

# ICSR Update

JUNE/JULY 2008

*ICSR is a unique partnership in which King's College London, the University of Pennsylvania, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, and the Regional Center on Conflict Prevention Amman are equal stakeholders.*

*Our joint mission is to bring together knowledge and leadership to counter the growth of radicalisation and political violence.*

## ***Dear Friend,***

It gives me great pleasure to present the first edition of our newsletter *ICSR Update*.

Much has happened since our inaugural conference in January. Our future trustees – Kim Campbell, John Sacher, and Henry Sweetbaum – recently elected Henry as Chairman. With Henry, John and Kim's experience and commitment, as well as the expertise and participation of ICSR's four partner institutions, ICSR is ideally positioned now to carry out its unique mission

We are about to start our first major project – Countering Online Radicalisation – which will deal with the tricky question of how to fight extremism on the Internet. In September, we are launching the Atkin Fellowships that will give future leaders from Israel and the Arab world the opportunity come to London and work with each other and develop their ideas through research and debate.

As you will see from this edition of *ICSR Update*, there are plenty more projects in the pipeline. I strongly believe that it is through diligent research and constructive engagement – not by hoping to engineer a miraculous breakthrough – that our responses to radicalisation will gradually become more effective.

Let me thank you, therefore, for all the help and support you have given us. If you have any questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Dr. Peter Neumann

## ***Atkin Fellowships Launched***

***Thanks to the generosity of the Atkin Foundation, ICSR will offer young leaders from Israel and the Arab world the opportunity to come to London to develop their ideas on how to further peace and understanding in the Middle East through research, debate and constructive dialogue.***

The Atkin Fellowships are modeled on a scheme run by King's College London in the early 1990s. It gave young leaders from Eastern Europe the chance to come to London and work with each other, creating a network of high potentials who know and trust each other. The network remains intact and – with many of its members achieving high office – it has made a tangible contribution to the peaceful transition in Eastern Europe.

Our hope is that the Atkin Fellowships will be equally successful in building a network of future Israeli and Arab leaders, who – through their joint involvement in research and debate – will build personal relationships that may help to lessen the impact of political crises and facilitate the building of peace.

The first four Atkin Fellows are currently being recruited and will assume their posts in October. More information can be found at [www.icsr.info/project/atkin](http://www.icsr.info/project/atkin).

## ***Publications***

***Working group papers from the First International Conference on Radicalisation and Political Violence published.*** The latest ICSR booklet features contributions from, among others, Olivier Roy, Anatol Lieven, Jack DuVall, Yezid Sayigh and Daniel Benjamin. It can be ordered from ICSR, or downloaded free of charge at <http://www.icsr.info/about/publications>.

***Harvey Rubin appointed editor of ICSR paper series.*** Prof. Rubin will oversee the publication of *Developments in Radicalisation and Political Violence*, which will provide policymakers and experts with insights into the latest research and analysis from across the world. The paper series will be launched later this year.

## What Others Say about ICSR

"It is great to see an initiative which translates the wisdom and expertise of the world's leading experts into something which has real impact"

Peter Bergen, CNN Chief Terrorism Analyst

"The issues tackled by ICSR are directly relevant to the people in the Middle East and beyond"

Mohammed Chebaro, Al Arabiya Television

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## Countering Online Radicalisation

*The rise of the Internet has transformed the way in which violent extremists communicate, radicalise and recruit. What can be done to counter the growth of online radicalisation? What are the most innovative approaches developed by governments, Internet entrepreneurs, and grassroots initiatives?*

Our first major research project will assess the viability of 'hard' and 'soft' approaches at countering online radicalisation. It will bring together, for the first time, representatives from governments, the Internet industry, and some of the leading experts. The project will result in a comprehensive evaluation of policy options that will be presented to officials and the media at the end of this year. It will be carried out jointly with the Community Security Trust. For more info, please visit [www.icsr.info/project/counter-radicalisation-on-the-internet](http://www.icsr.info/project/counter-radicalisation-on-the-internet).

## News from Our Partners

**Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya:** The International Institute for Counterterrorism will hold its 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference from 8-11 September 2008. For more information, including registration details, visit [www.ict.org.il](http://www.ict.org.il).

**University of Pennsylvania:** Prof. Harvey Rubin recently gave evidence to the House of Lords on bio-security and controlling the spread of communicable diseases. See <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/uncorrEV18060508.pdf>.

**Regional Center on Conflict Prevention Amman:** RCCP Director Yasar Al-Qatarneh spoke at a workshop in Berlin titled 'Iran's Nuclear Proliferation Revisited' as a member of the advisory group on 'European and South Mediterranean Actors'.

**King's College London:** Together with the Airey Neave Trust, the Centre for Science and Security will hold a workshop on aviation security on 3 July, exploring the current and evolving nature of the terrorist threat to the commercial aviation sector.

## Future Projects and Initiatives

**U.S. Fellowships for Arab-Israeli Dialogue.** Based on the concept of the Atkin Fellowships, we are currently raising funds for a similar scheme, which would be based at the University of Pennsylvania. The idea is to give future leaders from Israel and the Arab world an opportunity to collaborate and build trust through research, debate and constructive dialogue.

**Mapping De-radicalisation.** Across the world, governments have launched programmes to de-radicalise extremists. Some of these programmes are said to be hugely successful, but their approaches differ and no systematic effort has yet been made to compare and evaluate them. Finding out what programmes work and why could improve their effectiveness and provide a blueprint for similar efforts in countries that have only recently started with de-radicalisation efforts.

*If you would like to contribute to any of the projects above - or know of someone who might - please contact Dr. Peter Neumann at [peter.neumann@icsr.info](mailto:peter.neumann@icsr.info).*

## Events

**Al Qaeda and the Internet.** On 21 May, Daniel Kimmage of Radio Free Europe spoke at ICSR about his recently published study *The Al Qaeda Media Nexus*. He revealed that *jihadi* media increasingly emphasise a consistently 'branded' media product. The full report is available at [http://docs.rferl.org/en-US/AQ\\_Media\\_Nexus.pdf](http://docs.rferl.org/en-US/AQ_Media_Nexus.pdf).

**International Terrorism and Intelligence Conference.** Together with the UK Defence Academy and Eden Intelligence, ICSR will be co-hosting this year's ITI conference, which will be held in London at the Royal College of Defence Studies from 8-11 June and bring together leading experts from both sides of the Atlantic.

**Atomic Terrorism - Assessing the Likelihood.** On 19 June, Prof. John Mueller of the University of Ohio will present the results of his latest research at ICSR, addressing the issue of atomic terrorism and whether its threat has been exaggerated.