8th German-Brazilian Dialogue on Science, Research and Innovation

RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENCE:
PERSPECTIVES AND PREVENTION APPROACHES

Session 2.3: Science and Research

Evidence based prevention of violent extremism

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Funded by

Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

NZK FORSCHEN WISSEN HANDELN
Nationales Zentrum Kriminalprävention

Outline

1. What is evidence based PVE/CVE?
2. Evidence base I: causes and correlates of violent extremism
3. Evidence base II: impact of PVE/CVE
4. Conclusion/outlook

1. What is evidence based PVE/CVE?

"A preventive approach is evidence-based to the extent to which scientific research is able to establish a (theoretical and empirical) link between the approach and its intended outcomes."

(NZK working definition)

- Paradigm originating from health care and medicine (1972 Archie Cochrane)
- Adaptation to social programs by Donald T. Campbell (1970's)
- Clinical trials and social experiments (RCTs)

1. What is evidence based PVE/CVE?

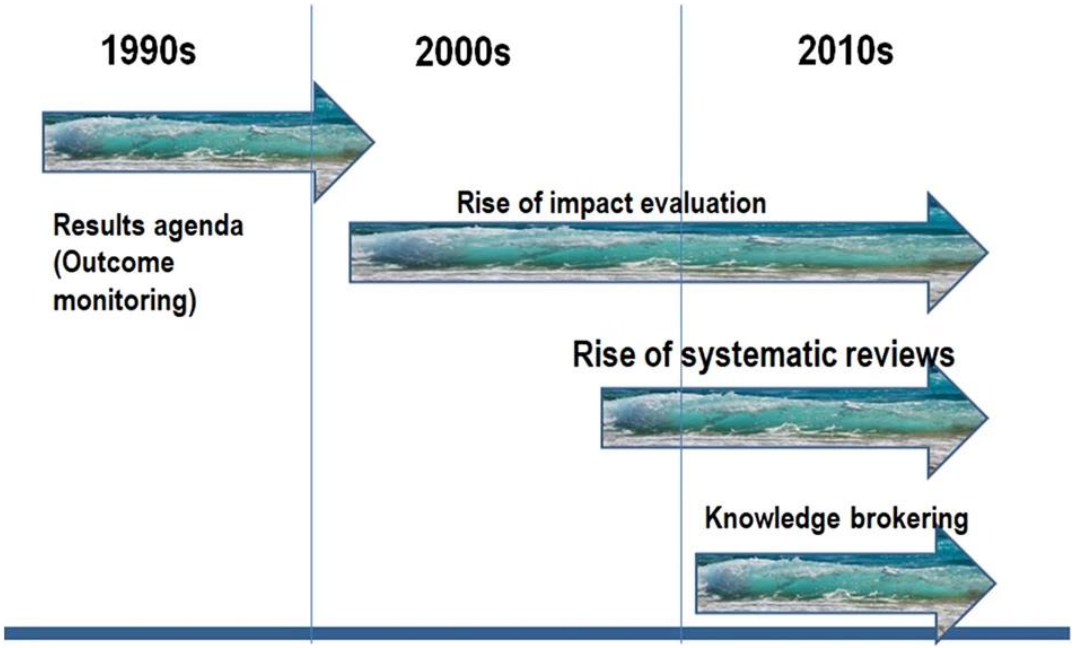
Organizations and institutions

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.

Identifying impacts.

