Challenges posed by the Islamic State movement at home and abroad

About
The unprecedented military surge of the Islamic State (IS/ISIS) movement in Syria and Iraq over the past four months is now challenging not just stability in the Middle East but security around the world, in large part because it is revitalising the global jihadi movement. Military gains made by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria add significant complications to existing challenges involving rebel militia and government forces fighting each other.

For strategists and policymakers, current developments raise a number of difficult questions, including:

• Can the IS continue to expand its offensive operations in Iraq and Syria and potentially beyond?
• What is the natural end point of US coalition military operations in the region?
• To what extent will the circumstances of engaging with IS forces serve to promote convergence between unlikely partners in the region?
• Is it likely that the IS movement, together with other jihadi groups such as the al-Nusra Front, will fracture, splintering off into further groups making matters more complicated?

Speaker

Professor Greg Barton
School of Social Sciences
Faculty of Arts, Monash University

Professor Rae Frances
Dean Faculty of Arts
Monash University
Master of Ceremonies

Professor Greg Barton is the Herb Feith Research Professor for the Study of Indonesia, Director of the Centre for Islam and the Modern World, and Director International of the Global Terrorism Research Centre at Monash University. He is also UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific.

For the past 20 years Professor Barton has been active in inter-faith dialogue initiatives and has a deep commitment to building understanding of Islam and Muslim society.

The axis of his research interests is the way in which religious thought, individual believers and religious communities respond to modernity and to the modern nation state. He also has a strong general interest in comparative international politics.

When
Thursday, 16 October 2014
6:30 - 7:30 pm
followed by drinks and canapés.

Where
Monash University
Caulfield campus
900 Dandenong Road
Caulfield East VIC 3145
Building H, Room HB40

RSVP
To register for this event please go to:
http://monasheducation.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_f5lozMwAqOOWU5

Professor Barton’s public lecture will be followed by drinks and canapés.

Please note that limited places are available for this event. We would encourage you to register early to secure your spot.