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Class 11: Individuals in the far right

Radicalisation

Dr. Michael C. Zeller

Agenda for the day

- Opening notes
- Course evaluations
- Radicalisation - core concepts
- Poll: tendencies of radicalisation
- Study snapshot: youth radicalisation
- Why radicalisation fails
- Any questions, concerns, feedback for this class?

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Opening notes

Presentation groups

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July | May | June

Date	Presenters	Method
3 July:	Alexander V., Luis G., Oscar O., Mia C.	descriptive inference
10 July:	Lina S., Stephen W., Philomena B., Aarón Z.	ethnography
17 July:	Corinna Z., Eva M., and Rostislav N.	TBD
24 July:	Sebastian K., Thomas R., Emilia Z., Florian P.	TBD
24 July:	Lorenz F., Daniel B., Medina H.	quant. text analysis

Course evaluations

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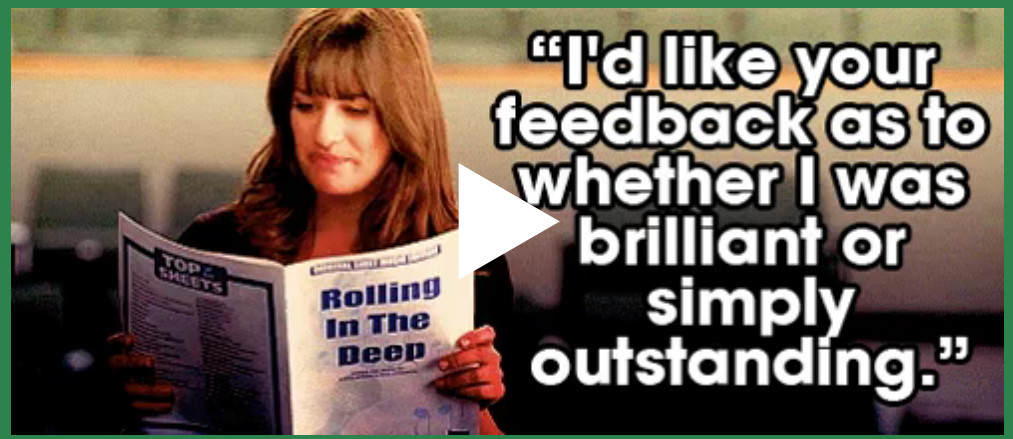
- course evaluations are available
- scoring is appreciated
- comments can be very helpful, for example:



1. how is the course website? any suggested improvements?
2. what did you like and dislike about the class slides?
3. what did you like and dislike about class meetings?
4. did you watch the recorded lectures? (*evaluations are anonymous, so you can be totally honest*) how were they?
5. are course assignments clear? (e.g., add another report example?)

Radicalisation - core concepts

- (de)radicalisation
- (dis)engagement
- models of radicalisation (esp. in government work)
- pathways of radicalisation (Jensen, Seate, and James 2018)

Radicalisation - core concepts

- radicalisation (*change in belief*): process of connecting with and adopting radical or extremist ideology—does not necessarily result in violence or 'engaging' in extremist activity
- engagement (*change in behaviour*): (in this context) process or act of performing radical or extremist activity, especially violence
- deradicalisation (*change in belief*): "process by which an individual is diverted from an extremist ideology, eventually rejecting an extremist ideology and moderating their beliefs" (Gaudette, Scrivens, and Venkatesh 2022, 1)
- disengagement (*change in behaviour*): "process by which an individual decides to leave their associated extremist group or movement in order to reintegrate into society" (*Ibid.*)

Models of radicalisation (esp. in government work)

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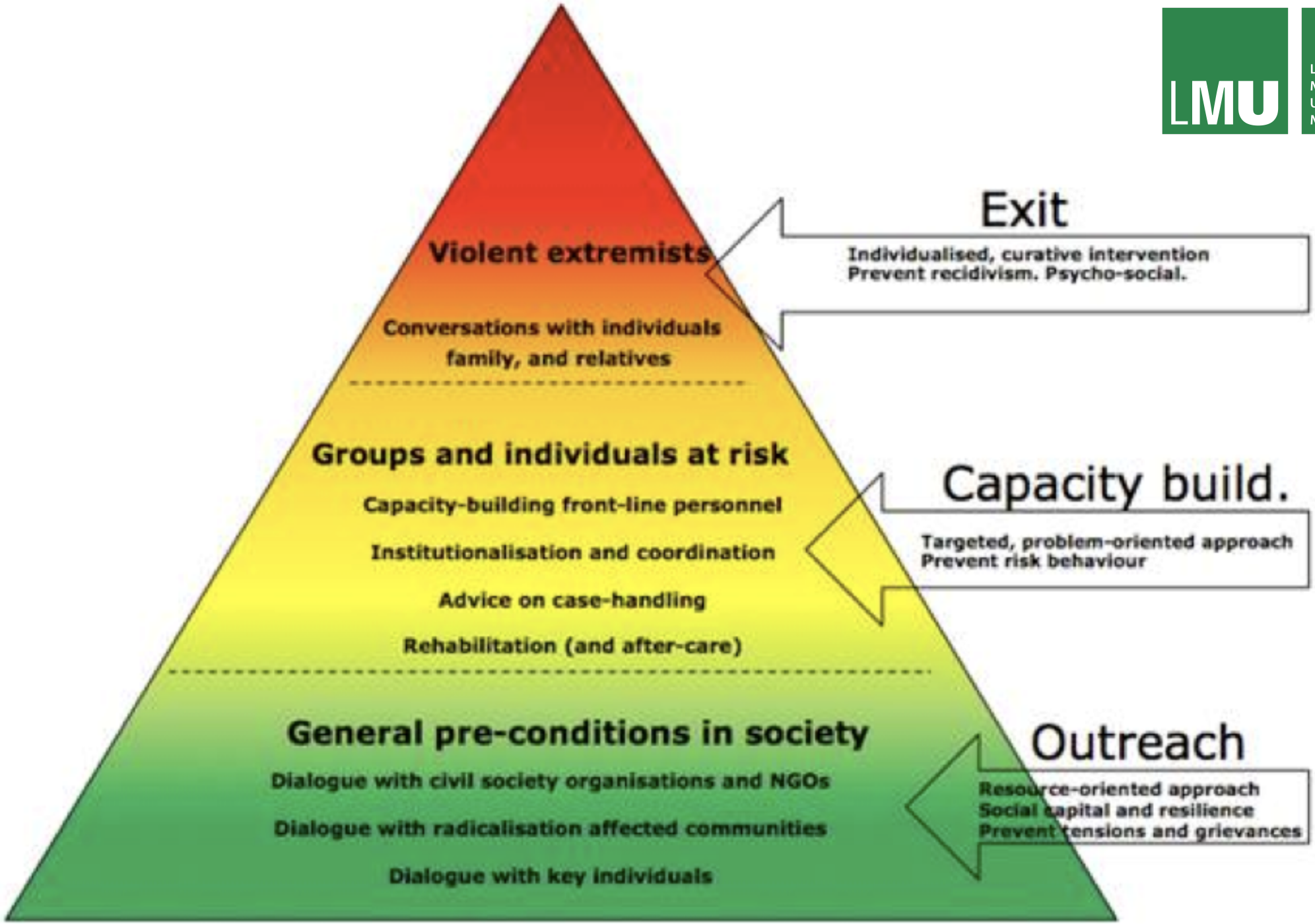
Violent extremists
Conversations with individuals
family, and relatives
Groups and individuals at risk
Capacity-building front-line personnel
Institutionalisation and coordination
Advice on case-handling
Rehabilitation (and after-care)
General pre-conditions in society
Dialogue with civil society organisations and NGOs
Dialogue with radicalisation affected communities
Dialogue with key individuals
Exit
Individualised, curative intervention
Prevent recidivism. Psycho-social.
Capacity build.
Targeted, problem-oriented approach
Prevent risk behaviour
Outreach
Resource-oriented approach
Social capital and resilience
Prevent tensions and grievances

