

THE INTERNATIONAL  
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY  
OF RADICALISATION AND  
POLITICAL VIOLENCE



# What is the New Far Right?

King's College London, 13 March 2013

In partnership with  
*Community Security Trust (CST)*  
*Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), Swedish National Defence College*



## Programme

**Wednesday 13th March 2013**

*Location: War Studies Meeting Room; King's College Strand Campus*

**10.00 Registration and Coffee**

**10.30 Welcome**

*Keynote*

**James Brokenshire MP**, Minister for Crime and Security, Home Office

Introduction: **Professor Peter Neumann**

(-11.00)

**11.15 The Old Far Right**

**Maria Margaronis**, *The Nation*

**Matthew Collins**, *Hope Not Hate*

**Professor Roger Griffin**, Oxford Brookes University

Moderator: **Professor Peter Neumann**

**12.30 Lunch**

**13.30 A Neo-Nationalist Network:**

*The English Defence League and Europe's Counter-Jihad Movement*

*Presentation of ICSR Report*

**Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens**, Research Fellow, ICSR

**Hans Brun**, Research Fellow, Swedish National Defence College

Moderator: **Dr. John Bew**

**14.15 Coffee break**

**14.30 The New Far Right**

**Jonathan Birdwell**, Head of Violence and Extremism, Demos

**Vidhya Ramalingam**, Institute for Strategic Dialogue

**Ian Bradshaw**, Tackling Extremism & Hate Crime Division, DCLG

Moderator: **Dr. John Bew**

**15.30 Moving Forward**

**Mike Whine**, Community Security Trust

**Magnus Ranstrop**, Director of Research, Swedish National Defence College

Moderator: **Professor Peter Neumann**

(-16.00)

## Speaker Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

**John Bew** is Reader in History and Foreign Policy at the War Studies Department at King's College London and Director of ICSR. He convenes the Foreign Policy Research Group at King's and runs the MA course on The Foundations of British Foreign Policy, as well as teaching on modules relating to Intelligence, Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism. From 2007-10, Bew was Lecturer in Modern British History, Harris Fellow and Director of Studies at Peterhouse, Cambridge University, where he was previously a Junior Research Fellow. His most recent book – *Castlereagh: Enlightenment, War and Tyranny* – was published in October 2011 by Quercus in London and by Oxford University Press in the United States in September 2012. Previous books include *Talking to Terrorists: Making Peace in Northern Ireland and the Basque Country* (Hurst, 2009).

**Jonathan Birdwell** is a Senior Researcher and Head of the Citizenship Programme at the think tank Demos. He has authored reports on various topics including Al Qaeda terrorism, far right extremist groups in Europe, and UK counterterrorism policy. He has presented Demos' research on extremism across North America and Europe, including to US, UK and Canadian governments. Demos' research on extremism has been explicitly cited in the UK Government's Counterterrorism 'Prevent' Strategy and his most recent work, with Jamie Bartlett, on far right populism - *The New Face of Digital Populism and the Populism in Europe Series* - has been covered extensively throughout Europe.

**Ian Bradshaw** leads the Department for Community and Local Government's Tackling Extremism team, which is responsible for the Department's work to support communities to tackle religious and race based extremists. Prior to taking up this role in the summer of 2012, he was a team leader in DCLG's Decentralisation and Neighbourhoods team leading a range of projects from a report for the Head of the Civil service on public service accountability through to helping create a neighbourhood community budget in White City in Hammersmith.

**James Brokenshire** MP was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime Prevention for the Home Office in May 2010, before becoming the Security Minister in 2011. Prior to this, he was the Member of Parliament for Hornchurch and Rainham from 2005-2010; a member of the House of Commons constitutional affairs select committee from 2005-6; and shadow minister for crime reduction from 2006-10. He graduated from Exeter University with an honours degree in law. Before entering Parliament, James was a partner at a large international law firm.

**Hans Brun** is a research fellow at the Center for Asymmetrical Threat Studies at the Swedish National Defence College and currently completes a PhD candidate at the Department of War Studies, King's College London. Brun studied law and criminology at the University of Stockholm and received an MA from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on counterterrorism, organised crime and asymmetrical threats.

