The Social Politics of Risk

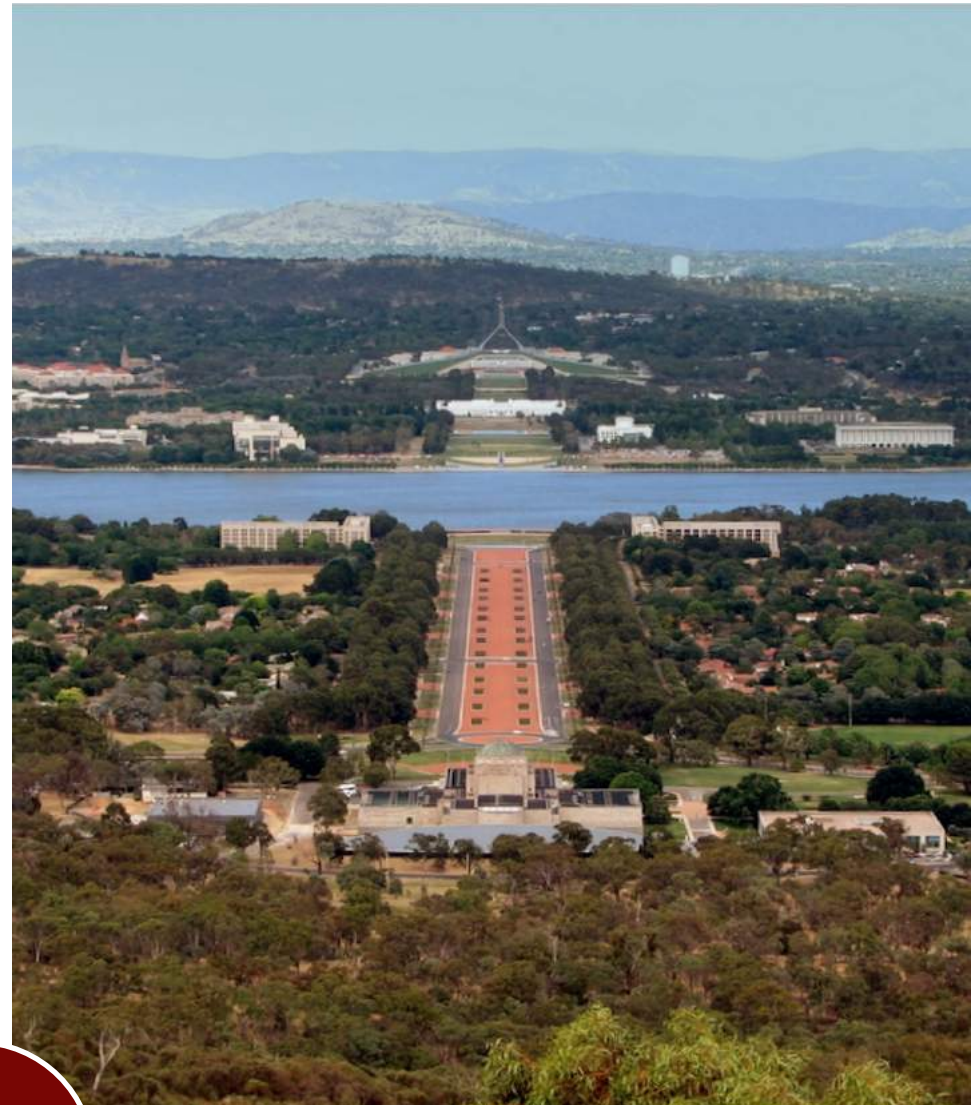## Organising, Power and Risk

A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF RISK MASTERCLASS

WORKSHOP: 27,28 MARCH 2019

VENUE: CLLR STUDY CENTRE

10 JENS PLACE, KAMBAH ACT

8.30AM-4.30PM DAILY

Enter

The Centre for Leadership and Learning in Risk

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF RISK

CONTACT

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Introduction

Humans are fundamentally social (i-thou) which translates to being socially organised through ethical and political systems. Any human process of socially organising implies a relationship to power and the politics of risk.

The root of politics comes from the Greek 'polis' meaning, the affairs of the cities. The word 'polis' implies the organising of people and is related to the idea of governance and civics. The foundation of political organising is fostered by the power of 'Technique' (Ellul, 1976, p. pp.23-50) and seeks efficiency in organising. Weick (1979, p.3) defines social organisng as: 'consensually validated grammar for reducing equivocality by means of sensible interlocked behaviours'.

It is in human organising that we define our: ethic (moral systems), theory of being (ontology), discourse in organising and social politic (understanding of power). It is by these defining identities that we understand human violation. It is in social organising in governance that we declare our relationship to the distribution of power. We experience the misuse of power in violence.

There can be no self understanding in relation to power without an economic and historical understanding of the human in community. In this sense politics is rooted in historical continuity. It is in social history that we experience how values and virtue are superceded for efficiency (Technique). Propaganda is used to blur the boundaries between 'ends and means' in organising so that Technique becomes the defining dyanmic for social meaning and purpose.

The archetype of Politics (and technique) is the autonomous machinery of Technique itself most observed in the 'party' and 'empire'. It is in The Meaning of the City (polis) (Ellul, 1970) that we experience the alienation of Political Illusion (Ellul, 1967). The city is the semiotic for politics. It is in the city that we most observe the dialectic between human ontology and power in organising. It is in the paradox of social organising that Technique dehumanises persons through ideologies in tackling risk. Understanding these ideas is essential in tackling the Social Politics of Risk.

Content

The Social Politics of Risk Module content is outlined as follows:

1. Knowing self, bias, subjectivity and worldview
2. Defining and understanding key concepts in politics
   • Hegemony, ideology, government, propaganda, system, ontology
3. The nature history, economics and ethics
4. Understanding ideologies and competing political ideas
5. The nature of social organising - policy, control and compliance
6. Politics as spectacle
7. Authority, association, subversion, party and power
8. Political basics: Marx, dialectics, violence, war and the State.
   • Critical and cultural theory, -isms and schisms
9. Authority and trust, responsibility and care
10. The will to power, Nietzsche and the Ubermensch
11. The politics of risk and risk aversion, the political seduction of zero.
12. Binary oppositions and fundamentalism
13. Case studies in social politics:
   • The Nazis
   • Propaganda
   • The media as Third Estate
   • Church and State

Presenters/Facilitators

Dr Robert Long

Executive Director
Human Dymensions

Rob is an accomplished author, presenter and educator. He is the founder of the discipline of The Social Psychology of Risk and is applies this Body of Knowledge to the risk, safety and security industries. Rob's work and pioneering perspective is highly sought after by organisations that seek to do more than just maintain compliance with systems. The work of Dr Long and Human Dymensions is delivered globally with a new office opened in Linz Austria in 2016. Rob has worked in building and construction, transport and logistics, risk and safety, education and training, community services, public service and corrections sectors. He has published seven highly successful books on the social psychology of risk and publishes extensively on the Internet. Rob lives in Canberra and enjoys his spare time with grandchildren.

Craig Ashhurst

Director – Niche Thinking

Craig has been the Director of Niche Thinking since 1995 and has extensive experience working in large organisations in the private and public sectors. Craig started in the electronics industry and has worked in TV as a journalist, University special projects, strategic Commonwealth Government projects, mining, manufacturing and construction. Craig is in high demand as a translator and facilitator helping organisations tackle risk, culture and learning issues.

Niche Thinking provides consultancy work with a focus on innovation, strategic thinking, facilitation, design and translation between different disciplines. Craig is completing his PhD at ANU in 'Wicked Problems'.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the unit participants will:

1. Better understand the by-products and trade-offs in social organising.
2. Develop skills in deconstructing the politics of risk through iThink skills
3. Learn about the foundations of social psychology and the distribution of power.
4. Understand the critical semantics, semiotics and semiosis of social politics.
5. Integrate SPoR knowledge into the politics of governance.
6. Improve analysis skills in propaganda, political analysis, dynamics of instituionalisation and Technique
7. Understand critical and cultural theory in an SPoR context.
8. Develop effective questioning skills and awareness in the politicization of risk.
9. Build knowledge in historiography, dialectic, ontology and civics.
10. Develop strategies to incorporate the social politics of risk into strategic thinking, existenial dialectic and protest.
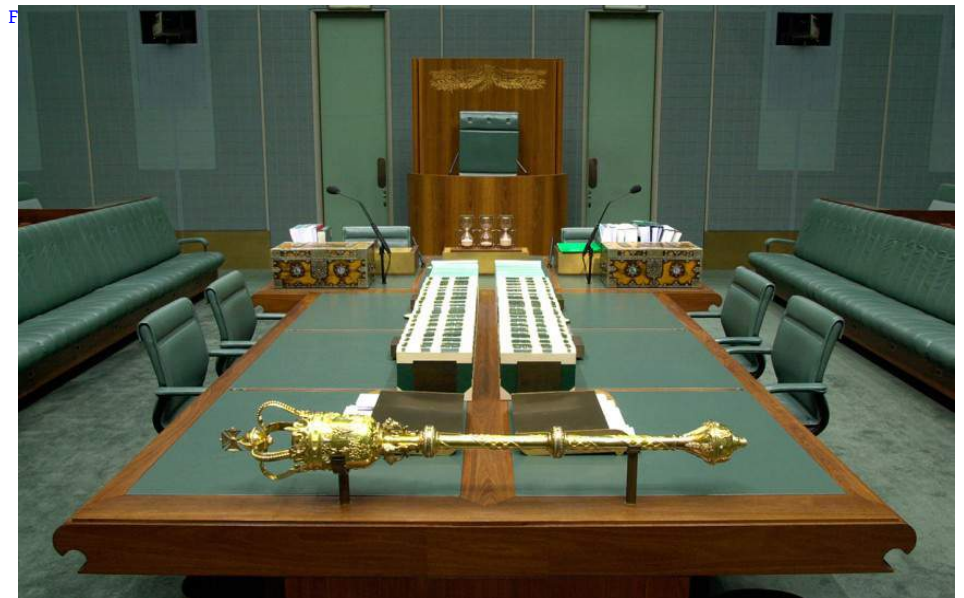
Program Structure

