

***The process of radicalization leading to violence (RLV): perceptions of the Quebec population, and the influence of both traditional mass media and new social media (MSM)***

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**General and useful information for the participants**

**TEAM**

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Co-researchers: Frédéric Bastien, political sciences; Dianne Casoni, criminology; Gilles Bibeau, anthropology; and Patrice Brodeur, religious studies, UMontréal; Allison Harell, political sciences, UQAM; Jean-Philippe Perreault, Chair Youtj et religions, ULaval; Sylvain Rocheleau, communication, USherbrooke (+ around fifteen collaborators).

**OBJECTIVE**

The project seeks to better understand the role played by many type of media – understood here as mass media and social media (MSM) – on the perceptions of Quebecers and on the dynamic of radicalisation leading to violence (RLV).

**QUESTIONS**

The project seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the perceptions of the Quebec population regarding various forms of radicalisation leading to violence (RLV)?
- What are the effects of an event staging a form of RLV on these perceptions
- What are the impacts of different media contents, styles and supports?
- What is the role of the MSM in the dynamic of RLV and in the formation of radicalized nuclei?

**METHODOLOGY**

To answer these complex questions, the project brings together a multidisciplinary team and combines different methodologies at the cutting edge, quantitative and qualitative. Great care is taken in the participants' informed consent and confidentiality. Quantitatively, the team conducts two big surveys (SOM) about the perceptions and reactions of Quebecers; uses the *Observatoire de la circulation de l'information* (OCI) to guide the development of a media database from which they intend to draw out salient information; conducts two experiments with the *Laboratoire de communication politique et d'opinion publique* (LACPOP) to measure the effect of various types of media coverage and platforms. Qualitatively, few researches are conducted: a) the analysis of the media corpus by OCI; b) biographical interviews; c) an online survey, of which volunteer respondents will respond d) to semi-structured interviews and, if they wish, e) a few of them will then keep daily personal journals on their use of the media, and, after that, f) focus groups with media professionals about the process of creating the news; g) the interviews with practitioners on the dynamics of the RLV and on the formation of nuclei of radicalized individuals, and, finally, h) participant observations of public events and social media forums. A research report will be completed during the third year and will be available online.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The underlying goals of this project are, above all, a keen understanding and prevention of RLV, and, in a related way, de-radicalization or counter-radicalization (Quebec's Government, 2015). The methodologies chosen will enable us to gather data pertinent to meeting these goals.

### **NATURE AND SCOPE OF BENEFITS**

The findings will be beneficial in three ways:

- a. Practical level, e.g., as part of widely-disseminated tools and strategies to prevent RLV;
- b. Political level, e.g., the results obtained will lead to knowledge useful for "deconstructing prejudices" and guiding inclusive policies;
- c. Public level, e.g., family, educational, and social service programmes will benefit from our results.

### **PARTNERS**

The project involves nine university partners and thirteen community and organisational partners, notably from a CISSS, from academic, journalistic, and Muslim organisations, and those dedicated to popular education.

### **CONTACT**

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