

Researching on radicalisation and violent extremism in times of COVID-19

Friday, 27th November 2020

BIOGRAPHY OF THE PARTICIPANTS

9.30h - 9.45h

OPENING SESSION

Josep Ferré is CONNEKT's Project Coordinator and Managing Director at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). He has an extensive experience in the field of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and socio-economic issues. Prior to joining the IEMed in 2007 as Head of Socioeconomic Development Unit, he worked for Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. Between 1997 and 1999 he was posted in Morocco, and between 1999 and 2001, he worked as head of Spanish cooperation in Mauritania. Josep frequently participates in debates, conferences and seminars as a speaker focusing on socioeconomic cooperation and challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean area, youth and regional cooperation. He has coordinated numerous EU-funded projects in the field of cooperation and development, research, gender equality and intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Since 2009 he has been assistant director of the IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook, the annual publication of reference compiling a series of articles written by the best experts on political, security, economic and cultural developments, as well as director of Euromed Survey, a unique compilation of primary sources, assessing progress, achievements and shortcomings in the different areas of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

Corinne Torrekens is currently working as the WP3 leader in CONNEKT from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). She is Professor in social and political sciences at ULB. She holds a PhD in social and political sciences of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Previously, she conducted different researches at GERME (ULB) linked to the public visibility and debates regarding the integration of Islam in Belgium, immigration and integration policies. Having more than 15 years of experience in the field of research on Islam, she is



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used to work on sensitive issues and owns good reputation and networks among the Belgian Muslim community. She was involved in the Eurislam (European Commission 7th Framework programme) project in charge of leading for Belgium the qualitative work package on interviews with Muslim community leaders.

9.45h - 11.00h

PARALLEL SESSIONS

S1 - Macro research on radicalisation and violent extremism drivers

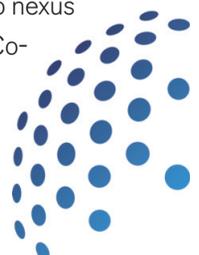
Coordinator

Damir Kapidzic is currently working as the WP4 leader in CONNEKT from the University of Sarajevo. He is an Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His research looks at ethnic conflict, political parties and power-sharing. He is particularly interested in formal and informal processes and institutional arrangements through which democratic or authoritarian politics are legitimized. Much of his research looks at countries in Southeast Europe (the Balkans) but also includes comparative perspectives from East Africa and Southeast Asia, applying qualitative and mixed methods approaches. He has published several journal articles (Ethnopolitics, Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies, and Peacebuilding, among others) and book chapters on democracy and institutions in post-conflict and multi-ethnic states. His current book project compares socio-political segregation of society in BiH to Dutch society half a century ago. A second research project compares ethnic accommodation through political parties in Southeast Asia and in Southeast Europe. He was a researcher with the LSE-based Justice and Security Research Programme, and the Uni Fribourg-RRPP Balkan Comparative Electoral Study.

Speakers

Hilary Pilkington is Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester and Fellow at the UK Academy of Social Sciences. She is currently coordinator of the H2020 DARE (Dialogue about Radicalisation and Equality) project. Her current research focuses on youth, inclusion and exclusion, political participation, subculture, activism, and extremism. Hilary is currently a member of the Expert Group of the national Commission for Countering Extremism and recently served as independent Commissioner on the Preventing Violent Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission which seeks to develop a Greater Manchester approach to preventing hateful extremism and strengthening social cohesion.

Selma Zekovic is National Chief of P/CVERLT (preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism) at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Selma works in the OSCE since 2008 and she has specialised in the area of security sector reform, with special focus on themes that relate to nexus between security and human rights. Formerly she has been Project Development and Co-ordination Officer at the International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Sarajevo, as well



as Assistant at the European Union Police and at the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF) Mission in BiH. She holds a Bachelor of Economics and Master's degree in Political Science from the Sarajevo University.

Valery Perry is an independent researcher and consultant based in Sarajevo. She is a Senior Associate in the Democratization Policy Council and is teaching conflict analysis and resolution at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology. Valery has been working in Bosnia and Herzegovina for nearly two decades, conducting research and working for organisations including the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR), The European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) and several NGOs. She worked at the OSCE Mission for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo from 2004 to 2011, as Deputy Director of the Education Department, and Deputy Director of the Human Dimension Department. She most recently worked as Chief of Party for the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG) in Sarajevo, implementing a project to increase civil society engagement in constitutional reform processes in BiH.

Youssef Tobi is an International Relations Specialist at the Policy Center for the New South in Morocco since 2017. He is currently working on Politics and Governance in the Maghreb Region and his areas of expertise are geopolitics, political risk and national building. Youssef obtained a Master Degree at Science Po Lyon where he wrote two thesis on “the role of Moroccan Bank in Africa, a non-state actor in service of the Diplomacy” and the “Chasm between the mediatic and associative representation of refugees: a case study”. Prior to working at the Policy Center for the New South, Youssef participated in a Social Entrepreneurship Project in Beirut, Lebanon and conducted an internship in a NGO based in Marseille where he assisted refugees and helped raise funds.

S2 - Meso research on radicalisation and violent extremism drivers

Coordinator

Tasnim Chirchi is the Director and the contact point within the Jasmine Foundation for Research and Communication the Tunisian member within the CONNEKT Consortium. The Jasmine Foundation works on issues of governance in the context of democratic transition as well as on the participation of women and youth in this transition, and has significant experience in qualitative and quantitative research. Tasnim is a social scientist specialised in political sociology and holds a PhD in Sociology from the Université du Québec in Montreal. She taught sociology and anthropology both in Canada and in Tunisia. She has worked on research with diverse partners, including the University of Duisberg-Essen, University of Gothenburg, CEMAT, and British Council. Tasnim is regularly consulted by international partners such as universities, governments, embassies, international organisations such as the UNDP, Carnegie Endowment and British Council and local officials, political actors, and civil society organisations. She has delivered workshops and trainings for women and youth on participation in public life, and contributed to several publications on youth and



women engagement. She brings a deep understanding of the Tunisian context and expertise in policy analysis, including of local governance, youth engagement, and women's political participation.

Speakers

Luca Gervasoni is Founder and Codirector of the International Institute for Nonviolent Action (NOVACT) and member of the Observatory to Prevent Extremist Violence (OPEV). He is also Associate Professor at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) and President of LaFede.cat – Organizations for Social Justice, which is a network that works actively for social justice and eradication of inequality through development cooperation, the defence and promotion of human rights and the promotion of peace. Additionally, Luca is the Academic Coordinator of the International Postgraduate in International Law and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation of Al Quds University. His work has focused on the study and support to grassroots movements in their fight for human rights, freedom and justice. He has worked as External Consultant providing technical assistance to several NGOs and CSOs from the MENA region.

Moussa Bourekba is a Researcher at Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) specialised on the Arab-Muslim world, and Associate Professor in International Relations at Ramon Llull University (URL). Prior to joining the CIDOB, he was Junior Research Fellow at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Moussa also worked as a consultant for the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI). At CIDOB, after three years as Project Manager for SAHWA (Researching Arab Mediterranean Youth: Towards a New Social Contract), an EU-funded project that aims at analysing youth conditions and expectations in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region, he now focuses on process of radicalisation, violent extremism in Europe and North Africa, and Islam in Western countries.

Karin Göldner-Ebenthal is Research Fellow at the Berghof Foundation and Project Manager of H2020 PAVE (Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through Community Resilience) project. She worked at the German Embassy in Latvia, at NATO's Allied Command Operation in Mons, Belgium, and the Institut für Europäische Politik in Berlin. Before she joined Berghof Foundation she was volunteering with Search for Common Ground in Lebanon. Karin holds a Bachelors in European Studies from the University of Osnabrück and a Master of Letters in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of St Andrews.

Asya Metodieva is a junior Researcher at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. She is a Doctoral Candidate at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. Her research focuses on radical movements, polarisation and information warfare with a focus on the Western Balkans. She holds a MA in Public Policy from CEU and in International Relations and Security Studies from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In 2019 she was visiting PhD Candidate at the University of Oxford. She held the 2018 Sotirov Fellowship at LSE IDEAS and 2018 Re-think CEE Fellowship at the German Marchall Fund of the United States.



S3 - Micro research on radicalisation and violent extremism drivers

Coordinator

Khalid Mouna is currently working as the WP6 leader in CONNEKT. He is an anthropologist and Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the Moulay Ismail University in Meknes. He is teaching at the Master "Crossing the Mediterranean: towards Investment and Integration (MIM)" at the University of Ca'Foscari in Venice, and has been a Visiting Professor for the IISMM Chair at EHESS Paris, and at the University Paul Valéry Montpellier III. He is a member of the scientific committee of the review *Espace-Temps* and the review *FuoriLuog*. His research publications focus on cannabis, social changes, migrations, and post-Arab Spring-social mobilization. He is the author of several books on the Rif: *Le bled du kif. Economy and power at the Ketama of Rif* (2010), *Identity of the margin. Anthropological Approach of the Rif* (2018), and *Le Bled du Kif. Anthropological and socioeconomic approach from the 10th century to the present day* (2018). He co-edited the book: *Moroccan Lands. In the footsteps of researchers from here and elsewhere, La Croisée des Chemins, Casablanca, CJB / CNRS* (Publication Award AUF). He has lead several international research programs, and is a member of many European research programs.

Speakers

Driss el-Yazami is a human rights activist. He was President of the National Council of Human Rights (CNHR) in Morocco between 2011 and 2018. He has held senior positions in several institutions and bodies in Morocco as well as international associations and organisations. Formerly he was a member of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission of the Advisory Council on Human Rights and member of the Board of Directors of the Fundación Tres Culturas (Seville). Decorated by King Mohammed VI of Wissam Al Moukafaa Al Wataniya of the Order of Grand Officer and Wissam Al Arch of the Order of Commander. Driss el-Yazami is an Officer of the Legion of Honor of the French Republic, under foreign personalities, and Officer of the Order of Leopold, the highest division of Belgium.

Nacer Djabi has worked as Professor of Sociology at the University of Algiers II and Researcher at the Centre de recherché en économie appliqué et développement (CERAD). He resigned from University of Algiers in 2017. He is the author of several works. He is the author of several works, including *El Wazir el-Djazaïri: oussol wa massarat* (The Algerian Minister; Principles and Paths, 2001), *Algérie: État et élites* (Algeria: The state and the elites, 2008), and *Limada ta'akhara ar-rabie el-Djazaïri?* (Why is the Algerian Spring Late?, 2012).

Najet Araari is a Sociologist specialised on gender and sexuality and activist in civil society. She is currently a Researcher in the field of transitional justice and the violation of human rights and Project Manager in the Danish Institute for Human Rights. Formerly she has been the Director of the Association des Femmes Tunisienne pour la Recherche sur le Développement. Najet was also the Coordinator of the SALAM project against violent extremism at the Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH). The project is also part of the Observatory for



the prevention of violent extremism (OPEV), a platform of civil society organisations on the two shores of the Mediterranean. Najet

Morten Bøås is Research Professor Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and Co-director of the Norwegian Research Council funded research network on Taxation, Capital Flows and Natural Resource Extraction (TaxCapDev). He works predominantly on the political economy of violence and conflict in North Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East, including issues such as land rights and citizenship conflicts, youths, ex-combatants and the new landscape of insurgences and geopolitics. Morten is currently the Principal Investigator of the H2020 PREVEX (Preventing Violent Extremism in the Balkans and the MENA: Strengthening Resilience in Enabling Environments) project. Formerly he has been the Scientific Coordinator of another H2020 project called EUNPACK, a conflict sensitive unpacking of the EU comprehensive approach to conflict and crisis mechanism.

Tanja Dramac Jiries is Senior Program Officer for Europe at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), where she oversees democracy assistance to civil society organisations, think tanks, and independent media across Southeast and Central Europe. Her areas of interest include post-conflict transition, extremism and radicalisation, youth civic engagement and independent media. Tanja is also a political scientist and analyst of Southeast European and international affairs with a PhD from Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna. She has worked for the Office of the European Union Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUSR), for Permanent Mission of BiH to the United Nations in New York City, as well as for a number of grass-roots civil society organisations in the Balkans.