Better evidence for a better world

1. What is evidence based PVE/CVE?

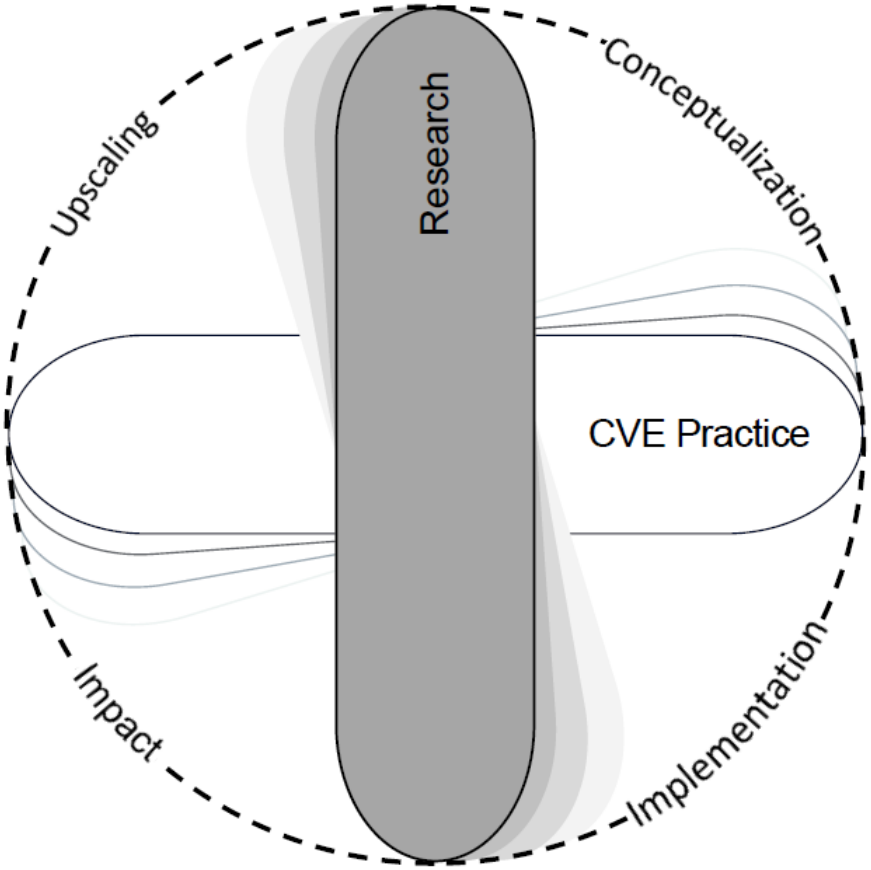


White, H (2019): The twenty-first century experimenting society: the four waves of the evidence revolution.

nature research *Palgrave Communication 5(47)*

Evidence Base I: Scientific Research

Generating and pooling data on causes, correlates and protective factors for violent extremism (individual, group, and structural factors)



Evidence-based practise

Adjusting and reforming the CVE program

Evidence-based program theory

Engeneering how the CVE program is supposed to work

Evidence Base II: Evaluation

Generating and pooling data on the actual impact of CVE practises

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Tweet by @parentsforpeace: (18.09.2019) NYC Subway ad inspired by JM Berger's definition of extremism.
https://twitter.com/resolvenet/status/1174317774396678144

2. Causes and correlates of violent extremism

Working definitions of radicalization:

- Radicalization is the cognitive process of developing radical political ideas that eventually result in active support for militant groups or direct engagement in violent action.
- Radicalization is the process of becoming a violent extremist or a terrorist.
- “What goes on before the bomb goes off” (Neumann 2008)

2. Causes and correlates of violent extremism

(1) The 4-stage model of the terrorist mindset (Borum 2003)

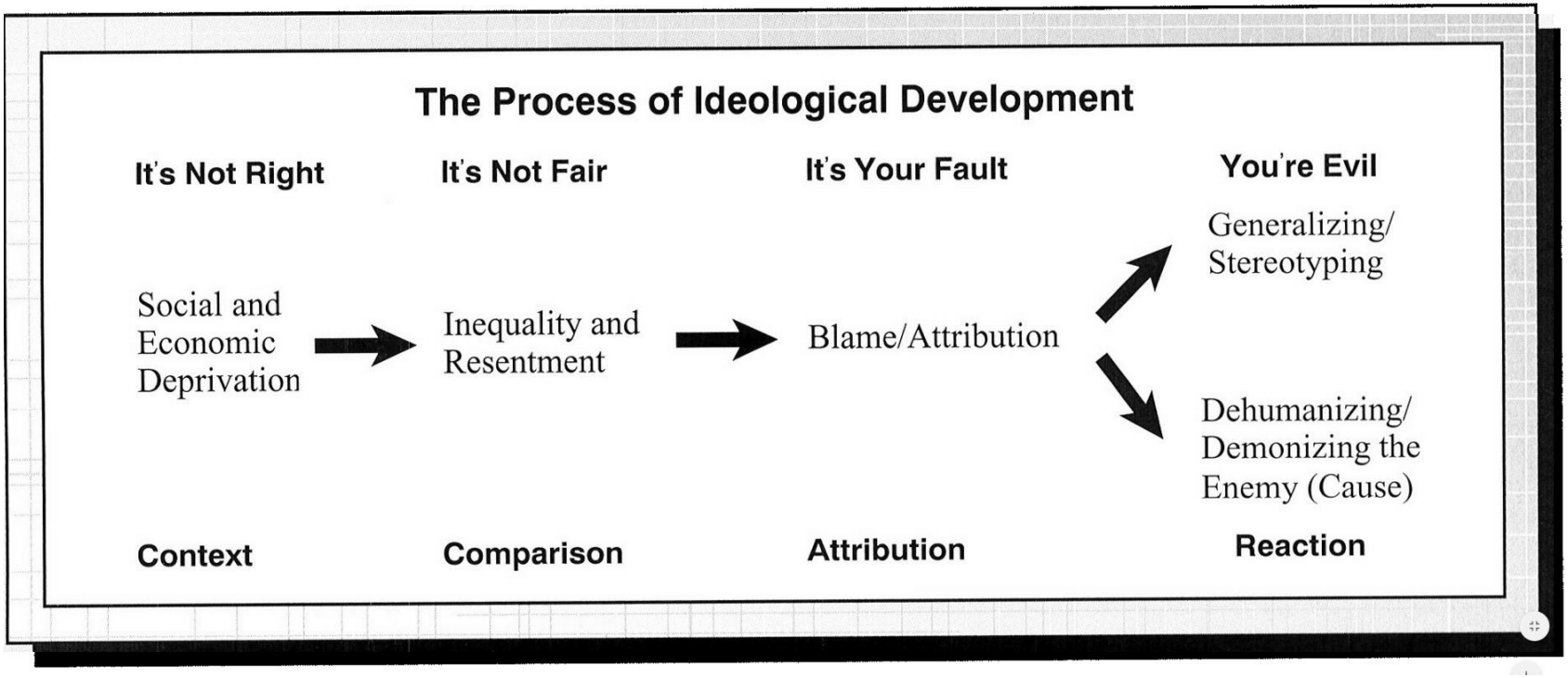
(2) The staircase model to terrorism (Moghadam 2005)

