



Partnership for  
Conflict, Crime &  
Security Research

UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**

### **The Islamic Reformulations Project:**

Islamic Reformulations is a three-year Global Uncertainties Leadership Fellowship (GULF), funded by Research Councils UK, administered by the Economic and Social Research Council. The GULF forms part of the Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research (formerly the Global Uncertainties programme). The Fellowship, awarded to Professor Robert Gleave of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, focuses on the ideological developments in Islamic thought in the modern period. In our research we focus on violence, and the theological and legal justifications for violent acts, how they link with traditional Islamic models of thought, and how Islamic thought has changed and developed in response to modern challenges. The project focuses, then, on the interlinked themes of belief, governance and violence in Islamic thought.

Beginning in September 2012, Islamic Reformulations will run until February 2016. The project is led by Robert Gleave, and the project's full-time research fellows have included Dr Mustafa Baig and Dr Sarah Elibiary. The project continues and develops the LIVIT Project (Legitimate and illegitimate Violence in Islamic Thought), which ran from 2010 to 2013, and was also funded under the RCUK Global Uncertainties programme.

Weblinks:

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

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

### **Thoughtcrimes**

As part of the Islamic Reformulations project, we will holding a series of seminars and workshops around the theme of "Thoughtcrimes". The events are designed to examine how and when the state might control, or criminalize, or seek to influence, the beliefs of its citizens. The events are an opportunity for academics and practitioners to share research and reflections. In the current climate the issue is most pertinent to the counter-terrorism efforts of many states in the last 2 to 3 decades. Whilst Muslim communities are currently the focus of the most immediate attention, the question does not relate to religious beliefs alone. Other important issues inevitably follow on from the initial question: how does action relate to belief? Does belief in itself pose a security risk? Can ideological commitment, without action, be criminalised? Is it acceptable to control not only belief, but also the public expression of those beliefs? What rights does the state have to monitor the belief commitments of its citizens? What techniques and technologies are permitted in this monitoring? How effective are attempts to control beliefs in enhancing national and international security?

There will be four events with the following themes:

14<sup>th</sup> May 2015: Thoughtcrimes? A Researcher and Practitioner Workshop on the Criminalisation of Extremist Views (Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, London)

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015: Thoughtcrimes? Ideology, belief and the justification of Thought Control (Exeter)

16<sup>th</sup> July 2015: Thoughtcrimes? Policy, Prevention and Politics (Birmingham):

9<sup>th</sup> September 2015: Thoughtcrimes: Communities and Communication (London)

The aim is for the ideas coming out of the seminar to feed into a major public event on Thoughtcrimes in London in November 2015.

