The prevention of violent extremism: An analysis of scientific journal research

2020 REVIEW

CENTRE FOR THE
PREVENTION
OF RADICALIZATION
LEADING TO VIOLENCE

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TO CITE THIS REPORT

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Report highlights

This scientific literature review, undertaken by the UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Radicalizstion and Violent Extremism (UNESCO-PREV) and the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV), aims **to identify prevention-focused articles** published in eight specialized journals in the field of radicalization and violent extremism.

In 2020 **48** articles had **prevention of violent extremism** as their primary (36) or secondary (12) focus,

together accounting for 11% of all articles published in the eight selected specialized journals.

Three of the journals in question published

92%

of these prevention-focused articles:

Terrorism and Political Violence (22), Studies in Conflict & Terrorism (18) and the Journal for Deradicalization (4). The study of prevention was nearly absent from the five other journals.

The vast majority of the authors for these articles hailed from the English-speaking countries.

Primarily the United States (43%), the United Kingdom (17%), Australia (11%) and Canada (7%).

The overwhelming majority of the articles dealing with prevention focused on either Western Europe (23) or North America (18),

or sometimes both, while employing a comparative perspective. Australia was the subject of five articles. Fewer than 15% of the articles touched on other regions of the world.

43%

of the articles (21) addressed either **multiple forms of extremism** (11) **or did not specify** the form of extremism in question (10).

Jihadism was specifically targeted in 31% of the prevention-focused articles (15), making it the principal form of addressed extremism. Far-right movements, including white supremacists, were the focus of 16% of the articles.

The selected articles targeted the levels of prevention in the following proportions:

Secondary prevention	45%
Tertiary prevention	31%
Primary prevention	11%
General prevention	13%

Prevention related to online radicalization was specifically addressed in

23%

of the articles (11).

The primary social groups identified in the articles as targets for prevention included:

Individuals directly involved in extremism	22
Practitioners	18
The government	15

The articles also specifically targeted certain societal groups (9), such as youth (4), women (5) and community (5).

A majority of the prevention-focused articles employed a **qualitative methodological approach**

54%

with another 25% of the articles employing a quantitative approach and 21% a mixed methods approach.

Introduction

This scientific literature review, undertaken by the UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (UNESCO-PREV) and the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV), aims to identify prevention-focused articles published in eight specialized journals in the field of radicalization and violent extremism. This review covers publications from this field for the year 2020 and will enable the production of an annual follow-up focused on the evolution of prevention-based scientific output. Specifically, this review targets scientific articles whose primary or secondary objective is the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism. Only scientific articles were retained for this annual review; bibliographies, reviews or article reports were excluded. The review distinguishes between articles with prevention as their primary focus and those that address it in a secondary manner, for example, in the conclusion. This review looks at the location of institutional affiliations and disciplinary backgrounds of the authors as well as the regions of the world targeted by the articles. It also covers the employed methodologies and provides definitions for terminology employed in this review. Finally, the selection is divided into articles focused on prevention in general and those specifically focused on prevention and online radicalization.

Methodology

The eight scientific journals selected for this 2020 review were: *Terrorism and Political Violence; Studies in Conflict & Terrorism; Journal of Terrorism Research; Journal for the Study of Radicalism; Perspectives on Terrorism; Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression; Critical Studies on Terrorism and Journal for Deradicalization*. These journals were selected by following the methodology used in the reference-quality article by Schuurman (2018) as well as in the systematic review undertaken by Bellasio *et al.* (2018).

Keywords selected for the article search included, but were not limited to, "Prevention," "Deterrence," "Foil," and "Disengagement" for the prevention theme, as well as "Extremism," "Violent radicalization," "Fundamentalism," and "Deradicalization."
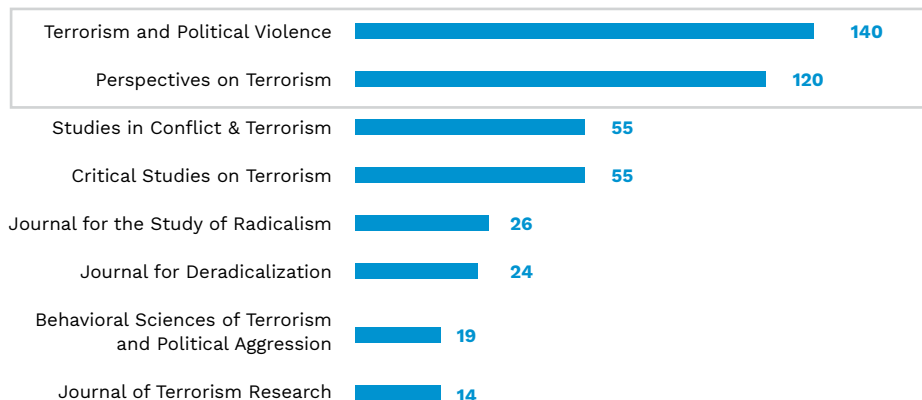
A glossary of the various concepts employed in this review can be found at the end of this report.

1 Schuurman, B. (2018). Research on Terrorism, 2007-2016: A Review of Data, Methods, and Authorship. Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(5), 1011 1026. https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2018.1439023; Bellasio, J., Hofman, J., Ward, A., Nederveen, F., Knack, A., Meranto, A. S., & Hoorens, S. (2018). Counterterrorism Evaluation: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead. RAND. www.rand.org/t/RR2628

General results
2020

In 2020, a total of **453 articles were published in the eight specialized journals**. Note that two journals alone accounted for more than half of this output (260 articles): *Terrorism and Political Violence* and *Perspectives on Terrorism*.
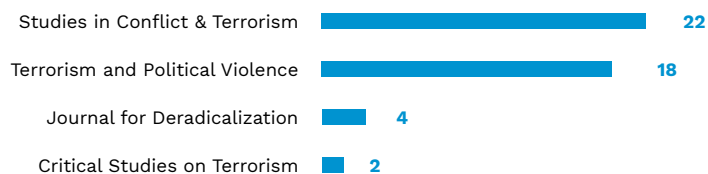
Journal	Articles
Terrorism and Political Violence	140
Perspectives on Terrorism	120
Studies in Conflict & Terrorism	55
Critical Studies on Terrorism	55
Journal for the Study of Radicalism	26
Journal for Deradicalization	24
Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression	19
Journal of Terrorism Research	14

Two journals accounted for

58%

of the published articles, that is, more than half

48 articles had the **prevention of violent extremism** as their primary or secondary focus.

75%

of the articles had prevention as their **primary focus**

25%

addressed it in a secondary manner, either over the course of a few paragraphs or in the conclusion

Eighty-three percent of these articles (40) regarding the prevention of violent radicalization and extremism were published in two of the journals: *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* (22) and *Terrorism and Political Violence* (18). The *Journal for Deradicalization* featured four such articles, while *Critical Studies on Terrorism* published two.

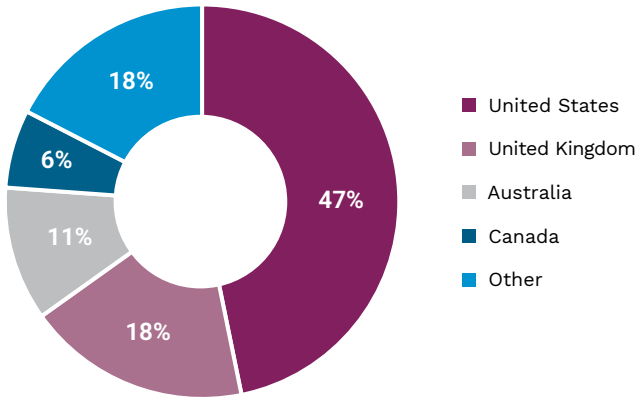| Journal	Articles
Studies in Conflict & Terrorism	22
Terrorism and Political Violence	18
Journal for Deradicalization	4
Critical Studies on Terrorism	2

The authors

The **48 articles** were authored by

106 → **66** + **40**

individuals   men   women

Proportion of authors by location of affiliated institution

- United States
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- Canada
- Other

47%
18%
18%
11%
6%

43%

of the articles' authors are affiliated with institutions in the United States (43%). The remainder were primarily from the United Kingdom (17%), Australia (11%) and Canada (7%)

This can in part be explained by the location of institutional affiliations and disciplinary backgrounds of the authors and the fact that they are English-language publications. As a result of this preponderance, **only 18% of the authors** in this review are affiliated with institutions in another country.

Number of articles authored by a single individual, two individuals, or three or more individuals

17 articles   14 articles   17 articles

Authors' research discipline

Discipline	Count
Peace and Security Studies	29
Mental Health (Psychology/Psychiatry)	21
Sociology/Social Work	19
Criminology/Police Studies	16
Political Science	8
Communication/Literature	4
Legal Sciences	2
Administration/Management	2
Philosophy	2
Economics	1
History	1
Electrical Engineering	1

50%
of the authors were university-affiliated professors

43%
were researchers without university faculty status

7%
worked in a practice setting

→ Of note, 15 of the 48 selected articles were co-written by authors from different disciplinary backgrounds. These studies can therefore be considered interdisciplinary.

2 "Researchers" are those working in the research field who are not university-affiliated professors. For example, this includes doctoral students, research chairs, think tanks, etc.