Commonalities in radicalisation models

- recognition of the processual nature of radicalisation
  - vulnerabilities and background factors
  - cognitive opening
    - recognition of some conditions as wrong
    - framing those conditions as unjust and justifying violent remedies
    - singling out specific responsibilities; demonisation of other
  - action
- implicitly: most in society *can become vulnerable* to radicalisation
- prevent and counter (P/CVE)

Commonalities in radicalisation models

- Bjørgo (2005) identifies…

> ideological activists, motivated by ideas; drifters and fellow travelers, seeking friendship; and frustrated youth with criminal records

key finding: **radicals tend to have normal personalities (pathologising is futile)**

Push/pull radicalisation factors

Push/pull radicalisation factors

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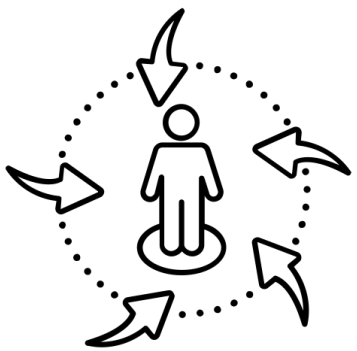
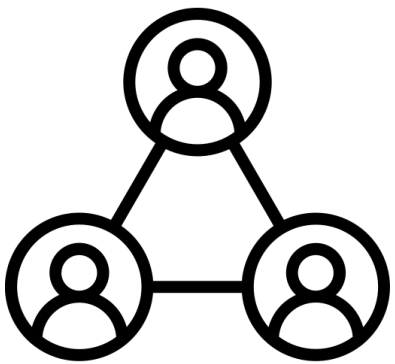
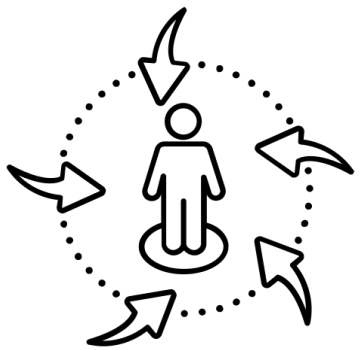
external



