



Advanced Study Institute

***Pluralism and Polarization:***

***Cultural Dynamics of Extremism and  
Radicalization***

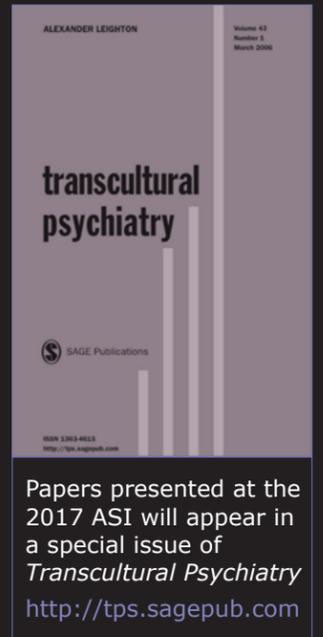
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June 22, 2017  
Montréal, Québec

# Pluralism and Polarization: Cultural Dynamics of Extremism and Radicalization

Recent years have seen an increase in ideological extremism in many countries around the world. There is widespread concern about increasing levels of politically or religiously motivated violence. In some cases, this involves a deliberate process of radicalization and recruitment designed to attract youth to join ongoing conflicts or carry out destructive acts in their regions. In other cases, individuals who are socially marginalized or struggling with mental health problems are impelled toward violence by images and ideologies circulating through popular or social media. Efforts are underway in many countries to address the problem of radicalization to violence. Some have advocated for public health approaches to understanding and intervening to prevent radicalization, but medicalizing social and political problems carries its own risks. Others have focused on building relationships within and between communities to reach marginalized groups and individuals. The impact of anxieties about radicalization goes far beyond the response to specific conflicts. In Europe and North America, concerns with security have fuelled the rise of authoritarianism and the polarization of political debate on immigration and pluralism.

This international conference brings together scholars from cultural psychiatry, psychology, political and social sciences to consider the role of social dynamics, cultural contexts and psychopathology in political radicalization to violent extremism. Participants will address four themes: 1) current meanings and uses of the term radicalization; 2) social determinants, origins and dynamics of violent radicalization and extremism, including individual psychology, family dynamics, social structural and historical forces associated with colonization, globalization and contemporary political, economic and security issues; 3) radicalization in social and cultural context, with cases studies from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas; and 4) community prevention and clinical intervention to reduce the risk of violent radicalization and promote pluralism and social integration.



## conference program

All sessions will be held in the auditorium of the **Institute of Community & Family Psychiatry** 4333 Côte Ste-Catherine Rd., Montreal, QC

### Thursday, June 22, 2017 : 0900-2100

**8:00-8:30 Registration**

**8:30-9:00**

*Welcome & Introduction*

Pluralism and Polarization: Antinomies of Mind and the eclipse of human rights

**Laurence J. Kirmayer, McGill University**

**9:00-9:30**

Collective identity, social adversity and sympathy for violent radicalization

**Cécile Rousseau, McGill University**

**9:30-10:00**

*Pathways to sympathy for terrorism*

**Kamaldeep Bhui, Queen Mary University of London**

**10:00-10:30**

*Social media and the radicalization of youth in the digital age: UNESCO commissioned report*

**Ghayda Hassan, UQAM**

**10:30-11:00 break**

**11:00-11:30**

*Eliciting the cultural and psychological factors of terrorism through declassified FBI interrogation summaries*

**Neil Krishan Aggarwal, Columbia University**

**11:30-12:00**

*Political correctness and polarization: The self-righteous path to authoritarianism*

**Christine Brophy, University of Toronto**

**12:00-12:30**

**Panel: Cultural dynamics of extremism and radicalization**

**12:30-14:00 lunch**

**14:00-14:30**

*Theopathology at the interface between extreme ideologies and religious fanaticism*

**Gilles Bibeau & Keira Mecheri, Université de Montréal**

**14:30-15:00**

*Raspail and racism in contemporary Europe: Working toward reinterpretation of the international refugee crisis*

**G. Eric Jarvis, McGill University**

**15:00-15:30**

*To be tolerated for decades: Intergenerational effects of temporary protection amongst Palestinian refugees in Berlin*

**Caroline Tize, University of Amsterdam**

**15:30-16:00 break**

**16:00-16:30**

*Citizen engagement and countering violent terrorism*

**Myrna Lashley, McGill University**

**16:30-17:00**

*Understanding and preventing violent extremism*

**Saida Abdi, Boston Children's Hospital**

**17:00-17:30**

*Voices from afar: Political conflict, mental distress and the failure of clinical intervention*

**Sushrut Jadhav, University College London**

**17:30-18:00**

*Identity, otherness and attunement in psychotherapy: From the Komagata Maru to reasonable accommodation*

**Jaswant Guzder, McGill University**

**18:00-18:30**

**Closing Panel: Contributions of cultural psychiatry to preventing extremism and radicalization**

**18:30-20:00**

**Reception in Honour of Dr. Jaswant Guzder**

Register for the 2017ASI online at: [www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced/2017](http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced/2017), or complete this form and mail with your cheque for \$150.00 (\$50.00 for full-time students) payable to **McGill University**:  
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Name: .....

Profession: .....

Institutional affiliation: .....

Complete mailing address: .....

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Tel.: ..... e-mail: .....

For online registration or to submit a poster see:  
<http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced/2017>

