



# Religion and Society

## In Search for a Radicalised Muslim: Where is He?

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**RSVP:**

[SSAP-Research@uws.edu.au](mailto:SSAP-Research@uws.edu.au) by Wednesday 20 May

**Date/Time:**

Friday 22 May, 5:30pm-7:00pm

**Venue:**

Bankstown 23.G.30

### Abstract

Muslim radicalization is an elusive concept with variant meanings upon which there is no general scholarly consensus. It suffers from a perpetual definitional conundrum. However, there is no denying that Muslim radicalisation is a process. In other words, whatever radicalisation may mean, it occurs over a period of time and is a process and not an event.

Muslim radicalization can be either violent or nonviolent and there are multiple pathways which lead to the process of radicalization. These pathways are multifarious and although practically produces different outcomes with potentially polar opposite ideological purposes

the common shared bond stem from what I would like to call the “crisis of society” which feed into “extreme” ideas and stance and preparedness for political action.

The crisis of society is characterised in functionalist terms by the dysfunctioning of society resulting from the failure in “proper” operation of social activity or institution. This is often the result of rapid processes of social change. Functionalists suggest that all constituent parts of the society must operate in harmony with each other, that is, there must be a cooperative and regular interaction between institutions and proper operation of social activity to maintain social

harmony and stability. In the absence of this the society lapse into crisis or a crisis situation occurs.

This paper posits that the search for a radicalised Muslim so far has been concentrated in Islam – the religion. The crisis situation of the society seemingly has been neglected. Muslim radicalisation is a social process borne out of the consequences of social activity. It is absolutely critical to better understand the socio-cultural, economic, and political realities of a society and its crisis situation in the search for a radicalised Muslim.

### Biography

**Dr Jan A. Ali** is a Religious Sociologist specialising in Islam. He holds a joint appointment as a Senior Lecturer in Islam and Modernity in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and as the Community and Research Analyst in the Religion and Society Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney. His main sociological focus is the study of existential Islam. In recent years Jan has been invited by a number of non-government organizations and government

agencies in various Australian capital cities and overseas to deliver Public Lectures on Islamic Revivalism, *Shar'iah*, Terrorism, and various other important topics on Islam.

Jan has published numerous peer reviewed articles in international journals and book chapters. He also published a book entitled *Islamic Revivalism Encounters the Modern World: A Study of the Tabligh Jama'at*, (New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 2012).

Currently Jan is researching the *Shari'ah in Australia: A Sociological Perspective* using data based on questionnaire survey, collaborating with Professor Kevin Dunn, Professor Peter Hopkins, and Professor Adam Possamai researching *Muslims on Campus: University Life for Muslim Students in Australia*, and working with Dr Michael Kennedy on a research project entitled *Resilience and the NSW Police Community Engaged Counter-Radicalisation Model*.

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