book is *Being Open, Being Faithful: The Journey of Interreligious Dialogue (WCC, 2014)*. Other book publications include *The Church and Other Faiths: The World Council of Churches, the Vatican and Interreligious Dialogue*, (Peter Lang, 2010) and *The Challenge of Islam: Encounters in Interfaith Dialogue* (Ashgate, 2005). He has co-authored with Gary Bouma (Uni. of Monash) and Rod Ling (Uni. of Manchester) *Religious Diversity in Southeast Asia and the Pacific: National Case Studies* (Springer, 2010) and co-edited with David Cheetham and David Thomas (both University of Birmingham) *Understanding Interreligious Relations* (OUP, 2013). His most recent co-edited books are (with Virginie Andre) *Religious Citizenships and Islamophobia* (Routledge, 2015); (with Jon Hoover, John Davies, and John Chesworth) *The Character of Christian-Muslim Encounter: Essays in Honour of David Thomas* (Brill, 2015); and the forthcoming (with Rachel Woodlock) *Fear of Muslims? International Perspectives on Islamophobia* (Springer, 2016). With Angela Berlis and Andreas Krebs he is a series editor for *Internationale Kirchliche Zeitschrift - Berner Interreligiöse Ökumenische Studien (IKZ-BIOS)*, Bern: Stämpfli AG.

“Religious Extremism, Islamophobia and Reactive Co-Radicalisation: The Circular Problematic Posed by ISIS”

It seems today that a new form of religious extremism has emerged, one which paradoxically portrays itself as being a counter to another – the ostensibly ‘initiating’ – extremism perceived as a real and imminent threat. In response to contemporary Islamist violence, whether threatened or enacted, aimed at Western societies – including Australia and Europe – many such ‘target’ societies have experienced an upsurge in various forms of reactionary rhetoric and violence, with Islam and Muslims as the target. Islamophobia names not just an attitudinal stance, it applies also to sets of exclusionary or negatively reactive actions, and it most often draws on religious roots and imagery. As an expression of a generalised ‘fear of Islam’, Islamophobia can and does manifest as a form of religious extremism, even terrorism, every bit as abhorrent and problematic as the Islamist extremism that ostensibly provoked it.

In this paper I discuss examples of what I call ‘reactive co-radicalisation’, as a denominator of exclusionary reaction to the rising presence of Islam within otherwise secular, albeit nominally Christian, western European societies. To what extent is reactive co-radicalisation an apt hermeneutical perspective for understanding contemporary instances of religious terrorism and political violence born of Islamophobia? How might this contribute to and inform the contemporary understanding of Islamophobic reactions to ISIS and allied Islamism and, in so doing, address the problem of a spiral of increasing communal violence evidenced recently in Australia?

ABDELKADER RAILANE

Director of Mission Locale, Commission for the Promotion of the Equality of Opportunity and Citizenship (COPEC) (France)



Abdelkader Railane is a Director of a "Mission Locale" and Representative of the "COPEC" (Commission for the promotion of equal opportunities and citizenship) for the Haute-Loire Department. He is also a former boxer of the Red Stars in Saint Ouen, a Municipality in the North of Paris and a Knight in the "Ordre des Palmes Académiques" (Order of Academic Palms). His first novel, "En Pleine Face" (Full Face), was published in September 2011. "Cœur Hallal" (A Hallal Heart), his second novel, was published in 2007

"From Tolerance to Exclusion"

For several years now the Muslim religion has been subject to controversy. Today, Muslims are currently described as violent, intolerant, sexist and backward, as people who would not hesitate to blindly use terrorism to achieve their objectives. There does not pass a day without a criminal or undemocratic act committed by a Muslim being reported. 7th of January and 13th of November, last year, have unfortunately come to support all that could have been said over the last several years. More worrying, the unacceptable violent terrorist attacks of the last few months have taught us that worse acts even are to be expected. Radical Islam, and its associated sectarian violence, is fast developing in our country. It is growing faster and more ferociously than we could have anticipated.

