

MERIEM REBBANI

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PROFILE

Meriem Rebbani is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at John Jay College. She is also a researcher with the Van Vollenhoven Institute (VVI) at Leiden University, where she previously served as a lecturer for two years. Since 2015, Professor Rebbani has been actively engaged in the fields of Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (PVE/CVE), Counter-Terrorism, and Terrorism Prevention, bringing extensive experience from both academia and international organizations.

She has worked as a CVE and Counter-Terrorism specialist for the United Nations and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). In these roles, she was responsible for conceptualizing and developing a national multi-agency PVE/CVE project focused on handling returning foreign fighters. Over the years, she has conducted multiple risk assessments for police forces and is trained in several assessment tools, including VERA 2R, TRAP-18, HCR-20, START, and IMV. Professor Rebbani regularly trains police officers, government officials, and civil society organizations on issues related to risk assessments and PVE/CVE prevention. In recognition of her contributions to the field, she was awarded the 2020 Emerging Thought Leader award by Women in International Security (WIIS-Canada).

She holds a BA and an MA in social anthropology from Concordia University, specializing in mass violence. She recently completed her Ph.D. in criminology at the University of Montréal, focusing on Canadian CVE initiatives.

SPEAKER & PUBLICATIONS

- Invited Expert/Trainer: 'Law Enforcement and Civil Society cooperation on CVE (Countering Violent Extremism)', CIVIPOL, February 2024, Almaty, Kyrgyzstan
- Invited Expert/Trainer: 'Regional Workshop Law Enforcement & Civil Society To Counter Violent Extremism, Lessons Learned Protecting Children and Engaging Women', CIVIPOL, November 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- Speaker: American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. November 2023, presentation titled 'Countering Violent Extremism: Towards a Hybridization of National Security Practices'
- Speaker: Pan-European Conference on International Relations in Potsdam, September 2023, presentation titled 'Countering Violent Extremism & Neoliberalism: the Quebec Experience'
- Speaker: European Workshops in International Studies in Amsterdam, July 2023, Tales from the field: Unraveling Canadian CVE Practices
- Speaker: American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Atlanta. November 2022, presentation titled Canadian CVE: What Impact on Counterterrorism,

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- Speaker: Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, security and society (TSAS), Annual meeting, October 2022, Ottawa, Canada
- Invited Expert/Trainer: CVE & Risk Assessments in Prison for Iraqi Prison Authorities, August 2022, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Iraq, Sulaymaniyah
- Invited Expert/Trainer : CVE & Risk Assessments, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Iraq, Erbil, November 28th- December 8, 2021
- Speaker: Women & CVE in Detention, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Tunis, Tunisia, October 14, 2021
- Invited Expert: Prison CVE Assessment, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, part of the Delegation of the Coalition Against Isis, Iraq, Shamshamal, May 2-6th 2021
- Speaker: American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. November 2020, presentation titled Canadian CVE: What Impact on Counterterrorism, Canceled due to Covid-19
- Part of the Canadian delegation: Countering Violent Extremism Working Group - Tenth Plenary Meeting (Global Counterterrorism Forum), Montreal, Canada, 4 November 2019
- Guest Practitioner: Partnering in Practice - Preventing Social Polarizations, Symposium, Edmonton, AB, November 2018
- Speaker: TETT 2017, Creating Learning Against Radicalization (C.L.E.A.R.), Conference, September 2017.
- Speaker: Women, Technology & Partnerships - Countering Terrorist use of the Internet, SecDev foundation, UNCTED & ICT, February 2017.
- Speaker: Building Off-Ramps and Reintegrating Foreign Fighters and Terrorist Offenders: Challenges and Opportunities, Washington, June 2016.
- Speaker: Symposium, CEGEP student, radicalizations and living together, Cegep Rosemont, April 2016.
- Speaker: Panelist, preventing radicalization: issues, tools, limits and perspectives, University of Montreal, April 2016
- Speaker: Panelist, Radicalization and Host Societies, Concordia University, School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA), March 2016.

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- Publication - October 2016 “Radicalization leading to violence from a gender perspective”, Council for the Status of Women, Secretariat for the Status of Women, Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence.
- Since 2015: gave workshops\talks & conferences (50+) on the topics of prison reforms, risk assessment, counterterrorism, Crisis Management for first responders, government agencies & police organizations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice - August 2024 - Current - Criminal Justice Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, New York, United States

Guest Researcher & University Lecturer - July 2022 - July 2024 - The Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society at Leiden University Law School, Netherlands

Senior Consultant at the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism – October 2022 – March 2023, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Madrid Office, Remote consultancy

United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer – March 2021 – July 2022, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, Division of Operations, Posted in Tunis, Tunisia

Strategic Advisor to the National Security Program – April 2019 – March 2021, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, National Security Program, C Division, Montreal

Coordinator of the National Security Intervention & Prevention Program – February 2017 – April 2019, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, National Security Program, C Division, Montreal

Counterterrorism Researcher & Community Coordinator - Sept 2015/ Feb 2017, Center for the prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV), Montreal.

Program Manager & Community Coordinator - September 2008 - 2015 - Various community organizations in the Montreal Region

HONORS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society, Annual Gala Fellowship, October 2022
- Women in International Security (WIIS), 2020 Emerging Thought Leader Award, March 2020

- Merit Scholarship, University of Montreal, School of Criminology, April 2015
- Merit Scholarship, J. A. Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, SSHRCC, Concordia University, May 2013 - May 2014
- Merit Scholarship, Campaign for a New Millennium Student, Concordia University, January 2012
- Merit Scholarship, Middle Eastern Christian Traditions Study Award, Concordia University, April 2011
- Merit Scholarship, Campaign for a New Millennium Student, Concordia University, January 2011
- Cumulative GPA of 4.00 University of Montreal, Mentioned by the Faculty of Arts & Science on the Dean's list for a cumulative GPA of 3.92, year 2011/2012 & 2012/2013 Concordia University

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PhD in Criminology, University of Montreal 2024, **Awarded with Distinction**

Thesis 'Improvising Quebec's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Sector or the Transformation of High Policing' Research interests: counter-terrorism, terrorism prevention, counter-radicalization, administration of security services.

Dissertation rated "Exceptional", Rector's Honor List.

Master in Social Anthropology, Concordia University 2014

Thesis: "The Pursuit of Hegemony: School Shootings as Cultural Scripts" Research theme: criminalization, media, representation of violence & gender.

BA Honors in Social Anthropology, Concordia University 2012

Thesis: "Hijabulous: The Inner Workings of Islamic Fashion" Research theme: women in religious movements, gender in Islam, immigration, representation of veiling in media.

Professional Certifications:

- *Basis Kwalificatie Onderwijs (BKO), Leiden University, in progress 2023*
- *Advanced National Security Counterterrorism Course, RCMP, 2018*
- *Terrorist Radicalization Assessment Protocol (TRAP 18), RCMP, 2018*
- *Violent Extremism Risk Assessment (VERA 2R), Dr. Pressman, 2017*
- *Counterterrorism Information Officer, RCMP, 2017*
- *Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START), Institut Pinel, 2016*
- *HCR-20: Assessing Risk for Violence, Institut Pinel, 2016*