S4 - Approaching prevention from a local perspective

Coordinators

Lurdes Vidal is Scientific Coordinator of CONNEKT, Director of the Arab and Mediterranean World Department at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and Chief Editor of the journal *afkar/ideas*. She has over 10 years of experience in coordinating research projects and producing in-depth analyses and studies on issues related to the Southern Mediterranean. She frequently provides expertise to national, regional and international institutions issues related to political and security developments in the Southern Mediterranean region, and regularly contributes to different national and regional media. She has extensive teaching experience, having worked as a professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), University of Barcelona (UB) and Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI). Lurdes holds a MA degree in Translation and Interpretation from the UAB and studied International Relations (PhD courses) at the same university. Her publications include, among others, "Syria or the inevitability of feeling concerned" or "Syria, Vertigo in the Face of a Radicalised Revolution and an Uncertain Future".



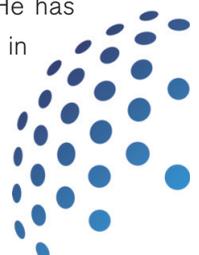
Jordi Moreras is Scientific Coordinator of CONNEKT and Research fellow in the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Currently, he is advisor in the Secretary of Religious Affairs of the Catalan Government. He has a long professional trajectory of three decades in the study of Muslim communities in Spain and religious pluralism, in the academic field (its PhD dissertation was about the imams in Spain as a religious authorities), and as consultant for public and private institutions. He was the author of the first ethnographic monograph on Muslim communities in Spain (Muslims in Barcelona, Dynamics and Community Spaces, 1999), and has an abundant scientific production. He regularly collaborates in Spanish and international media. He has led competitive research projects, and participates in different national and international teams around European Muslim communities, their religious practices and the processes of radicalization that affect them. As a teacher, he has accumulated a long teaching experience, having collaborated in postgraduate training in Spanish universities. His latest book has been published in Spanish by the Editorial Bellaterra with the title of Identities at risk. An Anthropological Look on Radicalization in Europe (2018).

Speakers

Sissel Haugdal Jore is the Center Manager of the Center for Risk Management and Societal Safety (SEROS) an Associate Professor at the University of Stavanger (UiS), Norway. Her main research topics are terrorism, counterterrorism, and security risk management, risk perception, conceptualisations of risk, disclosure analysis, critical terrorism studies, terrorism emergency preparedness, and crisis management. Sissel is currently the chair of the Security Defence Speciality Group in SRA-International, and she is an elected board member of the Nordic Society for Risk Analysis. Additionally, she is the Head of the Security-Technical Committees of SWRA in the organisation Society for risk analysis Europe. She has also been a member of the Program Committee of SAMRISK in the Norwegian research council and member of the Committee on research strategy for extremism and terrorism research, Norwegian Research Council. Transversely oriented, these projects address the social, educative and community field in parallel.

Jesper Holme Hansen, Department for Children and Youth, Municipality of Aarhus; Ministry of Education, Denmark. His area of expertise includes formal and informal education, early prevention, multi-agency cooperation, returning foreign fighters and their families, far-right extremism, and youth.

José Antonio García-Calvillo is Technical Advisor of the Cohabitation and Security Area in the City Council of Hospitalet del Llobregat (Barcelona). Political scientist and anthropologist, he has worked within the local Public Administration for more than 30 years. José Antonio has specialised in innovative projects and policies on citizen security from a preventive approach with the aim of enabling social cohesion and citizen co-responsibility. He has coordinated the implementation of projects with a national and national repercussion in the field of security prevention policies such as the Municipal Strategy for the



Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and the Network "L'Hospitalet por la Convivencia". José Antonio claims that "the safest cities are not the most coercive ones, but those that are socially more inclusive and that have a more compromised citizenship".

Rasha Nagem is Professor at the Université de Toulouse II – Le Mirail and she is a trainer and euro-mediterranean expert in the field of violent radicalisation and extremism. Rasha is the Project Manager of the H2020 PRACTICIES (Preparedness and Resilience Against CBRN Terrorism using Integrated Concepts and Equipment) project. She is also Programme Manager for Integra, Erasmus+, JPCOOPS and SAT LAW European projects. Her research focuses on radicalisation processes among young people and their related prevention policies, as well as the measures of impact of pedagogical prevention tools. She is involved in a number of European projects and organisations on various topics: violent extremism and radicalisation, youth delinquency, migration and integration. Rasha is an associate member of the UNESCO-PREV Chair.