Why this radicalism then, particularly among young French Muslims of immigrant background? In my opinion, the answer lies partly in the social status of these young people. What I mean is that many young French Muslims live in neighbourhoods that are considered "difficult". These young people have often experienced high unemployment rates. The life conditions that are offered to them naturally encourage cultural as well as religious sectarianism. These young people live among themselves and consequently collectively reinforce their sense of belonging to an ethnic group or a religion. Naturally, they are inclined to think that they are discriminated against and rejected by the French society on the grounds that they do not have the right religion or the right skin colour. This sense of victimisation that they experience daily impedes any effort of initiative that could lead to a successful social and professional insertion. Moreover, the sectarianism of which they are the victims generates in them a rejection of the French society and of the embedded values of the Republic, and in particular its principle of secularity. The life that is offered to them in the suburban estates is obviously unpalatable; consequently, of course, some youths have lost all idealism.

ABID RAJA

Police Officer, Muslim Contact Unit, New Scotland Yard (UK)

Abid joined London's Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in 1994, with a background in business after graduating from University in 1989. He served for ten years as a borough based police officer, working for much of that time as the local community officer in Notting Hill, west London. He initiated the first Islamic Cultural awareness training in this area, which now forms part of the routine training for all local officers. His unique life experience in London formed the basis for his joining the MCU (Muslim Contact Unit). Abid has delivered talks to delegations from around the world, which have included analysts, academics, police and security personnel, as well as senior political figures such as ambassadors and government ministers. Within officialdom he has lectured to a wide range of groups, from operational officers within the CT world in county Police forces to regular courses run by the agencies and the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT). He has addressed various academic venues, including the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University, on the causes of extremism within Communities.

The MCU is recognised as a centre of excellence nationally and internationally, for its ground-breaking and unique approach within the Prevent initiative and on de-radicalisation matters within the CT arena. The task of the Unit was to establish contact and trust within the Muslim Communities of London, thereby enabling access for police and other partners to hard to reach sections of the community. This permitted officers to become better equipped as a result of a grass roots perspective. This, in turn, enhanced everyday CT strategies, enabling communities, law enforcement officers and intelligence operatives to work within more efficient and competent frameworks.

"Radicalism within Muslim Communities; an Insider's Perspective"

For Muslim communities, that have settled in the West, having migrated for mainly economic reasons, with a strong stake in their chosen countries in the West, the post-9/11 era has been a particularly difficult one. Given, that Islam was not a driver for Muslims to have settled here in the West and their practice of Islam in general is peace meal for the majority. The inevitable pressure by certain segments of the media and thus the knock on effect for the parts of the political sphere on the Muslim communities, has led to a response from these same communities which is rooted in preserving their stake

in the West. So, instead of dealing with the issues in a serious manner based on a confident position in Western society, the response from most Muslim communities has been one of denial and conspiracy, with a deep rooted sense of fear about their future in the west.

This in turn has led to a less than healthy discussion about Islam, instead a focus by most Muslims on trying to demonstrate their 'moderate' credentials to the West. As a result the space that should have been provided by Muslim communities themselves to discuss issues such as 'Jihad', 'Sharia' or foreign policy for their young and old simply was never there. The need for a well informed discussion whereby all members from Muslim communities, whether they are practicing or not is imperative, with a genuine sense of inclusion of all segments of Muslim communities has to be the way forward.

DR. JOSHUA ROOSE

Research Fellow, Institute for Religion Politics and Society, Australia Catholic University (Australia)



Joshua M. Roose is Research Fellow at the Institute for Religion, Politics, and Society at the Australian Catholic University and Visiting Scholar at the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard University Law School, USA. He is Secretary of the Australian Sociological Association and has written numerous articles on Muslims in the West, Islamic law and society and multiculturalism. His recent book is titled 'Political Islam and Masculinity: Muslim Men in Australia' (Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2015).