Push/pull radicalisation factors

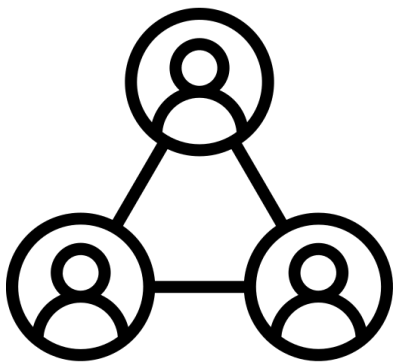
relational external

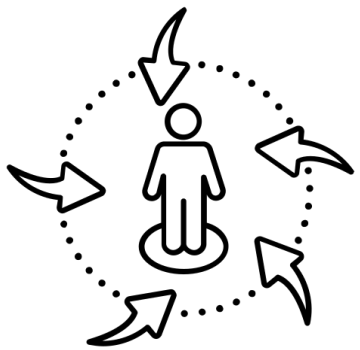




Push/pull radicalisation factors

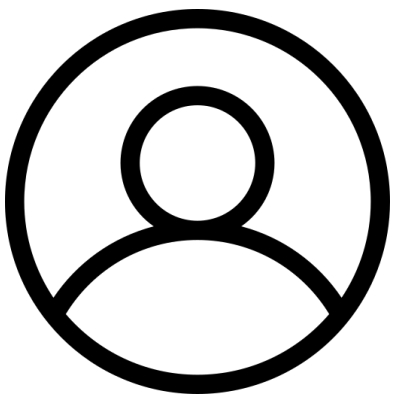
identity relational external

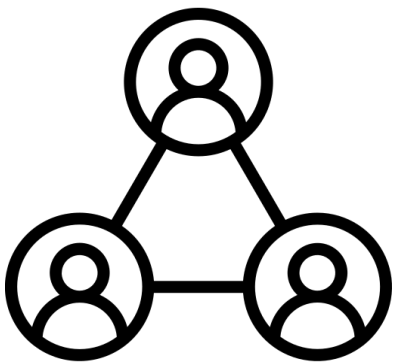


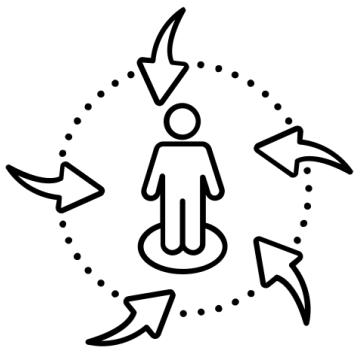


Push/pull radicalisation factors

personal identity relational external

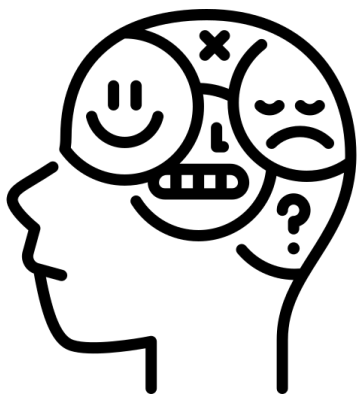


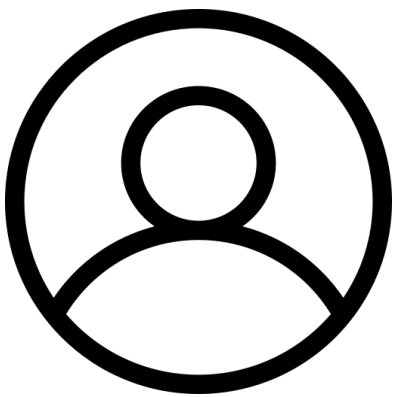


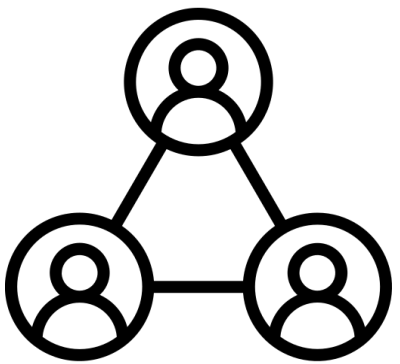


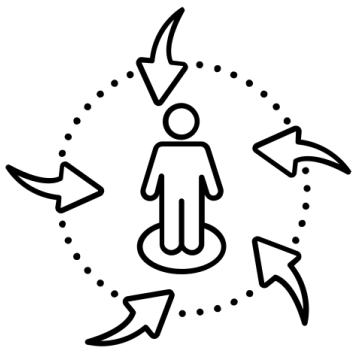
Push/pull radicalisation factors

psychological personal identity relational external



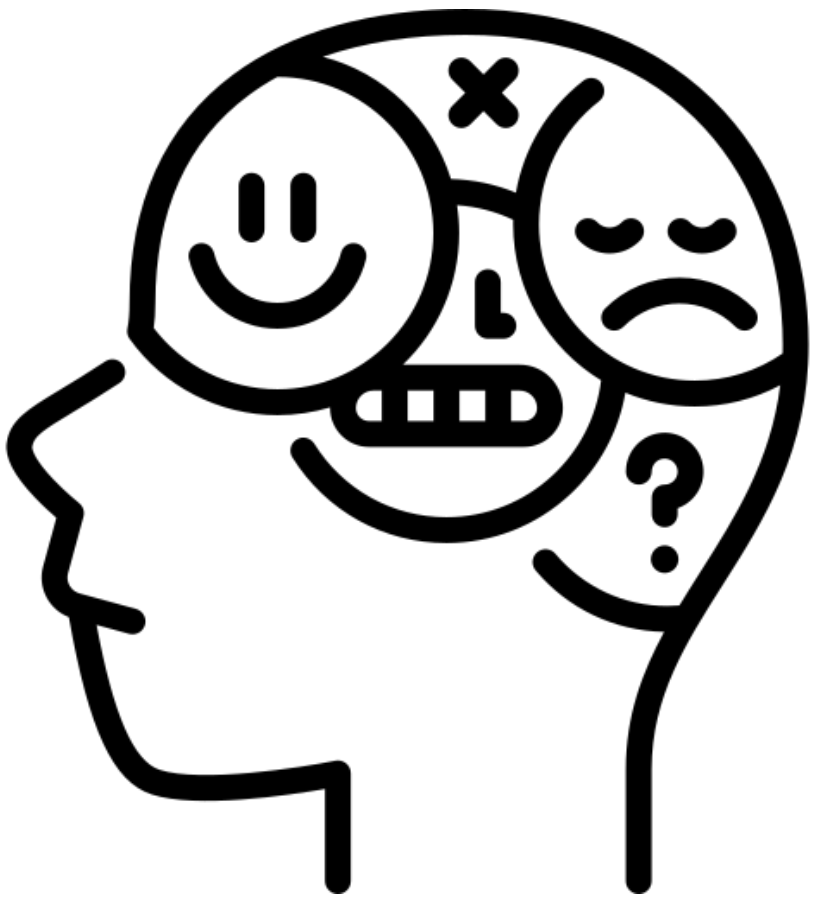






Push/pull radicalisation factors - psychological

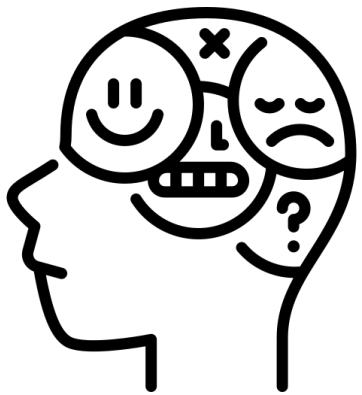
psychological

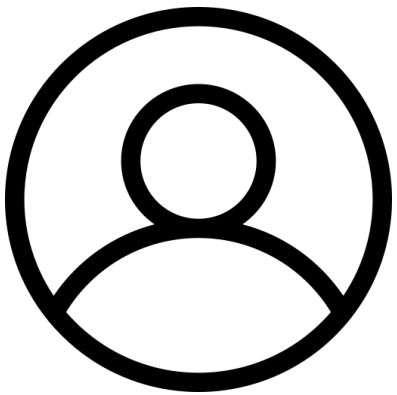


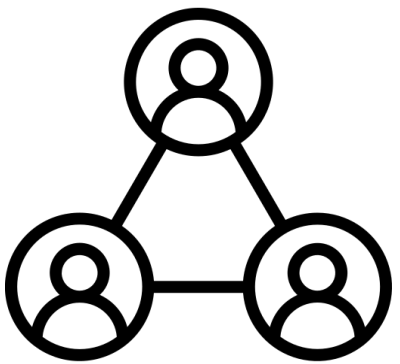
- cognitive, emotional frailties that threaten senses of self, identity, and belonging
  - cognitive, emotional benefits (perceived to be) received by adopting radical beliefs/actions
- crises/breakdowns – moments of acute vulnerability