Summary of the authors and of the topics covered in the journals

Summary of the authors and of the topics covered in the journals		
BRADDOCK, Kurt & MORRISON, John F.	Cultivating Trust and Perceptions of Source Credibility in Online Counternarratives Intended to Reduce Support for Terrorism	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
BRUGH, Christine Shahan, DESMARAIS, Sarah L. & SIMONS-RUDOLPH, Joseph	Application of the TRAP-18 Framework to U.S. and Western European Lone Actor Terrorists	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
BURES, Oldrich	EU's Response to Foreign Fighters: New Threat, Old Challenges?	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
BUTLER, Michelle	Using Specialised Prison Units to Manage Violent Extremists: Lessons from Northern Ireland	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
CHERNEY, Adrian	Evaluating Interventions to Disengage Extremist Offenders: A Study of the Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM)	*Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*
COLVIN, Sarah & PISOIU, Daniela	When Being Bad is Good? Bringing Neutralization Theory to Subcultural Narratives of Right-Wing Violence	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
COOLEY, Asya & COOLEY, Skye	Child's Play: Cooperative Gaming As A Tool Of Deradicalization	*Journal for Deradicalization*
DANZELL, Orlandrew E., YEH, Yao-Yuan & PFANNENSTIEL, Melia	Does Education Mitigate Terrorism? Examining the Effects of Educated Youth Cohorts on Domestic Terror in Africa	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
DA SILVA, Raquel, FERNÁNDEZ-NAVARRO, Pablo, GONÇALVES, Miguel M., ROSA, Catarina & SILVA, Joana	Disengagement from Political Violence and Deradicalization: A Narrative-Dialogical Perspective	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
DE BRUYN, Phillip Conrad	Developing an Extremist Construct Schema and Measuring Ideological Engagement	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
DHAMI, Mandeep K., GOODMAN-DELAHUNTY, Jane, MARTSCHUK, Natalie, CHEUNG, Sang & BELTON, Ian	Disengaging and Rehabilitating High-Value Detainees: A Small Scale Qualitative Study	*Journal for Deradicalization*
FISHER-SMITH, Amy, SULLIVAN, Charles R., MACREADY, John D. & MANZI, Geoffrey	Identity Reconfiguration and the Core Needs Framework: Exit Narratives among Former Far-Right Extremists	*Journal for Deradicalization*
GROSSMAN, Michele, HADFIELD, Kristin, JEFFERIES, Philip, GERRAND, Vivian et UNGAR, Michael	Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism: Development and Validation of the BRAVE Measure	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
HARDY, Keiran	A Crime Prevention Framework for CVE	*Terrorism and Political Violence*

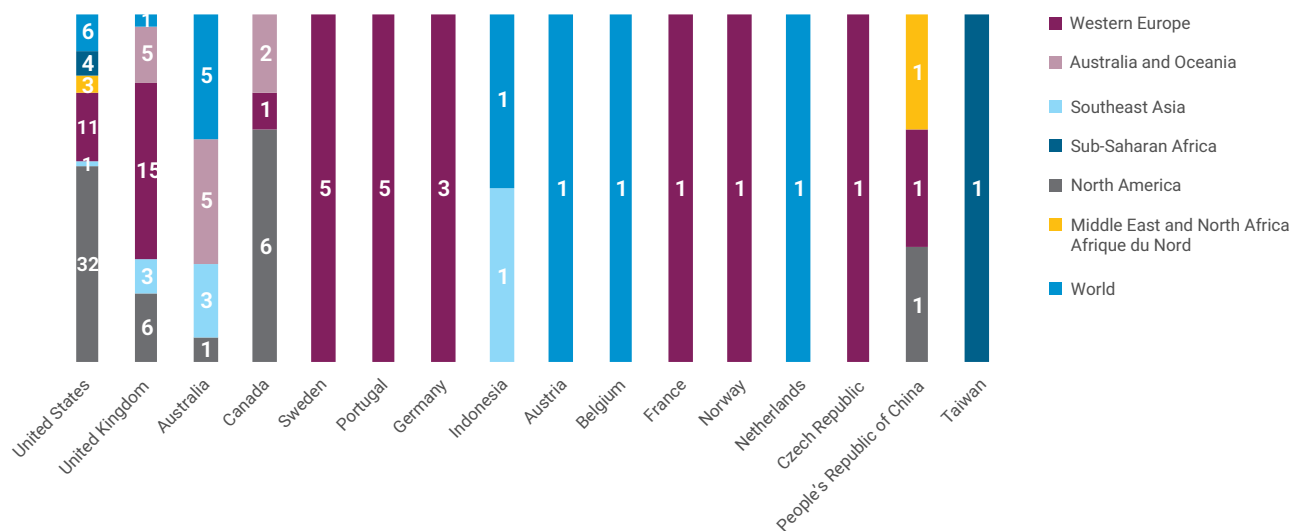| HARRIS-HOGAN, Shandon & BARRELLE, Kate	Young Blood: Understanding the Emergence of a New Cohort of Australian Jihadists	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
HOFFMAN, Bruce, WARE, Jacob & SHAPIRO, Ezra	Assessing the Threat of Incel Violence	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
HOFMANN, David C.	How "Alone" are Lone-Actors? Exploring the Ideological, Signaling, and Support Networks of Lone-Actor Terrorists	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
HOLT, Thomas J., FREILICH, Joshua D. & CHERMAK, Steven M.	Examining the Online Expression of Ideology among Far-Right Extremist Forum Users,	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
JENSEN, Michael, JAMES, Patrick & YATES, Elizabeth	Contextualizing Disengagement: How Exit Barriers Shape the Pathways Out of Far-Right Extremism in the United States	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
JOHNSTON, Melissa Frances, IQBAL, Muhammad & TRUE, Jacqui	The Lure of (Violent) Extremism: Gender Constructs in Online Recruitment and Messaging in Indonesia	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
KACZKOWSKI, Wojciech, SWARTOUT, K., BRANUM-MARTIN, M. L., HORGAN, J. G. et LEMIEUX, A. F.	Impact of Perceived Peer Attitudes and Social Network Diversity on Violent Extremist Intentions	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
KLAUSEN, Jytte, LIBRETTI, Rosanne, HUNG, Benjamin W. K. et JAYASUMANA, Anura P.	Radicalization Trajectories: An Evidence-Based Computational Approach to Dynamic Risk Assessment of "Homegrown" Jihadists	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
LOWE, David	Far-Right Extremism: Is it Legitimate Freedom of Expression, Hate Crime, or Terrorism?	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
MACKLIN, Graham	The Internal Brakes on Violent Escalation within the British Extreme Right in the 1990s	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
MCMANUS, Cathal	Conceptualising Islamic "Radicalisation" in Europe through "Othering": Lessons from the Conflict in Northern Ireland	*Perspectives on Terrorism*
MALET, David & HAYES, Rachel	Foreign Fighter Returnees: An Indefinite Threat?	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
MARCHMENT, Zoe, BOUHANA, Noémie & GILL, Paul	Lone Actor Terrorists: A Residence-to-Crime Approach	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
MARCKS, Holger & PAWELZ, Janina	From Myths of Victimhood to Fantasies of Violence: How Far-Right Narratives of Imperilment Work	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
MATESAN, Ioana Emy	Organizational Dynamics, Public Condemnation and the Impetus to Disengage from Violence	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
PERRY, Barbara, HOFMANN, David C. & SCRIVENS, Ryan	"Confrontational but Not Violent": An Assessment of the Potential for Violence by the Anti-Authority Community in Canada	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
REEVE, Zoey	Repeated and Extensive Exposure to Online Terrorist Content: Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit Perceived Stresses and Strategies	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
RILEY, John & SCHNEIDER, Mary Kate	The Disengagement Puzzle: An Examination of the Calculus to Exit a Rebellion	*Terrorism and Political Violence*

ROTTWEILER, Bettina & GILL, Paul	Conspiracy Beliefs and Violent Extremist Intentions: The Contingent Effects of Self-efficacy, Self-control and Law-related Morality	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
ROUSIS, Gregory J., RICHARD, F. Dan & DEBBIE WANG, Dong-Yuan	The Truth Is Out There: The Prevalence of Conspiracy Theory Use by Radical Violent Extremist Organizations	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
SALYK-VIRK, Melissa J.	Building Community Resilience? Community Perspectives of the Countering Violent Extremism Pilot Program in Minneapolis/St. Paul	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
SAMAAN, Jean-Loup & JACOBS, Andreas	Countering Jihadist Terrorism: A Comparative Analysis of French and German Experiences	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
SCHMIDT, Rachel	Duped: Examining Gender Stereotypes in Disengagement and Deradicalization Practices	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
SIMI, Pete & WINDISCH, Steven	Why Radicalization Fails: Barriers to Mass Casualty Terrorism	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
SJØEN, Martin M. & MATTSSON, Christer	Preventing Radicalisation in Norwegian Schools: How Teachers Respond to Counter-radicalisation Efforts	*Critical Studies on Terrorism*
STEPHENS, William & SIECKELINCK, Stijn	Being Resilient to Radicalisation in PVE Policy: A Critical Examination	*Critical Studies on Terrorism*
TAYLOR, Joel David	"Suspect Categories," Alienation and Counterterrorism: Critically Assessing PREVENT in the UK	*Terrorism and Political Violence*
TELLIDIS, Ioannis	Peacebuilding Beyond Terrorism? Revisiting the Narratives of the Basque Conflict	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
VERGANI, Matteo, IQBAL, Muhammad, ILBAHAR, Ekin & BARTON, Greg	The Three Ps of Radicalization: Push, Pull and Personal. A Systematic Scoping Review of the Scientific Evidence about Radicalization Into Violent Extremism	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
WALKER, Clive & CAWLEY, Oona	The Juridification of the UK's Counter Terrorism Prevent Policy	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
WEIRMAN, Samantha & ALEXANDER, Audrey	Hyperlinked Sympathizers: URLs and the Islamic State	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
WHITE, Jessica	Gender in Countering Violent Extremism Program Design, Implementation and Evaluation: Beyond Instrumentalism	*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*
WIMELIUS, Malin E., ERIKSSON, Malin, STRANDH, Veronika & GHAZINOUR, Mehdi	"They Think Of Us As Part Of The Problem Instead Of Part Of The Solution" - Swedish Civil Society And Faith Based Organizations In Resilience Building And Prevention Of Radicalization And Violent Islamist Extremism	*Journal for Deradicalization*
WINDSOR, Leah	The Language of Radicalization: Female Internet Recruitment to Participation in ISIS Activities	*Terrorism and Political Violence*

Targeted geographic regions

The overwhelming majority of the articles dealing with prevention focused on either **Western Europe** (23) or **North America** (18), or sometimes both, while employing a comparative perspective. **Australasia** and **Oceania** were the focus of five articles, all of which related to Australia. Fewer than 15% of the articles focused on other regions of the world, namely **Southeast Asia** (4), **Sub-Saharan Africa** (3) and the **Middle East** and **North Africa** (1). Of note, 11 articles did not specify a targeted region and were therefore placed into the "world" category.

