

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

3rd AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE ON ISLAM

“Refuting the Theological Foundations of Violent Extremism and Radicalisation”

13-14 October, 2016

Melbourne, Australia

Organised by:

Islamic Sciences and Research Academy of Australia
Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation, Charles Sturt University
Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization, Deakin University
Australian Catholic University
Australian Intercultural Society

Abstract Submission Date: 15 July 2016

There is no doubt that the emergence of violent extremism, in particular ISIS, has created a major political and security challenge not only to the world but also to the global Muslim community. Particularly in relation to the way Islam is being understood and characterised in the modern world. In a much debated article *What ISIS Really Wants*, Graeme Wood claims that ISIS isn't just “Islamic”, but “very Islamic”. Haroon Moghul's *Why It (Still) Makes Little Sense to Call ISIS Islamic* is a response to argue that ISIS is not Islamic at all. Whichever position one holds the truth of the matter is that radicalised groups like ISIS use concepts of Islam to justify their actions and recruit Muslims. Existing studies on radicalisation generally deal with causes and strategies to address violent extremism. What lacks is an authoritative Islamic response and refutation of radical use of Islamic concepts.

This conference aims to explore the causes of radicalisation from theological as well as sociological perspectives with an objective to offer authentic theological responses and sociological understandings of literalist/selective religious interpretations and radical narratives. The conference invites abstracts based on original and critical research, addressing at least one of the themes listed below around *Refuting the Theological Foundations of Violent Extremism and Radicalisation*.

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Topics of interest for abstract submission include, but are not limited to:

1. Theological roots of radicalisation: the use and misuse of Qur'an, Hadith literature and Prophet tradition in the context of radicalisation
2. Literalist dogmatism in Islamic history and counter approaches
3. Exploring and contesting the jurisprudential basis of radical interpretations
4. The ideologies of radical or extremist groups within Muslim societies
5. Islamic approaches to countering violent extremism and youth radicalisation
6. Spiritual and performative aspects of everyday Islamic religiosity in the West
7. Muslims in the West and engagement with the Global Muslim *Ummah*
8. Changing discursive manifestations of contemporary radicalisation

Abstracts of no more than 300 words must be submitted together with the contributor's short biography (no more than 200 words) by **15 July 2016**. You will be informed of whether your abstract was accepted by **30 July 2016**. If an abstract is accepted for the conference, a full draft paper must be submitted by **30 September 2016**.

Abstracts should be submitted to the organising committee @ adi-admin@deakin.edu.au and melb@isra.org.au. Abstracts should be in Word format with the following information in this order:

- a) author(s) name;
- b) affiliation;
- c) email address;
- d) title of abstract;
- e) body of abstract;
- f) author's biography.

Email subject should be titled: **Refuting the Theological Foundations of Violent Extremism and Radicalisation**. Use plain text (Times New Roman, 12 point, double spaced) and abstain from using footnotes and any special formatting, characters or emphasis (such as bold, italics or underline).

We will acknowledge receipt and respond to all abstracts submitted. If you do not receive a reply within a week, assume we did not receive your abstract and resend it. Select papers will be published in peer-reviewed publications.

Organising Committee: Prof Fethi Mansouri, Conference Co-Chair
Dr Zuleyha Keskin, Conference Co-Chair
A/Prof Mehmet Ozalp, Charles Sturt University
Dr Hakan Coruh, Charles Sturt University
Prof Shahram Akbarzadeh, Deakin University
Ahmet Keskin, Australian Intercultural Society
Fatih Tuncer, Australian Catholic University