“Political Islam and Masculinity: Muslim Men in Australia”

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, Muslims across Western nations had inhabited an often hostile social climate characterised by extensive levels of scrutiny, surveillance, and pressure. Muslims have been cast simultaneously as “at risk” of radicalisation and as a threat to enlightenment values, freedom, and democracy. Young Muslim men in

particular have been portrayed as potential “home-grown” terrorists, criminal thugs, and misogynistic oppressors and as a problem that must be solved. The “question of Muslim identity” and more specifically, Muslim masculinities, political loyalty and action has become the central pivot around which debate has focused for the place of Islam in the West and the adequacy of state policies on citizenship and multiculturalism. Despite the centrality of young, Western-born Muslim men to these questions they remain poorly understood. Even less understood is the relationship between social influences shaping Muslim men and the cultural, political, and intellectual trajectories of Islam in Western contexts.

This presentation examines the reasons young Muslim men often from very similar social backgrounds are pursuing such dramatically different political paths in the name of Islam. It places a particular emphasis upon the issue of why some young Muslim men are succeeding in public life, whilst others are drawn to a rejection of the society in which they are born and raised. Accompanying this, I consider the role of female influences in their lives, an area in which there is a significant gap in knowledge. Finally, I discuss the post-9/11 generation of young men who have left their families and homes to fight in Iraq and Syria. I have conducted in depth case studies of three young Australian men involved in suicide attacks and engage with shaping influences upon them including hegemonic masculinity, vulnerability, grief, dis-empowerment, social injury, anger and altruism. I make the case that current governmental approaches engaging with young Muslim men and women across Western contexts need significant recalibration.

PROF. OLIVIER ROY

Professor, Joint Chair of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), Social and Political Sciences Department, Director of the Mediterranean Programme, European University Institute (EUI) (Italy)



Olivier Roy (1949) is currently joint-chair at the RSCAS and SPS department of the EUI. Previously he has been senior researcher at the French CNRS and Professor at the EHESS (Paris). He headed the OSCE's Mission for Tajikistan (1993-94) and was a Consultant for the UN Office of the Coordinator for Afghanistan (1988). He has been heading the ERC funded project "ReligioWest" since 2011. His field works include Political Islam, Middle East, Islam in the West and comparative religions. Prof. Roy received an "Agrégation de Philosophie" (1972) and a Ph.D. in Political Sciences. In 2008-2009 he has been a visiting Professor at Berkeley University. He is the author, among other books, of "Globalized Islam" (Columbia University Press), 2004, and "Holy Ignorance" (Oxford UP), 2010. His last book is "En Quête de l'Orient perdu" (Seuil 2014). He is presently working on "Islamic norms in the public sphere", conversions and apostasy and comparative religions.

"Daesh's Strategic Fault Line in the Middle East: the Divide between Shias and Sunnis"

The rise of Daesh can be explained by two factors firstly, the decline of al-Qaeda. Osama bin Laden as leader of al-Qaeda did not deem it tangible to identify al-Qaeda with a specific territory because sooner or later it would fall under the attack of the west. Therefore, Bin Laden's tactics were to act globally, most notably the September 11 attacks, and to multiply local jihadis. Bin Laden's tactic made al-Qaeda connected with both global terrorism and the multiplication of local jihad. However, his approach coupled with his death failed to weaken the west and resulted in the subsequent invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Thus al-Qaeda, post-9/11, and in the wake of bin Laden's death was symbolically in decline. Secondly, the collapse of Saddam's regime following the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 has led to the rise of Daesh. America's strategy entering Iraq was to implement democracy; they did not intend to put Iraq's disenfranchised Shia community in power. However, by installing elections they brought a Shia government to power that did not allow Sunnis to be involved in central powers of Baghdad. Unlike al-Qaeda under Bin Laden who refused to play on this sectarian division, Daesh plays on the Sunni-Shia divide.

ISMAEL SAIDI

Director and Comedian (Belgium)



Ismael Saidi is a Belgian Muslim from Molenbeek who has written, directed and produced a play titled 'Djihad' – a story about three disillusioned residents of Brussels who decide to travel to Syria. As a former police officer, Saidi hopes to raise awareness among Belgian youth and the wider public of the consequences of joining the jihad in Syria through his stage production. Initially, launched in 2014 for only four shows it has met a great success in Belgium. It was later declared of public utility by the Belgian Minister of Culture who funded the show for further dates throughout 2015 in order for schools to bring their students to attend the show for free. To date, 45,000 people have seen the play, including 20,000 school children across the country. Djihad has been played to both primary and secondary school children across Belgium. It has received great success across the Netherlands following its adaptation and is expected to tour France in 2016.

"Djihad (Jihad) - an Internal Struggle for Joint Action"

Sitting in front of the TV, I was trying to clarify my mind, while at the same time looking at the work plan for the film that I was preparing when I saw her. Her angel face, her friendly smile: this "her", it was Marine Le Pen, who was being asked what she thought of those people leaving for Syria. "It does not bother me that they are going as long as they don't come back". Those words hit me right in the face. Who was she talking about? Was she talking about these young people who have the same face as me? It could be me! I looked at my son, asleep next to me. She could be talking about him.

I lifted up the lid of my laptop and some first lines just "shot up". A story was being born: Ben, Reda, Ismaël, Michel were coming alive, under my fingers. Their story had to be told; people had to know who they were, who they could have been, who they have become. Once the text was finished, a show had to be put together. As I am writing these words, there have been more 40,000 people in the French speaking

part of Belgium to love them, cry with them, hug them and love us through them. “Djihad” has become a phenomenon, the type of phenomenon that escapes one’s grasp. Hundred of debates have taken place where humans have met, talked and loved each other. In the end, this play is aptly named. This name that nobody wanted, this name that scares everybody, this name that sends shivers at dinnertime when we watch the news. Because what “Djihad” means, is a fight for a better world; this play is my “Djihad”, our “Djihad”. A fight against darkness where we are all brave knights, a world where difference leaves its place to a common denominator.

PROF. MARK SEDGWICK

Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, Aarhus University (Denmark)



Mark Sedgwick is a historian of the Arab and Islamic worlds who specialises in Islam, terrorism, and modernisation. He was born in London, taught for twenty years at the American University in Cairo, and is now professor of Arab and Islamic studies at Aarhus University in Denmark. His publications include “Al-Qaeda and the Nature of Religious Terrorism” (2004), “The Concept of Radicalization as a Source of Confusion” (2010), and “Anti-Colonial Terrorism: Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood to 1954” (2016).

“Ideologization, internationalization, and the New Landscape of Terrorism”

One of the most celebrated foreign fighters in the history of Middle East conflicts was Lord Byron, who died while assisting rebels against the Turkish government in 1824. Although no single past landscape parallels the new landscape of terrorism exactly, several past landscapes parallel one or more aspects of it. This paper reviews those parallels, focusing primarily on ideologization and internationalization. Ideologization happens when parties to a conflict come to be seen as representing not just their own populations and interests but also principles of universal significance. Internationalization happens when foreign governments and/

or their citizens engage in conflicts to which they are not a direct party, providing moral, diplomatic, material or military assistance to one side or another. Both ideologization and internationalization have been standard aspects of conflict since at least the seventeenth century, and are often found together, as each encourages the other. Both characterise the new landscape of terrorism.

UMMIT SETHI

Director of Strategy and Planning, Lapis Communications (UAE)



Ummi is a media and communications specialist with over 15 years of experience in multi-media broadcast, marketing and strategic communications. His work has spanned some of the most complex and challenging environments in South Central Asia and the Middle East and Africa (MEA). Working alongside media and marketing practitioners, psychoanalysts and behavioral scientists, he has been a part of teams that have continued to pioneer in the field of strategic communications, with particular focus on undermining violent extremist groups and countering violent extremism. Those efforts have included strategies and programs to diminish the influence of Al-Qaeda in the MEA region, violent extremist organisations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and most recently efforts to undermine the influence of Da’esh. Ummi holds a Bachelor in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Southampton, UK.

