

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Countering Violent Extremism

Dr Alpha Possamai-Inesedy of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology is investigating the outcome of de-radicalisation programs in Australian communities. The research will focus on communities that have been the target of the Countering Violent Extremism – Youth Mentoring Grants program funded by the Attorney-General’s Department. This research has been funded by the New South Wales Police Force.

‘There have been over 70 alleged terrorist plots involving Islamic militants in Western countries since 2001’, says Dr Possamai-Inesedy. ‘Some have been carried out to violent and horrific completion while others have been thwarted during their development. Recent counter-terrorism raids show that the threat from “home-grown” terrorism is likely to continue for some time. This may be exacerbated by the activities of some groups that, while remaining within current legal thresholds, may play a part in the radicalisation of individuals with the promotion of violent jihadist anti-western messages. This project aims to understand how de-radicalisation programs have been undertaken in the Australian context. These programs will be evaluated via “The Process Model” which examines the steps of a program and is useful in revealing how or why a particular program succeeds or fails.’

Global de-radicalisation processes will be examined with a view to applying them in Australia. The research will be conducted via focus groups with individuals that represent at risk communities, where social and ideological exposure to violent Islamist ideology is occurring (as identified in the Countering Violence Extremism -Youth Mentoring Grants Program). The outcomes of this research will directly inform the development of intervention programs in NSW and nationwide.



Radicalisation of individuals along the path to violent extremism is a process that needs to be better understood with a view to intervention and preventing acts of terrorism. Building a Muslim community that is resilient to ideology conducive to terrorism is underway in other countries and it is hoped this can be successfully implemented in the Australian community.

Project Title: Identifying the path to radicalisation within NSW.

Funding has been set at: \$30,000

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