Nativism, Islamophobism and Islamism in the Age of Populism: Culturalization and Religionization of What is Social, Economic and Political in Europe

European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant

İstanbul Bilgi University, European Institute

Workshop On Radicalization And Political Extremism

8 October 2020, 9:00-12:00 (CET)

Dear Colleague,

We are happy to share that we will be holding an online workshop titled "Workshop on Radicalization and Political Extremism" on 8 October 2020 to share our initial findings from the ERC-funded PRIME Youth project along with presentations from esteemed colleagues on the current debates surrounding radicalisation.

This conference will be moderated by Prof. Constantina Badea of Universite Paris Nanterre.

For additional information on the programme, please contact: Didem Balatlıoğulları, didem.balatliogullari@bilgi.edu.tr

PRIME Youth project website: https://bpy.bilgi.edu.tr/

European Institute website: https://eu.bilgi.edu.tr/tr/

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya   **Prof. Dr. Constantina Badea**
ERC AdG Holder   Social Psychology
İstanbul Bilgi University   Université Paris Nanterre
Director, European Institute   Scientific Advisor to ERC AdG PRIME Youth
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

RADICALIZATION AND POLITICAL EXTREMISM
Workshop Program

Date: 8 October 2020, 9:00-12:00 (CET)

9.00 - 9.15   Opening Remarks by Prof. Constantina Badea (Université Paris Nanterre)

9.15 - 9.30   Presentation of the Project and Overview of Main Initial Findings by Ayhan Kaya (İstanbul Bilgi University)

9.30 - 10.00   Initial Findings by Ayşe Tecmen and Aysenur Benevento (İstanbul Bilgi University, European Institute)

10.00 - 10.30 Discussion and Feedback

10.30 - 10.55 David Bourguignon (Université de Lorraine Metz)
Nada Negraoui (Université de Lorraine Metz)
Layla Azzouzi (Université Catholic of Louvain, Louvain-La-Neuve)

"From Islamophobia to Communitarianism: The dynamic between French and Muslim identities"

10.55 - 11.20 Jocelyn J. Bélanger (New York University Abu Dhabi)

"Ideological Obsession: Sociocognitive Processes and Policy Implications"

11.20 - 11.45 Jais Adam-Troian (American University of Sharjah, UAE)
Thomas Arciszewski (Aix Marseille University, Centre PsyClé)
Eric Bonetto (Aix Marseille University, LPS - Centre PsyClé – INCIAM)

"Using First-Person Plural Pronouns from Search Volume Data to Predict Political Behavior"

11.45 - 12:00 Closing Remarks

Abstracts

Nativism, Islamophobism and Islamism in the Age of Populism: Culturalization and Religionization of What is Social, Economic and Political in Europe

Ayhan Kaya, İstanbul Bilgi University, European Institute

This presentation argues that the current the global financial crisis and the refugee crisis across Europe have led to the escalation of fear and prejudice among the youth who are specifically vulnerable to discourses that culturalise and stigmatize the "other". Young people between the ages of 18 to 30, whether native or immigrant-origin, have similar responses to globalization-rooted threats such as deindustrialization, isolation, denial, humiliation, precariousness, insecurity, and anomia. These responses tend to be essentialised in the face of current socio-economic, political and psychological disadvantages. While a number of indigenous young groups are shifting to right-wing populism, a number of Muslim youths are shifting towards Islamic radicalism. The common denominator of these groups is that they are both downwardly mobile and inclined towards radicalization. Hence, Kaya scrutinize social, economic, political and psychological sources of the processes of radicalization among native European youth and Muslim-origin youth with migration background, who are both inclined to express their discontent through ethnicity, culture, religion, heritage, homogeneity, authenticity, past, gender and patriarchy. In exploring the socio-economic, political and psychological aspects of radicalisation among the European youth, our main question is: How and why do some European citizens generate a populist and Islamophobist discourse to express their discontent with the current social, economic and political state of their national and European contexts, while some members of migrant-origin communities with Muslim background generate an essentialist and radical form of Islamist discourse within the same societies?

In order to understand and explain the relationship between Islamophobism and Islamism emerging in both national and transnational spaces, Kaya will also share the main initial findings from the field research will comprise of in-depth interviews with native youth and Turkish and Moroccan-origin youth in Germany, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Using Values To Guide Analysis: Initial Observations From Our Research Data

Ayşenur Benevento, İstanbul Bilgi University, European Institute

Narrating is purposeful; we use it to present ourselves in ways that connect or disconnect with the social and political milieu or to suggest different views of how things should be. Emphasizing the *should* aspect, we selected values analysis (Daiute, 2014), to analyze the interview transcripts. Values analysis is grounded on the idea that values guide individuals' narratives. People interpret, adopt, modify existing values of their cultures in order to be part of or differentiate themselves from other cultures. There is also a broader process for comparing the value enactments across narratives. In the context of our research, the narratives represented and organized via the four countries and the native/Muslim status will allow us to analyze and compare similarities and differences across groups of people. In this

talk, we will discuss the relevance of this method further and share our initial observations on how our interlocutors interacted with our research interests.