Region on which articles were focused by author origin

Legend:
- Western Europe
- Australia and Oceania
- Southeast Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- North America
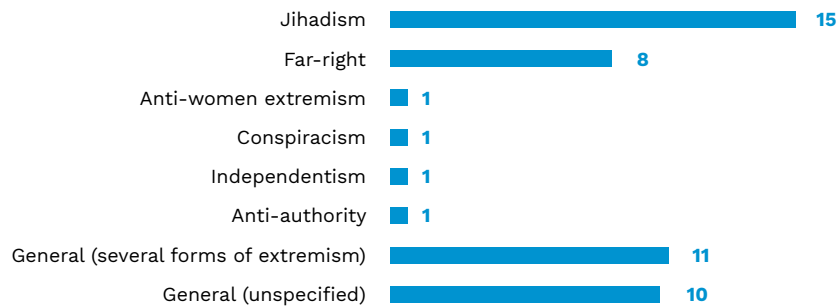- Middle East and North Africa / Afrique du Nord
- World

➡ The majority of authors focused on their country or region of origin. Authors from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, who together accounted for most of the articles, touched on the broadest variety of regions.

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3 The employed world regions are those defined by the Global Terrorism Database. Regions that were not the focus of an article are not included in order to simplify the report's text.

The varied forms of targeted extremism

Number of articles by form of addressed extremism

Form	Count
Jihadism	15
Far-right	8
Anti-women extremism	1
Conspiracism	1
Independentism	1
Anti-authority	1
General (several forms of extremism)	11
General (unspecified)	10

43% of the articles (21) either addressed multiple forms of extremism (11) or did not specify the form of targeted extremism (10)

→ Far-right movements, which include white supremacists, were the target of 16% of the articles. Anti-authority extremism, specifically a Canadian strain of this movement, anti-women extremism (Incels), pro-independence extremism (Basque conflict) and conspiracism were each the focus of a single article.

There were no prevention-focused articles that specifically addressed left-wing extremism. Finally, six articles included a section on lone actors operating within the form of extremism that the respective studies focused on.

Jihadism was specifically targeted in

31% of the articles (15), making it the primary form of addressed extremism in the prevention-focused articles

Levels of prevention in the studies

45% of the articles addressed the **SECONDARY** prevention level

This was, for example, the case for Harris-Hogan and Barrelle (2020), who studied secondary prevention measures aimed at countering the rise of youth extremism in Australia, including a section on lone actors. McManus (2020) also explored, within the context of contemporary Islamic extremism, disengagement strategies inherited from Northern Ireland's experiences with terrorism, particularly the use of dialogue.

31% of the articles addressed the **TERTIARY** level of prevention

Specialized prisons to counter extremism, as proposed by Butler (2020), are an example of tertiary prevention via the rehabilitation of individuals incarcerated as a result of extremist acts.
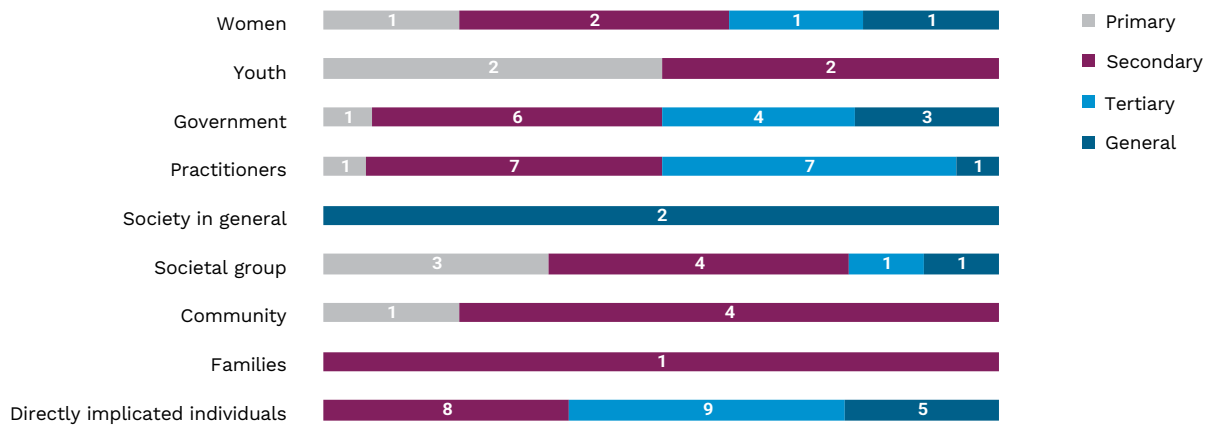
11% of the articles addressed the **PRIMARY** intervention level

For example, Sjøen and Mattsson (2020) discussed primary prevention measures aimed at both youth and practitioners in the Norwegian educational setting.

Finally, 13% of the articles addressed general prevention without specifying the targeted level.

Number of articles by level of prevention according to the targeted population

Figure 10 presents the populations targeted, according to level of prevention, in the articles selected for this study. Most prominent among the various social groups targeted for prevention were individuals directly involved in extremism (22), practitioners (18) and government (15). The articles also specifically targeted certain societal groups (9) such as youth (4), women (5) and the community (5). Only a single article was specifically aimed at families.
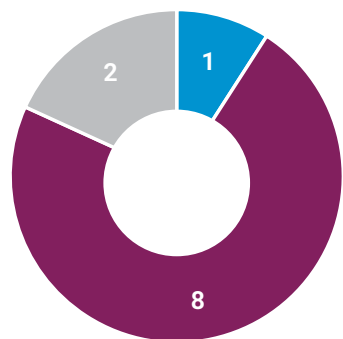
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	General
Women	1	2	1	1
Youth	2	2		
Government	1	6	4	3
Practitioners	1	7	7	1
Society in general				2
Societal group	3	4	1	1
Community	1	4		
Families		1		
Directly implicated individuals		8	9	5

Online prevention

Number of articles focused on online prevention by level of prevention

23%

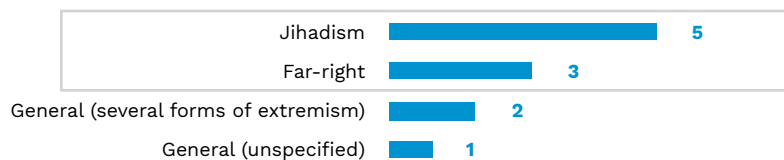of the articles (11) focused on prevention directly related to online **RADICALIZATION**

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary

1
8
2

The most discussed level of prevention was the secondary one (8 articles), often related to reducing exposure to various forms of extremism on social networks. For example, Lowe (2020) explored the proposal for cross-country comparative legislation targeting online right-wing extremist radicalization, based on similar anti-jihadist legislation. This legislation would equip social networking companies with tools to delete problematic accounts.

Two articles focused on tertiary online prevention. For example, Reeve (2020) examined the impact of actions taken by Case Officers (COs) in the United Kingdom to delete content related to radicalization, including recordings of associated acts.

Finally, a single article focused on primary online prevention. Klausen et al. (2020) studied a new probabilistic approach to addressing online Salafist radicalization in the United States that would provide a tool for both surveying society in general and preventing radicalization among certain targeted groups.

Number of articles that addressed online prevention by form of extremism

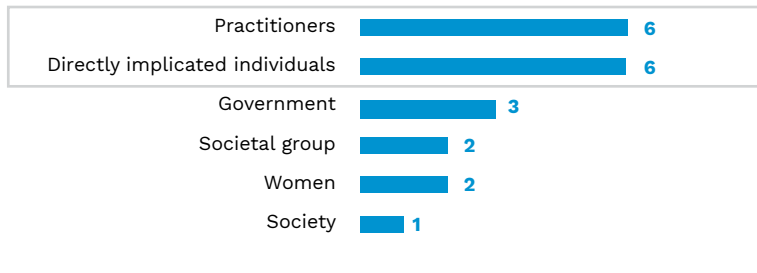|	
Jihadism	5
Far-right	3
General (several forms of extremism)	2
General (unspecified)	1

As shown in Figure 12, the types of extremism specifically addressed in regard to online prevention were **jihadism** (5) and **right-wing extremism** (3).

For example, Holt et al. (2020) analyzed right-wing internet forum activity with an eye toward facilitating development of measures and tools for practitioners to disrupt extremist online movements. Applying a gender lens, Johnston et al. (2020) explored avenues for preventing both the radicalization of Muslim women in Indonesia, as well as the targeting of women by jihadist movements in their online recruitment efforts.

Finally, three articles on online prevention did not specifically mention the form of extremism being targeted. For example, David Hofmann (2020) employed social network analysis to study the online activity of lone actors who committed violent acts with the goal of preventing their radicalization, whatever their ideological background.
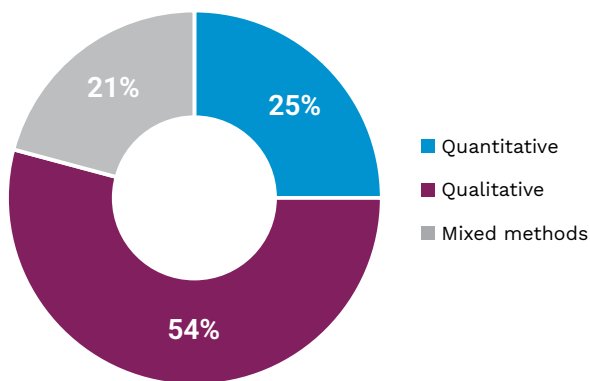
Number of selected articles focused on online prevention by target population

Target population	Count
Practitioners	6
Directly implicated individuals	6
Government	3
Societal group	2
Women	2
Society	1

Practitioners (6) and **individuals directly involved in radicalization** (6) were the two populations primarily targeted in articles focused on online prevention.

