



Reconsidering Religious Radicalism

An interdisciplinary conference

21st May 2016

Clare College, University of Cambridge

Keynote Speakers:

Lord Maurice Glasman

Lecturer in Political Theory, Director of Faith & Citizenship Programme – London
Metropolitan University

Professor Peter Mandaville

Senior Advisor – US State Department Office of Religion & Global Affairs, Professor of
Government & Politics – George Mason University

Professor Mona Siddiqui, OBE

Professor of Islamic & Interreligious Studies – University of Edinburgh

Call For Papers

As public awareness has grown concerning religion's persistent influence in shaping world affairs, an implicit consensus appears to have been reached in how to distinguish between those religious adherents whose faith is expressed *constructively* — “moderates” — and those whose faith is expressed *destructively* — “radicals” or “extremists”.

But is this a sufficiently discriminating distinction? Does it construe the relationship between religion and violence to be one of degree – the more religious a person is, the more likely they are to support or engage in violent acts in the name of their faith? Moreover, does this terminology reflect particular biases towards specific religions, such that use or application of the term ‘radical’ (or perhaps even more likely, ‘moderate’) is more likely to be applied to some religions (e.g. Islam) than others (e.g. Christians)?

This interdisciplinary conference is focused on exploring the development of this terminology, the assumptions upon which it rests regarding religion's relationship with other ideologies or commitments.

We welcome papers from any discipline, exploring the following topics:

- Religious Radicalism and its influences
- The history of the terminology of radicalism
- Disparities in application of the term ‘radicalism’ across world religions
- The possibility of quantifying the intensity of religious belief or devotion
- The benefits and detriments of employing the term “religious radicalism”
- New possibilities for orienting the discussion of religious violence

Please send a 250-500 word abstract to Drew Collins (dac62@cam.ac.uk) by **March 11th, 2016**. We welcome papers relating to all major religions. Partial bursaries for the travel costs of panelists will be available.

Selected papers will be considered for publication in an edited volume.

The conference will be hosted by the Cambridge Institute for Religion and International Studies (CIRIS), in partnership with the Cambridge Interfaith Programme, the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics (KLICE) and the Woolf Institute. Initial funding for the conference was provided by The Cambridge School of Arts and Humanities.