(3) The two-pyramid model of radicalization (McCauley & Moskalenko 2008)

(4) The "quest for significance model of radicalization" (Kruglanski et al.)

2. Causes and correlates of violent extremism

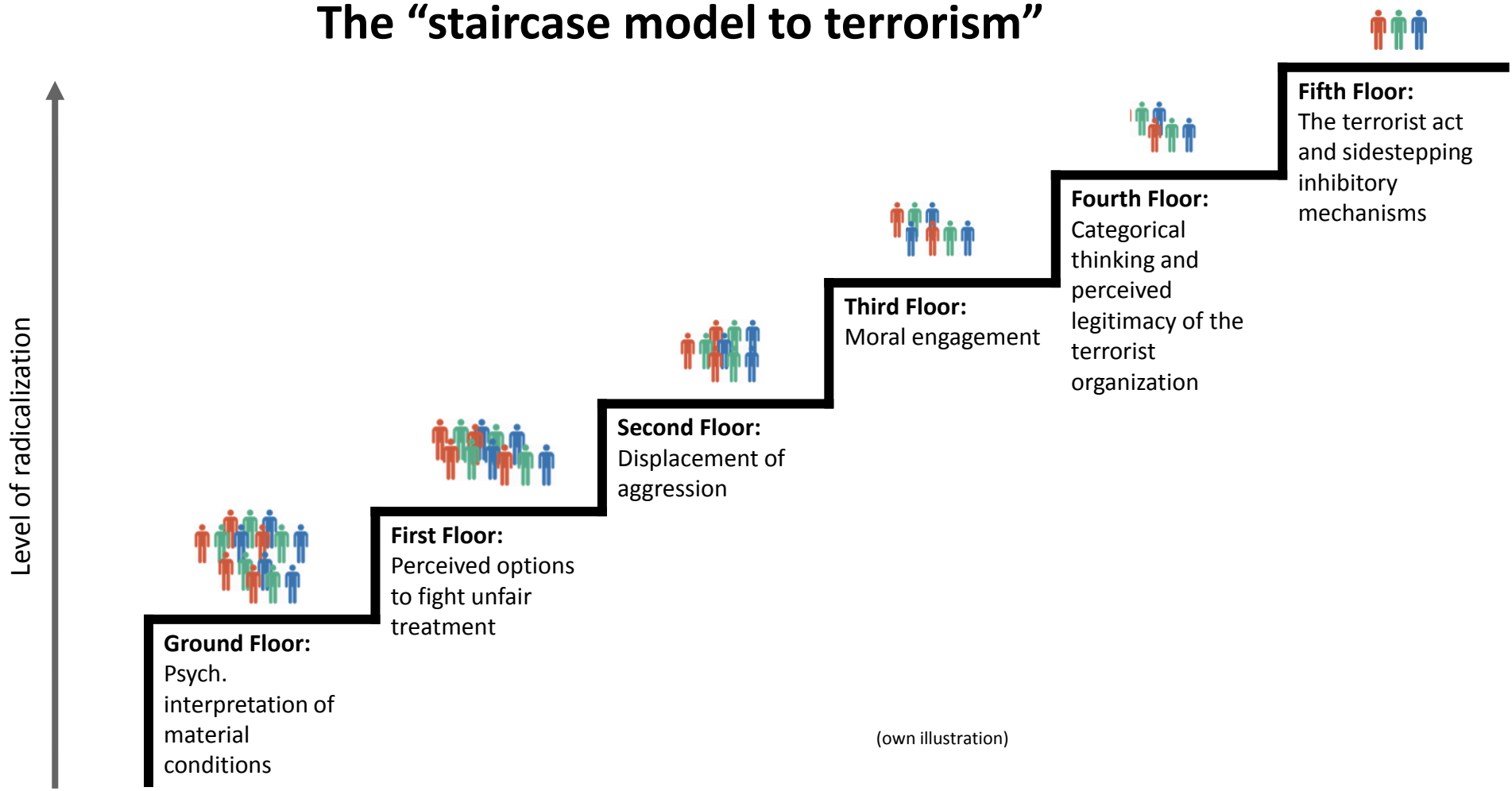
The "4-stages model of the terrorist mindset"