Dilwar Hussain is an independent Research Consultant working on social policy, Muslim identity and Islamic reform in the modern world and has a number of published works in the field. He is founding Chair of New Horizons in British Islam, integration and reform; Research Fellow at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations in Coventry University, and Lecturer at the University of Leicester. Dilwar is also a Trustee of the Faith & Belief Forum (FBF) and was Trustee and Vice-Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust until 2018. He established and headed the Policy Research Centre, at the Islamic Foundation. He was also a Commissioner at the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). He served the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Life and Faith, was co-Chair of the BBC Standing Conference on Religion and Belief, was co-Chair of Alif-Aleph UK, a Trustee of Maslaha and worked on the Preventing Extremism Together workgroups set by the Home Office after July 7, 2005.

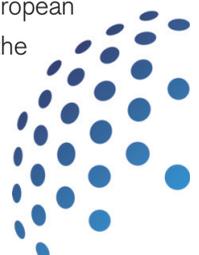
11.15h - 12.30h

POLICY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

How can CONNEKT serve EU's challenges concerning P/CVE?

Coordinator

Corinne Torrekens is currently working as the WP3 leader in CONNEKT from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). She is Professor in social and political sciences at ULB. She holds a PhD in social and political sciences of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Previously, she conducted different researches at GERME (ULB) linked to the public visibility and debates regarding the integration of Islam in Belgium, immigration and integration policies. Having more than 15 years of experience in the field of research on Islam, she is used to work on sensitive issues and owns good reputation and networks among the Belgian Muslim community. She was involved in the Eurislam (European Commission 7th Framework programme) project in charge of leading for Belgium the qualitative work package on interviews with Muslim community leaders.



Speakers

Pascal Odul is Programme Manager at Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South (DG NEAR) of the European Commission. He also works as a Researcher, a Professor and a Consultant in the field of infrastructure, regional development, environment and security. Pascal has specialised in three main domains: the procurement, financial and contractual management of programmes according to EC rules; the reporting, project-writing, technical and financial files, tender dossiers, terms of reference, synthesis and evaluation of reports; and the restructuring of programmes in difficulty and management of complex multi-sectoral programmes. Formerly he has been Programme Manager for the Belgian Ministry of Development Cooperation.

Thomas Renard is Senior Research Fellow at the Egmont Institute (EGMONT – Royal Institute for International Relations) in Brussels. Renard is also an Adjunct Professor at the Vesalius College, a PhD student at Ghent University, and a member of the Réseau Multidisciplinaire d'Études Stratégiques (RMES). His research focus on (counter-)terrorism and (counter-)radicalisation in Belgium and Europe. Recent projects focused notably on returning foreign fighters, and on radicalization in prison. Thomas is also consultant for the Belgian public TV/Radio (RTBF), and contributes regularly to media worldwide. Previously, he worked with the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation (as the Head of the Brussels office) and with the Jamestown Foundation. He started his work on this topic as a data-entry analyst for the Center on Terrorism and Intelligence Studies (CETIS) in the US, contributing to the elaboration of the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) hosted by the University of Maryland, the largest database worldwide on terrorist incidents.

Michaël Privot is the Director of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) since 2010 and Scientific collaborator at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) of the Université de Liège. He is an islamologist specialised in Classic and Islamist Philosophy and a well-known activist in Belgium militating in favour of an "European Islam". He works notably in issues related to Muslim communities in Belgium and Europe, violent radicalisation driven by religion, and the contemporary reforms of Islam in Europe. In 2019, Michaël submitted the statutes for the Institut européen des études de l'Islam, whose aim is to form Imams and Muslim chaplains in Europe with an academic level.

Sergio Bianchi was Agenfor Chairman from 1996 until 2012. Agenfor International's goal is to ensure security through a better protection of human rights and socio-political participation with a particular focus on minorities, prisoners and other vulnerable groups. Sergio, now General Director of International Organisations, works for Agenfor on voluntary basis as researcher. He is an Arabist specialized in the field of Muslim minorities and has carried out in-depth research on security issues and geopolitics, supporting the idea that Islam may be a resource to counter the terrorist threats. His articles and video productions regarding a wide range of topics from politics to breaking news have been featured in national and internationally published newspapers and TVs over the years.

