



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

RISKS, ROOTS AND RESPONSES

Nordic conference on research
on violent extremism

Gothenburg, April 24-26, 2017





WELCOME

The Segerstedt Institute of the University of Gothenburg is happy to welcome all participants to *Risks, roots and responses: Nordic conference on research on violent extremism*. The aim of the conference is to present research and concrete initiatives and interventions that are currently going on in the Nordic countries as well as in other parts of the world that are of relevance for the Nordic countries and Europe in general.

Research on extremism, radicalization, racism, terrorism and similar topics is expanding rapidly in Europe and across the world. This research addresses a wide range of issues such as how to map and counteract extremist groups and movements and their activities in various countries. Other lines of research operate within a preventive agenda through interventions of various kinds that seek to increase social cohesion, prevent marginalization and build resilience in communities. An overarching interest of the conference is to understand the contemporary social and political conditions that contribute to the emergence and expansion of such movements.

We hope that you all will have a rewarding and fruitful conference and stay at the University of Gothenburg and the city of Gothenburg.

The conference committee

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PROGRAMME

April 24

11:00	Registration
11:30-12:30	Lunch
12:30-13:00	Welcome
13:00-14:00	Keynote Professor emerita Abby Peterson
14:00-14:30	Coffee
14:30-16:00	Paper sessions: set 1 A-D
16:00-17:30	Paper sessions: set 2 A-D
18:00	Welcome reception at the conference center

April 25

08:30-09:00	Coffee
09:00-10:00	Keynote Professor Scott Atran
10:00-11:30	Paper sessions: set 3 A-D
11:30-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Keynote Professor Michael Kimmel
14:00-14:30	Coffee
14:30-16:00	Paper sessions: set 4 A-D
16:00-17:30	Paper sessions: set 5 A-D
18:00-20:00	Reception, informal gathering at the Museum of World Culture, sponsored by The City of Gothen- burg*

April 26

08:30-09:00	Coffee
09:00-10:00	Keynote Professor Donatella della Porta
10:00-11:30	Paper sessions: set 6 A-D
11:30-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Keynote Professor Tore Bjørgo
14:00-15:00	Closing remarks
15:00	Coffee

* Buses to the Museum of World Culture will depart at 18:00 outside the main entrance of the Wallenberg Conference Center.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote 1: April 24, 13:00-14:00

ABBY PETERSON *Professor emerita*

Department of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg

Neo-Sectarianism — Lessons from the Left, Resonance on the Right



I will discuss basic underlying mechanisms of radicalization, some of which are common for left-wing militant activism and militant activism on the extreme right. I emphasize that the content of their political messages are worlds apart, as are, most often, the targets for their strategic actions: left-wing activists preferring (non) violence actions directed towards self and/

or property, and to a lesser degree, other directed; extreme right preferring violent actions towards others and/or property. Nonetheless, there are commonalities in the processes of radicalization. I will address the following three mechanism

- The emotional power of ritual confrontations, whereby a mentality of embattlement is fostered, that creates a vision of the world as divided between a ‘we’ and ‘them’. Radicalization and group fusion follow the everyday emotional and physical experiences of conflict and turmoil on the part of activists in their action spaces.
- Secrecy is an underlying bonding principle, which both confirms and reinforces the basic solidarity upon which the neo-sect rests.
- Radicalization is reinforced through the construction of moral communities, that is, the sub-political articulation of the activists’ politics in everyday life. The militant ‘practices what she/he teaches’.

SCOTT ATRAN *Professor of Anthropology*

*Centre National de la Recherches Scientifique, University of Oxford,
University of Michigan, ARTIS International*

**Devoted Actors and the Spiritual Dimension of Human Conflict:
Research on the ISIS frontline and with Al Qaeda Affiliates**



Uncompromising wars, revolution, rights movements, and today's global terrorism are in part driven by Devoted Actors who adhere to sacred or transcendent values that generate actions independently, or all out

of proportion, from rationally expected outcomes, calculated costs and consequences, or likely risks and rewards. Field-based observation, surveys and experimental studies in real-world political conflicts show ways in which Devoted Actors, who are unconditionally committed to sacred causes, and whose personal identities are fused within a unique collective identity, willingly make costly sacrifices including fighting and dying, thus enabling low-power groups to endure and often prevail against materially much stronger foes.

Explaining how devoted actors come to sacrifice for cause and comrade not only is a scientific goal, but also a practical imperative to prevent and resolve seemingly intractable intergroup disputes that can spiral out of control in a rapidly interconnecting world of collapsing and conflicting cultural traditions in search of salvation. Fieldwork and experiments in Europe, North Africa and on the frontlines in the battle with the Islamic State in Iraq help to make the case.

MICHAEL KIMMEL *Professor of Sociology*
Stony Brook University, New York

Angry White Men: How Young Men get into Extremist movements — and how to help them get out

How does a gender perspective help us understand how young men (and many boys) become involved in extremist social movements?

I argue that a gender analysis helps us understand how they understand their situation, how they understand the "other" and how they recruit young men. And I argue that the experience of these young men is far less about political ideology and far more about comradeship, community and meaning.

To help them get out, I discuss four organizations - EXIT Sweden, EXIT Germany, Life After Hate (US) and Quilliam (London).



DONATELLA DELLA PORTA *Professor of Sociology*
University of Florence

Radicalization and political violence. A processual approach

Processes of radicalization and de-radicalization of political repertoires—as indicated by the use of violence—involve relevant relational, cognitive and affective causal mechanisms, requiring a dynamic analytical approach. While the social science literature has generally considered radicalization as an individual process, this talk, rooted in social movement studies, will address it mainly as collective processes, linking micro-, meso- and macro levels of analysis.

The main tool for determining the link between individual motivations, at the micro level, and environmental conditions, at the macro level, is the analysis of an individual's perceptions of their identity and environmental conditions, as well as of the small-group dynamics that move their radicalization forward. A systematic analysis is all the more relevant in a moment in which the different forms of radicalization seems to feed each other within collective dynamics of conflict escalation.



TORE BJØRGO *Professor*

*Center for Research on Extremism
University of Oslo*

Exit and rehabilitation of former extremists: how projects and interventions differ

During the last decade, we have seen a proliferation of programmes and projects to facilitate “deradicalisation”, “Exit” or “rehabilitation” of (former) extremists. This approach has become a core element in policies to counter violent extremism in many countries. However, these interventions vary enormously along a number of dimensions. This presentation will try to describe and discuss this variation in a systematic way in order to learn from previous achievements and mistakes, and understand better the pros and cons of different models. These issues will be addressed:

- What is the main goal of the exit interventions – “deradicalisation” or “disengagement”?
- Is the exit intervention a program, a project or a standard praxis within established agencies or preventive activities?
- Who are the target groups for the exit intervention?
- Who implements the exit intervention?
- Where is the exit intervention implemented?



- What can the exit intervention offer the clients?
- Is the exit intervention based on contract or trust?
- Who fills the roles as mentors/coaches?
- How do we measure success or failure?

PANEL PROGRAMME

Set 1: April 24, 14:30-16:00

1A WOMEN, GENDER AND VIOLENCE

Conference room: Wallenberg
Chair: Thomas Johansson

Sara Mahmood:
Women's Roles and Agency in the Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS): A Discourse Analysis of Dabiq

Anne Birgitta Nilssen:
Women at risk on Facebook

Lisa Kaati, Katie Cohen & Tim Isbister:
Gender balance in user generated comments posted on immigration critic alternative media

1B INTERFAITH, PREVENTION AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Conference room: Sydamerika
Chair: Ylva Odenbring

Lenita Törning:
The role of interfaith projects in countering radicalisation and extremism in the United Kingdom

Sacharias Wirén:
The Army of God – an examination of religiously motivated violence from a psychology of religion perspective

Peter K. Forster:
An Applied Approach to Countering Violent Extremism: Case Studies from the Balkans

1C MEDIA, CULTIC MILIEUS AND RADICALIZATION

Conference room: Antarktis
Chair: Göran Larsson

Philip K. Creswell:
Feds Everywhere: Risk-Mitigation Strategies among Hacktivists in Anonymous Chat Rooms

Rick Latham Lechowick:
The Power of Name-Calling: A Connection Between Terminology and Treatment as Demonstrated in the Islamic State's Genocide Against the Ezidis of Northern Iraq

Thomas Lindgren:
Religious Radicalization in Indonesia

1D EDUCATION AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE

Conference room: Europa
Chair: Roger Säljö

Sami Adwan:
Empowering Voices of Israeli and Palestinian Teens through Writing

Claudia Lenz & Solveigh Moldrheim:
How to recognize and respond to the dimension of prejudice in bullying and offenses in schools

2A

NORDIC PERSPECTIVES

Conference room: Sydamerika
Chair: Robin Andersson

Lars Gudmundson:

Learning Democracy at Utøya

Nerina Weiss:

Moral outrage and Utopia: the mobilization of pro-Kurdish activists

Sindre Bangstad:

Dancing around the golden calf? Countering ‘radicalization’ into violent extremism in Norway 2010-2016.

