

SYMPOSIUM 1: WEAVING COLLABORATIONS AND NEGOTIATING FIREWALLS IN POLARIZED TIMES

Background: Addressing the issue of social polarization and violent radicalization requires strong intra- and inter-disciplinary partnerships on local, national, and international levels.

Aim: This symposium will examine how the present social context of rapid inter-group and inter-community relation transformation shapes the challenges of partnership processes among institutions, clinicians and researchers.

Method: Presenters will discuss and analyze different corpus of data, from clinician voices to field-notes about research and clinical partnerships, to identify partnership challenges and strategies to overcome them.

Results: The presenters will propose that partnership processes may mirror the fear and Othering processes which permeate our social relations and legitimize, to a certain extent, the state of exception which is associated with national security discourses.

Implications: The challenges of partnerships related to work on social polarization and violent radicalization will be discussed in terms of broader applications across other topics in the field of cultural psychiatry.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this symposium participants will be able to:

1. Participants will be able to identify challenges of partnerships between institutions, clinicians, and researchers focusing on the topic of social polarization and violent radicalization.
2. Participants will be able to translate strategies to overcome partnership challenges to their own research and clinical practice.

References

1. Ragazzi, F. (2016). Suspect community or suspect category? The impact of counter-terrorism as 'policed multiculturalism'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 42, 724-741.
2. Felton, C. J. (2004). Lessons learned since September 11th, 2001 concerning the mental health impact of terrorism, appropriate response strategies and future preparedness. *Psychiatry: Interpersonal and Biological Processes*, 67, 147-152.