

Symposium on Terrorism and Radicalization: Ideology, Networks, Framing and Prevention

Abstract

One can scarcely turn on the news or scroll through social media without coming across 'terrorism' in one form or another. Despite this ubiquity, or perhaps as a result of it, terrorism is a somewhat nebulous concept, and those who conduct research in the field of terrorism studies frequently grapple with various epistemological, methodological, and normative controversies. What counts as 'terrorism,' and is terrorism a new social phenomenon? To what extent are the processes and actors involved in terrorism distinct from those implicated in other human endeavors? How can we access terrorism and terrorists for study? Finally, what can and should be done to counter terrorism? This forum will bring together several scholars who will present their research and produce reflections on these questions, while pointing towards the particular ways that social scientific perspectives can contribute to our understanding of terrorism. The speakers will draw on a wide array of expertise on subjects including apocalyptic cults, anti-radicalization policy, religious revival in China, and radical social movements that operate on the cusp of terror.