



Countering Radicalisation and Political Violence



Q&A

Q. What is ICSR's mission?

A.

Our mission is to bring together knowledge and leadership in countering radicalisation and political violence.

We want to help policymakers and experts find more intelligent solutions in dealing with some of the most intractable challenges of our time.

That's why ICSR combines the wisdom and expertise of five great academic institutions: the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya; King's College London; the Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention Amman; University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University. Our Affiliates in South Asia are the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi; and the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies, Islamabad.

For more information, visit www.icsr.info

Dear Friend,

When ICSR was established in early 2008, we all felt that more needed to be done to address the challenge of radicalisation and political violence. ICSR was the result.

Our idea was to:

- Combine knowledge and leadership – bringing together the world's best experts with the policymakers and community leaders who can make things happen.
- Create a global network – reaching across continents and cultures.
- Address causes rather than symptoms – identifying solutions that work in the long-run.

Vision turned into reality. In less than three years, ICSR has become the global hub for more intelligent solutions in countering all forms of radicalisation and political violence.

We have earned the trust from experts around the world. Policymakers and political leaders are seeking our advice. We are better placed now than ever before to make a difference.

This brochure shows you what we have accomplished in our three main areas of activity: first-class research; impact-driven dialogue; and fostering leadership.

More still needs to be done, of course. Your continued support is vital in ensuring that ICSR can build on its success.

Thank you for your interest and support!



Dr. Peter R. Neumann,
Executive Director



Henry Sweetbaum,
Chairman

First class research

The ICSR approach

ICSR brings together five great academic institutions, which count many of the world's leading experts in radicalisation and political violence among their members.

ICSR follows the highest standards of academic rigour and transparency. All our research is published and available – free of charge – from our website.

ICSR research is designed to make a difference:

- It deals with pressing issues – identified as important or urgent by experts and policymakers.
- It brings together knowledge and leadership, involving stakeholders at every step of the research process.
- Its outcomes and recommendations are widely disseminated among those who are best placed to make a difference.

Outcomes

ICSR research appears in different formats:

- Project reports, which detail the findings of ICSR research projects and outline practical policy recommendations.
- Policy and working papers, providing novel arguments, insights and viewpoints.
- Special briefing notes, with concise information about current events and developments.
- Books, peer-reviewed articles and opinion pieces written by ICSR staff and associates.

For more information about ICSR research and publications, visit www.icsr.info.

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

Peter Bergen, CNN Chief Terrorism Analyst and author of 'Holy War Inc.'

Intelligent solutions

Countering Online Radicalisation

Political extremists and terrorists are increasingly using the internet as a tool for radicalisation and recruitment. What can be done to counter their activities?

The ICSR project on Countering Online Radicalisation was the first systematic effort to bring together industry, experts and governments.

The final report – published in March 2009 – developed a sophisticated strategy, setting out practical proposals for reducing the impact of online radicalisation.

Following its publication, the authors presented their findings to government and industry audiences across the world, including nearly a dozen government departments and agencies in Washington D.C.

Today, the document is widely recognised as the most influential policy report on how to combat online radicalisation. The British newspaper Guardian described it as “a significant advance on all that has gone before.”

First-class analysis

Lashkar-e-Taiba: From 9/11 to Mumbai

The most successful “terrorist spectacular” in recent years was the sixty-hour siege in Mumbai in November 2008. Yet little continues to be known about the group behind the attack.

Based on extensive fieldwork in Pakistan, an ICSR paper written by Associate Fellow Stephen Tankel shed light on Lashkar-e-Taiba – its origins, evolution, and future trajectory.

Published in April 2009 as part of the ICSR series Developments in Radicalisation and Political Violence, Tankel's paper is one of the first studies of the Pakistani group available in the English language.

Described as “an enormously helpful document” by former EU Ambassador Denis Corboy, the paper will contribute to designing more effective strategies against political violence in South Asia.

Top left: Seven Years After 9/11' launch event at the Penn Club, New York.
Right: Countering Online Radicalisation' launch event at King's College London.



Outcome driven dialogue

The ICSR approach

Because of its global reach, reputation and political neutrality, ICSR has the power to convene the people who need to be at the table – from community leaders all the way to Prime Ministers and Presidents.