European Union's Articulation of Radicalisation: Deconstructing the Discursive Formulation of Radicalism through Counter Measures

Ayse Tecmen, İstanbul Bilgi University, European Institute

This presentation discusses radicalization and its prevention as a key pillar of EU's counter-terrorism strategy. Tracing the methods of cooperation and the proliferation of prevention strategies, it analyses the EU's radicalization discourse through a discourse-historical analysis focusing on the interplay between EU strategies and social, and cultural developments. This illustrates that the EU mainly reacts to the internal and external dynamics influencing the political and public debates. In the EU's discourse escalation of radicalization to terrorism remains the central premise but in the mid-2010a "root causes" of radicalisation were introduced to partly address individual socioeconomic and psychological factors provoking radicalization.

From Islamophobia to Communitarianism: The dynamic between French and Muslim identities

David Bourguignon, Université de Lorraine Metz
Nada Negraoui, Université de Lorraine Metz
Layla Azzouzi, Université Catholic of Louvain, Louvain-La-Neuve

In France, 4 million people are of Arab origin and are Muslim. Although they are French, they face prejudice and discrimination in daily life. According the Rejection-Identification Model, in the face of discrimination, stigmatized people respond by increasing their identification with their group in order to protect their well-being (Branscombe, Schmitt and Harvey, 1999). Although protective, this strategy is accompanied by hostility towards members of dominant groups. Across two studies, we test the Rejection-Identification Model on a sample of French and Belgian Muslims. Results show that Muslim identification serves as a buffer to cope to Islamophobia and to protect their well-being. Furthermore, no links appear between perceived discrimination and French/Belgian identification and between French/Belgian identification and Muslim Identification. Finally, Muslim identification mediated the relationship between perceived discrimination and French/Belgian hostility. Results shed new light on the phenomenon of communitarianism and will be discussed in light of the stigma literature.

Ideological Obsession: Sociocognitive Processes and Policy Implications

Jocelyn J. Bélanger, New York University Abu Dhabi

In this talk, I posit that violent extremism is driven by "ideological obsession" –an ideological commitment fueled by unmet psychological needs and regulated by inhibitory and ego-defensive mechanisms. Drawing from cross-cultural evidence, I describe four processes through which ideological obsession puts individuals on a path toward violence. First,

ideological obsession deactivates moral self-regulatory processes, allowing unethical behaviours to be carried out without self-recrimination. Second, ideologically obsessed individuals are easily threatened by information that criticises their ideology, which in turn leads to hatred and violent retaliation. Third, ideological obsession changes people's social interactions by making them gravitate toward like-minded individuals who support ideological-violence. Finally, ideologically obsessed individuals are prone to psychological reactance, making them immune to messages intended to dissuade them from using violence. In fact, messages espousing nonviolence have the opposite effect by reinforcing their violence-supporting ideology. I conclude by presenting strategies to prevent radicalisation for individuals in pre-criminal spaces.

Using First-Person Plural Pronouns from Search Volume Data to Predict Political Behavior

Jais Adam-Troian, PhD, American University of Sharjah, UAE
Thomas Arciszewski PhD, Aix Marseille University, Centre PsyClé
Eric Bonetto PhD, Aix Marseille University, LPS - Centre PsyClé – INCIAM

The main factor mobilizing individuals into violent and nonviolent political action remains the extent to which they feel identified with a protesting group (i.e., social identification). Social identification is therefore a key driver of both activism and radicalism. Although the link between social identification and political behavior is well-established, current evidence relies mostly on self-report data. To tackle this issue, we combined real-life protest counts in the US (2017-2020) with online search data (Google Trends) for pronouns indicating a 'group' mindset (first-person plural pronouns; e.g. 'we', 'us'). Time series analyses indicated that weekly fluctuations in searches (N = 164) predict both protest and protester counts over time. Confirmatory mixed-models then showed that a 1% increase in pronoun searches was linked with +13.67% protests and +47.45% protesters the following week. These original results have important implications for the ecological study and quantification of political behavioral dynamics in psychology. Future research should aim to replicate and extend these findings to violent political behavior as well as participation in terrorist organizations.

Participants

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