

Terrorism and Torture

The Media, Psychology and Public Perceptions Symposium

9- 11 August

The University of Western Australia
University Club – Case Study Room

Convenors:

Stephan Lewandowsky, School of Psychology
Werner Stritzke, School of Psychology
David Denmark, Political Sciences and International Relations
Frank Morgan, Crime Research Centre
Joe Clare, Crime Research Centre



This event is sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Studies, with additional support from the School of Psychology, Faculty of Life Sciences and Physical Science, Crime Research Centre, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the School of Cultural Studies



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Institute of Advanced Studies

Symposium Program

8 August

**6 - 7.00pm Public Lecture (Social Sciences Lecture Theatre):
Professor Doris Graber (University of Illinois at Chicago)
*Reporting about Torture: Dilemmas and Solutions***

9 August

University Club – Case Study Room

- 8.30am Registration
- 9.00am Welcome to Country, Cuiermara Taylor
- 9.15am Welcome to UWA – Professor Alan Robson, Vice Chancellor, The University of Western Australia
- 9.30am Overview – Convenors
- 9.45am *The Equivalent Logic of Torture and Terrorism: The Legal Regulation of Moral Monstrosity*
Dr Ben Saul (University of New South Wales)
- 10.30am Morning tea
- 11.00am *Reversed negatives: how the news media respond to ‘our’ atrocities*
Professor Rodney Tiffen (University of Sydney)
- 11.45 am *The Impossibility of Torture and Democracy*
Professor Jenny Hocking (Monash University)
- 12.30pm *Terror and Reason*
Professor Gregg Bloche (Georgetown University)
- 1.15pm Lunch
- 2.00pm *Terrorism as a Choice of Political Behaviour: Social Psychological Implications for Conflict Management*
Dr Winnifred Louis (University of Queensland)
- 2.45pm *From the Terrorists’ Point of View: The Crisis of Identity in Islamic Societies and the Radicalization of Muslims*
Professor Fathali Moghaddam (Georgetown University)
- 3.15pm Afternoon tea
- 3:45pm Panel and Round table discussion
- 5.15pm Close

**6 - 7.00pm Public Lecture (Social Sciences Lecture Theatre)
Professor Fathali Moghaddam (Georgetown University)
*From the Terrorists’ Point of View: The Crisis of Identity in Islamic Societies and the Radicalization of Muslims***

10 August**University Club – Case Study Room**

- 9.00am Welcome Day 2– Convenors
- 9.15am *Differences in Response to Terrorism and War*
Professor Leonie Huddy, Professor Stanley Feldman, and Ms. Erin Cassese
(State University of New York at Stony Brook)
- 10.00am *What Explains Torture Coverage During War Time? A Search for Realistic Answers*
Professor Doris Graber (University of Illinois)
- 10.45am Morning tea
- 11.15pm *Misinformation in Media Coverage During the ‘War on Terror’: When Memory Turns Fiction into Fact*
Professor Stephan Lewandowsky and Dr Werner Stritzke
(The University of Western Australia)
- 12.00pm *Icons of War and Terror*
Professor John Tulloch (Brunel University)
- 12:45pm Lunch
- 1.45pm *The Psychology of Terrorism, Political Extremism, and the Conflict in the Middle East: A Terror Management Theory Perspective*
Professor Tom Pyszczynski (University of Colorado)
- 2.30pm *Preventing Terrorism – Learning from Situational Crime Prevention*
Professor Ron Clarke (Rutgers University)
- 3:15pm Afternoon tea
- 3.45pm Panel and Round table discussion
- 5.15pm Close
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11 August**University Club – Case Study Room**

- 9.00am Welcome Day 3
- 9.15am *Terrorism and TV News Coverage in the 2001 Australian Election*
Associate Professor David Denemark (The University of Western Australia)
- 10.00am Morning Tea
- 10.30am *I am right; you are dead*
The Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence (Federal Member for Fremantle)
- 11.15am Panel and roundtable discussion
- 12.45 Close of symposium
- 1.00pm Lunch

11 August

University Club – Case Study Room

**1.00 - 5pm Postgraduate Seminar with Professor Leonie Huddy
Case Study Room (joint lunch with symposium)**

This is an open and interactive session, introduced by Professor Huddy who will discuss her research, before leading a general discussion with participants. Participants are expected to contribute to discussion and to prepare in advance a short introduction to their research to discuss at the event.

