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Research interests: radicalisation, jihadi terrorism, profiles of (jihadi) terrorists, (fear of) terrorism and policy implications



Does the migration context matter? The case of the Netherlands

This presentation starts of with a short overview of the phenomenon of jihadists in the Netherlands and jihadi foreign fighters from the Netherlands.

Next it looks into the migration background of these jihadists and other key characteristics of those that have left for Syria and Iraq since 2012.

The main part focuses on the question whether or not the migration background of most of these jihadists is a useful lens to better understand jihadism in the Netherlands.

Although identity issues and alienation with Dutch/Western society does play a role, these jihadis are first and foremost to be regarded as Dutch citizens that are part of the Dutch multicultural society.

Even when in Syria, the links to the Netherlands and the links to their fellow Dutch foreign fighters are very strong.

By far the most important ‘migrant’ element in the lives of these jihadis is their ‘migration’ to Syria and Iraq.