How to fight terrorism and not to turn evil
ERC Advanced Grant 2014

From the 9/11 attacks in the United States to the Charlie Hebdo murders in Paris in 2015, international terrorism shocks public opinion and has profound political, military and economic consequences. However, dealing with the terrorist threat is challenging both technically and morally. Not only does counter-terrorism involve numerous institutions and tactics, but it also puts the core values of democratic society to test: right to life, freedom and privacy.

Professor Seumas Miller will examine key practical and ethical issues of counterterrorism in innovative approach on the interface of philosophy and security studies. He and his team will seek answers to several crucial questions. What is international terrorism? What is our collective moral responsibility in the context of counter terrorism? How effective and moral are targeted killings, mass personal data collection and other tactics? His main research question is what a morally permissible and efficacious structure of counter-terrorist institutions and tactics in a contemporary liberal democracy should be. The project also seeks to achieve major impact through sustained engagement with security agencies and relevant organisations.

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