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# **Talking Terrorism**

A discourse analysis of  
people's talk about  
terrorism in their world.

A thesis presented in partial  
fulfilment of the requirements for the  
degree of Master of Arts in Psychology  
at Massey University,  
New Zealand.

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**2009**

## Acknowledgements

This project has been a solitary and a team process. I want to acknowledge several of the many people who have been pivotal in my reaching its completion stage.

I am extremely grateful to the people who volunteered to be participants in this study. Without their generosity, there would not be a study.

Also pivotal for the completion of this entire process is my Supervisor, Keith Tuffin, who suggested the topic of Terrorism at the very start. He also was very patient when I stumbled and bumbled, and he re-motivated me with the mere utterance of significant questions.

Who would be without supportive friends when writing a thesis? I have many who quietly enquired over the time of this project's gestation. Two, though, have been standouts especially through the challenging year of 2008. Where would I have been without the steadying of Sylvia, my colleague? On the times that I hit the proverbial wall, all it took was a phone call to her and I was able to pick up the threads and begin again.

Likewise, my friend Nancy who knew exactly when to be firm, stand clear of my times of chaos but continue to encourage my progress to completion. Also her technical and academic support has been crucial.

I am grateful for the support of my daughter Carley and the gift of my Melbourne grandsons, Devlin and Rory. Her home was always a good bolthole when the going got tough.

My youngest daughter Melanie endured many an angst moment as she struggled to teach me all I know about using the computer. Eventually she escaped to Auckland to her own academic career. I had to grow up quickly!

To my husband, CLB, who will be enormously grateful that the 16 lb baby (the thesis) has been delivered at last after an elephant-like gestation time. You are 'my North, my South, my East and West', Arohanui.

Lesley C. Olley  
Counsellor, 'talkingcure'

## **Abstract**

This study explores the talk of people living in New Zealand Aotearoa as they confront the phenomenon of Terrorism. Ten participants were interviewed about their views on international terrorism and local terrorism, the impacts of terrorism, and the meanings of terrorism. The data was analysed discursively and two key discourses emerged; a sense of Justice discourse and a discourse emphasising the safety of New Zealand Aotearoa. The justice discourse was supported by a raft of anti-repertoires including anti-American/George Bush talk, anti- media resources, and fear and revenge repertoires. The safety discourse saw participants identify resources that keep them safe from international terrorism and reject recent attempts to allow terrorism to wash up on New Zealand shores. These discourses are discussed in the context of recent terrorist events.

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