

## ***Preface***

**Andreas Armborst**

From: Andreas Armborst, Erich Marks, Catrin Trautmann, Simone Ullrich (Eds.):  
Countering Violent Extremism  
Building an evidence-base for the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism  
Pro BUSINESS GmbH 2018, Page 9-10  
978-3-96409-063-8 (Printausgabe)

## **Andreas Armbrorst**

### **Preface**

As early as 2002, when few people were thinking about soft measures to address terrorism, John Braithwaite, an early advocate for CVE, recommended “a web of controls to prevent terrorism” (Braithwaite, 2002: 31). He proposed that primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention constitute a more sustainable CVE strategy than the US war on terror. The stated rationale of the war on terror was to permanently neutralize the threat of jihadi terrorism through swift and decisive military action. More than fifteen years later, the war on terror has not accomplished this goal. In 2015, the White House communicated in its National Security Strategy that CVE is “more important than our capacity to remove terrorists from the battlefield (The White House 2015: II). The emerging field of CVE thus marks a paradigm shift in national and international strategies to prevent terrorism.

Today, the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism ranks high on the international political agenda, but our understanding about the impact of preventive programs and measures remains limited. To reduce the threat of terrorism and political violence effectively and through proven practices, policy makers and practitioners need a reliable evidence base. Rigorous evaluation is also crucial for political accountability as public spending grows together with concerns about the effectiveness of these programs. Consequently, we need to know whether the actions taken have the desired effect because it consumes precious time of various professional groups to implement and deliver preventive measures. Therefore, we need a better evidence base to evaluate whether social interventions – may it be at school, in the community or in prison – are worth our efforts.

But how do we know whether we have successfully prevented something, if we cannot observe things that do not happen? Whereas this conundrum cannot be solved for a single case, we can make valid statements about preventive effects for larger populations, if we systematically compare cases that engaged in extremist violence with those that did not. Criminological research has produced an abundance of studies that show how preventive measures did or did not reduce

crime. Their research methods might also be helpful for building an evidence base for CVE.

The conference “building an evidence base for the prevention on violent extremism” brought together selected researchers, practitioners and government experts with the aim of debating virtues and limits of “evidence-based practices” in the context of radicalisation and violent extremism. The National Center For Crime Prevention (NZK)<sup>1</sup> and the German Congress on Crime Prevention (GCOCP-i) held the conference with funding from the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

We invited participants to contribute a paper to this edited volume, not necessarily on the particular topic of evaluation, but on CVE in general. We would like to cordially thank all authors for their valuable contributions and hope they will inspire readers to advance the various areas of CVE.

## **Bibliography**

- Braithwaite, J (2002). Thinking critically about the War Model and the Criminal Justice Model for combatting Terrorism. Paper to Law and Society Association Meeting Panel on “Finding Ground Between Traditional Adversaries”, Vancouver, June 2002. Retrieved from [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=330500](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=330500)
- White House (2016) Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States, October 2016.

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.nzkrim.de](http://www.nzkrim.de).

## Content

<b>Programme</b> .....	5
<b>ANDREAS ARMBORST</b>	
Preface .....	9
<b>PAUL CAUBAUGH</b>	
CVE without narrative – “A book without a story” .....	11
<b>JOEL DAY AND SCOTT KLEINMANN</b>	
Combating the cult of ISIS: a social approach to CVE .....	23
<b>ASIEM EL DIFRAOUI</b>	
The role of culture in preventing and reducing violent extremism.....	41
<b>EUROPEAN FORUM FOR URBAN SECURITY</b>	
Preventing and fighting radicalization leading to violent extremism in Europe – the importance of local security analyses and evaluations ...	51
<b>PATRICK FRANKENBERGER</b>	
Is the Internet a Factor in Radicalization? Jihadist propaganda is targeting youngsters.....	65
<b>DANIEL KOEHLER, FRANK BUCHHEIT AND ASIYE SARI-TURAN</b>	
Applying quality standards in countering violent extremism and deradicalization. The case of Baden-Württemberg.....	75
<b>SUSAN SZMANIA</b>	
Investing in CVE and terrorism prevention program assessment and evaluation.....	91
<b>CLIVE WALKER</b>	
Preventing terrorism and countering extremism in the United Kingdom: Policy content, conflict and confusion.....	99
<b>Authors’ Biographies</b> .....	113