ICSR events aim to bring together knowledge and leadership, engaging the world's leading experts with the policymakers and political leaders who can make things happen.

The aim of ICSR events is to expose policymakers to new ideas; make the experts understand the policymakers' dilemmas; and – thus – help both in developing more intelligent solutions.

Outcomes

ICSR events and outcome-driven dialogues have taken different forms:

- Interactive lectures, which allow for complex ideas to be developed at greater length.
- Panel debates with lively encounters between opposing viewpoints.
- Workshops and seminars, aimed at facilitating intense discussions and focused exchanges.
- Background briefings, educating specialist audiences about new issues and developments.
- Support for international forums and conferences which benefit from ICSR input and expertise.
- The bi-annual conference on radicalisation and political violence (see Box).

For more information about ICSR events, visit www.icsr.info.

Bringing together knowledge and leadership

The First International Conference on Radicalisation and Political Violence

The First International Conference on Radicalisation and Political Violence took place in London in January 2008. It brought together more than 400 participants from 20 different countries.

The UK Home Secretary gave her first public speech on the issue of radicalisation. Other keynote speakers included the Colombian Vice-President, U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel, former Irish President Mary Robinson, and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

Among the participants were five former Presidents and Prime Ministers; many of the world's most influential scholars, journalists and officials; as well as numerous representatives of religious and community groups, including several former extremists.

The conference stimulated new ideas, fresh thinking, and countless exchanges between people who might never have met. Senator Hagel called the event "one of the best meetings I have ever attended."

ICSR's Second bi-annual conference was held in New York in June 2010.

There is absolutely no question in my mind that the world needed this. The greater understanding that we have of the reasons a person chooses to travel down this dark road, from political activism to setting a bomb off somewhere, the better we will be able to design strategies to effectively counter it, and the more effective will be our efforts as we focus on root causes rather than the symptoms.

H.E. Francisco Santos Calderón,
Vice-President of Colombia

Clockwise from top:
Conference Plenary;
Panel on 'Pathways into
Violence'. Presentation
by Daniel Benjamin,
U.S. State Department
Counterterrorism
Coordinator. 'Pathways
into Violence'
conference. Workshop
on 'The Economics of
Radicalisation'. Plenary
panel on Nine Years
after 9/11.



Fostering leadership

The ICSR approach

As the first initiative of this kind in which Arab and Israeli academic institutions cooperate, ICSR can reach across cultures and political divides in fostering new leadership against radicalisation and political violence.

With a shared background in first-class education and research, members and associates of ICSR are able to convey the knowledge and skills that underpin intelligent solutions.

Together with ICSR's emphasis on combining knowledge and leadership, ICSR is uniquely positioned to help current and future leaders reflect on their experiences, deepen their judgement, and promote fresh thinking.

Outcomes

There are four ways in which ICSR fosters leadership:

- Outreach and engagement with civil society, including our interactive blog Free Radicals.
- Special briefings and training sessions for officials as well as political and civic leaders.
- Educational programmes, for example the degree courses offered by the five partner institutions.
- Special projects, such as the Atkin Fellowship for Arab-Israeli Dialogue (see Box).

For more information on how ICSR promotes leadership, visit www.icsr.info.

Creating global networks

The Atkin Fellowship for Arab-Israeli Dialogue

Thanks to the generosity of the Atkin Foundation, ICSR offers young leaders from Israel and the Arab world the opportunity to come to London for periods of four months to create networks of trust and develop their ideas on how to further peace in the Middle East.

The Atkin Fellowships are modelled on a programme run by King's College London in the early 1990s, which gave young leaders from Eastern Europe the chance to come to London. The network remains intact and – with many of its members achieving high office – has made a tangible contribution to the peaceful transition in Eastern Europe.

