

BISA Critical Studies on Terrorism Working Group – Annual Report, 2007

Summary of Working Group Activities

- The working group co-hosted a highly successful one day seminar on ‘The Politics of Radicalisation’ in October 2007.
- The working group has organised and sponsored two panels for the annual BISA conference in Cambridge.
- The membership of the working group continued to grow. There are now over 65 members from several countries.
- Regular newsletters and updates on the working group’s e-list kept the members informed of activities throughout the year.
- Progress was made towards constructing a dedicated website for the working group.

Budget:

Received from BISA: £900

Expended: £900

Monies spent on: Travel for UK speakers and hire costs for the one day seminar in London. The seminar was co-funded by the ESRC New Security Challenges Programme.

Co-hosted Conference:

The working group co-hosted with the Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Contemporary Political Violence (CSRV) and a one day seminar entitled ‘THE POLITICS OF RADICALISATION: REFRAMING THE DEBATE AND RECLAIMING THE LANGUAGE.’ It was held at the London Muslim Centre, Whitechapel, Thursday 18th October, 2007, and was attended by over 40 delegates from various organisations and groups in the UK and Northern Ireland. The official report on the seminar is attached to this report.

Working Group Website:

Since Richard Jackson has moved to Aberystwyth in July 2007 to join the CSRV, some progress has been made towards establishing a dedicated website for the working group. It is hoped that further progress will be made following discussions at the working group’s annual meeting during the BISA conference, and that the website can go live next year.

Conference Panels:

The working group has organised and sponsored the following panels for the BISA Cambridge conference:

- Panel 3.9 Critical Approaches to ‘Islamic Terrorism’
- Panel 4.9 Theorising ‘Terrorism’

Following discussions with the membership via the newsletter, plans have been made to expand the number of dedicated panels at future conferences. A number of volunteers have offered to organise and coordinate the submission of panels next year.