The Seminar will commence at 1pm with a catered lunch.

This free seminar is open to all post-graduate students in Western Australia. Academics are also invited to attend.

Leonie Huddy is Professor of Political Science at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is at the leading edge of studies exploring political reactions to terrorism and has published widely on social and political identity, especially the impact of gender. Huddy has recently won several research grants to explore public reactions to terrorism.

Her recent publications on these themes, several in collaboration with Stanley Feldman, include: "Threat, Anxiety, and the Public's Response to 9/11" (with Stanley Feldman), in Tom W. Smith, et al., eds., *American Reactions to 9/11*; "The Polls-Trends: Reactions to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001." *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 66, 418-450. (with Nadia Khatib and others); and "The Consequences of Terrorism: Disentangling the Effects of Personal and National Threat." *Political Psychology*, 23: 485-509 (with Feldman, and others).

13 August

**6 - 7.00pm Public Lecture (Social Sciences Lecture Theatre)
Professor Ron Clarke (Rutgers University)
*Outsmarting the terrorists***

Abstracts

Terror and Reason

Professor Gregg Bloche (Georgetown University)

In 1998, a pro-life activist named Jim Kopp murdered an obstetrician who performed abortions at a Buffalo, NY, clinic. Kopp's justification for the killing was the "moral certitude" that the obstetrician would kill again by performing abortions if not stopped. To most opponents of abortion, this argument is grotesque. But it has a chilling consistency. Jihadist (or medieval Christian) commitment to crushing the infidel has a similarly disturbing rigor, as does just about every faith held by men willing to die and kill for it. The thesis presented is that the sorts of extremism that lead to terrorism are the product of minds that pursue a fearsome consistency and that the nations that are currently prime breeding grounds for terror lack healthy civil society and its dampening effects on extremist rigor.

Preventing Terrorism – Learning from Situational Crime Prevention

Professor Ron Clarke (Rutgers University)

Situational crime prevention provides the framework for this paper. Unlike other forms of crime prevention, which seek to reduce the motivation to offend by social and psychological interventions, situational prevention seeks to reduce the opportunities, temptations and provocations to offend by altering the immediate environment in which offending occurs. Adapting situational prevention to the prevention of terrorism, the major premise is that opportunity is easier to reduce than the terrorists' motivation, and that opportunity reduction brings more immediate protection. Moreover, unlike torture or detention without trial and due process, these interventions are not part of an overly aggressive policy which can inflame anger and create more terrorists, but rather they take a practical approach to diminishing the terrorists' tools and opportunities to operate.

Terrorism and TV News Coverage in the 2001 Australian Election

David Denmark (The University of Western Australia)

The 2001 Australian election was the first national election in the world held after the September 11 terrorist attacks –three weeks after the attacks, and six weeks after the Tampa asylum-seeker incident. The result was an election in which television news coverage gave its greatest issue coverage to asylum seekers and to terrorism – issues that John Howard fused into the theme of "border protection" – thereby providing high salience to national security issues that promised to benefit the incumbent Government in a time of external threat. And yet, television also gave substantial coverage to domestic issues, such as education, health and the GST, which looked for most of the election year to be the basis for Labor victory. As a result, the 2001 election affords a rare opportunity to explore media-conveyed cues about these two distinct issue domains, and the extent to which voters in the "era of terrorism" disproportionately utilise security fears as the basis for their electoral evaluations. The results, echoing several well-known media effects studies, confirm that this utilisation was differentially evident.

Differences in Response to Terrorism and War

**Professor Leonie Huddy, Professor Stanley Feldman, and Ms. Erin Cassese
(State University of New York at Stony Brook)**

This paper draws on a large, longitudinal data set from the National Terrorism and Threat survey conducted between October 2001 and June 2003 in the United States. The chapter focuses on gender differences in the public reactions to terrorism. Previous findings have shown that women report higher levels of threat, personal vulnerability, and anxiety in response to terrorist acts, and that women are less supportive of military actions to counter terrorism. This chapter reports new findings of gender differences in response to terrorism and in support of alternatives to the use of military force. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the political effects of these gender differences and the implications these differences have for opposition to an aggressive foreign policy.