“Effects, not Message Driven. Re-framing the Communications Challenge”

In response to radical and extremist narratives, we see current communications efforts as reactive and confrontational. Perceiving the challenge through a classical lens of message, counter message or a battle over share of voice is not only flawed but also plays into the hands of extremist organisations. Many efforts and responses, however well intentioned, oftentimes render us as unwitting contributors to the problem. If an international coalition of government, civil

society, and independent activists are to take the initiative in the global fight against Da'esh, then it is vital that we better understand how their brand, the narratives and messages that we are confronting resonate with their target audiences. Between the brutality, defiance and promise of an idealised state what is it that activates supporters from Britain to Jordan to Australia to sign-up to Da'esh's violent Islamist fantasy? Are we right to target the ideology or is there something else at play here? Ultimately, if we are to achieve our goals, we need to begin to address the root causes of Da'esh's appeal, de-glamourise and delegitimise both the cause and the organisation. Media and communications, of course, have a pivotal role to play and this talk looks to present lessons from previous endeavours and thoughts on effective measures moving forward.

DR. DEBRA SMITH

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Cultural Diversity and Wellbeing, Victoria University (Australia)



Debra is an industry postdoctoral research fellow working with the Centre for Cultural Diversity and Wellbeing at Victoria University and Defence Science Technology Group. She received her PhD in Political Science from Monash University for her exploration of the role of emotion within decisions to engage in violent political extremism. Based on interviews with people who have engaged in violent extremism, Debra has explored how emotional investment in political extremism is linked to emotional disinvestment in mainstream society, how emotional resonance is more significant than doctrinal content in violent extremist messaging, and how emotions contribute to the development of moral positions that can justify violent acts. Debra has worked on projects with various law enforcement and government partners to understand processes of radicalisation that lead to violent political extremism and is currently researching the area of social influence within the realm of social media and its relationship to violent extremism.

“Beyond Doctrine: ISIS, Culture and Emotion”

Concerns over the relationship between information and communications technologies (ICTs) and radicalisation to violent extremism did not begin with the emergence of ISIS. However, as young men and women leave the West to travel to the conflict zone in increasing numbers, or alternatively endeavour to undertake violent acts on their home soil, disquiet over the use of social media has arguably heightened, particularly in relation to the opportunity it provides to distribute violent propaganda material to a broader and more susceptible audience.

In this paper I argue that academics and practitioners alike need to look beyond the influence of the doctrinal aspects of ideology as a central element of radicalisation, irrespective of whether it is disseminated online or offline. Rather, I propose that the emotional aspects of influence are more important than previously assumed. While some of this emotional influence is identifiable in the content of jihadi messaging, our understanding needs to go beyond this to consider the way that social media provides a new cultural space for experiencing and expressing emotion, and particularly how ISIS has utilised this opportunity to tap into the emotional yearnings of young men and women while simultaneously offering jihadi culture as an emotionally rewarding alternative. Framing the problem in this way can help advance our understandings of why a person may be prepared to join or stay in a violent political group. Moreover, it could have practical implications for policy making that focuses on undermining the extremist message or dissuading potential recruits from joining.

ROBERT STARY

Criminal Defence Lawyer, Stary Norton Halphen Criminal Lawyers (Australia)



Robert Stary was admitted to practise in 1981. He has worked exclusively as a criminal defence lawyer since that time and has been a LI V accredited specialist since 1995. His Firm has

the carriage of over 2500 individual criminal cases on a yearly basis. There are 16 lawyers practising in criminal defence work at the Firm. Stary Norton Halphen has conduct of the largest terrorism practice in Australia. Our Firm has acted in all Victorian prosecutions under the terrorism provisions of the Criminal Code, and recent prosecutions under the foreign fighter legislation in the Syrian and Kurdish conflicts. This includes "Jihad" Jack Thomas, Operation Pendenis and the Benbika group, Operation Neath (Holsworthy Army Barracks), the Tamil Tigers, Operation Astley, the "ANZAC day plot", Adam Brookman, and the first child to be charged with acts in preparation of a terrorism offence.