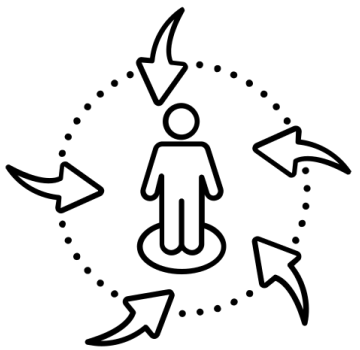
Push/pull radicalisation factors

psychological personal identity relational external





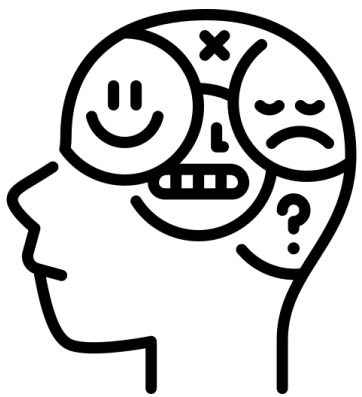


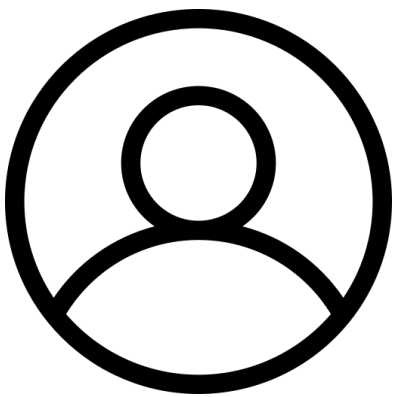


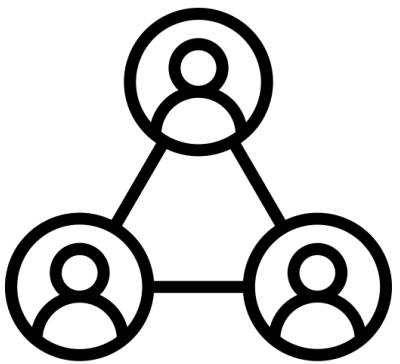
Push/pull radicalisation factors - personal

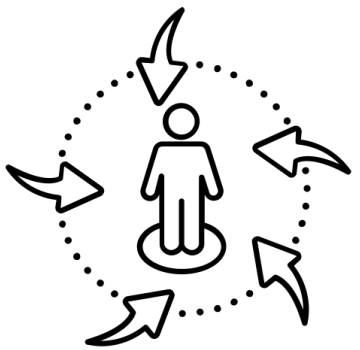
Push/pull radicalisation factors

psychological personal identity relational external









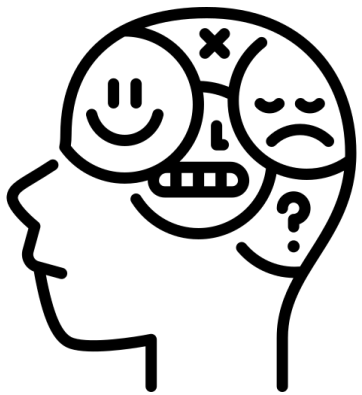
Push/pull radicalisation factors - identity

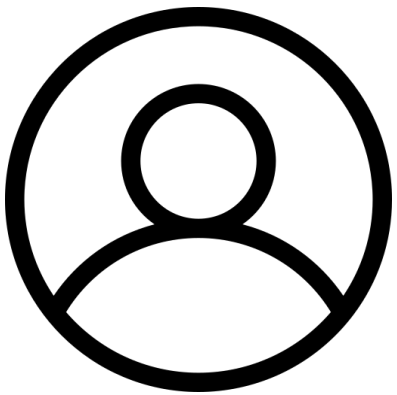
identity

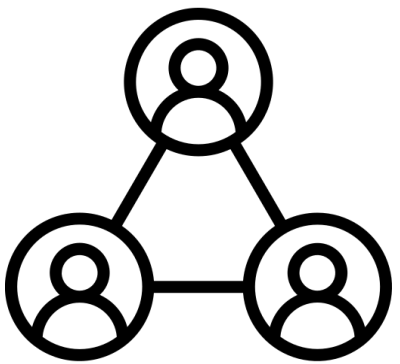
- social isolation (either self-imposed or imposed by external conditions)
  - possibility to join community
  - possibility of 'acquired identity'
- senses of exclusion, discrimination, relative deprivation due to characteristics or beliefs
  - gaining senses of belonging and solidarity

