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Position: Co-founder, Board Member and Scientific Director of Violence Prevention Network



Research interests: right-wing extremism and Islamism/Islamic fundamentalism with emphasis on manifestations and young people's paths to radicalisation as well as prevention and intervention

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**The deadly cycle – the entangled psycho-social dynamics of ideologisation and radicalisation**

Based on more than 15 years of work experience, the speaker argues from the background of a front-line practitioner working with extremist-motivated criminals as well as the prevention of extremism. Since 2001, the Violence Prevention Network team has been working successfully in reducing ideologically motivated and religious-motivated, serious crime and extreme acts of violence committed by youths. By way of its long-time work with right-wing extremist youths and those endangered by Islamist fundamentalism, the Violence Prevention Network team has acquired expertise in the field of working with ideologically motivated criminal offenders that is recognised throughout the country. In the method of Verantwortungspädagogik® (Education of Responsibility), Violence Prevention Network has identified a way to address people who have affiliated themselves with anti-democratic structures without humiliating them, thus facilitating their reversion to the democratic community.

The presentation starts by depicting a working model of the entangled psycho-social dynamics of ideologisation and radicalization, the Ideologisation/Radicalisation Cycle, and draws methodological conclusions from there on how to approach an ideologised and / or radicalised clientele. The presentation describes the impact of individual experiences on the ideological occurrence, how ideologised interpretation regimes are forged and take over the scope of perception of everyday life, thus provide the individual with the equivalents of (re)action, and, last not least, why and how the importance of ideologised groups increase. Everybody who works on a professional level with such a clientele must draw into account that ideology and radicalization are deeply rooted in a person's needs, drives to draw sense, and to build up self-esteem, argues the speaker. Thus, the simple countering of the ideological narrative runs into danger of confirmation of the ideologized interpretation regimes instead of revoking them. The pedagogical concept promoted by the speaker is explicitly based on a non-confrontational approach.