



The Open  
University



Partnership for  
Conflict, Crime &  
Security Research

UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**

**Thoughtcrimes and the Control of Subversive Views:  
Historical and Contemporary Perspective  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015  
University of Exeter  
A One-Day Seminar**

Conveners by the Global Uncertainties Leadership Fellows:

Robert Gleave (Exeter), Director of the Islamic Reformulations Project

John Wolffe (Open University), Director of the Religion, Martyrdom and Global Uncertainties 1914 – 2014 project

The new government's proposed anti-terrorism legislation brings the relationship between freedom and security into sharp focus. Central to the debate around the new legislation will be whether it is justified to curtail the activities of so-called "non-violent extremists" as a counter-terrorism measure. Can the law justifiably target those who undermine "British values", and restrict their activities? Does this mean we are creating Orwellian thoughtcrimes, where certain types of belief commitment, rather than any illegal actions, are regulated, restricted and even criminalised? This seminar, the second in the Thoughtcrimes series, will address these and related questions from various disciplines and employing the insights of both researchers and practitioners.

The first seminar, entitled "Thoughtcrimes? A Researcher-Practitioner workshop on the criminalisation of extremist views" was on 14th May 2015, at the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, London. A gathering of 25 academics, legal practitioners and researchers, a report of the event is available here:

<http://tinyurl.com/nsmxk3u>

A programme of the day is available here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ofa46v4>

Lawrence McNamara, Deputy Director of the Bingham Centre and Rob Gleave wrote a piece for *UK Human Rights Blog* which is available here:

<http://tinyurl.com/pl8o9y6>

Links:

**Islamic Reformulations** is a three-year Global Uncertainties Leadership Fellowship (GULF), funded by Research Councils UK. The Fellowship, awarded to Professor Robert Gleave of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, aims to explore how Muslim thought has developed in the modern period, and how these modern developments relate to the pre-modern tradition of Islamic thought. The project focuses on the interlinked themes of belief, governance and violence.

[www.islamicreformulations.net](http://www.islamicreformulations.net)

**Religion, Martyrdom and Global Uncertainties** is a RCUK Global Uncertainties Ideas and Beliefs Leadership Fellowship project held by Professor John Wolffe of the Open University. One aim of this project is to explore the relationship between religion and conflict. It aims to nurture more connected thinking and interaction between academics, policy-makers, journalists and faith communities in pursuit of more complete representations and nuanced understandings of so-called 'religious conflicts' and 'religious violence' as well as the communities that they involve.

<http://www.open.ac.uk/arts/research/religion-martyrdom-global-uncertainties/>





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through the Partnership for Conflict Crime and Security

1000 Opening Remarks: Robert Gleave and John Wolffe

Session 1:

10.30 John Wolffe (Open University): "Unscriptural, un-Protestant and un-British": Catholic thought crimes – an historical perspective on contemporary concerns

11.00 David Tollerton (Theology and Religion, University of Exeter): "Blasphemy, Thoughtcrimes and the Holocaust"

11.30 Tea/Coffee

Session 2:

1200 Roger Griffin (Oxford Brookes University): "Crossing the Rubicon: the gulf between extreme world-views and ideological violence"

1230 Richard Edwards (School of Law, University of Exeter): 'The Extremism Bill and Human Rights Law: Some Initial Thoughts'

1300 Lunch

Session 3:

1430 Jahangir Mohammed (Communica): "The Criminalisation of Muslim thought and expression in the UK"

1500 Stefanie Sinclair (Open University): "Of Trojan Horses, 'non-violent extremism' and 'fundamental British values'"

1530 Tea/Coffee

Session 4:

1600 Therese O'Toole (University of Bristol): "Muslim Political Engagement and the Extremism Bill"

1630 Closing Remarks

The workshop is free to attend; lunch and refreshments are provided free to those who register; Register by emailing [thoughtcrimes@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:thoughtcrimes@exeter.ac.uk).