What Explains Torture Coverage During War Time? A Search for Realistic Answers

Professor Doris Graber (University of Illinois)

Although the international community does not condone the use of torture to extract information, it has occurred with regularity during the recent 'war on terror'. This chapter examines the evidence for the claim that part of the blame for the persistence of torture has to be assigned to the news media's failure to arouse effective opposition to torture policies. The author presents a reality-grounded theory that explains the torture coverage phenomenon in the media and will report on the evidence to test this theory. This analysis of the current situation in media coverage of torture during war time is used as a foundation for developing viable recommendations to use publicity as a tool to discourage torture in the future.

The Impossibility of Torture and Democracy
Professor Jenny Hocking (Monash University)

This paper examines the arguments for generalized limitations on the exercise of human rights typically invoked during an event such as the 'war on terror'. The chapter traces the recent evolution from the insistence that human rights be recognized as genuinely universal and fundamental, as neither divisible, tradable nor contingent, to the resurgence of counter-terrorism measures that include the repudiation of human and political rights once considered unassailable. The chapter highlights how torture and detention without trial have historically been seen as the hallmarks of authoritarian states, as fearful expressions of a lawless and uncontrolled state power. The chapter argues that the acceptance of torture not only reflects the end of the effective rule of law and the advent of unfettered state control, but that it also marks the impossibility of any continued notion of the democratic state.

I am right; you are dead.
The Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence (Federal Member for Fremantle)

In the fifth of his 2004 Reith lectures, *Climate of Fear*, Nigerian poet Wole Soyinka succinctly summarized the mind set of the zealot: I am right; you are dead. In this paper I will attempt to canvass the questions that need to be asked if we are to develop a comprehensive understanding of the processes by which any individual or group can develop "a self-righteousness that can only be assuaged by homicidal resolution". In particular, I will examine the importance of the perception of difference and fear-based identity formation in generating fanatical ideas and violence.

Misinformation in Media Coverage During the 'War on Terror': When Memory Turns Fiction into Fact
Professor Stephan Lewandowsky and Dr Werner Stritzke (The University of Western Australia)

This paper describes how basic human memory processes can interact with certain types of media reports to (a) create false memories of terrorism and torture related events in a substantial proportion of people, and (b) create resistance to changing beliefs initially formed on the basis of misinformation. The paper discusses how these processes are powerful contributors to people's perceptions of and support for the legitimacy of harsh anti-terrorism measures, and what factors can mitigate the risk of people's opinions being shaped by inadvertent or deliberate misinformation.

Terrorism as a Choice of Political Behaviour: Social Psychological Implications for Conflict Management
Dr Winnifred Louis (University of Queensland)

The present paper analyzes the use of terrorism in terms of current theories of decision-making in conflict. The conflicting implications of various social psychological models of tactical choices for Western and American attempts to reduce the likelihood of further attacks are delineated. Social-clinical models of intergroup relations focus on reducing terrorism by promoting the healing of terrorist groups' dysfunction, focusing on collective identity (e.g., Taylor & Louis, 2004) or terror management (see Pyszczynski, elsewhere in this book), or cross-cutting social networks (see Bloche, also in this volume). Furthermore, social psychologists have studied terrorism as a functional choice within the sphere of decision-making researchers of group conflict behaviour (e.g., Louis & Taylor, 2002). We can then ask how attempts to reduce 'Islamist' terrorism can be expected to influence not only terrorists' tactical choices, but also the behaviour, emotions, and thoughts of non-terrorist Muslims, anti- American Westerners, and other parties.

From the Terrorists' Point of View: The Crisis of Identity in Islamic Societies and the Radicalization of Muslims
Professor Fathali Moghaddam (Georgetown University)

Building on the metaphor of 'the staircase to terrorism', I argue that solutions to terrorism are most effective when implemented on the ground floor, where the vast majority of people live. Policies to change conditions on the ground floor must be designed to match the characteristics of the 'psychological citizens' of particular societies and incorporate a comprehension of the world From the Terrorists' Point of View, central to which is perceived threats to collective identity. Threats to collective identity, particularly under conditions of 'sudden contact' radicalize populations and move some individuals up the staircase to terrorism. Conditions of sudden contact have been brought about by globalization and the movement of large numbers of people, including tens of millions of Muslims, around the world.

