



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE
in the RESEARCH SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES**

Fundamentalism and Literature

PROFESSOR IHAB HASSAN

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**Tuesday, 8 May, 2007 at 4.00pm
Theatrette, Old Canberra House, ANU**

My talk is a stroll through the gardens of fundamentalist violence in our time. It tries to analyse the causes of violence and the role of the arts, of literature particularly, in questioning dogmas. But is literature simply antithetical to dogma or does it contribute to it, like various media, in subtle ways? My talk offers specific examples and acknowledges in passing the background of the speaker.

Ihab Hassan is Emeritus Vilas Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, USA.

He has written many books, among them: *Radical Innocence* (1961), *The Literature of Silence* (1967), *The Dismemberment of Orpheus* (1971, 1982), *Paracriticisms* (1975), *The Postmodern Turn* (1987), and *Selves at Risk* (1990). He has also authored two memoirs, *Out of Egypt* (1986) and *Between the Eagle and the Sun: Traces of Japan* (1996), and a collection of essays, *Rumos oChange* (1995). Currently, he is completing a book on Australia, *Coming to theAntipodes*. Parts of this work have appeared in three volumes of *Best Australian Essays*, for 2002, 2001, and 2000, edited by Peter Craven; and his short fiction has appeared in various literary journals.

Hassan has lectured widely on five continents, has received many prizes and fellowships, and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Uppsala and the University of Giessen. He has served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Association of University Professors of English, 1998-2001.

All Welcome

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