

VORTEX NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for this year! As we move forward, all our doctoral candidates are fully immersed in their research, gaining invaluable insights and perspectives, particularly during their secondments.

Looking ahead, we are excited that our next consortium meeting is fast approaching. This time, we will gather in the beautiful city of Turin, hosted by the University of Turin, from March 25-28. We anticipate insightful discussions, valuable collaborations, and the opportunity to reconnect in person.

Vi aspettiamo!

Your editorial team - Laura and Lotta

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:

'The Order' Film Review

by Joshua Farrell-Molloy



Bolsonaro on "Ending Crime" in Brazil During the 2018 Campaign

by Heidi C. Piva

The Cloquet Effect and terrorism Legislation: Irreversible Shifts in Governance

by Violette Mens



Presentation at the 16th World Congress of the IASS (International Association for Semiotic Studies)

by Heidi C. Piva

News from VORTEX doctoral candidates



Laura Stritzke is currently completing her secondment at the [Violence Prevention Network](#) (VPN) in Berlin, where she has been warmly welcomed by the science department. During her time there, she has gained valuable insights into projects related to the possibilities of evaluation and monitoring in extremism prevention work, benefiting from the continuous exchange between research and practice.

Her work has focused particularly on enhancing the applicability and usefulness of feedback methods in prevention practice. To achieve this, she has designed and adapted pedagogical feedback tools tailored to the specific working contexts and conditions of prevention practitioners. This process has been shaped by work shadowing and the implementation of a dedicated workshop, ensuring that the methods are both practical and relevant.

At the same time, her involvement at VPN has deepened her connection to key discussions and prevention practice related to her dissertation research.



Rohan Stevenson spent his secondment at the [Philipps-University Marburg](#), where he continued working on his dissertation on the problem representation of right-wing extremism in multiple countries in Europe and sharpened his focus on Germany in particular. As part of this, he visited the Research Group on Radicalisation at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) for a discussion on the understanding of right-wing extremism among policymakers in Germany. Critically reviewing concepts such as ‘wehrhafte Demokratie’ and ‘gesellschaftliche Mitte’ from a constructivist and critical race theory perspective, Rohan suggested a rethinking of right-wing extremism by engaging with concepts of ‘white supremacy’ and ‘vigilantism’ instead. Since many researchers of the research group working closely on societal, political, and legal discourses surrounding violent extremism in Germany, Rohan’s presentation was received with great interest.

Research Output

There is nothing to report here since the last newsletter, but that does not mean that nothing is happening at VORTEX! We are working on exciting projects, so stay tuned.

VORTEX at Conferences

- Discours institutionnels entre extrémisation et réparation, University of Genova, December 3-4, 2024 (Heidi C. Piva)
- 4th International EUXGLOB Conference, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania, December 5-6, 2024 (Javid Ibad)

Other News



Joshua Farrell-Molloy was [interviewed by France24](#) about the 'Dark Enlightenment' movement and authoritarian ideologue Curtis Yarvin, discussing his growing popularity within Silicon Valley.



Joshua Farrell-Molloy also [spoke with E&E News](#) by Politico, about online wellness influencers, health misinformation and far-right conspiracy theories.



Orwa Ajjoub comments about recent developments in Syria and possible future trajectories in [The Times](#) and [The Sunday Times](#).



Orwa Ajjoub's commentary for [NRC](#) discusses the ongoing opposition operations and the transformation of HTS from a transnational jihadi-Salafi faction into a local group ruling over Northwest Syria



The [Foreign Policy](#) interviewed Orwa Ajjoub to discuss the current situation in Syria, HTS's ability to mobilise support even from its local enemies, and Turkey's agenda in this operation.



[CNN International](#) interviewed Orwa Ajjoub to discuss the recent developments in Syria after the military opposition took control over the central city of Hama.



Orwa Ajjoub's comments in [Le Monde](#) on the complexities of Turkey's role in Syria, including the nature and alliances of the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army, recent operations, and Ankara's long-term objectives in the region.

In this short podcast with [The National](#), Orwa Ajjoub discussed the renewed fighting in Syria, the interests and interventions of regional and global powers, and



how the surprise offensive led by HTS has shifted the dynamics of the conflict for the foreseeable future. Starts at minute 10.

ZEITUN ONLINE

Orwa Ajjoub was interviewed by Theresa Ba from [ZEITUN ONLINE](#) about the evolution of HTS, its leader, the military operation that led to Assad's fall, and what to expect from the group.

svt NYHETER

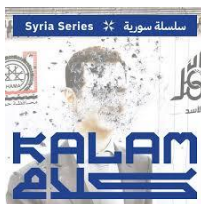
The Swedish National TV [SVT](#) interviewed Orwa Ajjoub about HTS, its rule in Idlib, and the challenges ahead. It starts at minute 26.

SYDSVENSKAN 

Kenan Habul from [Sydsvenskan](#) spoke with Orwa Ajjoub about HTS rule, the fall of Assad regime and the future of Syria.

The New York Times

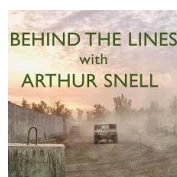
Orwa Ajjoub wrote a commentary for [The New York Times](#) about HTS governance, pragmatic adaptability, and military capabilities.



In the [Kalam Podcast](#) with Edgar Mannheimer, Orwa Ajjoub discusses HTS's evolution, its governance style, and future expectations in detail.

BBC NEWS
TÜRKÇE

Orwa Ajjoub spoke to [BBC News Türkçe](#) about the challenges HTS may face soon in Syria, including its relationship with the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army.



In Arthur Snell's podcast "[Behind the Lines](#)", Orwa Ajjoub discusses current situation in Syria, HTS's radical past and former ties to ISIS and al-Qaeda, the evolving political landscape of the new Syria, and the challenges HTS will face in governing the country.



Orwa Ajjoub speaks in the [Swedish National Radio Konflikt podcast](#) about the HTS Islamists taking over Syria.

Svenska Dagbladet

Orwa Ajjoub speaks in the podcast with [Svenska Dagbladet](#) about why the Assad regime fell so quickly.



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!



Project: 101073440 - VORTEX - HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01
REA.A - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to experts
A.1 - MSCA Doctoral Networks



**Funded by
the European Union**