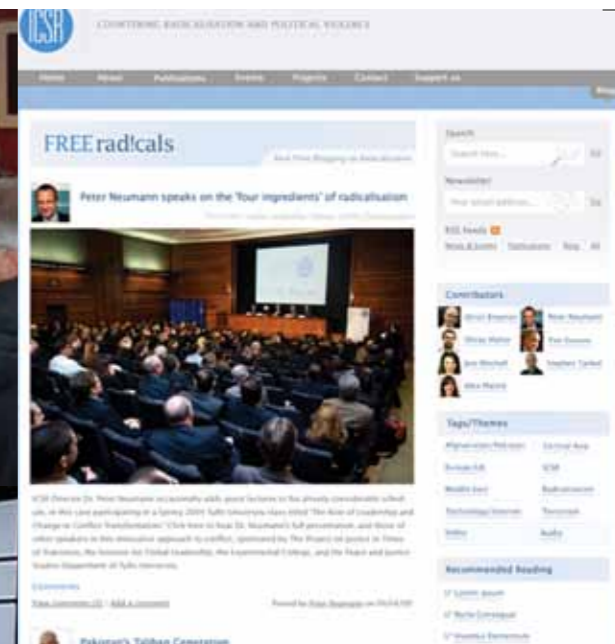
Since 2008, Atkin Fellows from Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries have organised over two dozen events and tackled some of the thorniest aspects of the conflict through debate, research and constructive dialogue.

During the Gaza crisis, for example, they jointly appeared in the media, clearing up misperceptions and presenting authentic perspectives on the conflict.

Most importantly, their shared experience has created lasting connections, which will underpin future efforts to create a peaceful and prosperous Middle East.

“The issues tackled by ICSR are directly relevant to people in the Middle East and beyond. ICSR brings access to a range of real professionals who work day in day out on questions of radicalisation. Mohamed Chebaro, London Bureau Chief, Al Arabyia Television

Clockwise from top left: Special briefing on the situation in Colombia, with former President Andres Pastrana. ICSR blog Free Radicals. Panel discussion on the Young Leaders Blueprint, Second Annual Atkin Conference. Atkin Fellows Odella Englander and Oday Abukaresh at the ICSR offices. Atkin Fellows Amal Abusour and Sefi Kedmi on CNN during the Gaza crisis.



People and institutions

Trustees

Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell
John Sacher CBE
Sir David Sieff
Henry Sweetbaum (Chairman)

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King's College London

Dr. Boaz Ganor, Interdisciplinary
Center Herzliya

Dr. Hasan Al-Momani, Regional
Centre on Conflict Prevention
Amman

Dr. Harvey Rubin, University
of Pennsylvania

Professor Bruce Hoffman,
Georgetown University

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Dr. Amir Rana, Pakistan Institute
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Marisa L. Porges
Dr. Yasar Qatarneh
Tim Stevens
Stephen Tankel
Steve Tatham

Institutions

The International Institute
for Counterterrorism,
Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya
**www.instituteforcounter
terrorism.org**

The Department of War Studies,
King's College London

**www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/
sspp/ws**

Regional Center on Conflict
Prevention, Jordan Institute of
Diplomacy

www.rccp-jid.org

The Institute for Strategic Threat
Analysis and Response (ISTAR),
University of Pennsylvania

www.istar.upenn.edu

Pak Institute for Peace Studies,
Islamabad

san-pips.com

Centre for Policy Research,
New Delhi

www.cprindia.org

Center for Peace and Security
Studies, Georgetown University

cpass.georgetown.edu

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Q&A

Q. How can I get involved?

A.

There are four ways in which you can support ICSR:

- Sign up! Receive invitations to events and information about ICSR projects by signing up to Update – the ICSR newsletter – and our Facebook group.
- Spread the word! Tell your friends and colleagues about ICSR; send them a link to our website; and link to ICSR from your blog or website.
- Share your views! Discuss the latest news and developments on our blog Free Radicals.
- Donate! Make tax-deductible donations to ICSR, supporting our mission of countering radicalisation and political violence.

For more information, visit www.icsr.info.



“The work done by ICSR is enormously important, because you have no hidden agenda other than finding the most intelligent solution to any given problem. Nowhere is this more critical than when dealing with issues like terrorism, radicalisation, and political violence.”

Chuck Hagel, former United States Senator (above)

www.icsr.info



“I wish that something like ICSR had existed when I was in government. It's extremely important for those of us making the policies to have a forum from which to get independent expert advice and analysis to help with some of the tough questions that you don't have the time to examine in depth.”

Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada