

VORTEX NEWSLETTER

COPING WITH VARIETIES OF RADICALIZATION INTO TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of the quarterly VORTEX newsletter. We're delighted to bring you the latest highlights and developments from our dynamic doctoral network. In this edition, we share some insights from our recent second consortium meeting held in Frankfurt and Marburg. This gathering was an opportunity to discuss our doctoral projects, delve into collaborative efforts and engage in fruitful exchanges. Curious to learn more about what's currently on our minds? Check out our blog series at <https://vortex.uni.mau.se/news/blog-2/>.

Thank you for your interest in our doctoral project – we'll continue to keep you up to date on our work and achievements.

Your editorial team – Laura and Lotta

VORTEX News

VORTEX Consortium Meeting in Frankfurt and Marburg (27.02. – 1.03.2024)



An in-person reunion of the VORTEX consortium took place from February 27 to March 1 at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). At the heart of the event were the refined project plans of our doctoral candidates, who sought feedback from their supervisors and other VORTEX consortium members. These were framed by a program of lectures focused on research designs and methodology, thus supporting the doctoral candidates in concretizing their projects. Julian Junk delivered a presentation on research designs, and Thorsten Bonacker discussed the function and position of theory in such research designs. Regina Ammicht-Quinn and Marco Krüger, serving as VORTEX Ethics Advisors, once again

prompted reflection on the ethical challenges of the doctoral projects - after all, they all deal with debated concepts such as radicalization, extremism, or terrorism.

The discussion on research design and methodology was rounded off by the keynote address of our external guest, Lorne L. Dawson from the University of Waterloo, who spoke about a matrix of methodological issues in the study of violent extremism. The consortium furthermore welcomed Garth Davies from Simon Fraser University.

On February 29, the entire consortium was hosted at Philipps University Marburg. The extensive program included a lecture by Julia Schulte-Cloos on right-wing authoritarian attitudes, fast-paced decision-making, and the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines, but also included a city tour for our guests.

Finally, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss joint research possibilities and exchange ideas. Many thanks to all participants - we look forward to the next virtual meeting in Marburg in August 2024.

VORTEX Blog Series

VORTEX has its own blog series where our doctoral candidates regularly publish short pieces related to their work. Check it out at: <https://vortex.uni.mau.se/news/blog-2/>. The following blog posts have been published since the last VORTEX newsletter:

- ➔ On the Challenges of Evaluating Efforts to Prevent a Causally Complex Phenomenon such as Violent Extremism, *Lotta Rahlf*
- ➔ Silencing or Strengthening? The Ongoing Debate Over Deplatforming Extremists, *Marzena Oliveira Ribas*
- ➔ What Do We Mean When Speaking About “Radicalisation”? – Reflections on the Use of a Contested Term, *Laura Stritzke*
- ➔ Interview: Evaluating Extremism Prevention Efforts: Insights from 14 Countries, *Lotta Rahlf*
- ➔ Researching Extremes: The Fine Line of Consent in Online Radicalisation Studies *Marzena Oliveira Ribas*

News from VORTEX doctoral candidates

Research Output

David Malet, Joshua Farrell-Molloy & Joseph Young (2024) Foreign Fighter Mobilization: YPG Volunteers in Their Own Words, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, DOI: 10.1080/09546553.2023.2275055

Media Presence



Joshua Farrell-Molloy made a brief appearance in a recent Irish-language documentary about Finbar Cafferkey, an Irishman and ex-YPG foreign fighter who was killed in action volunteering with Ukrainian forces at Bakhmut in 2023 and discussed why individuals join international conflicts.



Lotta Rahlf was interviewed for two German public service broadcasting programmes and a brief excerpt was also shown on German news. She spoke about the increasing violence against politicians in Germany.



A new season of the Europe Elects podcast was launched with Javid Ibad, VORTEX doctoral candidate, as co-host next to Gabriel Hedengren. Check it out at <https://europeelects.eu/>

Further Activities



Rohan Stevenson was recently accepted onto the Europaem Scholars Programme; a two-year policy and leadership course undertaken alongside a PhD, during which Scholars work in multidisciplinary groups on a project designed to 'make Europe a better place'. More information on the programme can be found here: <https://europeaem.org/programmes/scholars-programme/>.

Stay updated on our social media channels!



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