The Psychology of Terrorism, Political Extremism, and the Conflict in the Middle East: A Terror Management Theory Perspective
Professor Tom Pyszczynski (University of Colorado)

According to Terror Management Theory, the motivation behind terrorist activities and harsh military tactics to counter them arises in part from a threat to one's worldview by people from cultures that are different from one's own. The conflict between these culturally different groups and the endorsement of extreme tactics to respond in kind are exacerbated when a state of 'cultural trauma' exists. The trauma stems from ongoing or acute reminders of death which constitute a threat to the group's worldview and self-esteem. This fear plays a central role in motivating support for the escalation in violence between the groups. That is, the same thing that makes "them" want to kill "us" makes "us" want to kill "them". This paper will review evidence that the effect of this fear on violence can be reduced, eliminated, or even reversed, if one perceives one's culture as opposing violence, cultivating a desire for compromise, and promoting a sense of shared humanity.

The Equivalent Logic of Torture and Terrorism: The Legal Regulation of Moral Monstrosity
Dr Ben Saul (University of New South Wales)

Torture by the counter-terrorist State is sometimes seen as a convenient way of combating the threat of terrorism, as if the great evil of terrorism cancels out the lesser evil of torture. After 11 September 2001, arguments in favour of official torture penetrated deep into parts of the legal bureaucracy, political establishment and even academic circles in the United States, just as torture had sometimes been favourably viewed in other counter-terrorist campaigns, such as in French Algeria, Northern Ireland and the Israeli Occupied Territories. This chapter provides a critical account of how the justifications for State torture and non-State terrorism are strikingly similar, often drawing on the same underlying logic, reasoning, ethics, politics, ideology and philosophy. The chapter discusses regulatory approaches of international law to torture and terrorism and how claims for exceptional measures (such as torture or terrorism) to fight exceptional threats are contested within the boundaries established by law.

Reversed negatives: how the news media respond to 'our' atrocities
Professor Rodney Tiffen (University of Sydney)

A generation ago the psychologist Ralph K White analysed the factors involved in the momentous decision to go to war. His analysis focused particularly on the decision makers' perceptions but also the bases for public support. White outlined six factors, but they can be more neatly summarised as three: the moral self-image, a belief in the rightness of one's cause and motives and one's own virtues; the diabolical enemy image, that they have evil motives and that most of their behaviour can be attributed to this; and the virile and efficacious self-image, the view that our side cannot be pushed around and a strong military self-confidence, and that the war is being prosecuted competently. White's insights about decision makers and the public can also be applied to news coverage of war. It is easier for the media to publish stories that confirm the moral schema than ones that challenge it. It is easier for them to be critical of, or debate, the competence of the war effort rather than its moral basis. Similarly a lower threshold of evidence is needed for claims that conform to the negative image of the enemy than for normal domestic news stories. Finally there is resistance at various points to publishing stories that challenge the moral self image. For both reasons of news supply as well as demand, there is disproportionately little coverage of the impacts of the air war. Similarly atrocities by allied soldiers and their negative interactions with the population they are dealing with are slow to be covered. Only after the exposure of Abu Ghraib did this become an acceptable theme in Western reporting of Iraq. Finally in the case of Iraqi WMD the media are slow to label false government claims as deliberate disinformation, and so challenging the moral basis for the war.

Icons of War and Terror
Professor John Tulloch (Brunel University)

This paper considers exploitative ways in which iconic images of victims of death and destruction in the wake of terrorist attacks are mobilized by different media to further the political agendas of different stakeholders. The chapter will also discuss how the same media can be used to counter the spin that has become customary among some of those stakeholders. That is, those same iconic images can be used to speak back from the victim's point of view. Drawing on first-hand experience and a careful analysis of media use by iconic images of the 'war on terror', this chapter illuminates how these icons can be made to speak for and against the powerful, and for and against human rights.

