

Mayanthi Fernando

Mayanthi Fernando is an Associate Professor in Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the author of *The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism* (Duke University Press, 2014)



Speakers:

Gilbert Caluya, University of South Australia

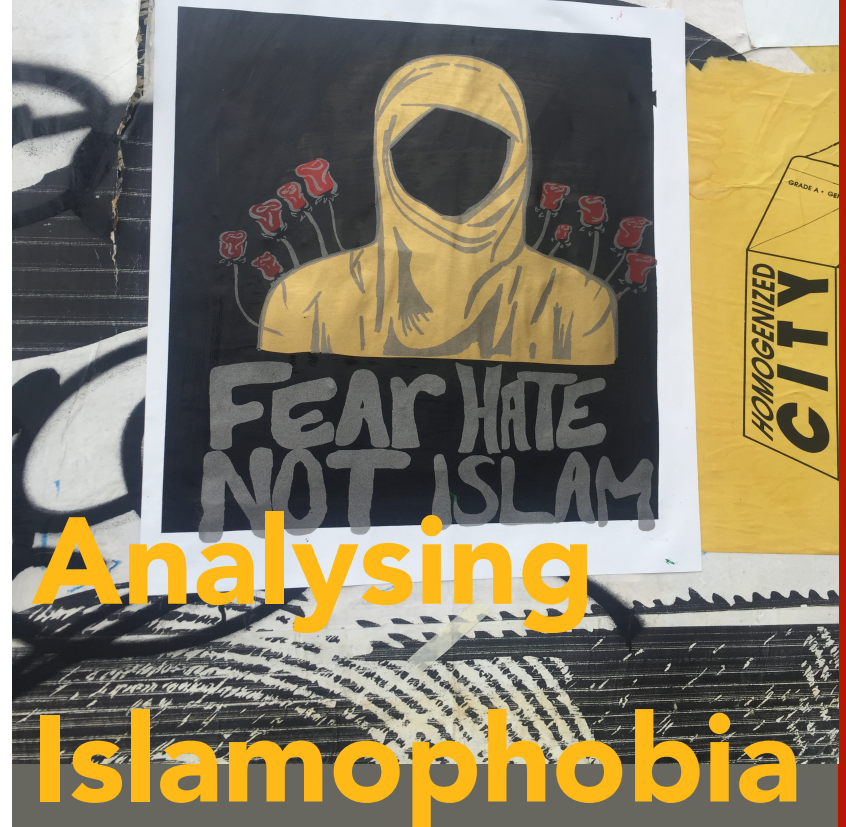
Yassir Morsi, University of South Australia

Alana Lentin, Western Sydney University

Centre for Muslim & Non-Muslim Understanding,
University of South Australia & Western Sydney
University School of Humanities and Communication Arts



9 December, 2015.
WSU Parramatta South EB.G.05



Analysing Islamophobia

A Workshop & Masterclass with
Mayanthi Fernando (University of
California Santa Cruz), Gilbert Caluya
(University of South Australia), Yassir
Morsi (University of South Australia)

To participate please email
a.lentin@westernsydney.edu.au by 1 December

Abstracts

Mayanthi Fernando

Improper Intimacies, or the Cunning of Secularism

How does the public/private distinction so central to secular-liberal democracy map onto the secular state's regulation of the sexual and religious lives of minoritized communities? Focusing on contemporary France, this talk analyzes how the political and legal practices aimed at securing secularity by rendering both sex and religion normatively private paradoxically compel Muslim women to reveal in public the innermost details of their sexual and religious lives. That dual incitement to hide and to exhibit, and the grim consequences of exhibiting that which must be hidden, constitute what might be called the cunning of secular power.

Gilbert Caluya

Domestic Terrorism: Counter-terrorism's Domopolitics and Muslim Domesticities

Recent left-wing calls in Australia to re-label domestic violence as 'domestic terrorism' in order to redirect funding to more important issues of violence, tends to elide the multiple ways that terrorism, more specifically counter-terrorism, affects Muslim households. This short paper briefly traces the image of the home that underlies Western counter-terrorism/counterinsurgency efforts in order to see how Muslim domesticities are being shaped by the continuing War on Terror. It argues that Muslim homes are primary sites for the elaboration of the intimate violence of the state.

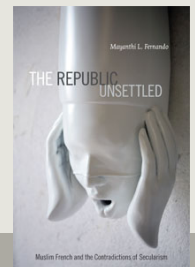
Yassir Morsi

Everyday Islamophobia and Islamism

The paper examines the political response by young Muslims to ongoing debates about being Muslim in Australia through, what I term, 'everyday Islamism'. The paper draws on cultural theories of the 'everyday' to distinguish between 'surface' or 'front stage' Islamism and the 'back stage' or hidden social forces 'beneath the surface' of local experiences with the aim of understanding young Muslims' political critiques as expressed in their ambivalent Islamic-Australian voice. I examine whether the Islamophobic practice of over politicising, scrutinising, debating, the everydayness of Muslim life constructs, supports, and shapes an Australian form of Islamism as its response: that turns everyday act into an act of resistance.

Program

- 9.30: Welcome by Alana Lentin
- 9.45: Mayanthi Fernando - Lecture
- 11.00: Coffee Break
- 11.30: Gilbert Caluya
- 12.00: Yassir Morsi
- 12.30: Roundtable discussion).
- 1pm: Lunch Break
- 2pm – 4pm: Masterclass with PhD and advanced undergraduates on ethnographic methods.



Masterclass on ethnographic methods

Reading from *The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism*, this masterclass will critically take up questions of method, epistemology, ethics, and politics in the study of Islam and Islamophobia. Two overarching questions will underpin our reading and discussion. First, what are the most productive concepts, analytical tools, and ethnographic methods to deploy in the study of Islam, Islamophobia, and minoritized Muslim life? And second, how do we take seriously the geopolitical stakes – and concomitant ethical-political obligations – of our work in these fields?