2013

CVE 2013

Report on Countering Violent Extremism Symposium 2013

This report summarises the themes highlighted at CVE 2013, a two day Symposium held in Perth, Western Australian on 21/22 November 2013. It provides recommendations for the way forward in developing the CVE space.

22/11/2013

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Curtin University

CVE 2013 Report

CVE 2013 is Australia's first open national and international dialogue exclusively on countering violent extremism. The Symposium is presented by Curtin University, People against Violent Extremism (PaVE), Macquarie University and Hedayah.

Introduction

The inaugural Countering Violent Extremism Symposium (CVE 2013) was held in Perth, Western Australia, November 21/22. The Symposium brought together national and international speakers and delegates in Australia to participate in a dialogue on various themes, challenges and opportunities in countering violent extremism.

CVE 2013 is an initiative of the Department of Social Science and International Studies at Curtin University, Perth in partnership with People against Violent Extremism (PaVE), the Centre for Policing Intelligence and Counter Terrorism (PICT)at Macquarie University, Sydney and the Hedayah International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, Abu Dhabi. The Symposium was supported with funding from the Australia and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee. This unique partnership between academic institutions, government and non-government organisations represents the spirit of collaboration that drove CVE 2013. It also recognises the growing role of civil society groups in driving CVE efforts and their contributions to both academic research and government policy.

The purpose of the Symposium was to initiate dialogue with diverse stakeholders around the current state and future directions for CVE, its approaches and strategies. At a broader, strategic level, the Symposium aimed to highlight some of the parameters of CVE in ways that could inform the future direction of CVE research and practice. It did this by engaging participants across three areas – research, policy and practice – around a range of issues.

The Symposium attracted speakers and delegates from civil society, law enforcement, government and academia working across a broad spectrum of areas in CVE including disengagement, rehabilitation, prevention, policy, community policing, intelligence, security, law enforcement, social policy, conflict resolution, and academic and action

oriented research. Participants came from across Australia and internationally including New Zealand, East Timor, Indonesia, Sweden, UK, United States, Canada, Singapore, the Philippines, India and the United Arab Emirates.

The format incorporated keynote presentations and panel presentations to accommodate a higher number of speakers and opportunities for audience interaction. A full list of speakers, biographies and abstracts is provided in the Appendix. The list of speakers and panel members was selected to reflect diversity in approaches with an international focus.

New approaches and directions in CVE research, how research can inform policy, linking research and community

Strategies and approaches to CVE, shaping policy and responses, the role of governments in building resilient communities, the future of CVE

Defining violent extremism: definitional and operational complexities, building community resilience, the role of formers, developing counter narratives

Themes

Defining VE and CVE: What is CVE and is it different from CT?

Violent Extremism is a complex phenomenon that includes both the form of violence and the motivation for that violence.

VE has different forms and motivations. Primarily it is considered to be violence that is driven by social, ideological or political aspirations.

CVE includes, but is broader than counter terrorism, as it targets all forms of violence- not just terrorist acts- associated with extremism. CVE also has the potential to target incitement to violence through the production of counter narratives.

CVE is focused on intervening early, through individual and community engagement and support. CVE often represents a softer approach that recognises social as well as ideological factors that can make people vulnerable to violent extremist influences.

The focus of CVE: What is CVE about? How do extremism, violence and radicalisation concepts fit into the CVE paradigm?

Extremism is of concern but is not the target of CVE. Extreme or radical elements in society and belief systems are present in all societies. The focus on CVE is on violence that is incited through extremist narratives and/or carried out in fulfilment of an extremist cause or aim.

There is uncertainty about the convergence of radicalisation and extremism. Much focus has been placed on radicalisation and this has resulted in an emphasis on radicalisation with an incomplete understanding of its importance or what the process of radicalisation leads to- violence or extremism or both.

Stakeholder roles in CVE: Who are the actors in CVE and what do they contribute?

You can do lots of research and interviews, but you can't fully understand the dynamics of an organisation until you're in it.

