



ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND INNOVATION

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation
is delighted to invite you to a seminar with

Dr Vesselin Popovski

Senior Academic Programme Officer
Director of Studies on International Order and Justice

on

World Religions and Norms of War

Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2009

Time: 4.00pm-5.00pm

Venue: Queensland University of Technology
Z2 Block, Level 5, Room 502
Creative Industries Precinct
Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove

RSVP: infocci@qut.edu.au by
Friday, 30 October 2009

Abstract:

'World Religions and Norms of War' (United Nations University Press, 2009) carries a strong message: Religions are not causing wars, but that they are a useful tool to recruit soldiers. The book's editor Dr Vesselin Popovski will provide valuable insights on how the norms of war were gradually shaped in various traditions over millennia of years before they were universalized (or secularized) with the adoption of international law treaties in the 20th century. This seminar will present the main findings of this project and explain why it is necessary to rethink the understanding of the role and influence of religion for the state and politics.

Bio:

Vesselin Popovski (Ph.D. King's College London, 1999) is Director of Studies on International Order and Justice at United Nations University (UNU), Tokyo, Japan. Before embarking on an academic career he was a diplomat (1988-1996) as UN desk officer at the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, and later as first secretary at the Bulgarian Embassy in London. Before joining UNU he held positions as research fellow at NATO's academic program "Democratic Institutions" (1996-98); lecturer and programme director at the Centre for European Studies, Exeter University, UK (1999-2002); visiting lecturer at King's College, London. He also worked at the Centre for the Study of Democracy, Westminster University and Huron University (USA). He is a contributor to the ICISS Report *Responsibility to Protect* (2001) and co-author of the *Princeton Principles of Universal Jurisdiction* (2001). From 2002 to 2004 he worked for the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights in Moscow, implementing the European Union Project "Legal Protection of Individual Rights in Russia."



Dr Popovski's work has focused on international peace and security, intervention, human rights, justice, international humanitarian law, children rights and cultural diversity. His most recent books are *International Criminal Accountability and the Rights of Children* and *World Religions and Norms of War*.