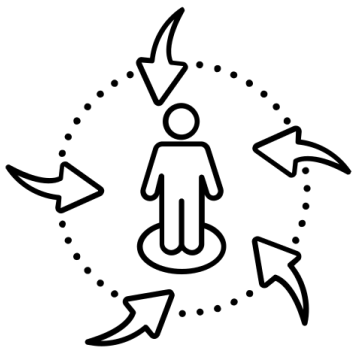
Push/pull radicalisation factors

psychological personal identity relational external









Push/pull radicalisation factors - relational

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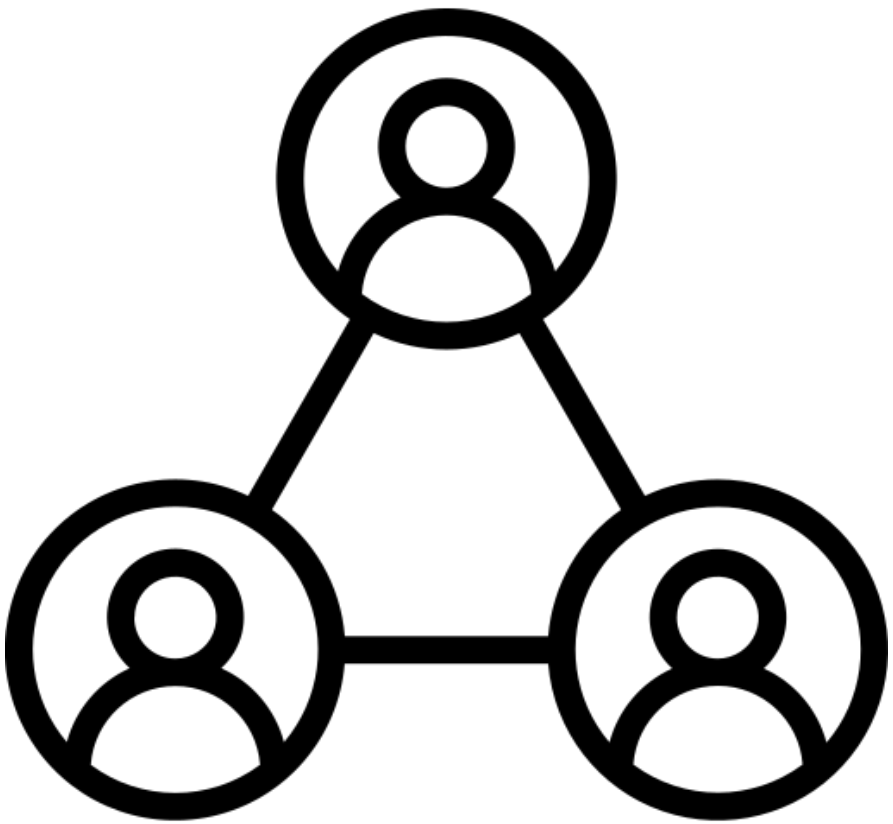
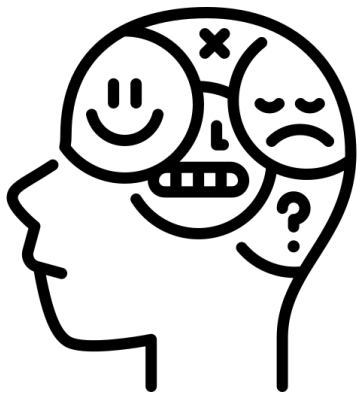
relational

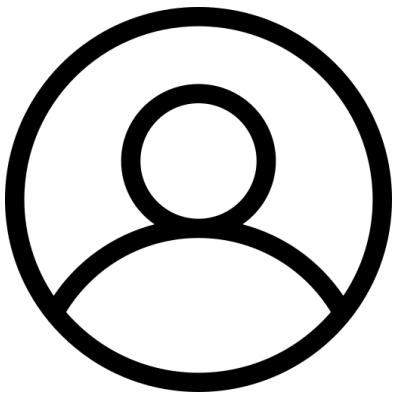


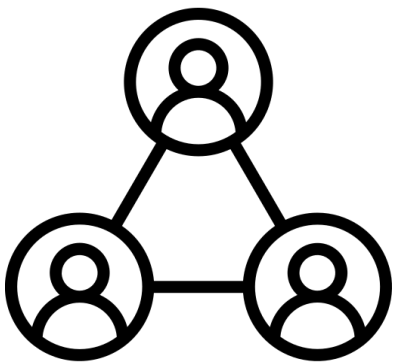
- alienation from family, friends (close interpersonal network)
  - contacts, possibility of building relations in radical milieu
- history of conflict, radical activism
  - recruitment by leaders/members of radical milieu
  - radicalising messages about group norms (beliefs, values, actions that are prototypical)
- community crisis: collective feelings of trouble, danger

