



COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES

TO COUNTER THE
EXTREMIST RIGHT-WING
AND ISLAMOPHOBIA
THREATS

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Thursday 21 November 2019

Novotel Sydney Parramatta, 350 Church Street Parramatta

Time	Session	Topic	Speaker / Participation
8:15am – 8:45am	Arrivals and Registration		
8:45am	Welcome to Country - Graham Davis King		
9:00am – 9:05am	Welcome – A/Prof Mehmet Ozalp , Director Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation, Charles Sturt University		
9:05am – 10:30am	Session I: Keynote Address	“Countering violent extremism, the extremist right-wing and Islamophobia threats – a whole society approach”	Prof Tahir Abbas , Leiden University, Netherlands
	Presentation	“The landscape of right-wing extremism in Australia”	Dr Lise Waldek & Dr Debra Smith , Macquarie University, Victoria University
	Presentation	“Manifestations of Islamophobia in the Australian context – the latest findings from the Islamophobia in Australia Report II”	Dr Derya Iner , Charles Sturt University
10:30am – 11:00am	Morning Tea		
11:00am – 12:15pm	Session II	Moderator: Tamana Daqiq The impact of violent extremism, the extremist right-wing and Islamophobia on society and communities	Serdar Durdyev , Christchurch survivor, New Zealand Mariam Veiszadeh , Founder and President of Islamophobia Register Australia) Vic Alhadeff , CEO of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies James Fry , Community Professional Ali Kadri , Spokesperson of Islamic Council of Queensland
12:15pm- 13:30pm	Lunch	(Optional) 13:00-13:30: Launch – Islamophobia in Australia Report II Endorsement by Mr Chin Tan , Race Discrimination Commissioner Social impact & Responsibility by Fr Chris Riley , Founding Director of Youth Off The Streets	
13:30pm- 14:00pm	Session III	Pacha Kucha (Short rapid-fire presentations on latest research related to right-wing extremism)	
14:00pm- 15:30pm	Session IV: Facilitated Discussion	Outcomes and potential solutions to the problems	Facilitated by Anthony Bubola , COO Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas All attendees are actively involved in table and collective discussions
15:30pm- 16:00pm	Tea/coffee break		
16:00pm- 17:00pm	Session V: Facilitated Discussion	Commitment for action and conclusion	Facilitated by Anthony Bubola , COO Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas All attendees are actively involved in table and collective discussions
17:00pm	Close		

KEYNOTE: Countering violent extremism, the extreme right-wing and Islamophobic threats – a whole society approach, Professor Tahir Abbas

ABSTRACT

This paper presents an overview of the numerous challenges facing by the growing threat of Islamophobia and far right extremism, two matters that have become discernible problems in the global north in the post-9/11 period. In reviewing the extant academic and policy literature, and having carried out original research in the UK on these topics since the mid-1990s, this paper addresses the following. First, that Islamophobia is both a driver of radicalisation and a product of it, an issue that affects both radical Islamists and extremist right-wing groups. The conditions for these outcomes are found in social structure and the specifics of marginalisation, alienation, exclusion and disenfranchisement. Undeniably, racism and racialisation characterise the nature of right-wing extremism. Second, members of far right groups also experience problems of exclusion and marginalisation, which can act as an important factor in their allusions to white supremacism, depopulation or repatriation of minorities, much of which is also permitted by authoritarian political voices who give these groups succour in the face of wider societal loosening to Islamophobia. To counter the instances of violent extremism, the importance of a whole society approach is vital to the success of any initiative. The problems of extremism cannot be viewed in isolation – they are part of a wider social problem of political, social and economic polarisation and division.

PROFESSOR TAHIR ABBAS

Tahir Abbas is currently an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs at Leiden University in The Hague. He is also a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Department of Government at The London School of Economics and Political Science. He was formerly a Professor of Sociology at Fatih University in Istanbul and a Reader in Sociology at the University of Birmingham.

He works on the intersectionality of ethnicity, Islamophobia and radicalisation; counter-terrorism and social policy; and religious conflict and Muslim politics. His work fuses together political sociology with the fields of social and urban geography, sociology of education, race and criminology, politics and society, social and public policy, and international relations. Recent publications include an analysis of the ‘Prevent’ policy as a British manifestation of the countering violent extremism paradigm currently dominating counter-extremism policy, published online first in *Critical Social Policy* in December 2018. His co-edited collection, *Political Muslims: Understanding Youth Resistance in a Global Context* (with Sadek Hamid) was published by Syracuse University Press in November 2018. His editorial for the special issue, *Educating British Muslims: identity, religion and politics in a neoliberal era*, was published by the *British Journal of Sociology of Education* in February 2018. His new book is *Islamophobia and Radicalisation: A Vicious Cycle*, published by Hurst and distributed by Oxford University Press in the USA. His forthcoming book critically interprets the countering violent extremism policy paradigm in a global context, published by IB Tauris in 2020.