→ In the first case, with the aim of equipping them in their online interventions, and in the second, to reduce the risks of radicalization via social networks. The third target group was the government (3), in connection with preventive policies aimed at the online radicalization phenomenon.

Methodological approach employed in the articles

- 25% Quantitative
- 54% Qualitative
- 21% Mixed methods

A majority of the articles employed a qualitative methodological approach (54%), with another 25% of the articles employing a quantitative approach and 21% a mixed methods approach.

Bibliography and abstracts for articles focused on prevention in 2020

Terrorism and Political Violence

BURES, Oldrich (2020). **"EU's Response to Foreign Fighters: New Threat, Old Challenges?"** Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(4), 789-806.

The conflicts in Syria and Iraq have put foreign fighters — individuals travelling from other countries to engage in these conflicts — high on the security agenda at both the national and EU level. Drawing on theoretical arguments previously advanced to explain the haphazard evolution of the EU's counterterrorism efforts after September 11, 2011, this article discusses the emergence and persistence of key challenges that have hampered the EU response to security threats posed by 5,000 European foreign fighters between 2013 and early 2017. These include the absence of a common EU-level definition; the differences regarding the scope and perceptions of the threats posed to individual Member States; the lack of consensus on root causes of terrorism and radicalization; and the differences among Member States when it comes to addressing the difficulties of criminal prosecution of foreign fighters.

BUTLER, Michelle (2020). **"Using Specialised Prison Units to Manage Violent Extremists: Lessons from Northern Ireland,"** Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(3), 539-557.

The use of specialised prison units (SPUs) as a means of countering violent extremism and radicalisation is growing in popularity in many jurisdictions. Yet, little is known about their ability to prevent radicalisation in the long term, limit the spread of violent extremism, or promote de-radicalisation and disengagement. This paper begins to explore these issues by reflecting on the over 40 years of experience that Northern Ireland (NI) has had in this area. It is argued that the international community tends to have an incomplete understanding of: a) why SPUs were created and installed in NI; b) how their regime, conditions, and underlying rationale changed over time; and c) the long-term consequences that SPUs have had on the spread of violent extremism, de-radicalisation, and disengagement. This paper seeks to make an original contribution to this literature by highlighting the role psychological, situational, social, and political factors played in shaping the effectiveness of SPUs in NI. By providing a more in-depth analysis of why SPUs in NI entrenched extremism rather than promoted disengagement or de-radicalisation, other jurisdictions will be encouraged to reflect on how these factors may affect the success of their own SPUs in countering violent extremism.

DANZELL, Orlandrew E., YEH, Yao-Yuan & PFANNENSTIEL, Melia (2020). **"Does Education Mitigate Terrorism? Examining the Effects of Educated Youth Cohorts on Domestic Terror in Africa,"** Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(8), 1731-1752.

Policymakers often tout expanded access to education as an antidote for terrorism in Africa. Targeted economic development is also considered a necessary complement to education gains because young, well-educated individuals who lack viable opportunities are vulnerable targets of radicalization. Despite common assertions that poor socioeconomic circumstances drive radicalization, empirical research has hitherto neglected critical inquiry of these policies. Varied findings across cross-national studies of education expansion and the effects of burgeoning youth cohorts warrant a focused examination of regions plagued by the proliferation of extremist groups. This study explores the role of education in mitigating a turn to terror among youth in Africa by examining 50 countries from 1970 to 2011. Expansions in primary, secondary, and tertiary education appear to have different influences on domestic terrorism. In the sub-Saharan region, one model shows primary and secondary education reduced terrorism while others indicate non-monotonic effects in societies experiencing a youth bulge. These nuanced findings suggest education should not be relied upon to counter extremism without additional initiatives to facilitate socioeconomic opportunities. The implication of this paper's findings is important for academics and policymakers eager to create stable polities across the African continent.

GROSSMAN, Michele, HADFIELD, Kristin, JEFFERIES, Philip, GERRAND, Vivian & UNGAR, Michael (2020). "Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism: Development and Validation of the BRAVE Measure," Terrorism and Political Violence.

Building resilience to violent extremism has featured in preventing violent extremism efforts for over a decade. Validated and standardized cross-cultural measures can help identify protective capacities and vulnerabilities toward violent extremism for young people. Because drivers for violent extremism are multi-factorial, a measure of resilience cannot be used to predict who will and will not commit acts of terror. Instead, its purpose is to track the multiple forms of capital available to youth at risk of adopting violence to resolve ideological, religious and political grievances, and to use this data to inform interventions that increase young people's capacity to resist violent extremism's push and pull forces. In this study, we developed such a measure, using data from 200 Australian and 275 Canadian participants aged eighteen–thirty years old. Following exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, a fourteen-item measure emerged consisting of five factors: cultural identity and connectedness; bridging capital; linking capital; violence-related behaviors, and violence-related beliefs. The Building Resilience against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) measure was found to have a good internal reliability (α = .76), correlating in expected directions with related measures. The BRAVE shows promise for helping understand young people's resilience to violent extremism.

HARDY, Keiran (2020). "A Crime Prevention Framework for CVE," Terrorism and Political Violence.

CVE is a diverse policy space involving efforts to build cohesive communities, support young people who are vulnerable to radicalization, and deradicalize convicted terrorism offenders. Recently, the public health model of disease prevention has become an influential framework for understanding these diverse components. In this paper, I argue that crime prevention should be preferred as a conceptual framework for CVE. I offer a criminological framework encompassing situational prevention, developmental prevention, community crime prevention, third-party policing and procedural justice policing. I develop these concepts into an agenda for crime prevention research in CVE. I also briefly outline some of the lessons that the evidence base from criminology may provide when designing CVE programs and policy.

HARRIS-HOGAN, Shandon & BARRELLE, Kate (2020). "Young Blood: Understanding the Emergence of a New Cohort of Australian Jihadists," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(7), 1391-1412.

The overwhelming majority of jihadists identified in Australia across the last two decades form an interconnected network which transcends time and geographic locations. Close peer relationships appear key to understanding how Australian jihadists recruit and how the network evolves. More recently the Australian network has grown significantly, and with this increase in size has come a concurrent escalation in the level of threat posed. This article analyses the factors that have coalesced together to drive this increase. In doing so, it challenges some underlying assumptions regarding radicalisation in Australia that may not be backed by empirical research, or are based on anomalous case studies not representative of the larger network. It also highlights the recent emergence of a new cohort of Australian jihadists: teenagers. An analysis of the emergence of these teenage jihadists is then conducted, along with a discussion of the implications for policing strategies and the future of countering violent extremism programs in Australia.

HOLT, Thomas J., FREILICH, Joshua D. & CHERMAK, Steven M. (2020). "Examining the Online Expression of Ideology among Far-Right Extremist Forum Users, Terrorism and Political Violence," Terrorism and Political Violence.

Over the last decade, there has been an increased focus among researchers on the role of the Internet among actors and groups across the political and ideological spectrum. There has been particular emphasis on the ways that far-right extremists utilize forums and social media to express ideological beliefs through sites affiliated with real-world extremist groups and unaffiliated websites. The majority of research has used qualitative assessments or quantitative analyses of keywords to assess the extent of specific messages. Few have considered the breadth of extremist ideologies expressed among participants so as to quantify the proportion of beliefs espoused by participants. This study addressed this gap in the literature through a content analysis of over 18,000 posts from eight far-right extremist forums operating online. The findings demonstrated that the most prevalent ideological sentiments expressed in users' posts involved anti-minority comments, though they represent a small proportion of all posts made in the sample. Additionally, users expressed associations to far-right extremist ideologies through their usernames, signatures, and images associated with their accounts. The implications of this analysis for policy and practice to disrupt extremist movements were discussed in detail.

KACZKOWSKI, Wojciech, SWARTOUT, K., BRANUM-MARTIN, M. L., HORGAN, J. G. & LEMIEUX, A. F. (2020). "Impact of Perceived Peer Attitudes and Social Network Diversity on Violent Extremist Intentions, Terrorism and Political Violence," Terrorism and Political Violence.

Perceived peer attitudes (PPA) often influence young men's violent attitudes and behaviors, although people with higher social network diversity (SND) are less likely to adopt their close peers' attitudes. There is currently limited research examining this role of peer networks in the development of violent extremism (VE). Consequently, the current study sought to answer the following questions: (1) How are PPA, personal attitudes, and VE intentions related to each other? (2) Does the relationship between PPA and VE intentions differ based on SND? The study sample consisted of 340 men (18-29 years old) recruited via Amazon MTurk. Participants first indicated their most salient social group and listed their five closest male peers. Next, they reported their VE attitudes, intentions, and their peers' attitudes. Overall, PPA were positively associated with VE intentions through the partial mediating effect of personal attitudes. SND moderated the relationship between PPA and VE attitudes: participants with more diverse networks were less likely to hold beliefs similar to their PPA. The study highlights the potential role of SND as a protective factor against the harmful effects of PPA. Notably, it underscores the need for social-ecological approaches to counter VE, offering community involvement and growth of social ties.

LOWE, David (2020). "Far-Right Extremism: Is it Legitimate Freedom of Expression, Hate Crime, or Terrorism?" Terrorism and Political Violence.