Ross Frenett on the role of Formers.

CVE allows for an approach that recognises the role of unusual stakeholders including 'formers' and victims.

Formers can provide a much needed authentic voice to assist individuals to exit VE groups as well as discourage individuals from joining groups. Through their personal experiences and knowledge of how groups recruit and operate, 'formers' are a valuable resource for CVE.

There is however, some apprehension about engaging formers in CVE and there are a number of cautions that need to be considered.

Victims groups are often not considered in CVE. Programs that bring together victims and perpetrators may work but need to be carefully considered. Victims groups also take on activist roles in CVE.

> *CVE is much more than just about narratives...It's about the social and psychological aspects of violence in society.*
>
> Julian Droogan

Private organisations also have a role to play in CVE. Possibilities for engaging private organisations have not been fully explored or developed. The private sector is a potential source of funding for NGOs implementing grass roots programs and working directly with formers or victims.

Approaches to CVE: How do we think and do CVE?

Approaches to CVE are varied and include grass roots level programs that assist those involved in VE groups to exit (Exit Sweden) or that provide alternative activities for the civil rehabilitation of violent extremists (Food for peace).

Strategic partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector are important for developing CVE.

Cultural intelligence and critical thinking are central to developing effective CVE programs. Programs that cultivate critical thinking skills and cultural intelligence are a valuable addition to CVE.

Priorities for CVE: Where should we focus our efforts?

The internet is a virtual marketplace of ideas and identities including VE ideologies and VE communities. It presents both challenges and opportunities for CVE. How groups use the internet to spread VE influence and how counter-narratives delivered by credible voices can be amplified major priorities for government policy.

As civil conflict continues to proliferate in Syria and other parts of the world, the issue of foreign fighters has come to the fore. A focus for CVE is the prevention of young people from joining armed conflicts in other countries. Apart from prevention, approaches to deal with the return of foreign fighters are needed.

Directions for research: What are the gaps in knowledge?

There is a rich history of high quality research on violent extremism dating back at least to the 1980s. By revisiting that history, it is possible to identify threads of investigation and insight that have been dropped or underutilized.

Research focus to enhance and grow the body of knowledge in CVE is needed in:

- The complexities of identity and identity politics
- Social and psychological dimensions of radicalization

- Developmental psychology
- Understanding radicalization in multi-cultural context
- Beyond the "shared values" paradigm
- Longitudinal studies of radicalization, de-radicalization using historical data

There should be more attempts to enable multidisciplinary approaches that blend social sciences, humanities, cognitive sciences, community engagement, and technology.

Lessons from the past: What have we learned since 2001?

The policy approaches of Prevent in the United Kingdom and the 'war on terror' provide valuable lessons.

These lessons include: the conflation of social harmony with terrorism prevention; the creation of suspect communities and subsequent alienation of those communities in the CT effort; the focus on radicalisation without substantial conceptual understanding; and the unbalanced focus on 'Islamic' forms of violent extremism.

Naming or labelling programs as CVE programs risks alienating some potential participants who are put off by the terminology. Where feasible, CVE activities should be delivered around a topic or subject matter such as food or journalism.

Activities that are funded by government can raise suspicion and also alienate potential participants or groups who may view the programs as a conduit for the collection of intelligence and information. Funding from private enterprise can overcome this.

More effort needs to be made to increase awareness of VE and CVE. Currently, private funding is difficult to attract because of the absence of a CVE 'brand'.

Civil society has an important role to play in CVE. Efforts to connect NGOs, government and law enforcement should continue.

Opportunities: Where are the opportunities for developing CVE in the future?

Social media: As VE groups are using social media, there are also opportunities for exploring how social media serves VE groups. Large amounts of data can be

When all you have is a hammer…everything looks like a nail.

Caroline Ziemke-Dickens

We should consider changing 'challenges' into 'opportunities'.

Maqsoud Kruse

analysed to provide information on how VE groups network and communicate, their targets and reach, and the elements of their narrative.