"Terrorism Rehabilitation and Social Development Program. A Natural Extension of our Commitment to Court-Based Rehabilitation and Existing Efforts to Counter Violent Extremism"

Terrorism is not a fixture of Islam. It is a species of violence rooted in politics, foreign policy, sectarianism, identity and adolescence. Government has invested heavily at the 'pointy end' to try and meet this amorphous threat, especially amongst young people. However, it has invested negligibly in pre-conviction and pre-trial rehabilitation. Terrorism and foreign fighter offences are the only category of crime without a pre-trial Court based support program. The only coordinated approach to rehabilitation is at the post-conviction phase which [can be many years after the charges are filed] is ten years after the charges are filed. This is of concern given the damaging effects of incarceration, especially for young people on adult remand and the offender's broader community. [The threat of prison radicalisation also looms large].

There is an urgent need for a rehabilitation and social development program for those charged with national security offences at the pre-trial stage. Such a program would accompany an offender through the Court process, and aim to reduce the risk of recidivism. It would be available to accused persons charged with terrorism offences, whether on bail or remanded in custody. It would commence when a person is charged, and conclude with their acquittal or conviction. It would also be available to those on control orders. It has wider implication for the offenders community. Mr Stary will address the need pre-trial program, locating it within the broader 'justice-reinvestment' framework.

REEM SWEID

Director of Muslims for Progressive Views, PhD Candidate, Victoria University (Australia)



Reem Sweid is the Director of Muslims for Progressive Values Australia. She is pursuing her doctoral degree on the subject of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) at Victoria University. Reem has a background in social policy research, having dedicated over three years as a Senior Research Officer at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Reem was awarded a Master of Science in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Economics from Brown University (Rhode Island, USA).

"Is Islamic Feminism the Antidote to Islamic Extremism?"

In a CNN television interview on Dec 19 2015, American-Muslim Feminist Asra Nomani stated that "Islamic Feminism is the antidote to Islamic extremism". This paper asks whether there is any basis behind this assertion, and if so, how can CVE strategies harness Islamic Feminism to counter Islamic extremism. The paper will begin by defining the term "Islamic Feminism" and briefly identifying the major modern Islamic activists and scholars. Muslim women make up half of the Muslim population and they bear the brunt of Islamophobic discrimination yet they are often considered peripheral in countering extremism strategies. This paper will argue that encouraging Islamic Feminism can counter extremism by empowering women to have a voice when witnessing radicalisation, building resilience among women vulnerable to radicalisation and challenging the extremist ideology through sound Islamic jurisprudence. Promoting Islamic Feminism can also foster social harmony by challenging misconceptions within non-Muslim populations about the compatibility of Islam and human rights. The paper will identify projects from around the world that have successfully harnessed women's rights in Islam to combat radicalisation

DR. DAVID TITTENSOR

Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)



*Dr David Tittensor is Research Fellow to the UNESCO Chair for Cultural Diversity and Social Justice at Deakin University. His research interests are transnational Muslim movements, Turkish politics and society, and religion and development. He is the author of *The House of Service: The Gülen Movement and Islam's Third Way* (Oxford University Press, 2014) and (with Matthew Clarke) *Islam and Development: Exploring the Invisible Aid Economy* (Ashgate, 2014).*

“Assessing the Impact of ‘Countering Terror’ in Australia: Are Muslim Communities in Retreat?”

In the wake of 9/11 transnational Islam has been presented as a major existential threat in Australia, and this feeling was bolstered by the 2002 Bali Bombings. This has caused the Australian government to (re)turn to ‘militant democracy’ (i.e., the curtailment of particular fundamental rights in order to preserve the existing democracy) to guard against the perceived transnational Islamic threat. Indeed, the Howard government between 2002 and 2007 introduced 44 pieces of counter terrorism legislation, more than any other country, and with the rise of the new perceived threat of the Islamic State saw the former Abbott government push through legislation that increased the powers of ASIO and the Foreign Fighters Bill which has instituted conflict no-go zones, wherein individuals have to justify their travel. Scholars, such as Ghassan Hage and Anne Aly, have suggested that this continually punitive or ‘hard’ approach to dealing with the ‘Muslim question’ has begun to alienate Muslim communities and is forcing them to retreat to the Mosque or even further to cyber communities. Drawing on interviews from across Muslim Diasporas in Melbourne this paper will look to test this assertion.

LUC VAN DER TAELEN

Police Superintendent, Belgian Federal Police (Belgium)

Luc Van Der Taelen currently serves as Superintendent at the Belgium Federal Police in the Counter-Terrorism Unit. He is the current project manager of COPPRA (Community Policing Prevention Radicalisation and Terrorism), a member of the National Task Force in Prevention, a Member of RANpol (Radicalisation Awareness Network) and a COPPRA trainer for Basic Generic Training (BGT) for International Missions at the Egmont Institute for International Relations. He has international experience in the Middle East and has served on a number of international humanitarian missions including Jordan's International Police Training Centre (2006-2007), Eulex Kosovo (2008) and Eupol Cops (occupied Palestinian territories) (2009-2011). Van Der Taelen has extensive local knowledge and offers unique insights into issues relating to street gangs after serving as a municipal police officer for a decade in Molenbeek, Brussels – the location where the November 2015 Paris attacks were planned.

“The Four Pillars of Belgian Counter-Terrorism Strategy”

This presentation will explain the role that the Belgian Police force has taken to counter violent extremism and in particular their efforts for almost three decades in transforming the infamous district of Molenbeek, Brussels. Despite the huge efforts of municipality police Molenbeek has been a difficult area to tackle and was the location for the planning of the November 2015 Paris attacks. Furthermore, the presentation will explain the reasons why Belgium has one of the highest numbers of departures in Europe to Syria and Iraq and look at the profiles of these men and women who have chosen to join the Islamic State. The departures have resulted in the revival of the government's ‘Plan R (Radicalism)’ and witnessed the implementation of new legislation, structures and measures to ensure that there is complete vertical and horizontal alignment in this comprehensive approach with the EU's counter-terror strategy. The first step in this comprehensive approach has been awareness training for all first time practitioners that has resulted in an unprecedented increase of information sharing between police and intelligence services. Awareness training is followed by detection, proper contextualisation and assessment; all these components combined lead to the most appropriate intervention scheme. This approach relies heavily on the assumption that regular frontline police officers have an important role to play in preventing radicalisation because they work on the streets and possess a better understanding of the local communities, and tend to have good community

skills. This means they are well placed to spot the signs of radicalisation in early-on and can work in partnership with local communities to prevent or to tackle it.

LEVI WEST

Director of Terrorism Studies at the Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security, Charles Sturt University (Australia)



Levi West is the Director of Terrorism Studies at the Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security at Charles Sturt University, and is completing his PhD at the School of International, Political and Strategic Studies at the Australian National University (ANU) on the impact of technology on insurgency. Levi has previously lectured at the National Security College at the ANU; the ANU Military Studies program at the Australian Command and Staff College at the Australian Defence College; the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation; and the Indian National Police Academy. Levi has undertaken research, lectured, and consulted to law enforcement, intelligence and military audiences in the Middle East, South and South-East Asia, and North America.

“#Jihad: Terrorism, Social Media, and the Weaponisation of Digital Content”

This paper will demonstrate that social media, in the hands of terrorist groups, ought to be conceived of as a weapon. In doing so it will firstly restate and clarify the centrality of communicative dynamics to terrorism, and the role of the principal of ‘propaganda of the deed’ in informing terrorist actions. In articulating the overall argument, the paper will evidence the primary mechanisms by which terrorist groups exploit and deploy social media platforms, and the manner in which these actions inflict and reinforce various harms. In demonstrating the role of social media in distributing propaganda and building and sustaining narratives, facilitating recruitment, and underpinning a decentralised and networked form of command and control, the weaponisation

of social media will be demonstrated. Finally, two brief case studies will be provided that demonstrate the gravity with which governments conceive of these problems, and the significance attributed to those considered as substantial actors in this environment.

