



**Universität  
Zürich** <sup>UZH</sup>

**CENTER FOR  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
SOCIETY AND  
LAW — ITSL**

# Internet Regulation for Counter-Terrorism

## Lessons from Australia

**Tuesday, 1 October 2019, 2:15 – 3:45 pm**

**University of Zurich**

**Raemistrasse 71, 8001 Zurich**

**Room RAI-E-125**

It is widely recognised that technology contributes to terrorism, as terrorist organisations use social media to post sophisticated propaganda. While not necessarily a direct cause of behavioural radicalisation, exposure to these materials facilitates terrorist radicalisation and recruitment. Terrorist groups also use end-to-end encryption to conceal their activities. Freely available smartphone applications like WhatsApp and Telegram allow terrorists to communicate, spread propaganda, recruit new members, and plan their attacks.

The use of technology by terrorist groups means that technology companies have a crucial role to play in terrorism detection and prevention. However, little is understood about how governments are using laws (including fines, duties and criminal sanction) to engage technology companies in these tasks and ensure their assistance with counter-terrorism. Australia recently enacted two highly controversial laws in this regard.

In this ITSL seminar, Dr KEIRAN HARDY will explain the scope of Australia's encryption and social media laws, the jurisdictional issues they raise, and their potential impacts on cyber-security, the technology industry, and the human rights to privacy and free speech. Understanding Australia's laws and the issues they raise is crucial if other countries are to reach a wider consensus on how technology companies should be regulated for counter-terrorism.

Admission is free. No registration is necessary. The event will be held in English only.

Dr KIERAN HARDY is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Griffith Criminology Institute, a Lecturer in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, and a member of the Evolving Securities Initiative founded by Professor Clifford Shearing. He holds degrees in law and politics from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, and is currently undertaking a two-year fellowship studying crime prevention and global approaches to countering violent extremism (CVE). He has published widely in the areas of counter-terrorism law and policy and comments regularly for The Conversation and other Australian media. Beyond counter-terrorism laws and CVE, his research interests include intelligence whistleblowing, counterinsurgency and cyberterrorism.

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