Day 1

Session	Focus/Activity	Outcome
1	• Introductions • Context, BoK and History	• Risk Maturity Matrix Tool • BoK Map
2	• Understanding terms, definitions and understandings	• Interpreting filters and scripts that limit understandings • Understanding assumptions and limitations
3	• The dynamics of social organising • The nature of power and uncertainty in risk • Understanding Archetypes	• Understanding the paradox of size and instituionalisation • Binary opposition
Break		
4	• Technique • Propaganda • The Market • Safety	• Learning about the driving forces of politics
5	• The will to power • Nietzsche and Marx • Dialectical Materialism • Means of Production	• Video
6	• Critical Theory and Cultural Theory overview • Connections to SPoR and the eclectic of Ellul	• Understanding the Roots of SPoR • Understanding Existenialist Dialectic

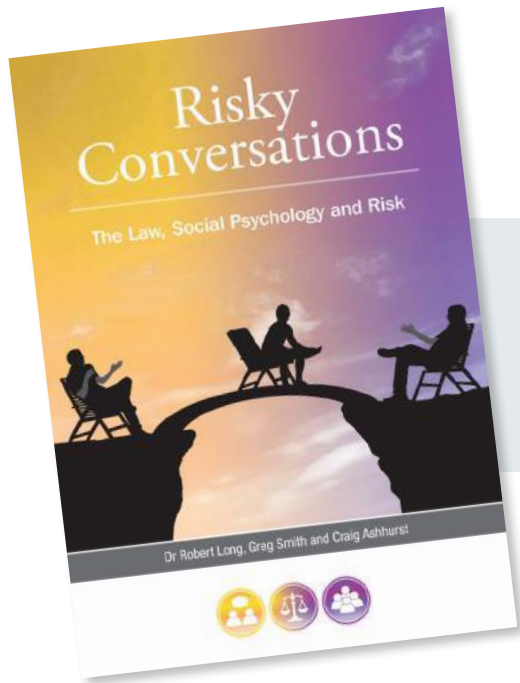| Session	Focus/Activity	Outcome
Lunch		
7	• Polistown Two	• Experiential Learning • Enacting definitions and 'isms'
8	• Political Symbology • Babel and Jerusalem • Chaos and uncertainty • The Meaning of the City	• The politics of typology
9	• The machinery of politics • Civics	• The body politic
10	Close	Dinner: John Hargreaves Ex-Minister of Justice and Corrections ACT Government

Program Structure

Day 2

Session	Focus/Activity	Outcome
1	• Foundations in Ontology, Ethics, Law and Policy	• A language and discourse review
2	• Violation, violence and the politics of conflict	• Just war and just culture • The Authoritarian Personality
3	• Case study • Nazis and nazism and the intelligence of SPoR • What is good?	• Video review
Break		
4	• Political semiotics	• Semiotic walk - Old and New Parliament House, Aboriginal Embassy
5	• Political semiosis	• The construction of political meaning • Political myths • Political metaphor
6	• Political semantics	• The language and discourse of politics • Signs and symbols in politics
Lunch		

Session	Focus/Activity	Outcome
7	• The Social Politics of place and space	• How space and place transmit power • Visual and spacial literacy tool
8	• The Politics of Empire	• The politics of subversion
9	• Close	

Figure Two. Above Old Parliament House

Participants will be provided with a copy of the latest book *"Risky Conversations"*

All participants will receive a Certificate from the Centre for Leadership and Learning in Risk for the workshop.

Cost & Bookings

Cost: $1350.00

BOOK AND PAY HERE