

# VORTEX NEWSLETTER

*Summer is coming to an end, so it's time for some news from the VORTEX doctoral network. This is the August 2024 edition of our newsletter and here is a little teaser: Just this week, our diverse consortium met for a virtual training event to listen to exciting thematic and methodological talks. Besides, our blog continues to grow, and our doctoral candidates have also been very active with their research.*

*Enjoy reading - we will regularly keep you up to date on what is happening at VORTEX.*

*Your editorial team - Laura and Lotta*

## VORTEX News

### Virtual Training Event in Marburg (26.08. - 28.08.2024)

At the virtual training event held from August 26th to 28th, organized by Marburg University, doctoral candidates and their supervisors came together online. Central to the event were supervision meetings and lectures focused on key topics related to the individual research projects. Beatrice de Graaf, a member of the VORTEX supervisory board, delivered an insightful lecture on her new book, which explores themes of redemption, religion, and radicalization. Additionally, Tore Bjørgo and Corinne Torrekens provided valuable insights on researchers' safety and well-being, with a particular focus on gender perspectives. They shared both personal and institutional experiences, highlighting established best practices. With most doctoral candidates yet to embark on their field research, these discussions on data collection considerations will be highly beneficial.

### VORTEX at the Nordic Conference on Violent Extremism (17.06. - 19.06.2024)

Four VORTEX doctoral candidates participated in this year's Nordic Conference on Violent Extremism, hosted by the Center for Research on Extremism (C-Rex). Rohan Stevenson offered an analysis of how counterterrorism policies problematize extreme right-wing violence. Camilla Winde Gissel shared insights from her field research in Finland, while Lotta Rahlf presented data from her dissertation on countries' efforts to evaluate extremism prevention efforts. Additionally, Javid Ibad moderated a panel discussion. A particularly memorable experience was the group's visit to Utøya, where all presenters and discussants took time to reflect on the island's complex history, contemplating both its bright and dark moments.

For some impressions see also the blog post [“Some impactful individuals of the 6<sup>th</sup> Nordic Conference on Violent Extremism”](#) by Javid Ibad.

## The 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/blog/>. The following blog posts have been published since the last VORTEX newsletter:

**Democracy under threat: attacks on politicians in Germany**

by Lotta Rahlf



**13 Years on: the enduring influence of Breivik's manifesto on far-right terror**

by Joshua Farrell-Molloy



**Presentation at the II International Semiotics Congress of ASIA (Asian Semiotics International Association)**

by Heidi Campana Piva



**Multi-agency approaches in prevention: opportunities and challenges**

by Laura Stritzke



**Some impactful individuals of the 6<sup>th</sup> conference on violent extremism**

by Javid Ibad



**Preventing and counteracting violent extremism in Europe: Expert views on contemporary challenges**

by Lotta Rahlf



**Democracy under threat: the increasing normalisation of threats and violence directed at politicians and electoral candidates**

by Joshua Farrell-Molloy



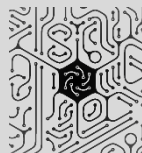
**French terrorism legislation in light of the Russian attack**

by Violette Mens



**Influence of social network processes on radical conspiracy theories (PART 2)**

by Heidi Campana Piva



## News from VORTEX doctoral candidates



Violette Mens just started her secondment in Finland with her co-supervisor Leena Malkki and colleague Rohan Stevenson. After rich feedback on her first paper draft regarding her bibliometric analysis, Violette will be using the next two months to perfect her results and dive deeper into the methodology literature. She also expects to meet all the team of the Center of Excellence Studies and of the European Studies with whom she will be able to discuss her subject and, hopefully, get insightful perspectives. Finally, she will be participating in several local seminars and conferences.

## Research Output

Bressan, Sarah, Sophie Ebbecke, Lotta Rahlf (2024), *How Do We Know What Works in Preventing Violent Extremism? Evidence and Trends in Evaluation from 14 Countries*, GPPI Report, 8.7.2024, <https://gppi.net/2024/07/08/how-do-we-know-what-works-in-preventing-violent-extremism>

Farrell-Molloy, Joshua, “Natural” Connection: An Analysis of Eco-fascism on Terrorgram, Accelerationism Research Consortium, <https://www.accresearch.org/accreports/natural-connection-an-analysis-of-eco-fascism-on-terrorgram>

Malet, David, Brad Galloway, Joshua Farrell-Molloy, Robert Örell, Mubin Shaikh, Charlotte Lopez-Jauffret, Sarah Lynch, Jennifer West, “Insider perspectives: insights from formers on their role as subject-participants in P/CVE research,” *Journal on Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*, 1-18, <https://doi.org/10.1080/18335330.2024.2385901>

Rahlf, Lotta (2024). Participatory Theatre for Preventing Violent Extremism Through Education - Reflections on Prospects and Preconditions, *Journal for Deradicalization*, Summer 2024:39, 77-93, <https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/909>.

## VORTEX at Conferences

- **Semiotics**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> International Semiotics Congress of the Asian Semiotics International Association: Balıkesir, Turkey, June 27, 2024 ([Heidi Campana Piva](#))
  - 10th Congress of the Latin-American Semiotics Association: São Paulo, Brazil, July 5, 2024 ([Heidi Campana Piva](#))
  - 5th Conference of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics: Lund, Sweden, August 15, 2024 ([Heidi Campana Piva](#))
- **Visual analysis**
  - Summer School on ‘Visual Analysis & Contentious Politics’ in Cortona, organized by Scuola Normale Superiore, May 29, .2024, ([Joshua Farrell-Molloy](#))
- **Violent extremism**

- Summer School of the Standing Group on Extremism and Democracy's Concepts and Methods for Research on Far-Right Politics, hosted by C-REX and organized by ECPR, Oslo, July 1 - 5, 2024 (Joshua Farrell-Molloy)
- Nordic Conference on Violent Extremism, Oslo, June 17 - 19, 2024 (Camilla Winde Gissel, Rohan Stevenson, Javid Ibad, Lotta Rahlf)
- **Terrorism**
  - Terrorism and Social Media conference, Swansea, June 18 - 19, 2024 (Joshua Farrell-Molloy)
  - Annual Conference of the European Expert Network on Terrorism Issues, Brussels, June 5 -7, 2024 (Lotta Rahlf)
- **Other**
  - ECPR conference, University College Dublin, August 12 - 17, 2024 (Joshua Farrell-Molloy)

## Other News



On 29 May 2024, Heidi Campana Piva won the **Biosemiotics Achievement Award** for her paper "Semiotically Mediated Human-Bee Communication in the Practice of Brazilian Meliponiculture" published in *Biosemiotics*, vol 16 (2023), issue 1, 105-124.

Link: <https://www.biosemiotics.org/2024/07/09/biosemiotics-achievement-award-2023/>



Laura Stritzke received an '**Honorable Mention**' from the **Peace Psychology Forum** for her master thesis regarding political emotions and especially the role of hope in times of conflict.

Link: <https://www.friedenspsychologie.de/>



Lotta Rahlf spoke about her VORTEX dissertation project on evaluation structures in the field of extremism prevention in a **video interview** as part of the Horizon 2020-funded INDEED project.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJR0i9IE-FVw&list=PLG366E4Mgf7-3nOd-Dh0Bto1IZFiU6Ax6&index=14>



Joshua Farrell-Molloy was featured on a bonus episode of the **Popular Front podcast**, where he spoke about letter bomb campaigns in Europe.

Link: [https://www.patreon.com/posts/99931857?utm\\_campaign=postshare\\_fan](https://www.patreon.com/posts/99931857?utm_campaign=postshare_fan)



Check out new episodes of the **Europe Elects podcast** with Javid Ibad as co-host.

Link: <https://europeelects.eu/podcast/>

Stay updated on our social media channels!



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