Online Counter Narratives: Research into how VE groups use social media platforms and the internet to construct morally supportive environments should feed into the development of online counter narratives.

Activism: Unusual stakeholders can take on activist roles in CVE through a range of strategies including assisting individual exit. Research into the roles and contributions of unusual stakeholders in CVE is lacking and can be developed.

Education: Education is recognised as an important element of CVE. Education programs can increase and enhance cultural intelligence and critical thinking.

Alternative programs: Programs that are social enterprise based and that provide alternatives to engaging in VE have proven to be effective in Indonesia.

Collaboration and coordination: Effective CVE programs are a result of collaboration and coordination between different sectors and stakeholders.

Private sector involvement: There is a clear opportunity to involve the private sector particularly for funding of CVE programs. Raising awareness and engagement of private sector and enterprises is vital to attracting financial and in kind interest in CVE programs.

Crowd Sourcing: Crowd sourcing presents an opportunity for community driven CVE projects to attract funding, while also raising awareness of CVE and promoting civic engagement.

The Way Forward: CVE 2014 and beyond

One of the successful outcomes of CVE 2013 is the creation of an international community of CVE policy makers, practitioners and researchers. It is important to continue the momentum created by CVE 2013 and to generate further dialogue leading to sustainable outcomes.

Equally important is the maintenance of a collective and collaborative international approach to CVE that transcends the diverse environmental, political and cultural contexts in which CVE is practiced and works towards a common understanding of violent extremism.

CVE 2014 / 2015

Symposium partners are committed to building on CVE 2013 by holding follow up events in 2014 and 2015 with a view to making the CVE Symposium an annual event. Each partner organisation will take turns in hosting future CVE events with the continued support of the other partners.

Planning for CVE 2014 should begin as soon as possible so that lessons learned from CVE 2013 can be applied. CVE 2014 will build on the themes identified by CVE 2013 and identify emerging themes in the CVE space.

Workshops

In partnership with Curtin University and PaVE, Macquarie University PICT will hold structured workshops in Sydney in June / July of 2014. The workshops will involve national stakeholders in CVE with the purpose of identifying key issues for CVE in Australia and the region. The outputs of the workshops will be used to develop Australia's contribution to CVE 2014.

Symposium Proceedings

The proceedings of CVE 2013 will be reported in a special edition of the Journal of Policing Intelligence and Counter Terrorism which is published by the Centre for Policing Intelligence and Counter Terrorism at Macquarie University. The journal will be guest edited by Anne Aly who will invite speakers to contribute a written piece to the edition. The journal provides an effective channel for disseminating the issues and themes discussed during CVE 2013 and for harnessing the momentum of the Symposium. It is envisaged that the special edition will be published in the second half of 2014.

Expanding partners

Consideration should be given to engaging new partners in future CVE Symposia. Alternatively, the current partner organisations could discuss arrangements for engaging sponsorships and support.

CVE Network

Contact with the speakers and delegates at CVE 2013 will be maintained through the CVE Network database. The database will be used to promote future CVE events.

Appendix

Speakers and Panel Presenters

Mr William Fisher is the Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism. He was previously the Australian Prime Minister's Special Envoy to La Francophonie and to the Francophone States of Africa since October 2010. Mr Fisher is a career diplomat with the Department, his career spanning five decades began during the early 1970s has continued successfully to the present day. He most recently served overseas as Australia's High Commissioner to Canada (2005-08). Prior to this, he served abroad as Ambassador to France (2000-04); Ambassador to Thailand (1997-2000); Ambassador to Israel (1990-93).

Jamie Lowe is the Assistant Secretary of the National Security Policy and Programs Branch in the Attorney-General's Department. She has a wide range of responsibilities including national security strategic policy development and coordination, national security budget, countering violent extremism and chemicals of security concern. As the senior officer responsible for Australia's countering violent extremism program she has developed a strategic framework that has been supported by all levels of government in Australia and has worked closely with Australian non-governmental organisations and community groups to facilitate a deep understanding of Australia's countering violent extremism strategy. She has represented Australia at the Global Counter-Terrorism Taskforce Countering Violent Extremism Working Group.