Source: Borum, Randy (2003). Understanding the Terrorist-Mind-Set. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* 72(7), 7-10.

2. Causes and correlates of violent extremism

The "staircase model to terrorism"

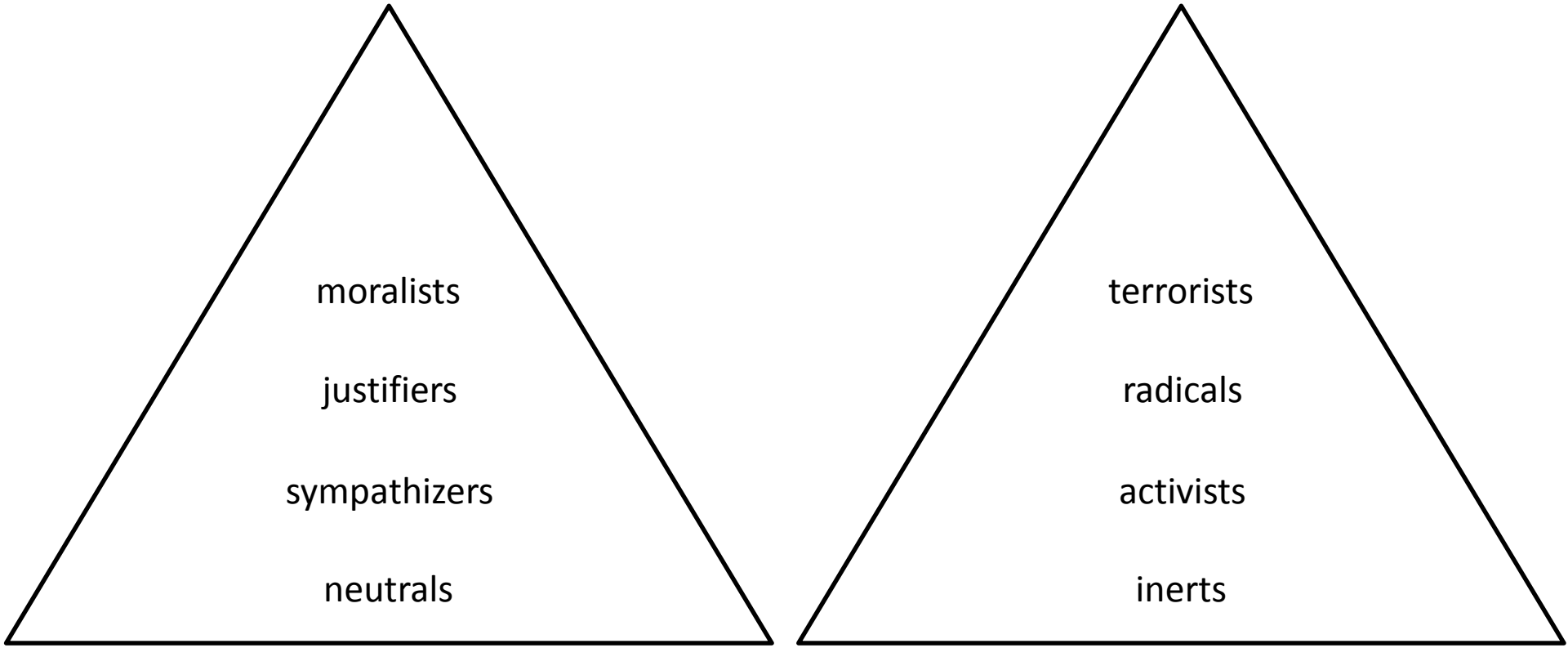


(own illustration)

Moghaddam, Fathali M. (2005). The Staircase to Terrorism: A Psychological Exploration. *American Psychologist, 60*(2), 161-169

1.2 theoretical explanations of radicalization

The "Two-Pyramids model of radicalization"