Following the rise in far-right inspired terrorist attacks globally, social media and electronic communications companies have been criticized, mainly by politicians, for allowing far-right extremist content to be available. This article is a comparative legal study focusing on Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the U.K., and the U.S.' legal provisions regarding the right to freedom of expression, hate crime, and proscription of terrorist organizations. This study found a disparity in the form of expression protected under this right. This disparity widens further when related to hate crime and proscribing groups as terrorist organizations. As such, social media and communications companies have difficulty setting at global level a baseline in determining whether content is legitimate commentary or is extremism promoting or inciting hatred and violence. The article concludes with a recommendation for how states can provide comparable legislation on hate crime as they have done in relation to Islamist inspired extremism. This will assist social media and communications companies in removing content and suspending accounts. These companies are not the guardians of freedom of expression, that is the role of states' legislatures and judiciary.

MALET, David & HAYES, Rachel (2020). "Foreign Fighter Returnees: An Indefinite Threat?" Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(8), 1617-1635.

How long does it typically take a returned foreign fighter to launch a domestic terror attack? The issue of returnees, and appropriate national and international responses to potential threats, has become a preeminent security concern of the 2010s, impacting policies on everything from refugees to whether to permit ISIS fighters to leave the theater of conflict alive. This article attempts to illuminate these contentious debates through a new data set of Lags in Attack Times of Extremist Returnees (LATER) that examines 230 jihadi returnees to Western countries. The data indicate that the majority of attempted attacks occur within one year, with a median lag time of just four months. Prison appears to play no role in lag times. Our findings indicate that security and reintegration efforts should be targeted within the critical six months after return, which diminishes the risk of attack considerably.

MARCHMENT, Zoe, BOUHANA, Noémie & GILL, Paul (2020). "Lone Actor Terrorists: A Residence-to-Crime Approach," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(7), 1413-1438.

Although there has recently been a considerable increase in research into lone actor terrorism, one of the main areas that remains understudied is that of target selection. The lack of empirically driven studies that can guide prevention measures is a notable oversight. This paper applies methods from environmental criminology to examine the residence-to-attack journeys of 122 lone terrorist acts in the U.S and Europe. The distance decay effect was evident, and significant differences were found between subgroups. Individuals were more likely to travel further if a) they were in the U.S, b) they had links to a wider network, c) they had a single-issue ideology, d) they attacked an iconic target, e) they attacked a symbolic building, or f) they used a bomb as their main weapon. A few case studies are discussed which highlight a need to conduct further research that considers the whole nodal network of an individual. The findings suggest that distance can be put forward as a constraining factor on lone actor target selection and provide support for the notion that the spatial decision making of terrorists is similar to traditional criminals.

MARCKS, Holger & PAWELZ, Janina (2020). "From Myths of Victimhood to Fantasies of Violence: How Far-Right Narratives of Imperilment Work," Terrorism and Political Violence.

Why is far-right rhetoric so dangerous? In recent years, scholars and policy makers alike have striven to unpack the black box of extremists' online communication and the rise of far-right violence. Particularly the role of social media in spreading hate speech and fostering radicalization has caught a lot of attention; however, there has been little success in pinning down the drivers of violence. Drawing on the concept of dangerous speech, we take a step back from the violent effects of far-right online communication. Instead, we examine its logical functioning to illuminate the upstream processes that constitute hate and legitimize violence. More concretely, we study how far-right narratives employed on social media mobilize emotions that prepare for the acceptance or even use of violence. Analyzing the argumentative structures of two anti-immigration campaigns in Germany, we find a network of narratives where narratives of imperilment— supported by narratives of conspiracy and inequality—converge into a greater story of national threat and awakening. By constructing a situation of collective self-defense, violence becomes a logical option, even if violent action is not explicitly proposed. Counter-narrative efforts should thus not only focus on hate speech but also address the myths of victimhood, which are constitutive of (violent) palingenetic fantasies.

MATESAN, Ioana Emy (2020). "Organizational Dynamics, Public Condemnation and the Impetus to Disengage from Violence," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(5), 949-969.

This article examines under what conditions armed Islamist groups intentionally demilitarize and de-legitimize violence, and under what conditions they deprioritize violence temporarily. The central argument is that the decision to de-escalate is driven by the interaction between political context, organizational dynamics and public attitudes. When violence becomes costly and non-violent alternatives are available, groups have incentives to pause armed action, but they do not necessarily feel the pressure to change their ideological tenets or permanently renounce military capabilities. However, when organizational weakness reaches a point of crisis, and when the public explicitly condemns groups, leaders are faced with a sink or swim scenario that forces them to reconsider the role of armed action and the very mission of the group. The ability of leaders to impose any changes in the behavior, ideology or organizational structure depends on the cohesion of the organization. Internal fragmentation can lead to behavioral escalation, but it can also eliminate the most hardline elements from a group, which facilitates organizational transformations from

the top. The empirical discussion traces the complete demilitarization and renouncement of violence within the Egyptian Gama'a Islamiyah, and the more hesitant deprioritization of violence within the Indonesian Jama'a Islamiyah.

MCMANUS, Cathal (2020). "Conceptualising Islamic "Radicalisation" in Europe through "Othering": Lessons from the Conflict in Northern Ireland," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(2), 325-344.

Recent terror attacks across Europe have raised concerns about the issue of "radicalisation" amongst sections of the Islamic populations and how it might be successfully prevented. Drawing on the growing literature analysing "radicalisation" and applying the experiences of Northern Ireland over the past half-century, this paper argues that there is a need to move away from current discourses around radicalism and to explain the extremism that manifests itself in violent actions within the parameters of sectarianism. Arguing that this sectarianism is grounded in long-term processes of "Othering," the paper will contend that there is a need for Western governments to recognise and address long-held grievances and fears within the Islamic community in order to reduce the threat of violence.

PERRY, Barbara, HOFMANN, David C. & SCRIVENS, Ryan (2020). "'Confrontational but Not Violent:' An Assessment of the Potential for Violence by the Anti-Authority Community in Canada," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(8), 1776-1796.

Despite a pervasive concern among law enforcement and security agencies, there are relatively few academic explorations of the likelihood of violence associated with anti-authority activists from groups such as the Freemen-on-the-Land, Sovereign Citizens, and similar movements within Canada. In order to begin addressing this gap in knowledge, this article uses a multi-method approach to explore and assess the potential for violence by the Canadian anti-authority community against the state in particular. Data were gathered from interviews with law enforcement, lawyers, judges, notaries, and movement adherents (n = 32), as well as from the analysis of open source data which included media reports, court documents, and movement websites. Results suggest that there are three distinct classes of violent activity, directed specifically at the state and state actors, that are prevalent among Canadian anti-authority movements: a) offensive/extremist violence; b) defensive/reactionary violence; and c) harassment and intimidation. The article concludes with a discussion of two emerging areas of concern related to Canadian anti-authority violence and responses to the anti-authority community in Canada.

RILEY, John & SCHNEIDER, Mary Kate (2020). "The Disengagement Puzzle: An Examination of the Calculus to Exit a Rebellion, Terrorism and Political Violence," Terrorism and Political Violence.

Why do rebels leave rebellions? Although much scholarly attention has been devoted to understanding why individuals join rebellions, relatively little is known about why they leave. This paper seeks to fill this deficit by exploring the decision-making process that rebels undertake when determining whether to stay or leave. Based on interview data collected from ten active rebels and four former rebels all engaged (or previously engaged) in conflicts in East Africa, we find that the reason why rebels joined the group influences their decision to leave or stay. Rebels who joined due to grievances are far less likely to escape opportunistically, while rebels who joined due to "greed" display a higher sensitivity to the hardships of rebel life and the pull of alternative options. Understanding why a person joins a rebellion helps predict the factors that will drive them to leave.

ROTTWEILER, Bettina & GILL, Paul (2020). "Conspiracy Beliefs and Violent Extremist Intentions: The Contingent Effects of Self-efficacy, Self-control and Law-related Morality," Terrorism and Political Violence.

This study analyzes the effects of conspiracy beliefs on violent extremist intentions. More specifically, we investigate whether the relationship between conspiracy beliefs and violent extremism depends upon individual characteristics such as varying levels of self-efficacy, self-control, and law-relevant morality. Variable interactions examine where conspiracy beliefs exert strong effects on violent extremist intentions. The analysis is based on a German nationally representative survey (N = 1502). To our knowledge, it is the first and only nationally representative survey carried out in violent extremism research. Our results confirm that a stronger conspiracy mentality leads to increased violent extremist intentions. However, this relationship is contingent on several individual differences. The effects are much stronger for individuals exhibiting lower self-control, holding a weaker law-relevant morality, and scoring higher in self-efficacy. Conversely, when stronger conspiracy beliefs are held in combination with high self-control and a strong law-relevant morality, violent extremist intentions are lower. Such individual features thus constitute interactive protective factors for violent extremism. These results have important implications for practice in the area of violent extremism risk assessment and management. Conceptually, the results demonstrate the need to further elaborate the conditional effects of certain risk as well as protective factors for violent extremism.

ROUSIS, Gregory J., RICHARD, F. Dan & DEBBIE WANG, Dong-Yuan (2020). "The Truth Is Out There: The Prevalence of Conspiracy Theory Use by Radical Violent Extremist Organizations," Terrorism and Political Violence.

This project examined conspiracy theory use across three types of groups: radical violent extremists (RVE), nonviolent extremists, and moderates. Using the theory of significance quest, or the desire for one's life to have meaning, the current project determined whether RVE groups were more likely to use conspiracy theories and promote loss of significance in violent passages than the other groups. Using text analysis software, researchers coded passages from six groups — two from each level of extremism — for conspiratorial and/or violent content. RVE groups were significantly more likely than the other groups to use conspiracy theories and promote violence. This pattern held for groups focused on radical Islamic fundamentalism as well as white supremacy groups. The pattern was more complex for loss of significance: in violent passages, Neo-Nazis were significantly more likely than ISIS and Al-Qaida to promote loss of significance. Implications of the findings are discussed.

