

# The Obsessions of Radicalized Persons: A Case Study

**Mathieu GUIDERE** (INSERM / PARIS VIII) ; **Louis JEHEL** (INSERM / CESP)

## Abstract

---

There are many forms and manifestations of violent extremism, but there is no consensual definition of radicalization. Regarding the links between violent radicalization and mental health, the question of whether radicalized subjects have a specific psychopathology remains controversial. The purpose of this article is to examine to what extent the speeches and behaviors produced by these radicalized subjects reveal personality disorders.

The study focuses on 20 subjects defined as "Muslim", selected on a random basis, from their written and audiovisual productions posted online (on the internet and social networks). The detailed analysis of the productions of these subjects (principal sample) and their confrontation with the opinions of the non-radicalized subjects (control sample) made it possible to highlight obsessive ideas, as well as rituals of obsessive or compulsive behaviors. These are practices that exceed, by their frequency and quantity, what is usually the case in the different ethnic and religious groups of origin.

## Key Words

---

Religious Radicalization, Violent Extremism, Mental health, Psychopathology, Disorders, Obsessions.