

IAS Postgraduate seminar  
with  
**Professor Jenny Hocking**

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

***Lessons from John Howard's domestic war on terror:  
How counter-terrorism is undermining Australian democracy***

Tuesday  
6 November 2007

10am-2pm

Old Senate Room  
Institute of Advanced Studies

Register online at  
the IAS website  
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The events of 11 September 2001 were not only the beginning of the era of contemporary global terrorism, they also marked the beginning of the era of counter-terrorism. Liberal democracies around the world, including Australia, Britain, Canada, the USA, introduced unprecedented domestic national security measures that have changed the nature of those democracies at the most fundamental level. Traditional aspects long considered essential in a liberal democracy – the rule of law, equality before the law, freedom of political association and freedom of speech - have been severely compromised if not irrevocably damaged.

Counter-terrorism measures now include the detention, even of those not suspected of any offence and children as young as 16 years of age, without charge or trial and the use of control orders and house arrest against suspects without charge or trial much less conviction. Professor Jenny Hocking argues that counter-terrorism is, by its very nature, incompatible with the core elements of modern liberal democracy. However rather than seeing these measures as merely repressive, they are more properly understood as retrogressive, as taking democratic societies back to a pre-democratic state in which human rights and civil liberties were neither universal nor important.

**Professor Jenny Hocking** is Research Professor and Director of Research with the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences at Monash University. She is a previous Australian Research Council QEII Research Fellow, a former Harold White Fellow and is a current recipient of an ARC Linkage grant to write a biography of the former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. Professor Hocking's book *Beyond Terrorism: the Development of the Australian Security State* (1994) was the first Australian work to identify the significance of counter-terrorism for contemporary democracies. Her recent books include *Terror Laws: ASIO, Counter-Terrorism and the Threat to Democracy* (2004) and *Counter-Terrorism and the Post-Democratic State* (2007, edited with Colleen Lewis). Professor Hocking has also made submissions to parliamentary and policy inquiries concerned with counter-terrorism and human rights in Australia.

All interested students from Perth universities are invited to attend, as well as academics and those working in relevant areas.

This seminar is particularly well-suited to those working in the areas of Law, Social Sciences, Political Science, History, Psychology and Criminology

This is an open and interactive session, introduced by Jenny Hocking who will speak to her own experience and scholarship before handing over for general discussion and questions.

Participants are expected to contribute and to prepare in advance a short introductory note about their own scholarship to discuss at the event.

The seminar is free, and lunch is provided.