MEDINE ZAOUCHE

President, Don't Panik Youth Sport Association, Rapper (France)



*Medine Zaouiche is an independent rapper living in the city of Le Havre and has 4 albums to his credit. Using his music he promotes emancipation through instruction. He has achieved a special status with a wide and growing audience. His pieces of music and the titles of his albums are slightly provocative and never miss being criticized by his detractors but also by some of his supporters, giving him a substantial credibility within the popular quarters of France. In 2013, he co-authored with the geopolitical scientist Pascal Boniface a book of peace, *Don't Panik*, an antidote against this blatant shock of civilisations. Médine has been able to expand his discography with rich and transgressive albums, aiming above all at engaging listeners and generating debate. The thirty-year old has gained a large following with his songs and seduced even the international media with one of his powerful slogans: “The force of culture versus the culture of force”. One of his texts, “17 October”, on the massacre of Algerian demonstrators on 17 October 1961 in Paris, has been included by the Nathan publishing house in its school books. When the artist is not in a studio or on tour, he is the president of a sport association called “Dont Panik Team” which aims to give mental and physical support to its club members, whose ages range from 7 to 33 years old. Apart from being its president and its spokesperson, his practical work within the club consists of addressing the various fears that one can encounter not only in the ring but also in one's social life.*

DR. ANTONIO GONZALEZ ZARANDONA

Associate Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University (Australia)



Dr Antonio González is an Associate Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation (Deakin University, Australia), analysing the destruction of heritage in Iraq and Syria. Previously, Antonio was tutor and lecturer at the University of Melbourne, where he was awarded his PhD. Antonio has also been Visiting Research Scholar at the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage at the University of Birmingham (UK). Dr González is the author of journal articles published in the Cambridge Archaeological Journal, The International Journal of the Humanities, and book chapters published by Palgrave Macmillan and the Germanisches NationalMuseum (Nuremberg, Germany). He is also the author of a book on the history of experimental cinema (Editorial Académica Española, 2012) and the guest editor of ISTOR (Mexico), for a special issue on the Histories of Prehistory (2015), with contributions from Jean Clottes, Robert Bednarik, David Lewis-Williams, and John Onians. Broadly, his research interests concern issues such as: iconoclasm, heritage destruction, the history of archaeology and methodologies of research. Antonio's current research includes the project 'Documenting Heritage Destruction in Iraq and Syria' which involves analysing the destruction of cultural heritage by the Islamic State. Raised in Mexico and having studied and taught in Australia, Antonio brings to this project a unique fusion of Western theories in art history and archaeology in the Australian Indigenous context. Evidence of the quality and impact of his work is the inclusion of his research on heritage destruction and the interpretation of Indigenous art beyond an occidental context in the forthcoming collection of essays on iconoclasm by Professor David Freedberg, director of the Warburg Institute (London) and the world's foremost authority on iconoclasm. Furthermore, Antonio's work on Indigenous heritage management has also been recognised in a major international publication edited by the Getty Institute (Rock Art: A Cultural Treasure at Risk).

“Islamic State, Iconoclasm and Heritage Destruction”

In this paper, the author will link ideas from iconoclasm to heritage destruction, in order to explain the reasons and motivations behind the current unprecedented scale of heritage destruction in the Middle East. Using theory from iconoclasm studies, this paper will analyse the destruction carried out by the Islamic State, in order to find out if these destructions actually obey to structures previously witnessed in past iconoclastic episodes or, if they are indeed new forms of spectacle that need to be categorised.



PHOTOGRAPHER Miloud Kerzazi
WEBSITE <http://sous-france.tumblr.com/>