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Dr Jan A. Ali is a Religious Sociologist specialising in Islam. He holds a joint appointment as a Senior Lecturer in Islam and Modernity in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and as the Community and Research Analyst in the Religion and Society Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney. His main sociological focus is the study of existential Islam. In recent years Jan has been invited by a number of non-government organizations and government agencies in various Australian capital cities and overseas to deliver Public Lectures on Islamic Revivalism, *Shar'iah*, Terrorism, and various other important topics on Islam.

Jan has published numerous peer reviewed articles in international journals and book chapters. He also published a book entitled *Islamic Revivalism Encounters the Modern World: A Study of the Tablighi Jamā'at*, (New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 2012).

Currently Jan is researching the *Shari'ah in Australia: A Sociological Perspective* using data based on questionnaire survey, collaborating with Professor Kevin Dunn, Professor Peter Hopkins, and Professor Adam Possamai researching *Muslims on Campus: University Life for Muslim Students in Australia*, and working with Dr Michael Kennedy on a research project entitled *Resilience and the NSW Police Community Engaged Counter-Radicalisation Model*.

Australian Muslims as Radicalised 'Other' and Their Experiences of Social Exclusion

In the wake of the threat posed by the global phenomenon of Muslim radicalism the Australian Government has taken various steps to address the threat. Fearing the potential growth of "home-grown" extremism or Muslim radicalism, the Commonwealth has sought to counter the narrow-minded Islamic ideology by sponsoring programs such as Building Community Resilience Grants Program and Living Safe Together Grants Programme through its Attorney General's Department.

Whilst the programs might have some positive impact on the society, its overall effect is questionable. Australian population, every now and again, witness in the media arrests of Muslim youths alleged of breaching the terrorism laws but there is no solid empirical evidence that illustrates that the programs are making a positive impact at the coalface level and that Muslim radicalism is on the decline.

This paper is an attempt to examine the nature of the Commonwealth's Countering Violent Extremism program. It claims that the program specifically indiscriminately targets Muslims and argues that this results in the construction of Australian Muslims as radicalised 'Other' and enhances their experiences of social exclusion. The inability of the internal mechanisms of the program to clearly differentiate radicalised Muslims from ordinary Muslims leads to targeting all Muslims and hence their social exclusion.