**Matthew Collins** was Chair of London National Front between 1987-1993. He now writes for the anti-racist and anti-fascist organisation Hope Not Hate. He is also the author of the controversial book *Hate* (Biteback, 2011) about his time in the far-right

**Roger Griffin** is Professor in Modern History at Oxford Brookes University. He has published over 100 publications on a wide range of phenomena relating to generic fascism, including the two monographs *The Nature of Fascism* (Pinter, 1991), *Modernism and Fascism. The Sense of a Beginning under Mussolini and Hitler* (Palgrave, 2007), and the collection of essays *A Fascist Century* (Palgrave, 2008). He also edited the anthologies of primary and secondary sources relating to fascism: *Fascism* (OUP, 1995), *International Fascism. Theories, Causes and the New Consensus* (Arnold, 1998); and (with Matthew Feldman) the 5 volumes of *Critical Concepts in Political Science: Fascism* (Routledge, 2003). His latest book is *Terrorist's Creed. Fanatical Violence and the Human Need for Meaning* (Palgrave, 2012). His

latest project is to promote the concept of 'transcultural humanism' as a response to the danger of ethnocentrism and fanaticism.

**Maria Margaronis** is London correspondent for the New York-based *The Nation* magazine, and a regular contributor to the BBC and the *Guardian*, among other publications. For the last two years she has primarily covered the evolving crisis in Greece.

**Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens** is Senior Research Fellow and Head of Research and Information at ICSR, King's College London. He also serves as investigator for the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland. Prior to joining ICSR, Hitchens was a research fellow at Policy Exchange and the Centre for Social Cohesion, where he focused on radicalisation, 'homegrown' extremism and the far-right. He is the co-author of a widely noted report about *Blood and Honour – Britain's Far Right Militants* (CSC, 2010).

**Peter Neumann** is Professor of Security Studies at the Department of War Studies, King's College London, and serves as Director of ICSR, which he founded in early 2008. Neumann has authored or co-authored five books, including *Old and New Terrorism*, published by Polity Press in 2009; and *The Strategy of Terrorism* (with MLR Smith), published by Routledge in 2008. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, and has led research projects and written influential policy reports about issues such as online radicalization, prison-based de-radicalization programs, and terrorist recruitment in Europe. The most recent – "Countering Online Radicalization in America" – was published in December 2012 by the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington DC, where Neumann served as visiting scholar.

**Vidhya Ramalingam** leads the Institute for Strategic Dialogue's work on right-wing extremism and integration. She is currently managing a major pan-European project supported by the European Commission, which aims to enhance European cooperation in the prevention of right-wing extremism across tens countries. She also leads a project in partnership with Open Society Foundations, aiming to improve understanding of what works in integration policy and practice. She has written widely on the rise of the radical right, including a recent report titled *The New Radical Right: Violent and Non-Violent Movements in Europe*, and previously coordinated the CEDAR Network, a civil society initiative focused on the promotion of leadership and achievement of European Muslims. She has previously worked with the Runnymede Trust (UK), the Expo Foundation (Sweden) and the Danish Red Cross Asylum Department.

**Magnus Ranstorp** is Research Director at the Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS) at the Swedish National Defence College. Prior to this, Dr Ranstorp was Deputy, then Director of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews. Ranstorp is the author of *Hizballah in Lebanon* (Macmillan, 1997) and editor of *Mapping Terrorism Research* (Routledge, 2006); and *Understanding Violent Radicalisation* (Routledge, 2010). In 2006, he was invited to join the European Commission Expert Group on Violent Radicalisation, an official advisory body on all matters relating to violent radicalisation and recruitment of extremists in Europe. Since 2009 he has been a Senior Fellow at the Homeland Security Policy Institute at the George Washington University.

**Michael Whine** is the Government and International Affairs Director at the Community Security Trust. Between 2010-12 he was the lay advisor of UK Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) Counter Terrorism Division, and was recently appointed to the London Scrutiny Panel of the CPS. He is a member of the Independent Advisors Group on Hate Crime to the Ministry of Justice, and has been professionally involved in investigating religious and violent extremism for over 25 years. Recent publications include chapters on the UK in *The Radicalisation of Diasporas and Terrorism* (ETH, 2009); and *Mapping The Extreme Right in Contemporary Europe*, Routledge, 2012. He was appointed MBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours.