<u>**November 4 - 5, 2013 Workshop Abstracts**</u>

Day 1
Panel 1
Setting the Context: The Society/Security Dynamic

B. Heidi Ellis
Somali communities in resettlement: Perceptions of society and security

Somalis are among the largest groups of refugees resettled in North America. In 2008 Somali refugees from both the United States and Canada left North America to join Al-Shabab; several have since carried out suicide bombings. How have these events, and associated security responses, affected Somali refugees in our communities? This presentation will present both qualitative and quantitative data examining aspects of the Somali refugee experience in resettlement, including perceptions of experiences of local and federal law enforcement, discrimination, and one's role in society.

Michelle LeBaron
Cultivating Resilience: South Asian Community Engagement in British Columbia

The Sikh diaspora is one of the oldest immigrant groups in BC and members have long been rich contributors socially, culturally and economically. A history of racism and ongoing political tensions in their region of origin set the stage for conflicting experiences of affiliation and belonging in British Columbia that continue to the present. Given sensitivities to outside influences and past slights, addressing resilience as it links to countering violent extremism requires careful relationship-building and iterative research design. In this presentation, Professor LeBaron will describe her and her colleagues' nascent research/community engagement work in the Sikh community, detailing how:

- multidisciplinary work on resilience has refined research conceptualizations and informed action plans;
- existing divides in the Sikh community are being navigated; and
- relationships are being built via multiple channels.

Drawing on conflict studies scholarship and expertise, Professor LeBaron will present five aspects of dispute systems theory relevant to her work on resilience:

- collaborative process design;
- interest and strength-based assessment;
- building relationships with key leaders and gate-keepers;
- involvement in community rituals and cultural activities; and
- neuroscientifically-informed engagement.

Setting the Context: The Society/Security Dynamic

Tufyal Choudhury

The impact of counterterrorism law and policies on the Muslim Communities in Britain

The presentation will provide an overview of some of the key findings that emerged from a year long research study by Durham University for the British Equality and Human Rights Commission. The research explored the impact of counter terrorism law and polices on Muslim communities in the UK. The presentation will focus on a number of key findings as well as lessons for policymakers and practitioners on measures or approaches that can limit the negative impact of actions by police and other law enforcement agencies.

Alia Hogben

Terrorists Are Not Born

The essential question is to find ways to discourage radicalization and terrorist violence. How can this be done and who is involved in these efforts? If it takes a village to raise a child, then it takes a village to create a positive environment that discourages violence. If there is a lack of avenues for creating change, then this may make some turn to violence to create change. This means all of us in the village are involved, including those with political power, the institutions, and those of us identified as "communities."

Practical Issues and Examples: Preventing Radicalization, Deradicalization, and Building Social Cohesion

Shiraz Maher

TBA

Julia Berczyk

Community-based counter-terrorism and anti-extremism policies and the ZDK's, Community Coaching in Berlin

Across Europe, authorities are increasingly pressured to develop strategies to counter terrorism and extremism. The local level, particularly, is considered crucial and local communities are frequently formulated as the central site on which to reject the ideology and manifestations of extremism and terrorism. Recently, in order to counter violent Islamic extremism, the promotion of community cohesion and resilience are in the focus of many local counter-terrorism and anti-extremism policies as marginalization and isolation are often considered to foster the breeding ground for radicalization. Hence, citizens themselves become a substantial part of preventive security and constitute both, suspects as well as protagonists, in efforts against terrorism and

extremism - sometimes with detrimental effects. The presentation will explore the role of local communities in current European counter-terrorism and anti-extremism policies. At the local level in Berlin, the ZDK's 'Community Coaching' approach serves as a good example of a community-based practice that is directed at civil society and includes notions of prevention, community cohesion and resilience. The aim is to describe the theoretical underpinnings as well as practical utilization of ‚Community Coaching'. Though having been developed in the realm of right-wing extremism, the Berlin district of Neukölln exemplifies how 'Community Coaching' has been launched to also target Islamic extremism. To research preventive, community-based approaches to Islamic extremism in Germany seems to be a highly interesting, yet, under-studied research field. This is particularly striking as these newly developed concepts and developments that focus on local communities in countering Islamic extremism and terrorism cannot be considered 'new' in the German realm where in the last decades similar notions and theoretical lines in countering right-wing extremism have been applied.

Imam Yusuf Badat
Inclusion or Exclusion and Its Impact on Radicalization
In a world where terrorism related news has become almost a daily feature, answers are sought to deal with this reality. This presentation will cover some key elements regarding how community inclusion or exclusion impacts the overall narrative. The presentation will give real life examples and case studies on the subject. The presentation will also provide some empowering suggestions to engage both the community and authorities to make our world a safer and peaceful place for everyone.

Day 1
Panel 2
Practical Issues and Examples: Preventing Radicalization, Deradicalization, and Building Social Cohesion

Bob Young
TBA

Tieja Thomas
TBA

Emerging Research and Framing a Future Research Agenda

Sebstien Feve

Undermining the Appeal of Violence and Extremism: Building an Educational Counter-Narrative Resource for Frontline Practitioners

An integrated approach to countering the appeal violent extremism requires the design and delivery of counter-messaging strategies that attempt to reduce the attractiveness of extremist propaganda. While communities are often best placed to limit the appeal of such narratives, they tend to lack the technical expertise and skills needed to do so effectively and sustainably. In particular, it is vital to ensure that frontline practitioners, including social workers and educators coming into contact with young people and vulnerable audiences have the know-how, tools, resources and confidence to help build resilience at the grass-roots. This presentation will aim to explore ISD's efforts to develop an integrated approach to counter-messaging, fostering partnerships between private industries, grass-roots community activists and government to design, develop and disseminate resources to counter the appeal of violent extremism.

