

UNVEILING THE INTERPLAY OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND RADICALISATION IN NORTH-WESTERN EUROPE

THE DRIVE PROJECT MAJOR CONFERENCE



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands



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UNIVERSITY**



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FRYSHUSET

Conference Venue : Stanhope Hotel Brussels

Rue du Commerce / Handelsstraat 9, 1000, Brussels

Conference Dates: 11-12 June 2024



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Rationale for the conference

The DRIVE Project, a groundbreaking initiative funded by the European Commission and coordinated by Leiden University in The Hague, is pleased to announce an international conference unveiling its three-year investigation into the complex interplay between social exclusion and radicalisation across four European countries. This conference brings together leading scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and community groups to critically examine the multifaceted drivers of extremism and chart evidence-based strategies for building resilient, inclusive societies.

In an era of heightened polarisation and emerging threats, understanding the root causes of radicalisation is more crucial than ever. The DRIVE Project offers nuanced insights into how experiences of marginalisation and alienation can fuel susceptibility to extremist ideologies. By situating radicalisation within broader societal dynamics, this conference challenges prevailing assumptions and illuminates the urgent need for holistic, interdisciplinary approaches. Attendees will gain cutting-edge knowledge on the intersections of social exclusion, identity, belonging, and pathways to extremism.

Target audience

This conference welcomes a diverse assembly of 100–120 attendees, sharing the data analysis and knowledge that we have gathered across the course of the project and fostering dynamic dialogue with interested stakeholders from a range of key sectors, including:

- Academics specialising in radicalisation, extremism, social exclusion, conflict studies, and related fields.
- Policymakers are involved in shaping prevention and integration strategies at local, national, and European levels.
- Practitioners engaging on the frontlines of counter-radicalisation, including social workers, educators, and community leaders.
- Civil society organisations, charities, and community groups are challenging extremism and advocating for social inclusion and resilience strategies to combat radicalisation.

Whether you are an established expert, an engaged community stakeholder, or an emerging campaigner, this conference offers an unparalleled opportunity to exchange state-of-the-art research, field-tested practices, and innovative policy visions. Please join us in debate and discussion oriented towards leveraging collective wisdom to confront one of the defining challenges of our time.



Outcomes and outputs

Catalysing knowledge into action, this conference aims to:

- Disseminate the groundbreaking findings of the DRIVE Project, unveiling fresh evidence on the understudied linkages between social exclusion and radicalisation across the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and the UK.
- Advance conceptual and theoretical frontiers by interrogating the complex interplay of ideological, political, and socioeconomic factors in shaping radicalisation processes.
- Bridge disciplinary silos and fortify emerging best practices through interactive workshops, plenaries, and informal networking.
- Provide a central arena for marginalised voices and engage impacted communities as vital partners in co-creating context-sensitive, empowering solutions.
- Equip policymakers with robust, research-backed recommendations for crafting proactive inclusion agendas that mitigate vulnerability to extremist narratives.
- Forge enduring networks of inspiration and collaboration that will serve as springboards for future research, practice, and advocacy.
- Stimulate public discourse and media engagement to shift dominant narratives around radicalisation, dispel misconceptions, and galvanise popular support for transformative social change.

This conference represents a clarion call to action, mobilising knowledge as a catalyst for building a Europe where all can thrive with dignity—a Europe that is steadfastly and actively resilient in the face of polarising forces. Together, we can rewrite the script on radicalisation, making social inclusion the cornerstone of sustainable security. Your voice and involvement are essential in this vital endeavour.