Biographies

Professor M. Gregg Bloche

Gregg Bloche is Professor of Law at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. and Visiting Fellow at The Brookings Institution and the Harvard Program on Ethics and Health. Professor Bloche received his M.D. and J.D. from Yale University. Before joining Georgetown's faculty in 1989, he completed his residency in psychiatry at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre.

Professor Bloche teaches and writes on U.S. and international health law and policy. His recent work has appeared in numerous academic and professional publications, including the *California and Stanford Law Reviews*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He has served on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Understanding and Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the board of directors of Physicians for Human Rights. He has been a consultant to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (on human rights in the health sector), the World Health Organization, and other private and public bodies.

Professor Bloche has frequently written on issues surrounding torture, most recently in an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* which revealed that medical records of detainees have been used to guide interrogations at Guantanamo Bay.

Professor Ron Clarke

Ronald Clarke is University Professor at the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University, New Jersey. Trained as a psychologist, Professor Clarke holds an MA and Ph.D. from the University of London. Prior to moving to Rutgers, Professor Clarke was employed for fifteen years in the British government's criminological research department, where he played a significant role in the development of situational crime prevention. As an expert in the application of crime prevention techniques in a variety of settings, Professor Clarke has consulted with the United Nations, Europol, the European Union, and various policing organisations across the world. Professor Clarke is one of the world's leading criminologists with more than 150 published books, monographs, and articles. He has recently co-authored a book on the application of criminological techniques in the field of terrorism.

Associate Professor David Denmark

David Denmark is Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Western Australia. His recent research and teaching interests have focused on the nexus between electoral politics and the mass media, especially the impact of television on election campaigns and on voter decision-making. As a Principal Investigator with the Australian Survey of Social Attitudes, he helped to design the first two AuSSA national surveys (2003 and 2005), contributed to and was part of the editorial team on the book analysing the first survey, and is the lead editor of a forthcoming book examining social and political attitudes using the 2005 survey data: *Australian Social Attitudes 2: Citizenship, Work and Aspirations* (forthcoming, 2007). Overall, Denmark has published widely on electoral politics, election campaigns, and the mass media, including recently in the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Party Politics*, *Electoral Studies* and *Political Research Quarterly*.

Professor Stanley Feldman

Stanley Feldman is Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of the Center for Survey Research at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Professor Feldman is highly regarded by those analysing the psychological nexus of politics and terrorism: Threat, fear, and anti-terror policy. He has also conducted research exploring the psychological bases of support for authoritarianism. Among his recent publications on these themes are: "Threat and anxiety and support for anti-terrorism policies": *American Journal of Political Science*, July 2005; "Fear and Terrorism: Psychological Reactions" in Pippa Norris, Ed., *Framing Terrorism*, 2003; and "The Consequences of Terrorism: Disentangling the Effects of Personal and National Threat" *Political Psychology*, Sept. 2002, and "Perceived Threat and Authoritarianism", *Political Psychology*, Dec. 1997.

Professor Doris Graber

Doris Graber is Professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Winner of numerous awards, including the 1992 Murray Edelman Career Achievement Award in Political Communications, Graber is perhaps the highest profile American analysing the politics of the mass media, especially the effects of news coverage on voter attitudes and behaviour. She is the author of several widely cited books in the area, including *The Politics of News*, *The News of Politics*, 1998; *Media Power in Politics*, (2006, 5th ed); *Mass Media and America Politics*, (2005, 7th ed); *Media Agenda Setting in a Presidential Election*, (1981); and *Processing Politics: Learning From Television in the Internet Age*, (2001). She has written recently on the politics of terrorism, including a piece on implications for the media and civil liberties: "Terrorism, Censorship and the First Amendment: In Search of Policy Guidelines" in Pippa Norris, et al., eds., *Framing Terrorism*, 2003.

Professor Jenny Hocking

Jenny Hocking is the Deputy Director of the National Centre for Australian Studies and Director of Research for the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences at Monash University. In 1999 she was the recipient of the Australian Research Council's prestigious QEII Research Fellowship. Associate Professor Hocking's recent books include *Terror Laws: ASIO, Counter-terrorism and the Threat to Democracy* and *Beyond Terrorism: the Development of the Australian Security State*. She has been involved in parliamentary and policy submissions concerned with terrorism and human rights in Australia.