Wesley Wark and Patti Lenard

New Research in Impacts of 9/11 on Canadian Society

Professors Wesley Wark and Patti Lenard, co-coordinators of the University of Ottawa collaborative research team, will discuss aspects of their future research project, which is designed to examine the evolution of majority Canadian views about Muslim Canadians in the context of national security and counter-terrorism, as well as the impacts of laws and official discourse around issues of citizenship, naturalization and immigration as they affect Muslim Canadians' perceptions of their place in the Canadian societal Mosaic.

Their presentation will address some components of the newly-launched research project, including an analysis of the evolution of Canadian national security and counter terrorism policies and official pronouncements from the 9/11 attacks to the present, a study of public interest groups and their role in national security discourse in Canada, media analysis of the discourse surrounding major terrorism events in Canadian and US news, and an evaluation of the impact of official policies, statements and legislation in the fields of citizenship and immigration.

Anila Asghar

A Critical Exploration of Discourses around Identity and Social Cohesion in Canadian Muslim Diaspora

This presentation will focus on a study that is being conducted collaboratively by university and community partners with Canadian Muslim diasporic communities. This work has been supported by a grant from the Kanishka project. Specifically, it explores the complex ways in which Muslim youth, educators, women activists, and community organizers and leaders make sense of, and negotiate, their personal, social, and religious identities as immigrants. This study also seeks to examine existing perceptions of gender issues and civic participation in Muslim communities. Social cohesion provides an overarching context to scaffold and integrate the key themes in this study including Muslim identity, social inclusion/exclusion, gender violence, co-existence, citizenship, and security issues. The project will bring together researchers, government officials, policy-makers, women activists, educators, and various religious and ethnic communities around issues of social cohesion, inter-communal harmony, and gender relations. A deeper exploration and understanding of the contemporary discourses among Muslim diasporic communities would

illuminate their perspectives and help to develop policies and strategies to promote community co-existence, civic participation, and social integration in the society.

Day 2
Panel 2
Moving Forward: New Issues, New Concepts, New Tools - PART 1

Susan Benesch

Dangerous Speech and New Methods of Prevention

The Dangerous Speech Project seeks to distinguish 'hate speech' (which should be protected under freedom of expression principles) from 'dangerous speech' that truly poses a threat of harm (such as incitement to violence). Prof. Susan Benesch will explain this distinction, and discuss the findings of several experiments to monitor and counteract the effects of dangerous speech without infringing on freedom of expression.

Amar Amarsingam

Ill/Elusive Peace: Minority Politics in Post-War Sri Lanka and the Canadian Tamil Diaspora

With the end of the war in Sri Lanka in May 2009, there was much hope in the island and in the international community that the country would enter a period of peace and ethnic harmony. Instead, over the last four years, ethnic conflict has in fact increased. With the end of the war, tens of thousands of former Tiger militants were killed, captured or surrendered to the Sri Lankan military. Following their capture or surrender, they were sent to a series of rehabilitation centers that were opened throughout the country. There are now thousands of ex-LTTE trying to rebuild their lives in various parts of the North and East of Sri Lanka. Muslim presence is also be challenged, especially as seen in the tensions arising in sacred spaces associated with different Muslim communities. Mosque attack incidents, such as the vandalization of the Grandpass Mosque in Colombo just following Eid celebrations in August 2013 by Buddhist nationalists, highlight ethno-religious violence upon Muslim communities. This paper, based on extensive fieldwork in Sri Lanka, argues first that "structural" violence and atrocities continues, and has in fact increased, in the post-war period. The second half of the paper will examine some of the responses to these and other trends in the Canadian Tamil diaspora, and examine two interrelated discourses that are taking place in the community: first, the question of whether there is a growing disconnect between the "needs on the ground" in Sri Lanka and what the diaspora is advocating for and, second, the argument that perhaps this disconnect is not altogether negative.

Hussein Hamdani

How should the Canadian government conduct outreach efforts to the Muslim community? Past Mistakes, Future Promises.

While terrorism is a phenomenon that can be found within wide-ranging social and political context, the particular counter terrorism focus in Canada, based on its counter-terrorism strategy is very much on preventing Al Qaeda linked terrorism, which means that Muslims, as racial, ethnic and religious minorities, have borne the brunt of counter terrorism policies and practices.

Post 9/11, from the very initial inception of the US led response to Al Qaeda linked terrorism, the language of war has been used, as well as orientalist discourse around the threat of Muslims to Western values. The language employed by security experts and government officials declares "Islamist" terrorism as an unprecedented and unpredictable global threat. Muslim communities become "suspect".

Questions that must be addressed include: how should the government interact/outreach with the Muslim communities? Does particular use of language matter? What steps can be taken, tools used or programs organized to make Canada and Canadians safer?

Shahed Amanullah

Leveling the Playing Field in the Fight Against Online Extremism

Violent extremists have been leveraging the power of online spaces to connect, inspire, and spread extremist messaging since the days preceding the World Wide Web. Indeed, online spaces have proven to be a natural ally to extremist messaging – they resist attempts to seal off information, favor memes with intense emotion, and permeate every corner of the world. Fighting – or more appropriately, marginalizing – such messaging depends on our ability to recognize the asymmetric playing field that we are on, and to devise strategies that leverage the unique nature of social media environments in order to get our desired results. For this to be successful, communities at risk need to lead this charge – but how can we step back and let them do so without abdicating government responsibilities for the safety and security of their citizenry?