

# ICSR Update

[WWW.ICSR.INFO/BLOG](http://WWW.ICSR.INFO/BLOG)

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*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 address the challenge of radicalisation and political violence.*

## ***Dear Friend,***

Less than two years after coming into existence, we have established ICSR as an important hub for research and debate about the issues of radicalisation and political violence. We have earned the trust of experts around the world. Policymakers and political leaders are seeking our advice. We are better placed now more than ever before to make a difference.

As you will see from this newsletter, ICSR is building on its success and will enter a second phase of its development. Whilst carrying forward many of the exciting projects we have begun, we will be able to take on a series of new challenges. This has been made possible by a series of strategic decisions of which you will learn in this and the forthcoming newsletters.

The first, and perhaps most important, of these is the appointment of a deputy director, who will increase our capacity to manage projects and respond to requests for collaboration and consultation. I am very happy to announce that Dr. John Bew – a young but extremely accomplished historian who is currently lecturing at Cambridge University – will be joining us at the beginning of the new year to fill this role.

In the meantime, I hope you will remain a close friend of ICSR. As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Dr. Peter Neumann  
Director, ICSR

## ***ICSR Welcomes New Atkin Fellows***

**Two young leaders from Israel and the Arab world joined ICSR earlier this month. They are part of the Atkin Fellowship programme, which aims to offer young leaders from both sides of the conflict the opportunity to develop their ideas on how to further peace and understanding in the Middle East through research, debate and constructive dialogue.**

The Israeli Atkin Fellow is Sagit Yehoshua from Tel Aviv, who has carried out groundbreaking research on Israeli 'security prisoners'. Having interviewed numerous leaders of Palestinian militant groups in prison, her work overturns many of the commonly held assumptions about their personality and political attitudes.

The Arab Atkin Fellow, Manar Rachwani, is a Syrian national who has lived in Jordan for many years. A prominent journalist and newspaper columnist, he has taken an intense interest in the peaceful resolution of the region's long-standing conflicts. Fiercely independent in his judgement, he will explore issues of regional cooperation.

For more information about the Atkin Fellowship and the two new Fellows, please visit [www.icsr.info](http://www.icsr.info).

## ***Forthcoming Events***

**23 October: Winning the Long War.** Ilan Berman, American Foreign Policy Council.

**28 October: Human Rights – The Power of Principle.** Dr. Friedbert Pflüger, former Secretary of State for Defence (rtd.), Germany.

**3 November: Hamas and the Arab Peace Initiative.** Prof Alon Ben Meir, New York University.

**4 November: Jihadists and WMD.** Gary Ackerman, University of Maryland.

**More information about ICSR events can be found at [www.icsr.info](http://www.icsr.info).**

*FREEradicals is the ICSR blog. It's a forum for debate and fresh ideas on radicalisation and political violence. It features some of the most innovative, young thinkers, discussing radicals and radicalisation. They are looking at how the challenge has been understood, and how it should be addressed.*

To join in the debate, go to [www.icsr.info/blog](http://www.icsr.info/blog).

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## **ICSR to Publish Major Paper on De-radicalisation Programmes in North Africa**

In November, ICSR will publish a major paper on the transformations of Islamist movements in North Africa and the Middle East. Authored by Dr. Omar Ashour of Exeter University, the paper will provide an in-depth analysis of the processes of change these groups have undergone – and what caused them.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom that Islamist movements remain ideologically and behaviorally intractable, the paper – titled 'The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Moderation, Radicalisation, and De-Radicalisation in Islamist Movements' – provides an overview of major transformations that have developed within these movements in the last 30 years.

With a focus on Islamist positions on democracy and violence, Ashour applies various analytical frameworks to three processes of change, namely moderation, radicalisation, and de-radicalisation. The resulting analysis has obvious implications at a time when governments worldwide are struggling to find the best approach to challenging Islamist ideology and de-mobilising violent actors.

Dr. Ashour and his work will feed into ICSR's ongoing project about prison radicalisation and de-radicalisation programmes. To learn more about the project, visit [www.icsr.info](http://www.icsr.info).

## **ICSR Appoints Dr. John Bew as Deputy Director**

In February, the ICSR team in London will be joined by Dr. John Bew, who will take up the position of Deputy Director.

Dr. Bew, who hails from Northern Ireland, has lectured history at Cambridge University, where he also completed his PhD. His field of expertise ranges across a variety of modern and contemporary historical subjects.

In recent years, he has developed an intensive interest in issues related to radicalisation and political violence. This year, he co-authored an important and well-received book titled *Talking to Terrorists: Making Peace in Northern Ireland and the Basque Country* (Hurst, 2009), which shows what can be learned from the successes and failures in resolving these conflicts for other areas of violent conflict, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Israel-Arab dispute.

## **Recently Released: '15 Ideas to Fix the Middle East'**

ICSR recently published a booklet titled '15 Ideas to Fix the Middle East'. It contains 15 ideas on how to advance a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. They are excerpts from the presentations and papers presented at the First Annual Atkin Conference on Prospects in the Middle East, which was held at King's College London on 8 July.

Contributors to the paper include Marc Otte, the European Union's Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process; Sir Ming Campbell, a former leader of the British Liberal Democrats; the Israeli Ambassador in Britain, Ron Prosor; Dr Sabri Saidam, a senior adviser to the Palestinian President; Dr. Ezzedine Choukri of the American University of Cairo; and many others.

The 15 ideas in the booklet do not amount to a comprehensive peace plan, nor are they all complementary. But they set out an agenda, and they present policymakers with a challenge. The publication can be downloaded free of charge at [www.icsr.info](http://www.icsr.info). To order hardcopies, please write to [mail@icsr.info](mailto:mail@icsr.info).

## **Free Radicals On the Rise**

The ICSR blog, *Free Radicals*, is on the way to becoming one of the leading online forums for news and debate about radicalisation and political violence.

With nearly 1,000 visitors per day, the blog has attracted a loyal (and opinionated!) readership. In the coming weeks, Free Radicals will feature a number of exciting new bloggers, including Raffaello Pantucci of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

To follow their contributions and join in the debate, go to [www.icsr.info/blog](http://www.icsr.info/blog).