Associate Professor Leonie Huddy

Leonie Huddy is Associate Professor of Political Science at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is at the leading edge of studies exploring political reactions to terrorism and has published widely on social and political identity, especially the impact of gender. Huddy has recently won several research grants to explore public reactions to terrorism. Her recent publications on these themes, several in collaboration with Stanley Feldman, include: "Threat, Anxiety, and the Public's Response to 9/11" (with Stanley Feldman), in Tom W. Smith, et al., eds., *American Reactions to 9/11*; "The Polls-Trends: Reactions to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001." *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 66, 418-450. (with Nadia Khatib and others); and "The Consequences of Terrorism: Disentangling the Effects of Personal and National Threat." *Political Psychology*, 23: 485-509 (with Feldman, and others).

Professor Stephan Lewandowsky

Stephan Lewandowsky is Professor of Psychology at the University of Western Australia and currently holds an Australian Professorial Fellowship. He has been pursuing basic and applied research in cognitive psychology for more than 20 years, and his interest centers on computational models of memory and concept formation. He recently co-authored an article with Dr Werner Stritzke on how people processed information presented in the media about the Iraq War, with a particular emphasis on the effects of the retraction of misinformation. Professor Lewandowsky has published nearly 100 refereed papers, he has edited three books for major publishers, and he is currently Associate Editor of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. His research has been continuously funded for the last 20 years.

The Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence, MP

After training as a research psychologist and lecturing in a number of Australian universities, Dr Lawrence entered politics in 1986, serving at both State and Federal levels for 21 years. She was at various times W.A Minister for Education and Aboriginal affairs, Premier and Treasurer and Federal Minister for Health and Human Services. She has held various portfolios in opposition and was elected national President of the Labor Party in 2004.

Dr Winnifred Louis

Winnifred Louis is a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Queensland, Australia, and a Research Associate at the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. She received her M.Sc. and Ph.D in social psychology from McGill University. She has extensive research and activist experience in political behaviour with a specific focus on choices of conflict tactics, collective action, terrorism, and social influence. Her research is grounded in the theory of agentic normative influence, which she developed with her colleagues to understand how identity processes shape cost-benefit analyses to produce strategic behaviour in conflict situations.

The operation of agentic normative influence with respect to political opposition to the USA, anti-Americanism, and the special tactic of terrorism has been elaborated in national and international conference presentations within and outside psychology, journal articles and chapters in APA books, as well as presentations to conflict management practitioners. She has written recently on the link between terrorism and identity, with Donald Taylor: "Terrorism and the quest for identity" in F. Moghaddam & A. Marsella, eds., *Understanding Terrorism*, 2004.

Professor Fathali Moghaddam

Fathali Moghaddam is Professor of Psychology at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Surrey in England. He came to Georgetown in 1990 via work at the United Nations and McGill University in Canada. He has extensive research and consulting experience in the areas of culture and behaviour with a specific focus on inter-group conflict, collective aggression, terrorism, perceived injustice and health and culture.

He has published widely on issues relating to the psychology of terrorism, including two recent books; *Understanding Terrorism: Psychosocial Roots, Causes and Consequences* (APA Press, 2004, with A.J. Marsella) and *From the Terrorists' Point of View: What They Experience and Why They Come to Destroy* (Praeger, 2006). The latter book has been hailed as "a wise and insightful understanding of the cultural and psychological foundations of the staircase that leads up to global terrorism" by renowned psychologist Philip Zimbardo. The Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence (of the American Psychological Association) has awarded him the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Professor Tom Pyszczynski

Tom Pyszczynski is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Colorado. He received his M.A. and Ph.D in social psychology from the University of Kansas. He and his colleagues have played a major role in the development of Experimental Existential Psychology, an emerging sub-discipline of social psychology that studies the human confrontation with existential problems such as death, freedom, isolation, and nature.