SAMAAN, Jean-Loup & JACOBS, Andreas (2020). "Countering Jihadist Terrorism: A Comparative Analysis of French and German Experiences," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(2), 401-415.

As France and Germany have become major targets of jihadist terrorism, the calls for stronger cooperation in counterterrorism at the European level have grown in earnest. However, a comparative analysis of the national experiences from both countries evidences significant differences in terms of political culture, institutional division of labor, and legal oversight. Counterterrorism practices can be described following a typology of three broad categories: a military-oriented policy that aims to prevent, deter and retaliate against terrorists; a regulatory policy that strengthens the legal and judicial resources to address the terrorist threat; a diplomatic approach that focuses on negotiations, and sometimes accommodation. Whereas France moved after the 2015 attacks towards a military-oriented policy, Germany has so far opted to sustain its traditional regulatory approach. This article details the differences between Paris and Berlin regarding the contemporary public debate on jihadist terrorism, to the law enforcement framework, to the deradicalization programs as well as to the role of armed forces. The paper identifies a clear divergence in each of these sectors. As the future extent of bi- and multilateral efforts in the field of counterterrorism are likely to rise, these differences should be better taken into account.

SIMI, Pete & WINDISCH, Steven (2020). "Why Radicalization Fails: Barriers to Mass Casualty Terrorism," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(4), 831-850.

Few issues have garnered as much attention in recent years as the topic of violent extremism (VE). Although substantial attention has been devoted to investigating the radicalization process, few scholars have examined the obstacles that hinder VE radicalization. Based on in-depth life history interviews, the current study examines five types of barriers that hinder radicalization toward mass casualty violence (MCV): mass casualty violence as counter-productive; preference toward interpersonal violence, changes in focus and availability; internal organizational conflict; and moral apprehension. In general, we address each barrier's unique contribution to hindering the likelihood of MCV. Finally, we discuss how our findings could be used as part of initiatives aimed at countering violent extremism (CVE).

TAYLOR, Joel David (2020). "'Suspect Categories,' Alienation and Counterterrorism: Critically Assessing PREVENT in the UK," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(4), 851-873.

The 'suspect community' thesis has been a primary tool for exploring counter-terrorism strategies like the UK's PREVENT and their effect on communities. However, in seeking to shed light on the differentialist, complex nature of modern counter-terrorism, it was recently redesigned by Ragazzi as the 'suspect category' thesis. This article engages with this thesis' concept of distinguished 'risky' and 'trusted' suspect categories defining PREVENT's counter-terrorism engagement with Muslim communities. With the author's own reservations about this thesis, this article also explores this important concept to critically assess PREVENT as a counter-terrorism strategy. Principally, it provides an exploration of PREVENT's construction of risky and trusted suspect categories and their potential for fostering alienation, as well as a reflection on the effects of alienation on counter-terrorism. These discussions prove that PREVENT fosters alienation that is detrimental to counter-terrorism efforts. Damaging constructions as such not only make PREVENT redundant, but are also emblematic of Jackson's theory of the epistemological crisis of counter-terrorism, as this article will discuss. Recommendations regarding rethinking the conceptual basis for PREVENT will be also made with a specific emphasis on addressing the epistemological crisis of counter-terrorism.

WINDSOR, Leah (2020). "The Language of Radicalization: Female Internet Recruitment to Participation in ISIS Activities, Terrorism and Political Violence," Terrorism and Political Violence, 32(3), 506-538.

Why do young Muslim women radicalize and undertake high-risk political behaviors, and what factors influence their sociopolitical transformation? The process of radicalization happens because of individual, social, and political dynamics, and is facilitated by the availability of computer-mediated communication. Some young Muslim women keep detailed records of their radicalization process via social media, which we use to understand their sociopolitical transformation. By evaluating their language, we can better understand how their personal, social, and political development unfolds. This paper is a case study examining the words of one young Muslim woman, Aqsa Mahmood, who moved from her home in Scotland to join the ISIS fighters in Syria. Her Tumblr blog provides a linguistic, political, and ideological record of the process of her radicalization. We identify linguistic patterns in her blog posts that can help to develop and reveal a typology of the language of female radicalization.

Studies in Conflicts & Terrorism

BRADDOCK, Kurt & MORRISON, John F. (2020). "Cultivating Trust and Perceptions of Source Credibility in Online Counternarratives Intended to Reduce Support for Terrorism," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(6), 468-492.

Terrorism researchers have long sought to identify methods for challenging terrorist ideologies. The construction and dissemination of counternarratives has begun to receive substantial attention as a means of doing so. However, the effectiveness of this approach is contingent on message targets' trust in the counternarrative's content and source. This article draws from literatures on trust and online source credibility to offer preliminary guidelines for cultivating trust in counternarratives and their sources. By encouraging trust in this manner, practitioners can reduce the likelihood that their counternarratives will be dismissed by their intended audiences—a perpetual challenge to strategic messaging geared toward countering violent extremism.

BRUGH, Christine Shahan, DESMARAIS, Sarah L. & SIMONS-RUDOLPH, Joseph (2020). "Application of the TRAP-18 Framework to U.S. and Western European Lone Actor Terrorists," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism.

The purpose of this study is to examine the feasibility and relevance of the Terrorist Radicalization Assessment Protocol-18 (TRAP-18), an investigative framework to identify those at risk of lone actor terrorism. Using public information, we rated TRAP-18 items for 35 U.S. and 38 European jihadism-inspired lone actors (total N = 77). Results reveal challenges completing the

TRAP-18 using public information: only four of 18 items (Pathway, Identification, Personal Grievance, Framed by Ideology) were rated present more often than absent or unknown. Findings suggest greater relevance of TRAP-18 items to U.S. lone actors, who had a higher average number of items rated present.

COLVIN, Sarah & PISOIU, Daniela (2020). "When Being Bad is Good? Bringing Neutralization Theory to Subcultural Narratives of Right-Wing Violence," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(6), 493-508.

Bringing together terrorism studies, subcultural theory, and narrative criminology, we here test the thesis that neutralization theory might be (further) developed to provide a framework for understanding stories of ideologically informed subcultural violence. Beginning with Gresham Sykes's and David Matza's original five neutralizations, we illustrate how actors engage them in three modes: the encultured, the subcultural, and (tentatively) the postnarrative mode. We test the first two modes in particular against narratives and narrative fragments from interviews with men convicted of right-wing violence in Germany. Our findings provide a preliminary illustration of what neutralization theory might bring to research into political violence.

DA SILVA, Raquel, FERNÁNDEZ-NAVARRO, Pablo, GONÇALVES, Miguel M., ROSA, Catarina & SILVA, Joana (2020). "Disengagement from Political Violence and Deradicalization: A Narrative-Dialogical Perspective," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(6), 444-467.

This article applies a dialogical analysis to the change processes involved in moving from engagement with to disengagement from an armed militant group, as well as from radicalization to deradicalization. The findings underline the interplay between different push and pull factors at individual, organizational, and societal levels that played a role in the already mentioned processes in three periods of time—engagement with, life within, and disengagement from an armed organization. The dialogical framework conceptualizes the development trajectory as relationships between a variety of positions of the self (I-positions), which generate different personal meanings involved in processes of disengagement and deradicalization.

DE BRUYN, Phillip Conrad (2020). "Developing an Extremist Construct Schema and Measuring Ideological Engagement," Studies in Conflicts & Terrorism.

The study of online communication in extremist communities can benefit from novel methods to cast new empirical light on how individuals engage with the content of these phenomena. This work categorized such content through the systematic extraction of constructs used by members of Islamic-based extremist forums. To identify constructs that could attract engagement from extremists over time, a schema was developed from four proposed dimensions of extremism: conflict, emotion, religion, and role. Analysis of engagement relied on a mixed methods approach applied to numerous discussions on 11 independent forums, where constructs were coded according to schema dimensions. A novel change point detection methodology was used to examine the lifespan of constructs and empirically measure engagement, which was estimated across forums through meta-analyses. A small proportion of constructs experienced significant engagement over time, primarily concentrated in the religion and role dimensions. Both dimensions attracted high engagement in all the forums analyzed, where role had smaller effects than religion across forums. The forum context and extremist discourse make high engagement with religion an expected outcome, but similar results produced by the role dimension were surprising and should recalibrate thinking when compared to the traditionally studied emotion and conflict dimensions in online radicalization.

HOFFMAN, Bruce, WARE, Jacob & SHAPIRO, Ezra (2020). "Assessing the Threat of Incel Violence," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(7), 565-587.

In recent years, increasingly serious incidents of violence have been committed by young men predominantly in the United States and Canada who self-identify as incels (involuntary celibates). Although these attacks often specifically target women, the principal source of their animus, men as well as children have been among the casualties in the series of shootings and vehicular homicides that have occurred at universities, high schools, and on city streets. Although, the incel worldview is not obviously political, its core ethos entails the subjugation and repression of a group and its violence is designed to have far-reaching societal effects. Accordingly, incel violence arguably conforms to an emergent trend in terrorism with a more salient hate crime dimension that necessitates greater scrutiny and analysis—especially as it spreads to Europe and shows similarities to and has nascent connections with other terrorist movements.

HOFMANN, David C. (2020). "How 'Alone' are Lone-Actors? Exploring the Ideological, Signaling, and Support Networks of Lone-Actor Terrorists," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(7), 657-678.

Conventional knowledge and early academic work on lone-actor terrorists has popularized the concept that they radicalize, operate, plan, and execute plots in relative anonymity, with little connection to formal or

more organized terrorist groups and networks. However, recent scholarship has increasingly challenged the notion of the "loneliness" of lone-actors. In order to further empirically test this notion, this article uses social network analysis to examine the ideological, signaling, and support networks of two case studies of lone-actors during the twenty-four months prior to the commission of their first act of terrorist violence.