Ross Frenett, Project Manager, Against Violent Extremism (AVE) Network. Ross is a terrorism analyst at the London based think tank the Institute for Strategic Dialogue where he manages the Against Violent Extremism (AVE) network. AVE is *a global network of former extremists and survivors of extremist violence which the is run in conjunction with Google Ideas and the GenNext foundation. He is regular* media commentator on issues around extremism and has published research on contemporary Irish Republican violence. Prior to joining ISD Ross worked as a management consultant for Deloitte, where his work focused primarily on sanctions- compliance investigations. Ross Frenett's presentation is funded by the Australian- New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Noor Huda Ismail is the founding director of the Institute for International Peace Building, a Jakarta-based think tank focusing on regional conflict and security. A former Washington Post journalist, Noor has interviewed convicted terrorists and visited their military camps in Ambon, Poso and Mindanao.Noor graduated from Ngruki, one of 'an Ivy League' of radical schools in Solo, Central Java where he shared a room with one of Bali bombers when he was 12. He earned a Master of International Security from St Andrew's University in Scotland. Noor is regularly interviewed by media outlets including CNN, BBC, Channel News Asia, Al Jazeera and Reuters. His analysis is also published by The Far Eastern Economic Review, The Jakarta Post, The Strait Times and The Australian. He also speaked at two Google's Summit Againts Violance Extremism in Dublin and New York.

Dr Anne Aly, Research Fellow, Department of Social Science and International Studies, Curtin University. Anne is widely recognised as an expert on counterterrorism and countering violent extremism. Anne has published widely on topics including Islamic identity, radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism. She is the author of Terrorism and Global Security: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (Palgrave Macmillan). Anne is the founding Chair of People against Violent Extremism (PaVE) established to promote and enhance linkages between government, community and research in CVE. In 2011, Anne was inducted into the inaugural WA Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions to the field of counter terrorism and countering violent extremism.

Priscilla Brice is the founder and Managing Director of All Together Now, Australia's only national racism prevention charity. Priscilla was recently awarded a Churchill Fellowship that will enable her to visit, investigate and learn from antiracism NGOs in Europe and North America during 2014. Priscilla was also awarded a University of Western Sydney Community Award in 2013 for establishing the award-winning One Parramatta project and All Together Now more broadly. Priscilla has a decade of experience managing social marketing and social change projects, specialising in on online communications.

Adjunct Professor Clive Williams MG is a former Military and Defence intelligence officer. Since leaving Defence in 2002, he has run Masters courses at Australian and overseas universities and worked in 15 countries, including Afghanistan and the Middle East. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the ANU and an Adjunct Professor at Macquarie University.   He is a member of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers (AIPIO), and is an associate member of the International Academy of Investigative Psychology (AIAIP).

Dr. Hussein Tahiri completed his PhD in Political Science from The University of Melbourne in 2001 and has worked as a lecturer teaching Middle East Politics. He is currently Senior Research Analyst in the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Unit of Victoria Police. In the course of his career he has contributed to and led a range of key external and internal research initiatives and reports for universities and state and national bodies dealing with counterterrorism and community engagement. He has also authored books, book chapters, academic journal articles and numerous commentary articles. Dr. Tahiri co-edited a book titled, "Counter Terrorism and Social Cohesion" which was published in October 2011.

 Michele Grossman is Professor of Cultural Studies and Deputy Director of the Centre for Cultural Diversity and Wellbeing. Her current research interests focus on countering violent extremism and community engagement; policing and cultural diversity; and refugee settlement, health and wellbeing, particularly for African-background refugees. Michele is a member of the bilateral Countering Violent Extremism Research Panel convened by the Countering Violent Extremism Subcommittee of the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee, and serves on the Reducing Race-Based Discrimination Advisory Board of VicHealth. Michele's research in this area has been supported by multiple grants from various government agencies, including ANZCTC, Victoria Police and the AFP. Her current project (2012-2013, with H Tahiri, Victoria Police) focuses on the role of culture in harnessing resilience capital to counter violent extremism in diverse communities.