Professor Pyszczynski's research revolves around terror management theory, which he developed with his colleagues Jeff Greenberg and Sheldon Solomon. Terror management theory is concerned with the role of self-esteem and cultural belief systems in providing protection against core human fears, especially the fear of death. Over the years Professor Pyszczynski and colleagues have explored the role of terror management processes in a wide range of topics, including terrorism. His recent book *In the wake of September 11: The Psychology of Terror* (with S. Solomon & J. Greenberg) was published by the American Psychological Association.

Dr Ben Saul

Ben Saul specialise in public international law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney. He was previously he Project Director for the Bill of Rights Project at the University of New South Wales. Previously at Oxford University, where his teaching interests included international law and refugee issues, he completed his doctorate on 'Defining Terrorism in International Law'. During his time at Oxford Ben undertook pro bono work on cases such as the Israeli security barrier, HIV/AIDS drug pricing in South Africa, mass human rights abuses in Peru, and defence of Guantanamo Bay detainees. Since leaving Oxford, he has continued his heavy involvement in pro bono legal work, recently assisting both Amnesty International and the Law Council of Australia. Internationally, he has performed as a legal expert for the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinians, conducted human rights training of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal for UNHCR, monitored election violence in Sri Lanka for the ICJ, assisted the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva, and undertaken field research on internal displacement in Sudan.

Dr Saul is the co-author of *Future Seekers: Refugees and the Law in Australia*, and has published widely in international law journals on a broad range of topics including terrorism, human rights, and torture. In addition to this, he regularly provides opinion articles and interviews for Australian and international media sources, with recent activity covering issues such as refugees, the invasion and occupation of Iraq, and the Middle East conflict. In 2003 Dr. Saul received the Human Rights Award from the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Washington College of Law, American University.

Dr Werner Stritzke

Werner Stritzke is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Western Australia. He received his PhD in clinical psychology from Florida State University and completed his clinical internship at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has been the director of the Robin Winkler Clinic at UWA since 1997. His primary research interest centers on emotional and motivational models of substance use and his work has been published in journal articles including *Psychological Science*, *Psychological Bulletin*, and *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* as well as in book chapters. He has recently published a book (with Andrew Page) on the foundations of science-informed clinical practice - *Clinical Psychology for Trainees: Foundations of Science-Informed Practice*; Cambridge University Press, 2006. He also co-authored an article with Professor Stephan Lewandowski on how people processed information presented in the media about the Iraq War, with a particular emphasis on the effects of the retraction of misinformation.

Professor Rod Tiffin

Rodney Tiffin is professor of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. He has written widely on the media and politics, including on war reporting and the coverage of terrorism. His most recent book, written with Ross Gittins, is *How Australia Compares* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). Earlier books include *News and Power; Scandals. Media, Politics and Corruption in Contemporary Australia*; and *Diplomatic Deceits. Government, Media and East Timor*.

Professor John Tulloch

John Tulloch is Research Professor of Sociology at Brunel University in London. Before joining Brunel, he was Director of the Centre for Cultural Research into Risk at Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, Australia and Head of the School of Journalism at Cardiff University, UK. Professor Tulloch has written several books on risk, security, and media, including media presentations of recent wars (Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq). His research has examined what policies, discourse and images are available to the publics in different countries, other than the spin offered to them by their politicians.

In a remarkable twist of fate, his career as an expert in media and risk perception of international events took a sharp turn, when Professor Tulloch also experienced the horrors of international terrorism and the associated media frenzy first hand. As a survivor of the 7/7 London bombings, the image of his face swathed in bandages and caked in blood, business suit frayed and blackened, was seized upon by the media as the face of terror victims worldwide. Professor Tulloch's image continued to be used prominently by the media to promote opposing views on how to respond to the threat of terror without ever considering the voice of the victim himself. Professor Tulloch has since published a book, *One Day in July: Experiencing 7/7*, which provides a provocative analysis of the foreign policies that motivated the young terrorists who tried to kill him, while at the same time giving a voice to the victim who too often is regarded as a pawn in the game by politicians and the media. Professor Tulloch's unique perspective as an expert on risk and media, as a victim of the very risk he has studied throughout his career, and as an unwitting object of international front-page news, offers an important viewpoint in this contemporary climate of terror and fear.