There are signs that Islamist militant movements in Asia Pacific - from Kashmir to Mindanao - centred on the concepts of religious nationalism - are dramatically shifting their goal posts. These movements have faced uncertain futures and limitations, including over the sustained ability to rally their constituencies around catchphrases of ‘nationalism’ and localised wars.

Situating their struggles in the overall context of a global Islamic Caliphate is now emerging as the new model for fulfilling movement objectives. Traces of this shift, and the accompanying pattern of intimidation, have been in the pipeline since the onset of global jihadist movements like al Qaeda. However, recent developments point at a hardening of the tactic. Is this shift real and permanent? How does this shift add to militant potential, and what does this shift portend for the security of the region? The lecture will examine such questions using prominent case studies from the region.