



CSRS Public Lecture Series

An Anthropology of Religious Persecution: Trigger, Stereotype, and Special Procedure

Nick Herriman

CSRS Visiting Research Fellow, La Trobe University

In this lecture, Nick Herriman uses the concepts of anthropology to study several famous cases of persecution. He argues that notions such as “scapegoating” and “othering” are unhelpful. In each persecution considered, the persecutors saw their actions as justified and necessary. Each persecution also occurred against a backdrop of perceived crisis. The persecution itself was set off by a trigger. This was followed by the mobilization of stereotypes about the people to be persecuted. The stereotypes generally had three aspects, which he will elaborate on. Next, in view of the perceived threat that confronts society, persecutors felt that special procedures (the ‘bar’ for evidence is lowered; torture is acceptable) or special conditions (martial law, corporal and capital punishment) need to be in acted. This provides the conditions under which persecution could proceed.

Nick Herriman is a Senior Lecturer in the College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce at La Trobe University, Melbourne Australia.

Thursday, October 1, 4:30-5:30pm
UVic, David Strong Building, Room C118

This lecture is free and open to the public.