

THE CENTRE FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND WELLBEING WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU



Movements, terror and mutations of violence

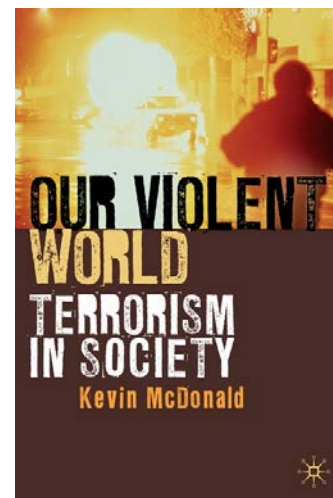
Presented by **Professor Kevin McDonald**

Director, Centre for Cultural Diversity and Wellbeing

Much of the analysis of terror remains Janus-faced, considered either a form of rational action resulting from calculation or an expression of irrationality and fanaticism. These paradigms largely pass over the experience of violence, and offer little insight into violence as process and experience. This seminar considers the mutations of violence at work in transitions to terror within collective action, from social movements to the prosecution of war. The dying days of the social movements of the 1960s saw transitions to violence that can be analysed as processes of inversion, where violence moved from instrument to horizon, ultimately turning inwards as groups attempt to purify themselves, most dramatically in the case of the Unified Japanese Red Army.

Contemporary violence demonstrates significantly different processes at work, in particular centred on the importance of death and the mediatization of violence. Rather than suggest a return to the category of fanaticism, it is possible to understand the increasing importance of horror and atrocity associated with this violence as a social experience, one associated with key dimensions of the contemporary social world.

This locates violence in structures of the hidden and the revealed, and points to the importance of categories of risk, temporality, scale, responsibility, and a blurring of public and private experience. This suggests that the personalisation of violence is emerging as a significant dimension of contemporary globalization, a process evident in contemporary transformations of war.



When: Tuesday 25 June 2013

Time: 4.00pm to 5.00pm followed by refreshments

Where: Room A315, Level 3, Building A
Footscray Park Campus

RSVP by Friday 21 June to Polly Probert
at: polly.probert@vu.edu.au

vu.edu.au

CRICOS Provider No: 00124K

 **VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA