

Fearing Painted Devils: Ideology and Violence

Panel event and screening of “The Myth of a Clash of Civilisation” at The University of East Anglia (UEA)

Thursday 16th May 2024 (Panel: 5pm-6.30pm; Screening, 6.45pm-7.30pm)

Organised with the support of the Arts and Humanities Faculty and the School of AMA

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Brief

[Alliances of Understanding](#) at UEA invites you to an evening of thought-provoking discussion. ***Fearing Painted Devils: Ideology and Violence*** will include a panel discussion exploring the intertwined narratives of Zionism, Hindutva ideology, and Islamism, followed by a screening of Edward Said's 1998 lecture, “The Myth of a Clash of Civilizations”.

One of the central themes to be unpacked during this panel discussion will be the historical genesis of these ideologies and the socio-political contexts in which they emerged. From the early Zionist movement's aspirations for a Jewish homeland to the rise of Hindutva ideology in India and the evolution of Islamism as a response to colonialism and modernity, understanding the roots of these ideologies is crucial in comprehending their contemporary manifestations.

Moreover, the event will delve into the ways in which these ideologies intersect and clash, both ideologically and geopolitically. The panellists will examine how Zionism, with its focus on Jewish self-determination, intersects with Hindutva ideology, which emphasizes Hindu nationalism, and how both interact with the global phenomenon of Islamism. These intersections often give rise to complex dynamics that shape regional conflicts and international relations.

A key focus of the discussion will be the role of violence in the pursuit and defence of these ideologies. From the Israeli-Palestinian conflict fuelled by competing claims to land and identity, to the communal violence incited by Hindutva proponents in India, and the global jihadist movements associated with Islamism, violence has been a recurring feature in the narratives of these ideologies. The panellists will explore how violence is justified, perpetuated, and resisted within and against these ideological frameworks, shedding light on their human costs and moral implications.

Furthermore, the event will examine the impact of these ideologies on society, culture, and individual identity. The panellists will discuss how Zionism, Hindutva ideology, and Islamism shape notions of citizenship, belonging, and exclusion, often exacerbating social divisions and marginalizing minority communities. Through an analysis of literature, historical narratives, and contemporary events, the panellists will offer insights regarding the encoded histories in these political imaginaries.

Finally, the discussion will look towards the future, considering the trajectory of these ideologies in an ever-changing global landscape. As geopolitical tensions continue to evolve, understanding the role of Zionism, Hindutva ideology, and Islamism becomes increasingly important in navigating the complexities of our world. By critically engaging with these ideologies and the violence they engender, this event aims to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and possibilities for peace, justice, and coexistence in the 21st century.