PRESENTATION-I: “The landscape of right-wing extremism in Australia”, Dr Lise Waldek & Dr Debra Smith, Macquarie University, Victoria University

ABSTRACT:

The presentation provides insights into the characteristics of right wing extremist groups and organisations and their use of ideologies, agendas and activism in New South Wales and Australia. The research is drawn from an ongoing study funded by the Office of Community Safety & Cohesion, into the online landscape of right wing extremism across several social media platforms. The project uses a mixed-methodological approach incorporating quantitative and qualitative tools. The project has been designed to support policy makers and other stakeholders in understanding the current landscape.

DR LISE WALDEK

Lise Waldek is a lecturer in Terrorism Studies in the Department of Security Studies and Criminology, Macquarie University. She is the chief investigator on an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant (ARC) developing base-line empirical data into the engagement of Australian youth audiences with online violent extremist content. Her current work program includes the design of regional resilience and social cohesion programs and she is currently managing an evaluation project for a CVE project focused on the Australian Far-Right. Lise studied anthropology and international relations at University College London and the Brussels School of International Studies, Kent University and wrote on political memory, genocide and the securitization of identity.

DR DEBRA SMITH

Debra Smith's research focuses on questions of violent political extremism, social conflict and social change. She has a particular interest in the role of emotion within violent extremism beliefs and action and in translating research for applied outcomes. Debra has extensive experience working with policing, community and government stakeholders to improve knowledge of all kinds of violent extremism and to translate this research into frontline practitioner tools. Debra co-leads the Applied Security Science Partnership (ASSP) that brings together policing and security practitioners with academics to collaboratively build robust evidence on behavioural indicators of violent extremism. She provides frontline training for policing, education and community stakeholders on early intervention and diversion from violent extremism. Debra was part of the expert panel commissioned for the Independent review of effective case management and information sharing barriers relevant to violent extremism.

PRESENTATION-II: "Manifestations of Islamophobia in the Australian context – the latest findings from the Islamophobia in Australia Report II", Dr Derya Iner, Charles Sturt University

ABSTRACT:

The presentation focuses on the latest findings from the Islamophobia in Australia-II report, which analyses verified Islamophobic incidents directed at Muslims in physical and cyber world. In addition to underscoring the pressuring issues for the Australian society, the presentation focuses on the intersections between extremist right-wing and Islamophobia sentiments and how they feed one another and dominate the current hate-rhetoric in Australia.

DR DERYA INER

Dr Derya Iner is a senior lecturer and research coordinator in Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation at Charles Sturt University. Derya completed her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies (major) and Gender Studies (minor) in Wisconsin-Madison (USA). Derya's research focuses on Islamophobia, especially women and children's experience with Islamophobia, Western Muslim Youth and their religious identity. Iner is the chief investigator and editor of the Islamophobia in Australia Reports I and II. Derya is an executive member of the Islamophobia Register Australia (IRA), where her role is to coordinate incident report collation by the Register's case workers. Derya also conducts follow up interviews with selected reporters (upon their approval and with ethics clearance) to capture the details and impact of the anti-Muslim incidents on victims. Derya's recent book is a co-edited volume with John Esposito *Radicalization and Islamophobia: Breeding Intolerance and Violence* (Palgrave, 2019).

PANEL MODERATOR:

TAMANA DAQIQ is a lawyer and community leader. She is the co-founder of Hikma Legal. She is a researcher with the University of Sydney.

Panellists:

SERDAR DURDYEV is a New Zealand resident. He is a lecturer in construction management at Ara Institute of Canterbury in New Zealand. He is a survivor of the Christchurch mosque attack.

MARIAM VEISZADEH is a lawyer and diversity and inclusion consultant. Maraim founded the Islamophobia Register Australia. She currently works at the Diversity Council as the Members And Advisory Director.

VIC ALHADEFF is the CEO of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies. Vic has recently worked with all the target communities to pass 93Z, part of the Crimes Act that addresses hate speech inciting violence.

JAMES FRY is a community professional. He is the author *That Fry Boy*. He regularly provides comment to the media on the dangers of far-right extremism in a local (NSW) context.

ALI KADRI is the CEO at Kadri Training. He is a community activist and rights campaigner. He is a proud Aussie and the spokesperson of Islamic Council of Queensland.

AFTERNOON FACILITATOR:

Anthony Bubola is chief operating officer at Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism & Ideas. Anthony has worked as a diplomat, intelligence analyst, speechwriter, researcher and management consultant. He was previously the Deputy Director and Research Director at the Lowy Institute. As one of the Institute's founding researchers, he established its Middle East program and was a regular commentator on Middle Eastern politics in the Australian and international media. Before joining the Lowy Institute, Anthony was an officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1991 to 2003. He served in Australian diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia and Israel and was Middle East Analyst with the Office of National Assessments from 1996 to 1998.

Survey link to be used in the afternoon discussion sessions:
<http://tiny.cc/noRWE>