Pontius Pilate Revisited: Washing One's Hands of Refugees

Humanities Research Centre Seminar

Monday 19 May 2014, 4.00 – 5.30 pm
Lecture Theatre, Hedley Bull Centre Building #110, ANU

Speaker

Prof William Maley, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU

The parable of the Good Samaritan is often invoked in discussion of refugee issues, but in the times in which we are living, Pontius Pilate seems to be the more popular role model. In this lecture, Professor Maley discusses some of the bases of responsibilities towards refugees on the part of states and their agents, explores some ways in which contemporary state practice in Australia is devoted to finding ways of avoiding the discharge of such responsibilities, and shows how it is inspirational and innovative individuals, rather than agents of the state, who often played the most critical roles in assisting those who face a dire threat of persecution.

Dr William Maley is Professor and Director of the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University. He is a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), and a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (FASSA). He has published widely on refugees and refugee policy, and is author of Rescuing Afghanistan (London: Hurst & Co., 2006), and The Afghanistan Wars (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002, 2009); co-authored Regime Change in Afghanistan: Foreign Intervention and the Politics of Legitimacy (Boulder: Westview Press, 1991), and Political Order in Post-Communist Afghanistan (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1992); edited Fundamentalism Reborn? Afghanistan and the Taliban (New York: New York University Press, 1998, 2001); and co-edited Global Governance and Diplomacy: Worlds Apart? (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

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Registration required

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This lecture is free and all are welcome.

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