Dr Caroline Ziemke Dickens, Director of the Center for Defense and Security Studies at Massey University Wellington, New Zealand. Prior to moving to New Zealand, she was a Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analyses where her work focused on cross-cultural communication and countering violent extremism in Asia and Africa. She was also a key facilitator in the establishment of the Council on Asian Transnational Threat Research, a network of experts across the Asia-Pacific region who conduct collaborative research into the key factors shaping a range of challenges from terrorism and violent extremism to the changing balance of power in Asia. She has a Ph.D. in Military History and Strategic Studies from The Ohio State University.

Maqsoud Kruse is the Chief Executive Officer for Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism. Before joining Hedayah,

he worked as the Head of Planning Section and later as the Psychological Affairs Advisor at Global Aerospace Logistics (GAL). He holds a Master's degree in Organisational Psychology from the University of Melbourne in Australia where he spent three years conducting training and research at the former International Conflict Resolution Centre (ICRC) in the theory and practice of alternative conflict resolution strategies such as negotiation and mediation at the international, national, community, and individual levels. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Business Administration at Manchester Business School specializing in Cultural Intelligence Theory and Measurement

Robert Örell, Director of Exit Sweden (Fryshuset), has since 2000 worked on disengagement from political extremism and criminal gangs and is currently initiating a national recourse center for Swedish NGOs involved in disengagement. He is a former activist in a Swedish extremist group. Robert is involved in national and international networks dealing with knowledge sharing and best practice within the field of radicalisation, disengagement and intervention, and has arranged several international conferences and workshops. He is a member of the steering committee of the European Commission's RAN (Radicalization Awareness Network) where he also co-chairs the working group on De-radicalisation. Robert has studied social pedagogy and basic psychotherapy training.

Peter Kelly is Program Manager at the Washington DC-based Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD). His work there integrates 17 years of involvement in civil society counter terrorism, political activism, lobbying and published journalism in Northern Ireland, the UK, the US and Australia. Peter remains political and media

strategist for over a decade with Northern Ireland terrorism victims who successfully brought historic legal action against the perpetrators of 'Ireland's September 11th'. He has successfully advocated in several parliaments for counter terrorism legislation and spoken at international counter terrorism conferences throughout Europe, South America and at Universities on both coasts of the United States. Peter's visit to Perth is sponsored by the University of Notre Dame's Nanovic Institute in Indiana, USA.

Dr. Julian Droogan is a Lecturer at the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism (PICT), Macquarie University where he runs the International Security Studies program. He has an academic background encompassing anthropology and the study of religions, with a focus on South Asia. Julian is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism* (Rutledge). He has published extensively on issues of religion and security, violent extremism and security in the Asia Pacific region, and has a background working in the Asia Pacific region, in particular in PNG and South Asia.

Lise Waldek BSc. (Hons), University College London; MA, Kent University (Brussels School of International Studies). Lise joined the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism in 2010. Her undergraduate and Master's degrees blended Anthropology and International Relations and focused on the politics of memory and security. After living and studying at the heart of European Politics in Brussels, Lise returned to the UK to work for the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office. Her speciality was the application of socio-cultural analysis within the fields of defence and security. She continues to explore these themes in her research at the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism. She has worked on research looking at violent extremism in Nigeria and most recently the Solomon Islands.