JENSEN, Michael, JAMES, Patrick & YATES, Elizabeth (2020). "Contextualizing Disengagement: How Exit Barriers Shape the Pathways Out of Far-Right Extremism in the United States," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism.

This paper explores how obstacles to disengagement and push and pull factors combine to produce pathways out of extremism. Using Qualitative Comparative Analysis and a sample of 50 far-right extremists in the United States, including 25 who disengaged and 25 who did not, we show how certain exit barriers, like the presence of extremist family members, poor social mobility, and past criminal convictions, determine which push and pull factors are capable of assisting individuals in leaving extremism. We conclude with how these findings can be used to support intervention and reintegration programs.

JOHNSTON, Melissa Frances, IQBAL, Muhammad & TRUE, Jacqui (2020). "The Lure of (Violent) Extremism: Gender Constructs in Online Recruitment and Messaging in Indonesia," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism.

The gender dimension of violent extremism is under-studied; and "women terrorists" are stereotyped as either men's dupes or (internet) warriors. Applying a gender lens, this study uses content analysis to examine Islamist extremist websites in Indonesia. Analysis reveals distinct recruitment language targeted at women and men, and rigid gender segregation of content and spaces. Extremists co-opt the language of women's rights while also promoting gender-discriminatory harmful practices with the intent of establishing what they consider to be a more devout Islamic state. Gender analysis of online extremism has implications for strategies to counter and prevent radicalization to violence.

KLAUSEN, Jytte, LIBRETTI, Rosanne, HUNG, Benjamin W. K. & JAYASUMANA, Anura P. (2020). "Radicalization Trajectories: An Evidence-Based Computational Approach to Dynamic Risk Assessment of 'Homegrown' Jihadists," Studies in Conflicts & Terrorism, 47(3), 588-615.

The research aimed to develop and test a new dynamic approach to preventive risk assessment of violent extremists. The well-known New York Police Department four-phase model was used as a starting point for the conceptualization of the radicalization process, and time-stamped biographical data collected from court documents and other public sources on American homegrown Salafi-jihadist terrorism offenders were used to test the model. Behavioral sequence patterns that reliably anticipate terrorist-related criminality were identified and the typical timelines for the pathways to criminal actions estimated for different demographic subgroups in the study sample. Finally, a probabilistic simulation model was used to assess the feasibility of the model to identify common high-frequency and high-risk sequential behavioral segment pairs in the offenders' pathways to terrorist criminality.

REEVE, Zoey (2020). "Repeated and Extensive Exposure to Online Terrorist Content: Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit Perceived Stresses and Strategies," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism.

U.K. Metropolitan Police Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) Case Officers (COs) are tasked with identifying, and facilitating the removal of material that breaches the Terrorism Act 2006. COs are extensively and repeatedly exposed to material deemed illegal and harmful (including but not restricted to graphic terrorist and non-terrorist material). However, there is little research on the impact of this work, or how COs manage and mitigate the risks of their roles. Semi-structured interviews reveal the adaptive coping mechanisms that promote good perceived health and wellbeing in CTIRU, as well as areas of concern and improvement.

SALYK-VIRK, Melissa J. (2020). "Building Community Resilience? Community Perspectives of the Countering Violent Extremism Pilot Program in Minneapolis/St. Paul," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(11), 1011-1042.

In August 2011, international recruitment to terrorist groups became a growing concern for the United States. The Obama administration started a public–private partnership pilot program focused on countering violent extremism (CVE) in the United States. This program was the first of its kind. It directly addressed the administration's concern about domestic violent extremism and radicalization in the United States. The Twin Cities' program, Building Community Resilience, focused primarily on prevention of radicalization through a community and government partnership. This article analyzes tensions between government-sanctioned CVE approaches and the communities where programs are implemented. Until now, research and analysis have not been performed on this specific program from a community perspective.

SCHMIDT, Rachel (2020). "Duped: Examining Gender Stereotypes in Disengagement and Deradicalization Practices," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism.

In narratives around insurgencies, terrorism, and other forms of political violence, the media — and policymakers — frequently portray women as victims or unintelligent pawns of men. But these violent women get more media attention than their male counterparts because they are a shocking departure from gendered expectations of nurturing, peaceful women. However, even such narratives of deviance can reinforce societal stereotypes about women by emphasizing that they are emotional but not political, easily manipulated, often deranged, or simply unintelligent. Using in-depth interviews in Ireland and the United Kingdom with practitioners in counter terrorism (CT) and countering violent extremism (CVE), this paper argues that a failure to ask meaningful questions about women's roles in extremist violence has reinforced gender stereotypes, leading to disengagement and deradicalization practices that ignore or downplay women's importance in fostering violence.

TELLIDIS, Ioannis (2020). "Peacebuilding Beyond Terrorism? Revisiting the Narratives of the Basque Conflict", Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(6), 529-547.

Taking stock of critical peace research and agonistic politics, this article revisits the Basque conflict to examine the role of the state's counterterrorist narrative and that of the Basque civil society in the elimination of violence. It argues that violence could have ended sooner if Spanish governments had sought to engage with the non- and antiviolent independentist discourse of broad sectors of the Basque society, rather than criminalizing it as they rightly did with the radical/extremist nationalists. Had they done so, they could have capitalized on Basque civil society's strong antiviolent and anti–Euskadi Ta Askatasuna discourse to marginalize the terrorist organization and its networks of support. The article presents a framework that makes possible the marginalization of militancy and extremism in cases where the state accepts to negotiate the legitimacy of the demands of non- and/or antiviolent nationalists.

VERGANI, Matteo, IQBAL, Muhammad, ILBAHAR, Ekin & BARTON, Greg (2020). "The Three Ps of Radicalization: Push, Pull and Personal. A Systematic Scoping Review of the Scientific Evidence about Radicalization Into Violent Extremism," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(10), 854.

In this article, we present the findings of the first systematic scoping review of scientific literature on radicalization into violent extremism since the Al Qaeda attacks on 11 September 2001. We selected and categorized all scholarly, peer-reviewed, English-language articles published between 2001 and 2015 that empirically investigated the factors of radicalization into violent extremism (N = 148). In the analysis we consider two main dependent variables (behavioral and cognitive radicalization) and three main independent variables (push, pull, and personal factors). "Pull" factors of radicalization emerge as the main factors of radicalization across studies focused on different geographical areas and ideologies. This article points to the need to focus more on the interaction between push, pull, and personal factors, and to diversify the methodologies used in the field.

WALKER, Clive & CAWLEY, Oona (2020). "The Juridification of the UK's Counter Terrorism Prevent Policy," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism.

The U.K. policy of "Prevent" aims to stop people becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism. In common with many CVE policies worldwide, Prevent has remained controversial in its conception, delivery, and impact. A formal review is now underway, so it is opportune to ask, "Whither Prevent?" This paper will examine briefly the justifications for Prevent, but the main thesis is that the juridification of Prevent is a beneficial trend in the U.K. Juridification is depicted as: the legislative production of ever more extensive and elaborate instruments; the expansion of judicial oversight; and the administrative (bureaucratic) application of soft law standards. Juridification is here invoked in order to enhance the legitimacy of the policy of Prevent through explicit improvements in its modes of operation and through offering modes of challenge where the principles of constitutionalism are contravened. If Prevent can be improved in these ways, then its application can be refined to address more effectively and efficiently the threat of terrorist attacks, especially given that the originators or observers of these threats are invited under the Prevent policy to cooperate by consent in the enterprise of counter terrorism.

WEIRMAN, Samantha & ALEXANDER, Audrey (2020). "Hyperlinked Sympathizers: URLs and the Islamic State," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 43(3), 239-257.

The self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and its supporters take measured steps to ensure the group's survival in the virtual sphere, despite continued efforts to undercut the organization. This study examines a time-bound sample of 240,158 Uniform Resource Locators shared among English-language ISIS sympathizers on Twitter to better understand how networks in the jihadisphere inoculate radical materials and communities online. A thematic but descriptive analysis of results illustrates the dynamic apparatus of digital communications leveraged by ISIS. Findings suggest a more comprehensive strategy to undercut ISIS's web of online information requires a similarly networked response by counterextremism practitioners.

WHITE, Jessica (2020). "Gender in Countering Violent Extremism Program Design, Implementation and Evaluation: Beyond Instrumentalism," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism.

Using a countering violent extremism program as a case study, this article highlights the conceptual and practical challenges for meaningful inclusion of gender in security programing. Gender mainstreaming is commonly cited as a goal for stakeholders. Unfortunately, the security framework under which many counterterrorism programs are implemented and the general lack of understanding around the complexity of gender has often led to failures for meaningful inclusion in program design and evaluation. This article argues that a gender-sensitive approach is needed for effective countering violent extremism programing and counterterrorism policy, therefore is needed to create a more secure world for all individuals.

Perspectives on Terrorism

MACKLIN, Graham (2020). "The Internal Brakes on Violent Escalation within the British Extreme Right in the 1990s.", Perspectives on Terrorism, 14(special), 49-64.

It is perhaps counter-intuitive to ponder why the extreme right milieu, which regularly espouses violent apocalyptic jeremiads regarding the impending threat to race and nation, has not generated as much violence as it would appear capable of. This article explores this question, using a case study of the British extreme right in the 1990s, a period in which there was violent street conflict with anti-fascist activists. It focusses in particular upon the British National Party, as that organisation sought to become a legitimate political party whilst simultaneously being entangled in violent street confrontations with anti-fascists, on the one hand, and conflict with militants on its own "radical flank" who baulked at the party's new direction, on the other. Specifically, this article explores the role internal rather than external "brakes" might have played in limiting violent escalation in a "scene" in which a certain level of violence was endemic. Utilising the typology of "internal brakes" developed by Busher, Macklin and Holbrook, which highlights five distinct, though often overlapping, "logics" that work to restrain violent escalation, the article discusses the processes that worked to restrain rather than escalate violence. It does so in order to demonstrate how this typology can be used as an analytical tool for conceptualising how the internal restrains on violence might function within other political milieu as well.

Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression

CHERNEY, Adrian (2020). "Evaluating Interventions to Disengage Extremist Offenders: A Study of the Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM)," Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression, 12(1), 17-36.

The literature recognises that the evaluation of interventions to counter violent extremism (CVE) has been neglected. This paper fills this gap by providing results from a study of a disengagement programme in the Australian state of New South Wales. The Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM) is a pilot intervention delivered by Corrective Services NSW aimed at prison inmates who have a conviction for terrorism or have been identified as at risk of radicalisation. PRISM is delivered by a team of allied health staff and a Religious Support Officer who work with other stakeholders and professionals. This paper looks at early results of the PRISM intervention focusing on a range of issues, which include client engagement and the content of intervention plans, self-reported motivations to participate in the intervention, benefits of participation, tackling the ideological component of violent extremism, connection to the community corrections context, and implementation challenges. Data is derived from interviews with programme staff, corrective services personnel and also clients of the intervention (i.e. convicted terrorist and radicalised inmates and parolees). Results are linked to existing literature on disengagement and implications for CVE programme evaluation are highlighted. Limitations in the study design are acknowledged.

Critical Studies on Terrorism

SJØEN, Martin M. & MATTSSON, Christer (2020). "Preventing Radicalisation in Norwegian Schools: How Teachers Respond to Counter-radicalisation Efforts," Critical Studies on Terrorism, 13(2), 218-236.

This article explores how selected educators respond to the integration of counter-radicalisation efforts into Norwegian secondary schools. Our research participants describe having limited encounters with youth extremism in practice, yet their narratives exhibit a professional responsibility to prevent students from being radicalised towards any form of violent extremism. There are, however, diverging views on how prevention should be carried out in school. When faced with concerns of radicalisation, most participants draw on therapeutic prevention, which conforms to the dominant radicalisation discourse in global politics aimed at identifying and rehabilitating

vulnerable youth. We argue that these therapeutic prevention strategies are a form of pedagogical control intended to recondition "illiberal" students under the pretext of national security. Considering the strong normative and political connotations of extremism-related issues, we recommend that educators tread cautiously in their prevention efforts. Educators must especially strive to find a balance between deterring students from radicalisation and violent extremism, while also ensuring that these efforts do not impede the agency and autonomy of young lives. Overall, this research raises some ethical and practical concerns about preventing radicalisation and violent extremism in Norwegian schools.

STEPHENS, William & SIECKELINCK, Stijn (2020). "Being resilient to radicalisation in PVE policy: a critical examination," Critical Studies on Terrorism, 13(1), 142-165.

The problematic nature of certain policies and approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism has been robustly demonstrated; it is clear that rethinking the prevention of violent extremism requires concerted attention. One response to critiques of security-driven approaches has been the adoption of the language of resilience building. However, the turn to resilience has not been matched by a fundamental rethinking of approach, and may often mask troubling approaches in the language of objectivity and positivity. In rethinking the question of prevention, examining the concept of resilience is important not only to address a current trend in policy discourse, but also to benefit from the rich literature on resilience from which valuable lessons may be drawn. A critically informed concept of resilience has the potential to provide a framework of response that recognises individuals and communities as political actors who, rather than being shielded from ideologies, require the resources and channels to challenge violence, discrimination, and injustice, be it state or non-state driven. This article, through examining the current use of "resilience" in PVE policies, makes a modest attempt to draw on lessons from applying resilience in other contexts to articulate possible features of a critically informed approach to preventing violent extremism.

Journal for Deradicalization

COOLEY, Asya & COOLEY, Skye (2020). "Child's Play: Cooperative Gaming As A Tool Of Deradicalization," Journal for Deradicalization, 23, 96-133.

Research in the field of countering violent extremism (CVE) has grown significantly in the last few decades. This research project contributes to the CVE literature by studying narratives as tools of reflections on self-identity designed intentionally within gaming exercises to help contextualize and account for as much environmental complexity as possible. This paper provides theoretical understandings of narratives (and their role in our lives), discusses narratives as they relate to violent extremist ideologies, and proposes how narrative reflections may serve as a deradicalization tool within cooperative games. Additionally, this article highlights elements of narrative reflection within current CVE resources
and provides a list of exercises (games) that can be used in the field to promote narrative reflections

DHAMI, Mandeep K., GOODMAN-DELAHUNTY, Jane, MARTSCHUK, Natalie, CHEUNG, Sang & BELTON, Ian (2020). "Disengaging and Rehabilitating High-Value Detainees: A Small Scale Qualitative Study," Journal for Deradicalization, 22, 66-96.

In an era of international terrorism, interviews with high-value detainees may have the dual purpose of extracting useful information and of disengagement. We conducted a small-scale, qualitative study using in-depth, individual interviews with 11 experienced interviewers in the Southeast Asia region and Australia, in order to provide insights into the types of interviewing strategies employed in terrorist rehabilitation. Our findings highlight the potential efficacy of creating a physically comfortable and relaxed interview setting, and of using interview strategies that focus on rapport-building, principles of social persuasion and elements of procedural justice, along with a patient and flexible stance to questioning. We suggest that interviewers performing rehabilitation interviews with high-value detainees ought to be trained to use the social approach to interviewing.

FISHER-SMITH, Amy, SULLIVAN, Charles R., MACREADY, John D. & MANZI, Geoffrey (2020). "Identity Reconfiguration and the Core Needs Framework: Exit Narratives among Former Far-Right Extremists," Journal for Deradicalization, 22, 1-37.

This empirical study examines intensive interview data collected from eight (N=8) former members of white supremacist organizations in order to understand the meanings of exit – that is, disengagement and

deradicalization – from the extremist's perspective. Using a thematic analysis approach, our findings build on the distinction in the existing exit literature between push and pull factors and the process of role exit identified by Ebaugh (1988). These push and pull factors as well as social identity, we argue, are subsumed within a complex exit process, which includes disengagement, identity deconstruction, and transgressive and transitional relationships. For some, this process culminated in an accomplished identity reconstruction and deradicalization. Most importantly, our findings suggest that exit is linked to entry by a developmental drive that we call the participant's core need. The core need was the background motivator of entry, disengagement, exit, and ultimately deradicalization. We think that this identity reconfiguration and core needs framework may help make heterogenous exit trajectories that have remained puzzling for researchers more understandable.

WIMELIUS, Malin E., ERIKSSON, Malin, STRANDH, Veronika & GHAZINOUR, Mehdi (2020). "'They Think Of Us As Part Of The Problem Instead Of Part Of The Solution' - Swedish Civil Society And Faith Based Organizations In Resilience Building And Prevention Of Radicalization And Violent Islamist Extremism," Journal for Deradicalization, 22, 122-154.

Radicalization and violent extremism are pressing issues on the Swedish political agenda. The local level has been identified as pivotal when it comes to preventive work and local public actors are encouraged to cooperate with civil society in efforts to promote local resilience. However, the Swedish debate on the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) in resilience building and prevention is heated. Based on 14 interviews with representatives for secular, Christian and Muslim CSOs and FBOs, we have explored and analysed how they perceive their role in resilience building and preventive work. We have asked how they interpret local resilience against radicalization and violent extremism and what they think is needed in order to promote it. Findings are mirrored against a recent literature review on local resilience. In the interviews, there is a strong emphasis on work to strengthen social support networks, enhance community resources and build collective identity. In relation to the literature review, there are significant similarities with how resilience is defined and said to be promoted.

Glossary

The definitions for the terminology employed in this review are taken from the methodology section of the UNESCO-PREV Chair's "Thematic Review" regarding violent radicalization.

Prevention levels are classified into three categories:

Primary: All efforts targeted at the general population that aim to either reduce and eliminate risk factors or encourage protective factors. This is a form of universal prevention. For example, awareness campaigns that include primary prevention aimed at a specific population not identified as being at risk.

Secondary: All efforts to either reduce risk factors or encourage protective factors that target individuals or groups considered at risk or in the initial stages of the radicalization process.

Tertiary: All efforts to reduce recidivism factors for individuals or groups who are either in the final stages of the radicalization process, who belong to an extremist group, or who have committed acts of violent radicalization or terrorism. This type of prevention is also aimed at reintegrating these individuals or groups into society.

The methodological approach employed in the selected articles:

Qualitative: Studies that employ qualitative data collection and analysis methods, such as participant observations, ethnographies, interviews, or focus groups.

Quantitative: Studies that employ quantifiable variables and a direct (observations) or indirect (surveys) data-collection system that is quantitative in nature and designed for statistical analysis. For example: surveys and number-coded observations.

Mixed methods: Studies that employ both qualitative and quantitative methods.

The target populations are classified into various categories:

Directly implicated individuals: Applies in cases where interventions targeted at specific individuals occur, particularly in the case of secondary or tertiary prevention (i.e., when they have already commenced the radicalization process or are at the end of the trajectory).

Families: When a service is offered to the families of radicalized individuals.

Community: When the intervention involves working with the individual in question's broader entourage (excluding family) at the local level.

Societal group: When the intervention involves working with a specific societal group (youth, Muslims, women, etc.), but not with society as a whole.

Society in general: Society in general is the target of the intervention (primary or universal prevention). Awareness campaigns are a notable example.

Practitioners: When the intervention also aims to work with any individual in direct contact with the intervention's participants.

Government: When the intervention involves building capacity within a government agency to improve its prevention capabilities.

"Online" prevention in this review indicates an article that focuses on one or more prevention tools that directly address online radicalization. This category only includes measures specifically employed toward the prevention of radicalization, while excluding more comprehensive prevention measures where dealing with online radicalization accounts for only a single component. For example, a school-based education campaign that includes a social network component is not considered to be an exclusively online prevention tool. As such, it is not included in this category.