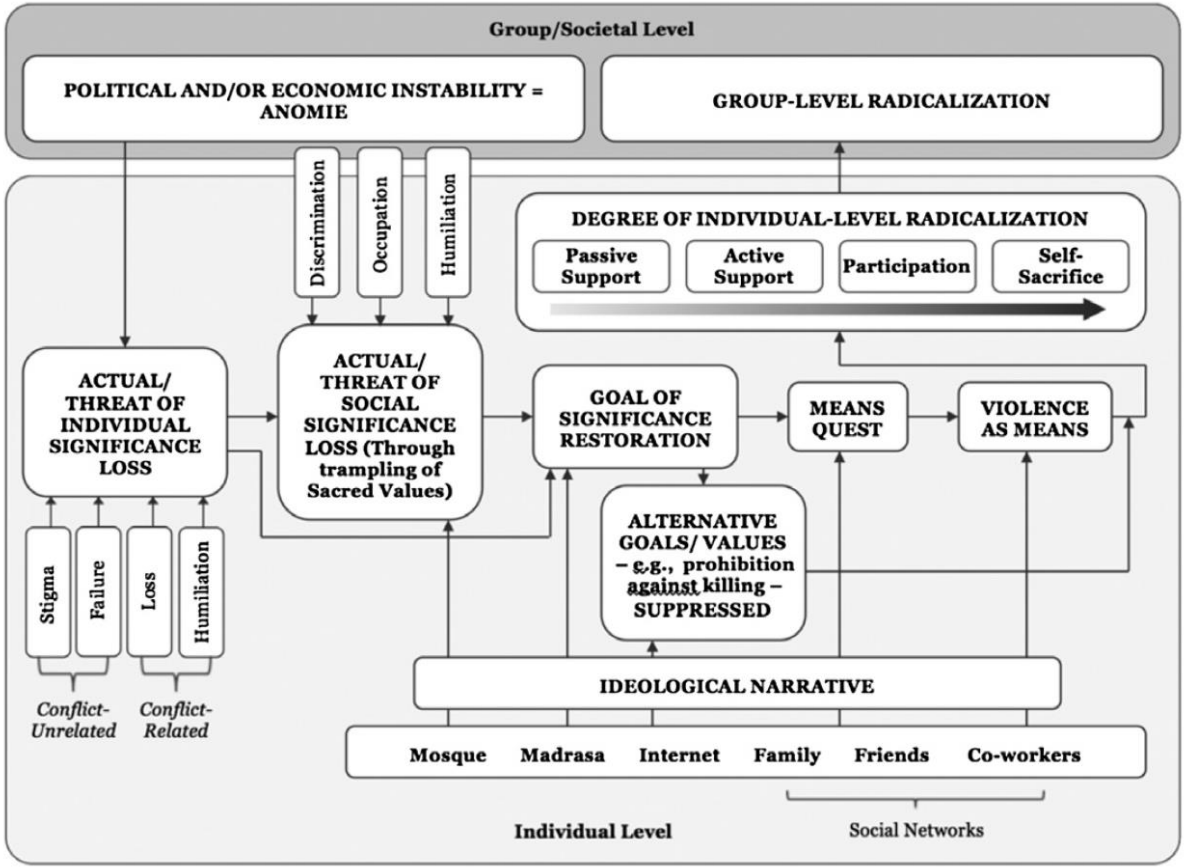


Opinion Pyramid **Action Pyramid**

McCauley, Clark & Moskalenko, Sophia (2017). Understanding Political Radicalization: The Two-Pyramids Model. *American Psychologist* 72(3), 205-216.

2. Causes and correlates of violent extremism

The "quest for significance model of radicalization"



Kruglanski, Arie et al (2014). The Psychology of Radicalization and Deradicalization: How significance quest impacts violent extremism. *Advances in Political Psychology 35*(1), 69-93.

1.3 causes and correlates of radicalization

Table 1
Seven approaches to the psychological mechanisms of radicalisation.

Theory	Central papers	Central tenets	Dependent variable	Explanatory variable(s)	Support - internal validity	Support - external validity	Support - measurement
Uncertainty–Identity Theory	Hogg & Adelman (2013)	Motivational and social identity theory	Joining and supporting radical groups Autocratic leadership Behavioural aggression and hostility	Self-uncertainty Group entitativity Social identity complexity Peripheral membership	Strong	Moderate	Area of focus
Significance Quest/"3N"	Webber & Kruglanski (2018)	Social psychological motivational theory	Coming to see as socially normative violent behaviour that is deviant from the majority perspective	Need for significance Narratives legitimising violence Networks and groups	Area of focus	Strong	Moderate
Devoted Actor Model	Atran (2016)	Ideology, values	Unconditional commitment, sacrifice and willingness to engage in extreme behaviour for a group	Sacred values Identity fusion	Moderate	Strong	Moderate
Mindset and Worldview	Borum (2014)	Distinction between mindset factors and worldview factors	Psychological "climate" that increases the risk of involvement in violent extremism	Psychological mindset: authoritarianism	Area of focus	Area of focus	Area of focus
Reactive Approach Motivation	McGregor, Hayes, & Prentice (2015)	Motivational framework encompassing personality and social dynamics	Aggressive religious radicalisation	Motivational processes diverted through interaction between personality, threats and group affordances	Area of focus	Moderate	Moderate
Two-pyramid approach	McCauley & Moskalenko (2017)	Distinguishing opinion and action	Radical opinion (support) and radical action (behavioural intentions)	Individual factors Group factors Mass factors	Area of focus	Moderate	Strong