Maria A. Ressa is a Filipino journalist, CEO of Rappler (www.rappler.com), author of Seeds of Terror, and author of From Bin Laden to Facebook. She served as the head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs Department from 2004-2010. Before joining ABS-CBN, Ms. Ressa worked for Cable News Network (CNN) for nearly two decades, serving as Manila Bureau Chief from 1988–1995 and as Jakarta Bureau Chief from 1995-2005. She is now an author-in-residence at The International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) of Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

Mike Bell is the recently appointed Divisional Detective Superintendent, Security Operations, WA Police (WAPol). This Division oversees WAPol's own internal security arrangements, the security of local and visiting dignitaries and investigates individuals or groups who present a security threat to the State. Mike is a member of the Australian New Zealand Counter –Terrorism Committee Countering Violence Extremism Sub-committee and currently Chair of a national project developing training for frontline service workers on radicalisation indicators. Mike has policed in metropolitan, regional and remote environments across WA and worked on a United Nations mission in Timor Leste during 2006 where he managed the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Unit. Mike holds a Master of Business Administration, Master of leadership & Management (Policing) and Master of Arts (Terrorism, Safety & Security)

B.A. Gani, is an International Director of Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF) in Consultative Status with ECOSOC of United Nations, and he is also Vice-Secretary General of Indonesia Crime Prevention Foundation. Currently he is conducting the program of Countering Violent Extremism and Conflict through Community Derived Strategies in Indonesia. The CVE project involves the Indonesian National Police (INP), local government officials, religious leaders, youth, NGO's, media, business and community leaders that will assess, identify and implement community developed strategies. The CVE project is designed to identify the pre-cursors of community vulnerability through direct community engagement. The project also promotes and designs, for implementation, community integration strategies that provide structured forums and platforms for the public to access resources and information

Keynote Abstracts

DAY ONE- THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER
Welcome Address – William Fisher, Australian Ambassador for Counter Terrorism
Keynote Presentation – Jamie Lowe ***Title - The Australian Government and Countering Violent Extremism: A multi-faceted approach*** As the senior officer responsible for Australia's countering violent extremism (CVE) program, Jamie Lowe is responsible for coordinating delivery of the national CVE strategic framework. Jamie will speak about the multi-faceted approach that the Australian Government takes to address the threat of extremism and radicalisation in Australia. Focusing on the domestic context, this presentation will highlight the importance of the coordination and partnerships that the Australian Government fosters through its CVE program. Participants will learn about the relationship between the Australian Government and the states and territories, universities and think tanks, as well as international counterparts, and the fundamental importance of community groups and community leaders to the effectiveness of CVE efforts. Jamie will also place the Australian Government's CVE program within the context of Australia's threat profile and provide an insight into how the Australian government is responding to identified and emerging issues.
Keynote Presentation – Ross Frenett ***Unusual stakeholders in the fight against terrorism and extremism*** Counter-terrorism is usually viewed as something in which the state reigns supreme. Even when NGO's are involved, such as in the PREVENT strategy; the state takes a leading role in funding and strategic direction. Does this have to be the case? What role do former extremists with a criminal record have? What role for survivors of extremist violence? What role for the tech sector and even the general public? This talk will ask these questions and outline the work of the Against Violent Extremism network which attempts to bring together these unusual stakeholders without the guiding hand of the state.
Keynote Presentation - Noor Huda Ismail ***Food for peace*** Food brings people together in any culture, and a business must provide its customers, regardless of their race or religion, with good service in order to be successful. Through restaurants and a bakery, Noor Huda Ismail and his team at the Institute for International Peace Building are piloting a soft approach to countering violent extremism, helping former combatants in Indonesia to reintegrate into communities through good hospitality.

Keynote Presentation – Anne Aly

CVE Online: Developing effective counter narratives

This presentation will cover how research and evidence in countering violent extremism can be translated into the development of online strategies.
The internet has become a virtual marketplace for violent extremist narratives that target recruitment as well as support for violent extremism and the causes claimed to be represented. Research into voluntary exit from violent extremism highlights mechanisms and themes that initiate doubt and ultimately lead to exit. These themes provide perspectives for the development of online narratives that can challenge the violent extremist narratives and influence behavioural change. Drawing on current research into why people leave violent extremism behind and her own research on counter narratives and online audiences, Dr Anne Aly (Curtin University and Founding Chair of People against Violent Extremism) will present some of the key concepts behind an online CVE campaign.

