Presentation title:

Is radicalization a family issue? A systematic review of family-related risk and protective factors, consequences and interventions against radicalization

Speaker: Izabela Zych (University of Cordoba, Spain)

Co-author: Elena Nasaescu (University of Cordoba, Spain)

This 2022 Campbell Collaboration systematic review is sponsored by the USA Department of Homeland Security for the Five Research and Development (5RD) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) network. The review focuses on family-related risk and protective factors for radicalization, the impact of radicalization on families, and family-based interventions against radicalization. The number of high-quality studies on radicalization is relatively low. Given that high-quality interventions against radicalization are urgently needed, it is crucial to inform practitioners, policy makers and researchers about possible components to be included in those interventions. We found that parental bias and mistrust towards other cultures, having extremist family members and family conflicts were related to more radicalization. High family socio-economic status, bigger family size and family commitment were related to less radicalization. The review also describes family-related factors separately for cognitive and behavioral radicalization, and for different radical ideologies such as Islamist, right-wing and left-wing. The results of this systematic review confirm the importance of families for radicalization, although they should be interpreted with caution, taking into account a relatively low number of studies per analysis. More studies on family-related risk and protective factors for radicalization are needed. Some family-related factors seem to be crucial for understanding and preventing radicalization, but the evidence is still limited. Family factors are among important predictors of delinquency in general, and this also seems to be true for radicalization.