Gøtzsche-Astrup, Olaf (2018: 91): The time for causal designs: Review and evaluation of empirical support for mechanisms of political radicalisation. *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 39(1), 90-99.

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1.3 causes and correlates of radicalization

Table 2
An overview of psychological mechanisms of radicalisation.

Strong empirical evidence	- Normal psychological mechanisms rather than psychopathology - Motivational processes rather than instrumental calculations of risk and reward - Negative life experiences that put the individual in flux in terms of fundamental questions - Experience of fundamental uncertainty or loss of meaning or significance - Shift in social identity towards a single social group rather than many - Small group dynamics drive the process to behavioural extremes - Heightened dispositional anxiety, aggression and impulsivity - "Sacred values" as necessary in later stages of radicalisation
Moderate empirical evidence	- Psychological mindset of authoritarianism, dogmatism and fundamentalism - Negative emotions, particularly anger and contempt
More research needed	- Other individual difference factors such as ambiguity, intolerance and need for cognitive closure - The relative roles of uncertainty, significance, sacred values etc. - The causal role of ideology: justification or cause?

Gøtzsche-Astrup, Olaf (2018: 91): The time for causal designs: Review and evaluation of empirical support for mechanisms of political radicalisation. *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 39(1), 90-99.

2.1 CVE impact and evaluation

Crisis of identity

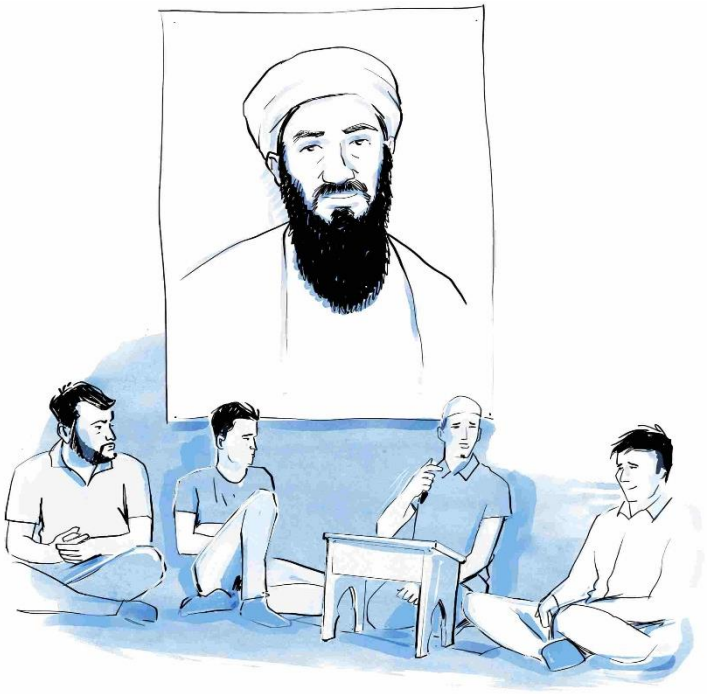
2.1 CVE impact and evaluation

Life crisis
(e.g. imprisonment)

2.1 CVE impact and evaluation

Loss of significance, reputation or status

2.1 CVE impact and evaluation



Radical Peer-group
(Social Network)