2B

THE WARS IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

Conference room: Antarktis
Chair: Egdunas Raciuis

Jan Christoffer Andersen & Sveinung Sandberg:

Islamic State Propaganda - Between social movement and subcultural provocation

Marco Nilsson:

Radicalization Processes – from Sweden to the Jihadi Groups in Syria

Akhmet Yarlykapov:

Networking ISIS in Russia: why it happens and how it works

2C

MEDIA APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Conference room: Wallenberg
Chair: Roger Säljö

Michael Krona:

Weaponizing media and sympathizers – ISIS decentralized social media strategies

Gustav Larsson:

Framing the Official Propaganda of the Islamic State

Andreas Önnersfors:

“One percent for our country“: Studying the dynamics of online and offline-radicalization in the German far-right platform ‘einprozent.de‘

2D

RIGHT WING VIOLENCE

Conference room: Europa
Chair: Thomas Johansson

Tore Bjørgo:

Soldiers of Odin: Making the streets safer for our women?

Mattias Gardell:

Urban Lone Wolf: A Case Study

Viggo Vestel:

Radical right wing anti-Islamism versus radical Islam in a Norwegian context: polarising relations with global roots”

Set 5: April 25, 16:00-17:30

5A INTERVENTIONS AND RESISTANCE

Conference room: Europa

Chair: Ylva Odenbring

Jari Taponen & Karin Creutz:
World politics, otherness and violent extremism

Marius Linge & Sveinung Sandberg:
Resistance to jihadism within the young and silent Muslim majority

Line Lerche Mørck, Lone Maj Clausen & Tina Wilchen Christensen:
Social practice ethics – researching sensitive movements with “formers”

5B GOVERNING RADICALIZATION

Conference room: Antarktis

Chair: Mattias Wahlström

Magnus Wennerhag & Jan Jämte:
Counter-Radicalizing Radical Left-Libertarian Youth in Sweden

Rune Ellefsen:
Unforeseen impacts of policing ‘domestic extremism’ in Britain

Kivac Atak:
Colourful or colourblind? Policing of racially motivated crimes in Sweden

5C NORDIC PERSPECTIVES

Conference room: Wallenberg

Chair: Christer Mattsson

Hamed El-Said:
Who are the Foreign Fighters?

Hans Abrahamsson:
In the Great Transformation of our Times: “violent extremism as politics by other means”

Tina Wilchen Christensen:
‘Radicalisation’ as an outcome of a social-political struggle

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES OF RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

5D

Conference room: Antarktis

Chair: Lina Khatib

Intissar Kherijiln & Maher Zoglami:
“Understanding the Factors that Attract Tunisian Youth to Violent Extremist Groups. An Individual-Centric Approach”

Kristen Kao & Ellen Lust:
“Examining Community Level Drivers of Radicalization Across Contexts in the Middle East”

Diab Badayneh & Khawla Al Hassan:
“Radicalizing Syrians Refugees in Jordan: Causes and Consequence”

Fares Braizat & Walid Al Khatib:
“Changing Trends in Popular Support for Radical Movements and Youth Radicalization in Jordan”

3A

NORDIC PERSPECTIVES

Conference room: Europa
Chair: Robin Andersson

Lars Gule:

The Prophet's Ummah – a Norwegian sala-fi-jihadist group

Liselotte Frisk & Tomas Axelson:

An evaluation of the Swedish "Kunskapshus" [Houses of knowledge] in four Swedish cities; Borlänge, Örebro, Göteborg and Stockholm

Leena Malki & Daniel Sallamaa:

Terrorism as a matter of definition: The public debate around ideologically motivated violence in Finland, 1990-2015

3B

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Conference room: Wallenberg
Chair: Christer Mattsson

Jonas Svensson:

Sacralisation, desecration and violence – exploring the interconnections

Hasnain Govani, Lisa Kaati, Katie Cohen & Tim Isbister:

Computerized text analysis of propaganda from the Islamic state

Emma Bäck, Hanna Bäck,

Niklas Altermark & Holly Knapton:

A throw from the extreme: Political attitude shift following inclusion by a radical group in the Cyberball paradigm

3C

HISTORICAL DIMENSIONS

Conference room: Antarktisk
Chair: Göran Larsson

Anas Al Khabour:

Radicalism and cultural heritage

Eli Göndör:

The Influence of Sayyid Qutb on Violent Extremism

Susanne Olsson:

Traditionalist strategies of othering in 'Abbasid Baghdad

3D

TERRORISM BEFORE TERRORISM

Conference room: Sydamerika
Chair: Roger Säljö

Mats Fridlund:

Terrorisms before Terrorism - Representing modes & meanings of rebel and regime extremist violence, 1848-1917

Emin Poljarevic:

Islamism between Theory and Practice

Therese Sandrup:

A shift of focus, or a loss of focus? Exploring counter-radicalization work in a Norwegian police district.

4A **NORDIC PERSPECTIVES**

Conference room: Europa
Chair: Christer Mattsson

Niklas Altermark, Emma Bäck & Hampus Nilsson:

Countering Radicalisation: An overview of Swedish municipalities' prevention strategies

Anders Bo Christensen & Thea Theresen Nøddegaard:

Preventing radicalization in Denmark

Christina Kiernan:

Collaborative interventions in Stockholm city aiming to improve protective factors, reduce criminality and, overall, strengthen the resilience against radicalisation.

4B **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

Conference room: Sydamerika
Chair: Thomas Johansson

Marte Nilsen:

Monks in Movements: Buddhism and Political Conflicts in Myanmar and Thailand

Denis Brylov:

The processes of radicalization in the Ukrainian Muslim community in the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine

Ahmad Akhlaq:

Embeddedness and Radicalisation of Youth in One Islamist Organisation in Pakistan

4C **ENDING JIHADI CONFLICTS**

Conference room: Wallenberg
Chair: Göran Larsson

Isak Svensson & Daniel Finnbogason:
How Jihadist States End

Mimmi Söderberg Kovacs:

A Matter of Faith? Mediation attempts with Boko Haram in Nigeria

Desirée Nilsson & Isak Svensson:

How Do Islamist Conflicts End? Religious claims and civil war outcomes, 1975-2015

4D **NORDIC PERSPECTIVES**

Conference room: Antarktis
Chair: Robin Andersson

Haisam A Rahman:

Local prevention of violent extremism in Gothenburg

Tore Bjørge & Ingivild Magnaes Gjelsvik:

Right-Wing Extremists and anti-Islam Activists in Norway: Constraints against Violence

Iram Khawaja:

Homegrown religious radicalization and the quest for belonging

6A

LEAVING VIOLENCE

Conference room: Europa

Chair: Christer Mattsson

Peter Nustad & Ida Cathrine Ruud:

Dembra - Democratic preparedness against racism, antisemitism and undemocratic attitudes

Robert Örell:

Perspectives from the grey zone. A presentation of Exit Sweden – disengagement, re-integration and building a new social identity

Alida Skiple:

The Swedish Tolerance Project in practice and theory

6B

EASTERN PERSPECTIVES

Conference room: Sydamerika

Chair: Göran Larsson

Egdunas Raciuss:

Virtual absence of political religious radicalism/extremism in the Baltic States: assessment through the demand-supply prism

Oleg Yarosh:

Neo-fundamentalist Islamic discourse in Ukraine and problem of religious extremism

Natalia Kutuzova:

Literature of radical Islam in Belarus: in search of religious tradition

6C

NAME-CALLING AND SURVEILLANCE

Canceled

6D

MEASURING RADICALIZATION AND TENDENCIES TOWARDS VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Conference room: Wallenberg

Chair: Lina Khatib

Edgar Jones:

Vulnerabilities to Recruitment and Radicalisation: A UK Population study

Oluf Gotsche-Astrup & Lasse Lindekilde:

Measuring Violent Extremism and the Extremist Mindset: Result from a Danish Validation Study”

Kirsten Kao & Ellen Lust:

Measuring Violent Extremism in Surveys: The use of Experimental Techniques to get Sensitive Questions

Lasse Lindekilde:

Mitigating impacts of terrorist attacks involving weapons and firearms in Europe: factors influencing intention to ‘run, hide, tell’ in the UK and Denmark

Mark Tessler:

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