**Department of Sociology Speakers Series**

**McGill UNIVERSITY**

**With Support from the Institute of Islamic Studies\***

**PRESENTS**

**Dr Tristan Mabry**

[Department of National Security Affairs](http://www.nps.edu/Academics/SIGS/NSA/)**,** [School of International Graduate Studies](http://www.nps.edu/Academics/Schools/SIGS/index.html)**,** [Naval Postgraduate Schoo](http://www.nps.edu/)**l**

**October 3, 2014**

**2:00 to 3:30**

**Leacock Building - room 738**

**Nationalism versus Islamism: the politics of language in Muslim minority mobilizations**

**ABSTRACT:**

Nationalism and Islam are two of the most powerful forces shaping politics worldwide, yet their respective roles in the Muslim world are contentious.  A conventional view is that Muslims are exceptionally resistant to ethnic nationalism but susceptible to Islamism.  This view is often invoked to explain the mobilization of Muslim separatists, who are typically branded Islamic fundamentalists by their respective regimes.  Challenging this view, multiple cases of Muslim minority separatist movements are subjected to the litmus of language politics.  Violations of language rights are one of the most common complaints of ethnonational separatists, yet is this also the case with Muslim societies?  To answer this question, Dr. Mabry conducted fieldwork across the Muslim world; cases studied include the Kurds of Iraq, the Uyghurs of Xinjiang, the Sindhis of Pakistan, the Kashmiris of India, the Acehnese of Indonesia and the Moros of the Philippines.  In some cases, language rights are an essential demand of separatists, but in other cases Islam is more prominent.  The variation is explained by the presence or absence of a vernacular print culture, a social cement that binds a literate population together as a national group.  A strong print culture correlates with a strong ethnonational identity, and a strong ethnonational identity correlates with a conspicuous absence of Islamism.

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***\*\*\*ALL ARE WELCOME\*\*\****