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Bio. Dr. Maura Conway's principal research interests are in the area of terrorism and the Internet, including academic and media discourses on cyberterrorism, the functioning and effectiveness of terrorist Websites, and violent online radicalisation. She has presented upon these issues before the United Nations in New York, the Commission of the European Union in Brussels, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London, and elsewhere. Her articles have appeared in, amongst others, *First Monday*, the *Journal of Information Warfare*, and *Current History* and she is the co-editor of a special issue of *Media, War & Conflict* on 'Terrorism in Old and New Media' (Forthcoming 2012). Maura is Lecturer in International Security in the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University (DCU) in Dublin, Ireland.

Reflecting on the Relationship Between Terrorism and the Internet: From Cyberterrorism to Violent Online Radicalisation

Dr. Conway's presentation will explore the changes that have taken place in the role and functioning of the Internet in terrorism and counter-terrorism since the mid-1990s. It will trace the shift in focus from a preoccupation with the threat of so-called 'cyberterrorism' in the period pre- and immediately post-9/11 to the contemporary emphasis on the role of the Internet in processes of violent radicalisation. This change in emphasis will be considered in conjunction not just with changes in the political context that occurred during that time, but also the significant changes that occurred in the nature and functioning of the Internet over the same period. The advent of Web 2.0, with its emphasis on social networking, user generated content, and digital video, will be treated as particularly salient in this regard as will consideration of efforts seeking to criminalise the posting, viewing, downloading, swapping or otherwise distributing certain types of information via the Internet that may be deemed 'terrorist' or supportive of terrorism

Suggested Reading

Conway, M. 'Against Cyberterrorism.' *Communications of the ACM* 54(2): 26 – 28 (February 2011). http://doras.dcu.ie/view/people/Conway,_Maura.html

Conway, M. 2012. 'From al-Zarqawi to al-Awlaki: The Emergence of the Internet as a New Form of Violent Radical Milieu.' (posted to ISODARCO website).