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'Skyful of Lies' and Black Swans: the New Tyranny of Shifting Information Power in Crises

Tuesday 23 August 2011 6–7.30pm, refreshments served from 5.30pm

Nik Gowing Main presenter BBC World News

Theatre 3 Manning Clark Centre, (Bldg # 26A), Union Court, ANU



Nik Gowing has been a main presenter for the BBC's international 24-hour news channel *BBC World News* since 1996, where he presents *The Hub with Nik Gowing*, *BBC World Debates*, *Dateline London* and location coverage of major global stories. Nik also has a much sought-after analytical expertise on the management of information in the new transparent environments of conflicts, crises, emergencies and times of tension.

Nik Gowing's recent peer-reviewed study *Skyful of Lies and Black Swans: the New Tyranny of Shifting Information Power in Crises* (2009) has made a significant impact worldwide because of its uncomfortable challenge to conventional assumptions of the nature of power in major, unexpected crises. It reveals how in such moments the institutions of power – whether political, governmental, military or corporate – face a new, acute vulnerability of both their influence and effectiveness. Britain's future Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir David Richards commended

Skyful of Lies on multiple occasions in public. For him the study highlights new professional fragilities due to the fast changing information and social media realities that are "way beyond the state's ability to control". The professional implications of Nik's work cover vital leadership issues. Civil servants, commanders and executives must understand how to embrace effectively the new realities of today's media environment. They challenge all the conventional assumptions of power.

Following this presentation, Professor Michael L'Estrange, Director of the National Security College, will moderate a question and answer session on the topic.

Presented by

National Security
College

Registration required

register here
by 22 August 2011

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This seminar is free and open to the public

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