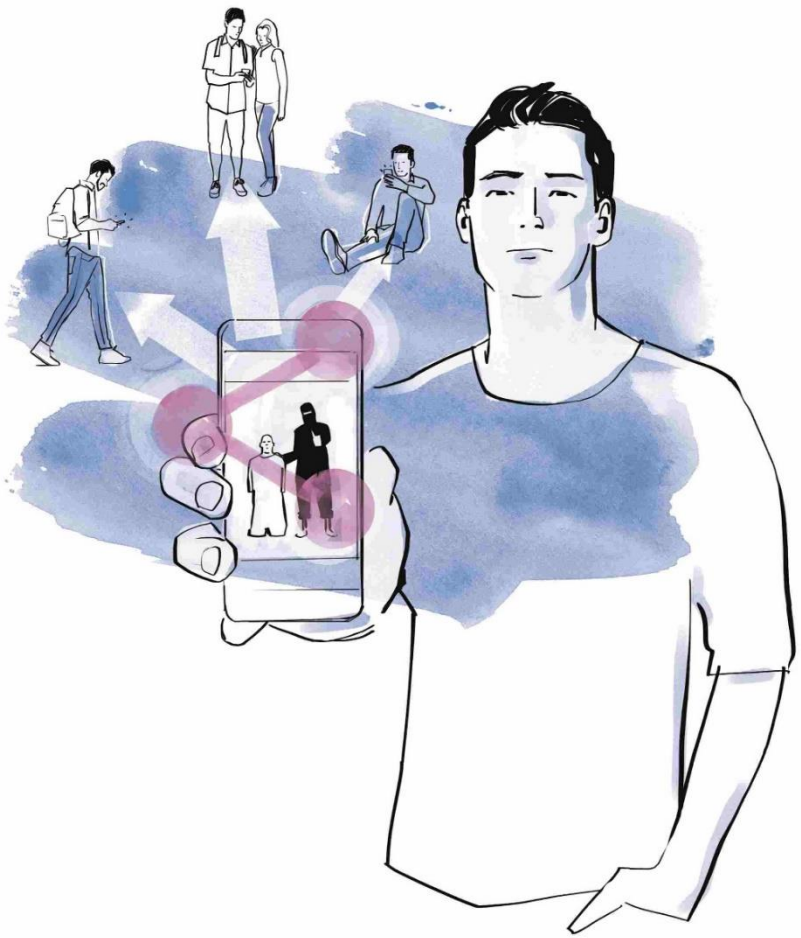
2.1 CVE impact and evaluation

Social deprivation

2.1 CVE impact and evaluation

Justifying terrorism and political violence

2.1 CVE impact and evaluation



Dissemination of propaganda

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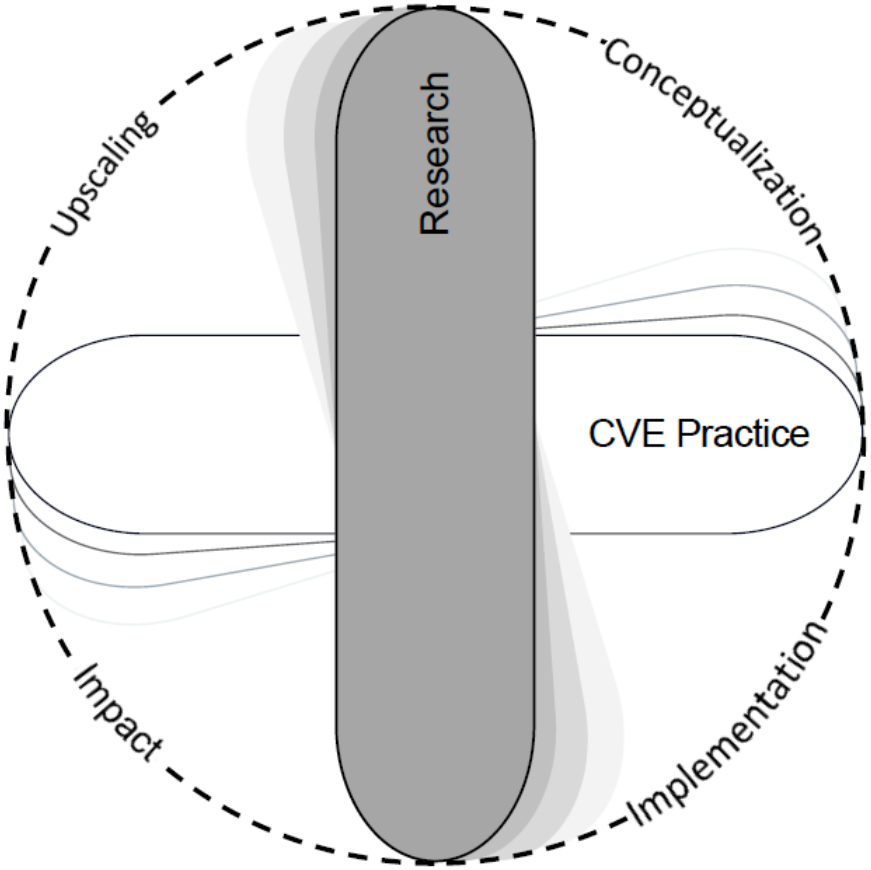

