A Malaysian political cartoonist, adopting the pen name of Zunar, is the joint winner of the 2016 Cartooning for Peace Award. It was presented to him by the Swiss Foundation Cartooning for Peace’s Honorary President and former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. The award is made every two years to cartoonists who have shown courage in their fight for freedom of expression. Zunar also won the 2015 International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists. Since 2010, Zunar’s books have been banned and confiscated by the Malaysian authorities and he is currently facing nine separate Sedition charges and a possible 43-year prison sentence. In his acceptance speech for the 2016 Cartooning for Peace Award, Zunar asserted: ‘It is both my right and my responsibility as a citizen to expose corruption, wrong-doing and injustices.’

What is the role and significance of cartoonists in freedom of expression? This question has gained renewed interest and contention following the murder of journalists working for the satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo. However, cartoonists in the Middle East, Africa and Central America have also been experiencing pressures over their political expression. Closer to Australia, Malaysian authorities have clamped down on the use of political cartoons. Are these authorities acting responsibly to contain the limits of open conflict, or attempting to suppress critical but constitutionally legitimate political expression?

Venue  Murdoch University  South Street Campus  Postgraduate Suite  ECL 2.031  Please see attached map

RSVP  is necessary via email by Monday 13 June to Sia Kozlowski at S.Kozlowski@murdoch.edu.au

Date  Wednesday 15 June 2016  2.00pm to 3.30pm