Priscilla Brice

During 2012-13 All Together Now ran a pilot project to plant a seed of doubt among young men at risk of involvement in white supremacy in Australia. All Together Now created a website hosting counter-arguments to white supremacist discussions and conspiracy theories (exitwhitepower.com).

All Together Now's focus was to decrease the incidence of young men aged 18-24 from being recruited and radicalised by members of online white supremacy groups. We did this by monitoring far-right discourse, publishing counter-arguments on *exitwhitepower.com* and using Trojan-style advertising on Google so those looking for information about white power would easily find our resource. This talk will explain the process and achievements of the ground-breaking Exit program.

DAY TWO- FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Welcome Address - Clive Williams

Keynote Presentation – Hussein Tahiri and Michele Grossman

Community and Radicalisation – Exploring Current Australian Community Perspectives on Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

This presentation examines some of the key findings emerging from a recently concluded qualitative national study conducted by Hussein Tahiri (Victoria Police) and Michele Grossman (Victoria University) with support from the Australian Multicultural Foundation, including how communities understand the meanings of and relationship between radicalisation and extremism; perceptions of the underlying drivers for radicalisation and extremism; perceptions of the impact of radicalisation and extremism on sense of community and social harmony and cohesion; and community views about effective approaches to and solutions for eliminating or reducing the threat of violent extremism in Australia.

Keynote Presentation – Caroline Ziemke-Dickens

"What We've Learned Since 9/11: A Realignment of Research on Violent Extremism?"

The scholarly and analytical study of violent extremism has evolved in parallel with the post-Cold War global realignment, culminating with the Global War on Terror. The United States and its allies in the WoT have been the principal customers and venture capitalists for research on violent extremism. This has constricted the reach of such research and skewed the focus disproportionately toward Islamist extremism. The end of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the global strategic realignment that will follow will usher in a both challenges and opportunities for both scholarly and applied research on the causes of and most effective responses to violent extremism. The primary challenges will be financial (the days of write-your-own-check research contracts and government and military employment for new social science PhDs are long gone) and methodological (how do we make meaningful use of Big Data?). In the long run, however, the potential for a "golden age" of research on understanding and countering violent extremism that focuses on the emerging dynamics of identity from multiple perspectives – not just the "Islam versus the West." The challenge for those of us engaged in this process will be to take stock of both where we have been and where we need to go. In this presentation, I will present a short survey of the evolution of the Western perception of violent extremism since the end of the Cold War.
1. Pre-1989
2. The End of the Cold War and the Unipolar Moment
3. The Faces of Violent Extremism in the 1990s
4. When all you have is a Hammer: the Search for an Existential Threat
5. The Watershed: the 9/11 Attacks
6. The Mobilization of the Academy
7. No More War on Nouns: from the Global War on Terror to the Pivot to Asia
8. The Intellectual Realignment of Research on Violent Extremism: Challenge and Opportunity

Keynote Presentation- Maqsoud Kruse

Cultural Intelligence & Countering Violent Extremism: Why it matters?

"True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us". Socrates (469-399 B. C.)

Cultural Intelligence (CQ) is of great relevance to International relations and security cooperation in particular to the efforts of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). Since the events of September 11, the role of culture in conflict has become an area of major interest internationally. The study of the root causes of terrorism includes cultural factors among many other important factors such as education, economy, and society. The current global context, in which contemporary societies develop and thrive; is based on multiculturalism where people are living and working together and they all come from various backgrounds and speak different languages. Cultural differences between the different societies present numerous challenges related to issues of identity, values, and perspectives. Thus, challenges related to cultural tolerance and acceptance of the "other" will continue to rise. The inability of individuals to co-exist with others who are different could be a potential factor of future cultural conflicts. The importance of CQ is not only in its explanatory role, but also in its ability to provide an alternative approach to traditional CVE methods.