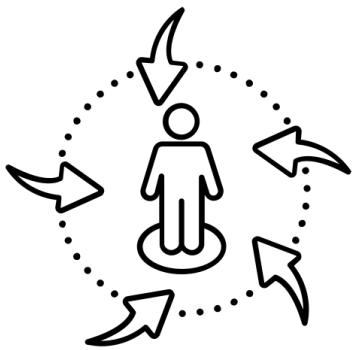
Push/pull radicalisation factors

psychological personal identity relational external



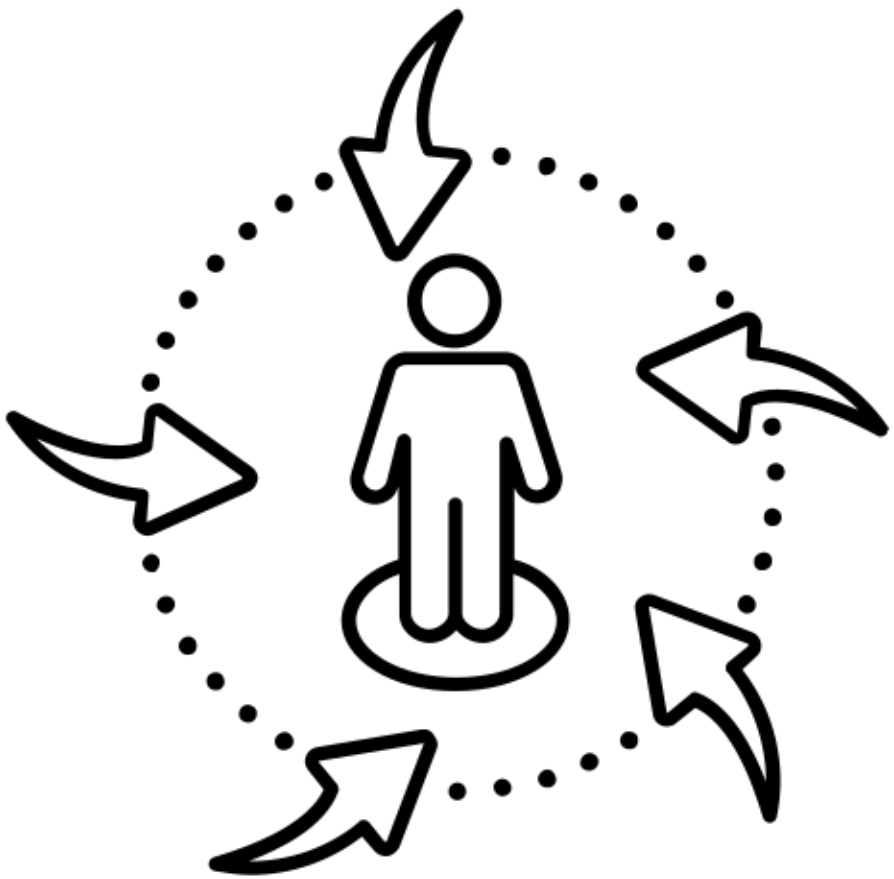






Push/pull radicalisation factors - external

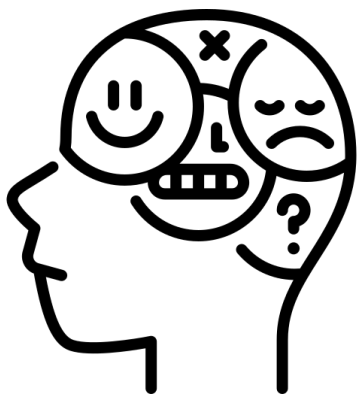
external

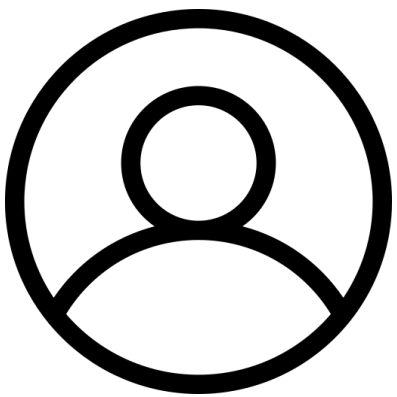


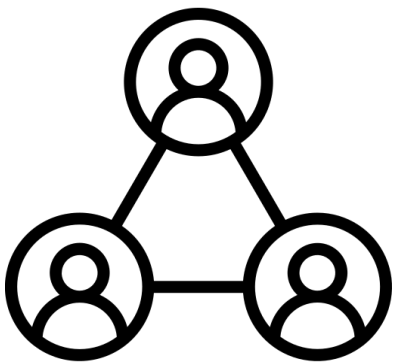
- polarisation in societies
- loss of trust in political institutions
- provocative action from state or social actors
- prevalent extremist discourse(s)
- accessibility of radical/extremist activism
- *many other possiblities*

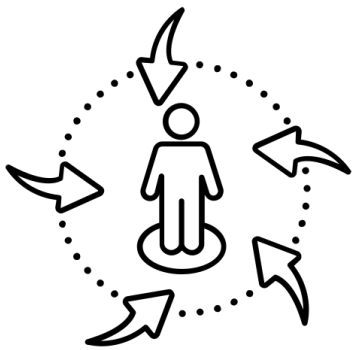
Push/pull radicalisation factors

psychological personal identity relational external





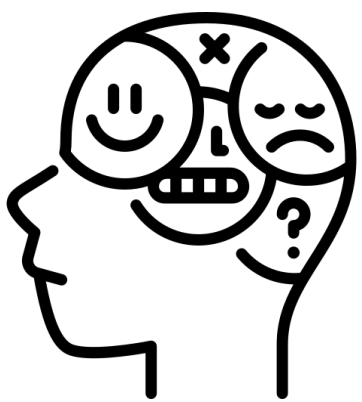
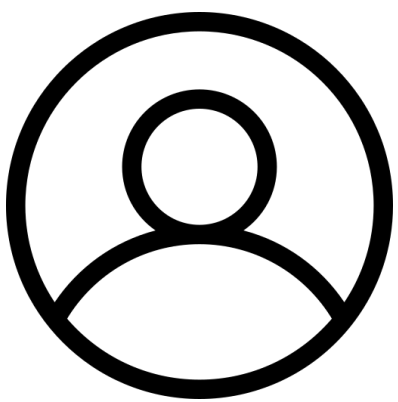


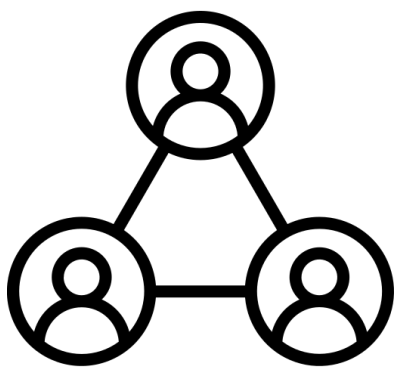
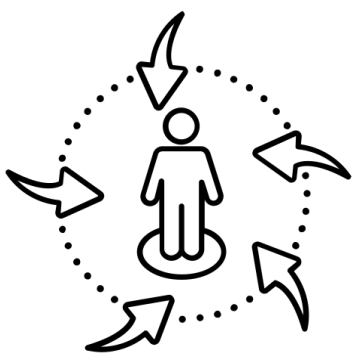


Push/pull radicalisation factors

See further in (e.g.) Campelo et al. (2018), della Porta (2018), Fahey and Simi (2019), Jensen, Seate, and James (2018), Vergani et al. (2018)

psychological personal identity relational external

Radicalisation pathways (Fahey and Simi 2019)

- *RQ*: What are the pathways to ideologically motivated violence among a sample of North American-based right-wing extremists, largely white supremacists and neo-Nazis?
- *data*: 35 life history interviews (corrobated with open-source information)
- *method*: (crisp-set) qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)
  - **Outcome** (dependent variable): use of (planned/spontaneous) extremist violence

Radicalisation pathways - factors (Fahey and Simi 2

- prior property offences (*part of cognitive opening*)
- truancy (*weakening social stability*)
- delinquent peers (*relational influences*)
- family involvement in extremism (*relational influences*)
- lower/working class childhood (*possible manifestations in psychological, personal, identity factors*)
- academic failure (*personal crises*)

But…

Radicalisation pathways - factors (Fahey and Simi 2

- prior property offences (*part of cognitive opening*)
- truancy (*weakening social stability*)
- delinquent peers (*relational influences*)
- family involvement in extremism (*relational influences*)
- lower/working class childhood (*possible manifestations in psychological, personal, identity factors*)
- academic failure (*personal crises*)

But…

> No support was garnered for the identification of distinct pathways of homogeneous risk factors among either sample of

Poll: tendencies of radicalisation

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Take the survey at
https://forms.gle/nqYxotpf7phB8fYP8

- Is there a difference between how individuals radicalise depending on ideology?
- Are younger people more open/vulnerable to radicalisation?

- Has social media changed radicalisation processes?
- Can government programmes effectively deradicalise individuals?
- Should there be incentives for radical/extreme individuals to participate in deradicalisation programmes?

