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Laurier's Nelson Mandela Lecture Series continues with the examination of female suicide bombings

BRANTFORD – Wilfrid Laurier University's Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa continues the Nelson Mandela Lecture Series with a lecture entitled "Female Suicide Bombers and the Promise of Emancipation," to be delivered jointly by W. Andy Knight of the University of Alberta and Tanya Narozhna of the University of Winnipeg. Through their examination of over 300 cases of female suicide bombings in various conflict situations, they argue that "all too often female perpetrators of suicide bombings, their acts of violence and the broader collective struggles of which they are a part become delegitimized, which undermines the promise of emancipation entailed in their violence."

The lecture will take place at Laurier's Brantford campus **Thursday, Sept. 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 002 of the Research and Academic Centre West (RCW).**

Before the lecture, there will also be a book launch of a new work by Narozhna and Knight entitled *Female Suicide Bombings: A Critical Gender Approach* (published by University of Toronto Press, 2016), which will take place Sept. 22 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Research and Academic Centre West (RCW).

These events are co-sponsored by the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA) and the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS). Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend.

"The Tshepo Institute is pleased to be hosting the book launch and have these important researchers on our campus to deliver the Nelson Mandela Lecture," said Akbar Saeed, director of the Tshepo Institute. "Terrorism is an especially troublesome issue as it works to destabilize cooperation and generates misunderstandings of other religions and cultures. Professors Narozhna and Knight have done the critical job of providing us with an alternative framework for better understanding female suicide bombings."

The mission of the Tshepo Institute is to promote global awareness and excellence in knowledge development on African issues with the aim of inspiring positive transformation. It serves as a hub for knowledge mobilization and student/faculty enrichment that can inform transformative policies and emphasize causes for hope. To learn more about the Tshepo Institute, visit the [website](#).

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