

'Thinking the Dilemma of Ethical War'



Contemporary Western war is represented as enacting the West's ability and responsibility to help make the world a better place for others, in particular to protect them from oppression and serious human rights abuses. That is, from Kosovo to Iraq war became permissible again, indeed even required, as ethical war. At the same time, however, Western war kills and destroys. This creates a paradox: Western war risks killing those it proposes to protect.

This masterclass seeks to highlight ways to think beyond existing, unsatisfactory approaches to thinking ethics and war. It explores key issues that arise in the context of this dilemma. The logic of protecting civilians, for example, while typically thought to limit the destructiveness of war arguably legitimates war while practices of warfare seeking to observe it produce a problematic ethics. The point is not to demonstrate how ethical war can be fought, but on the contrary to challenge the vision of ethical war itself.

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WHEN: Thursday 7th September, 2017

TIME: 1pm - 4pm

WHERE: UQ Campus GPN39A Room 402

REGISTER: email polsis.gradcentre@uq.edu.au (essential)