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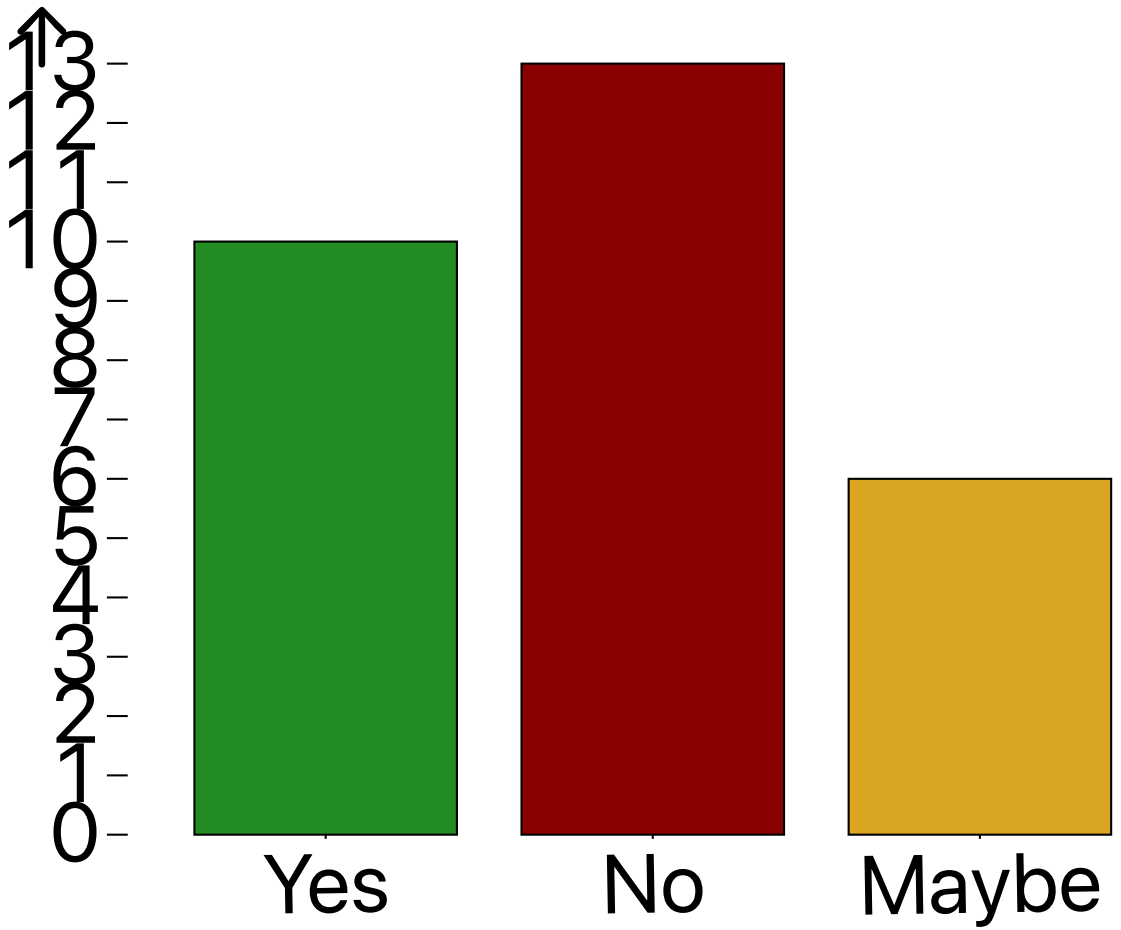
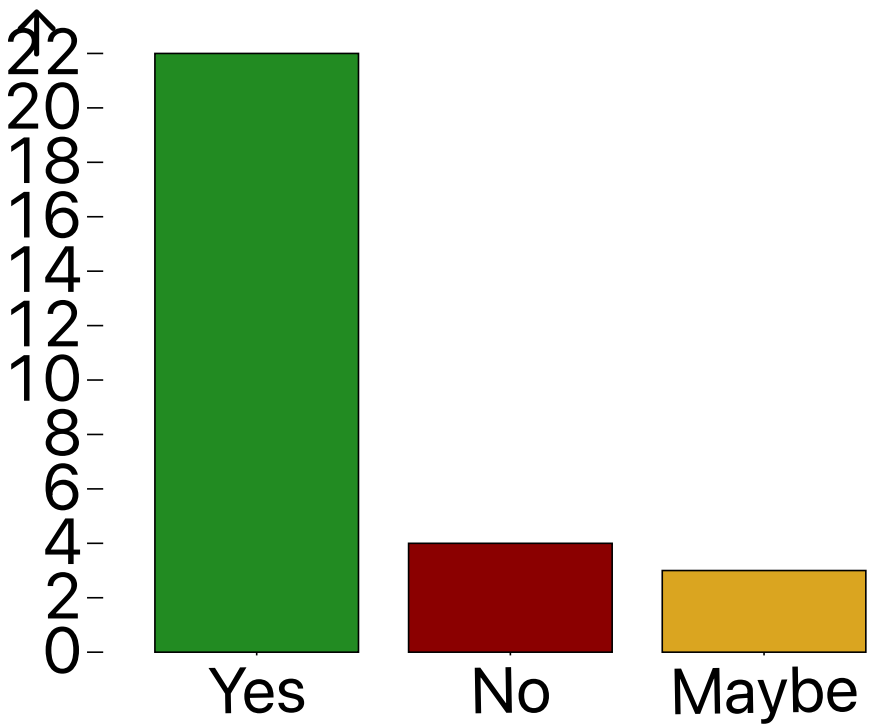
Poll results (Respondents: 29)

Is there a difference between how individuals radicalise depending on ideology?