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

11 JUNE – DAY 1. Unravelling the Nexus: Radicalisation and Social Exclusion in Europe

13.00-13.30 – Registration (Coffee, tea and refreshments served upon arrival)

13.30-14.00 – Welcome and Opening Remarks

Opening remarks and housekeeping – Cátia Moreira de Carvalho, Leiden University

The DRIVE Project journey: advances, challenges, and opportunities – Tahir Abbas, Leiden University

Next steps – Inés Bolaños Somoano, Leiden University

14.00-15.00 – Keynote Speech: Introduction to Radicalisation and Social Exclusion

Chair – Mark Sedgwick, Aarhus University

Speaker – Alison Scott-Bauman, SOAS, London

15.00-15.30 - Coffee break

15.30-17.30 - Panel 1: DRIVE Findings by Country

Moderator – Associate Professor Nadia Fadil, KU Leuven

The Netherlands: Tahir Abbas, Leiden University; Denmark: Mark Sedgwick, Aarhus University; United Kingdom: Gabe Mythen, University of Liverpool, and Eolene Boyd-MacMillan, University of Cambridge; and Norway: Valerie DeMarinis, Oslo University, Umeå University, and Innlandet Hospital Trust

17.30-17.45 – Closing Remarks



12 JUNE – DAY 2. Bridging Research and Policy: Translating DRIVE Findings into Actionable Impact

09.30-09.45 – Late Registration

09.45-10.30 – Panel 2: Public Mental Health Consequences of Social Exclusion

Speakers: Valerie DeMarinis (Oslo University, Umeå University, and Innlandet Hospital Trust), Eolene Boyd-MacMillan (University of Cambridge), and Claire Allely (University of Salford)

10.30-11.00 – Coffee break

11.00-12.30 – Panel 3: Findings on Far Right and Nationalist Groups

Moderator – Kaunert, Christian, Dublin City University

Speakers – Mark Sedgwick and Gabe Mythen

Respondents – Joel Busher (Coventry University) and Lynn Schneider (ICCT, Netherlands).

3.30 – Lunch

13.30-15.00 – Panel 4: Findings on Muslim Communities and Government Relations

Moderator – Richard McNeil-Willson, University of Edinburgh

Speakers – Tahir Abbas and Valerie DeMarinis

Respondents: Amna Kaleen (University of Sheffield) and Paul Thomas (University of Huddersfield)

15.00-15.30 – Coffee break

15.30-16.30 – Panel 5: Translating Research into Policy Impact

Opening remarks – Inés Bolaños Somoano, Leiden University

Roundtable discussion with all DRIVE Principal Investigators and Alberto Contaretti (Radicalisation Awareness Network), Christian Kaunert (Dublin City University, Ireland), and Nadia Fadil, (KU Leuven)

Closing remarks – Cátia Moreira de Carvalho, Leiden University

16.30-16.45 - Closing Remarks: Tahir Abbas, Leiden University



A note on the speakers, moderators, and panellists

Abbas, Tahir	Professor of Radicalisation Studies, Leiden University and Honorary Professor, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter
Allely, Claire	Professor of Forensic Psychology at the University of Salford
Bolaños Somoano, Inés	Post-doctoral research fellow, Leiden University
Boyd-MacMillan, Eolene	Senior Research Associate, University of Cambridge
Busher, Joel	Professor of Political Sociology, Coventry University
Contaretti, Alberto	Policy Support Project Manager, Radicalisation Awareness Network
DeMarinis, Valerie	Senior Professor in Public Mental Health at the Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine at Umeå University, Sweden; Professor of Public Mental Health Promotion at Innlandet Hospital Trust, Norway
Fadil, Nadia	Associate Professor in Anthropology at the Interculturalism, Migration and Minorities Research Centre at Catholic University of Leuven
Kaleem, Amna	Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield
Kaunert, Christian	Professor of International Security at Dublin City University
McNeil-Willson, Richard	Alwaleed Fellow, University of Edinburgh
Moreira de Carvalho, Cátia	Post-doctoral research fellow, Leiden University
Mythen, Gabe	Professor of Criminology, Sociology, Social Policy, and Criminology, University of Liverpool
Scott-Bauman, Alison	Professor of Society and Belief in the Centre of Islamic Studies in the Near and Middle East Department at SOAS, London
Schneider, Lynn	Research Fellow, Preventing / Countering Violent Extremism, ICCT, Netherlands
Sedgwick, Mark	Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, Aarhus University
Thomas, Paul	Professor of Youth and Policy and Associate Dean, University of Huddersfield