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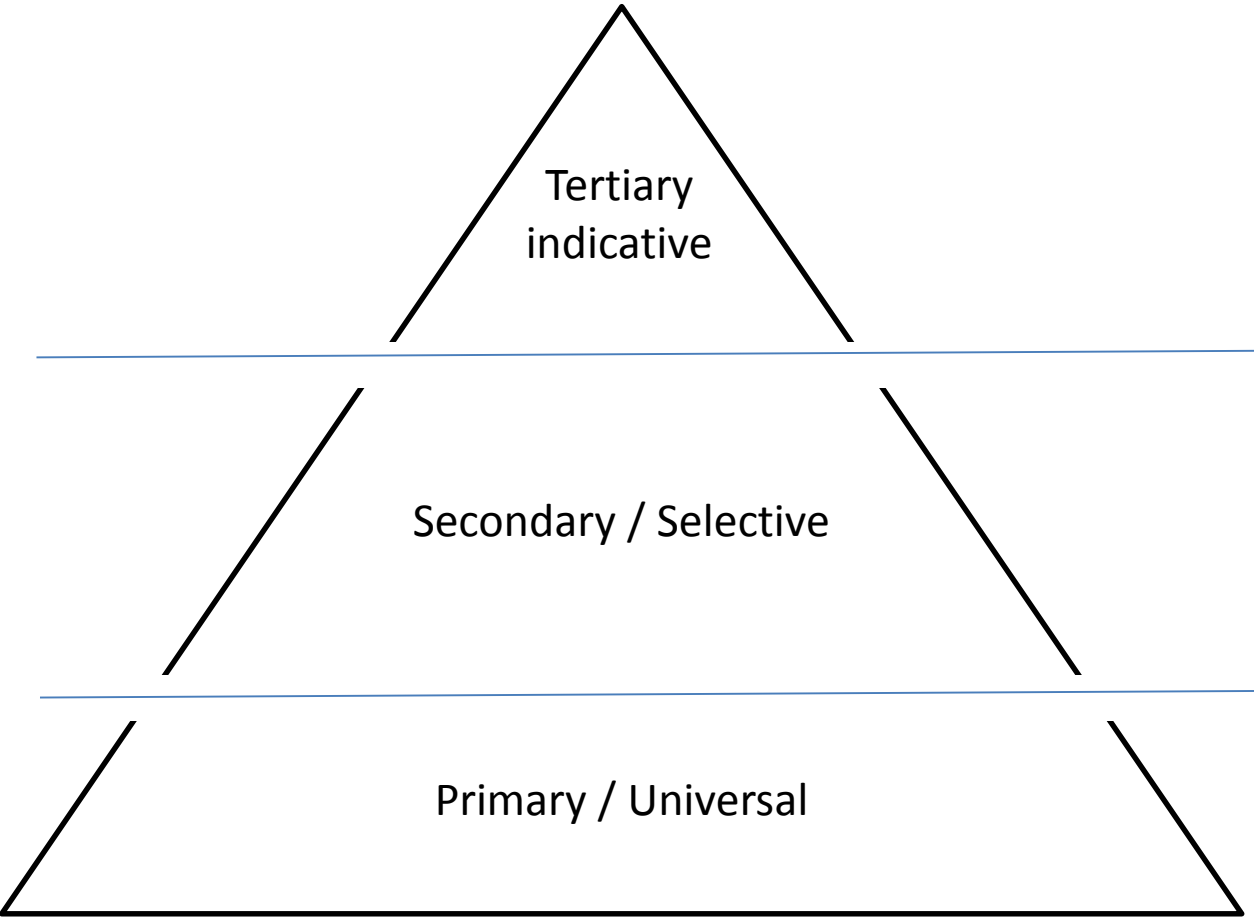
CVE/PVE



Demobilization
Disengagement
De-radicalisation
Rehabilitation

Countering stereotypes
Increasing tolerance
Manage anger

Civic education
Strengthening democratic values
Resilience, Empathy

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3 CVE impact and evaluation

Impact of CVE: right wing extremism

Präventionsansatz	Wirksamkeit	wissenschaftl. Belastbarkeit	Übertragbarkeit	Theoretische Fundierung	Anzahl Evaluationsstudien	Evidenzindex
Aufsuchende Arbeit	?				1	17
Ausstiegshilfe	?				4	28
Deradikalisierung	?				4	24
Multiplikatorenschulung	?				5	23
Sozialer Trainingskurs	+−				20	43

https://www.nzkrim.de/wespe

3 CVE impact and evaluation

Impact of CVE: Islamism

Präventionsansatz	Wirksamkeit	wissenschaftl. Belastbarkeit	Übertragbarkeit	Theoretische Fundierung	Anzahl Evaluationsstudien	Evidenzindex
Deradikalisierung	?				4	24
Interreligiöses Lernen	?				2	5
Multiplikatorenschulung	?				5	23
Sozialer Trainingskurs	+−				20	43

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Thank you for your attention

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