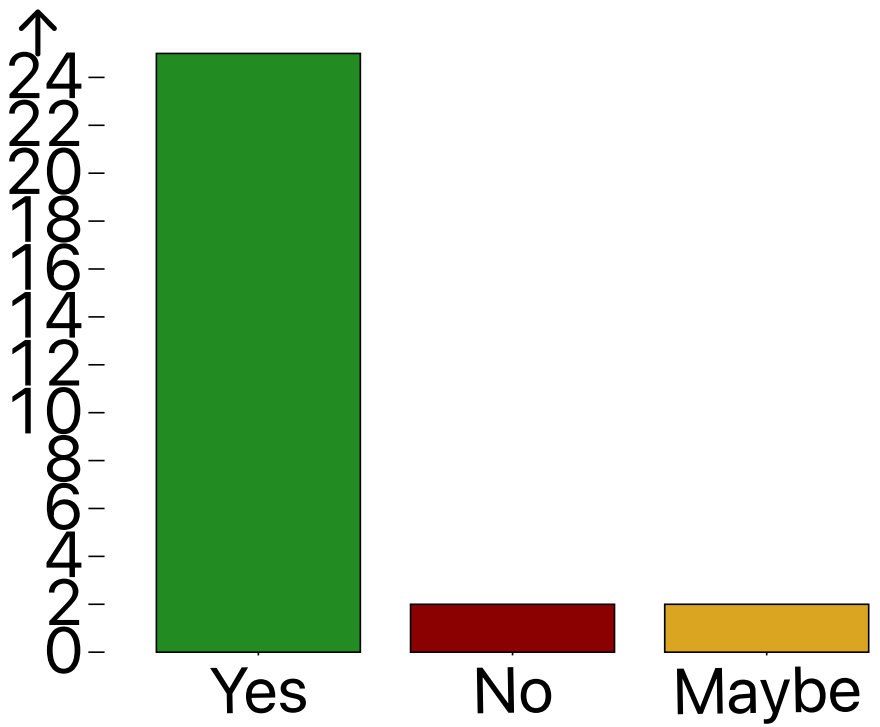


Poll: youth and social media

Younger more vulnerable to radicalisation?



Social media changing radicalisation?



Study snapshot: youth radicalisat

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Dr. Erin Saltman talk (until 8.00 mark)

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Poll: intervention, incentives, emphasis

Why radicalisation fails

- Why Radicalization Fails: Barriers to Mass Casualty Terrorism (Simi and Windisch 2020)
- prevention
- resilience building
  - e.g., Demokratie Leben!

Barriers to terrorism (Simi and Windisch 2020)

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RQs (p834):

> What limits the larger pool of extremists who embrace an ideology but do not translate these beliefs into action? What types of conditions serve as barriers in the action pathway process? And, finally, how can the identification of these barriers help inform counterterrorism measures?

- concepts:
  - action pathways: process of engaging in terrorism or violent extremist actions
  - barriers: maybe but not necessarily segues to disengagement and/or deradicalisation
  - MCV: mass casualty violence

Barriers to terrorism (Simi and Windisch 2020)

RQs (p834):

> What limits the larger pool of extremists who embrace an ideology but do not translate these beliefs into action? What types of conditions serve as barriers in the action pathway process? And, finally, how can the identification of these barriers help inform counterterrorism measures?

- 34 former U.S. white supremacist extremists; life history interviews, conducted between 2012-2016
  - exemplary data description - take note for paper- and thesis-writing!

Methodological issue: 'negative cases'

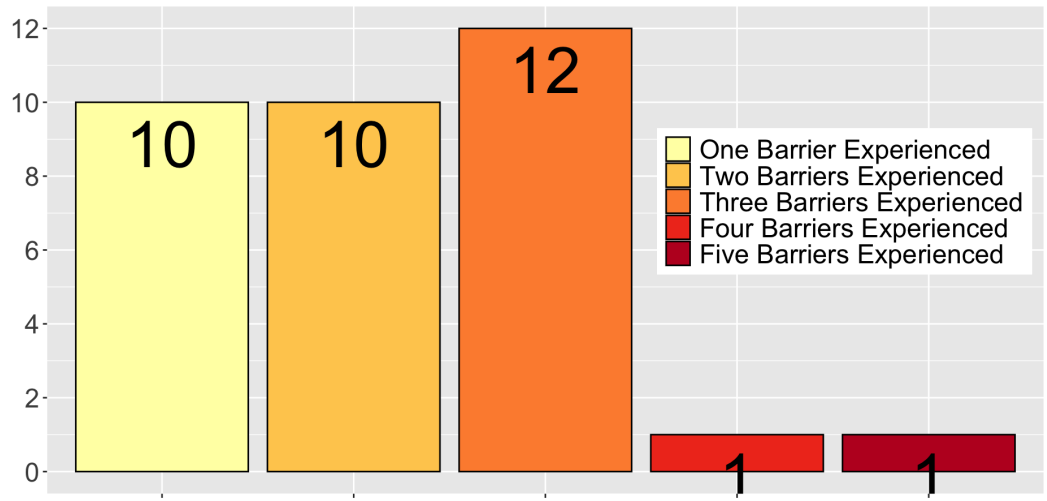
Simi and Windisch (2020, 833–34):

> our sample represents an important step forward in terms of focusing on "negative cases."

(for methods nerds, further on 'negative cases': Emigh 1997; Varshney 2001; Mahoney and Goertz 2004)

Barriers to terrorism - findings (Simi and Windisch 2

1. mass casualty violence as *counterproductive*;
2. preference toward *interpersonal violence*;
3. changes in *focus/availability*;
4. internal *organizational conflict*; and
5. *moral* apprehension



expanding on the findings (Simi and Windisch 2020

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p.839 (**preference toward interpersonal violence**):

> They described interpersonal violence as a masculine endeavor, whereas, shooting or bombing people from a distance was considered dishonorable and unfair. As the following participants explained, compared to street fighting, using a gun expresses a lack of masculinity and physical prowess.

p.841 (**changes in focus/availability**):

> The presence of personal obligations can be thought of as changes in "biographical availability" such as employment, marriage, and children. In all, thirteen participants (37 per cent) were identified as experiencing a change in focus and availability, which constrained the likelihood of MCV and shifted their attention toward personal obligations (e.g., children, work).

p.842 (**internal organizational conflict**):

> A common reason for entering extremism is the appeal of joining a higher moral cause predicated on virtues such as loyalty, kinship, and purity.

Radicalisation prevention

Rune Ellefsen & Sveinung Sandberg (2022): Everyday Prevention of Radicalization: The Impacts of Family, Peer, and Police Intervention, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.

- (de)radicalisation actors in the example of Norway:
  - family
  - peers
  - police/security

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Radicalisation prevention

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- (de)radicalisation actors in the example of Norway:
  - family
  - peers
  - police/security
  - what about other actors?
    - social workers
    - faith leaders
    - NGOs and community organisations

Radicalisation prevention - D.Rad programme

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Resilience building, e.g., Demokratie Leben!

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Any questions, concerns, feedback for this class?

Anonymous feedback here:
https://forms.gle/pisUmtmWdE13zMD58

Alternatively, send me an email: m.zeller@lmu.de

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