

MERIEM REBBANI, PhD.

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

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Fields: National Security Policy and Governance; Counterterrorism & Counter-Extremism; Security Institutions & Policing; Critical Security Studies; Qualitative Methods.

RESEARCH PROFILE

My research examines how security and violence-prevention systems are built, institutionalized, and governed across national security institutions. Across all my research projects, I pay particular attention to how policing and national security practitioners use and define risk, coordinate prevention efforts, and translate security policies into daily practices. I work across three connected areas:

- **National security policy, Counterterrorism (CT), Counter-Extremism (CVE), and high policing;**
- **Technology-Facilitated Abuse (TFA) by violent online extremist networks and groups,**
- **Qualitative methodology, institutional ethnography, and applied security research;**

My current research project examines how online extremist networks weaponize technology to facilitate abuse against minors, and how these practices complicate conventional distinctions among victimization, recruitment, coerced participation, and violent extremism.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Tenure-Track — John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY (Aug. 2024–Present)

Affiliated Researcher — Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society (VVI), Leiden Law School, Leiden University, Netherlands (July 2021–Present)

Fellow — Emerging Academic & Clinical Practice Group, International Institute for Geopsychiatry, (2026–Present)

Senior Lecturer — Leiden University College in The Hague, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs (2022/24); Leiden Law School (2023/24)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Criminology — Awarded with Distinction, Université de Montréal (2024)
(Dissertation rated “Exceptional”, Rector’s Honor List)
M.A. in Social Anthropology, Concordia University (2014)
B.A. (Honors) in Social Anthropology, Concordia University (2012)

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- **Rebbani, M.**, *Counter-Extremism and High Policing in Canada: Improvising Security*, Routledge, 2026.
- **Rebbani, M.**, *Doing Autoethnographic and Qualitative Research in High-Security Fields: Studying Up*, Palgrave Macmillan (Forthcoming), Spring 2027

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

- Aris, K., **Rebbani, M.**, & Freilich, J. (2026). *Primary Interventions for Preventing Cognitive and Behavioral Radicalization: An Evidence and Gap Map*. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 22(2), 18911803261438704.

Manuscript Under Review:

- **Rebbani, M.**, *Polymorphous Fieldwork: Ethnographic Access and Positionality in National Security Research*, *Revise & Resubmit, International Journal of Qualitative Methods*.

Manuscripts in Preparation:

- **Rebbani, M.**, and Karine Côté-Boucher. *Feeling Security: Uncertainty and the Emotional Burden of Doing National Security*. In preparation, *British Journal of Criminology*.
- **Rebbani, M.**, *From Cybercrime to Terrorism: Classifying Nihilistic Violent Extremism in U.S. and Canadian National-Security Law*. In preparation, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*
- **Rebbani, M.**, and Karine Côté-Boucher. *Countering Violent Extremism or the Hybridization of High-Policing*. In preparation.

Book Chapters in Preparation:

- Lashley, M., Tribe R., **Rebbani, M.**, “Ethics of Healthcare in Wars and Conflicts.” Invited chapter for *Oxford Textbook of Geopsychiatry*, eds. Dinesh Bhugra, Albert Persaud, and Alexander Smith. *Oxford University Press*. In preparation.
- Lashley, M., Tribe, R., **Rebbani, M.**, “War and Conflict.” Invited chapter for *The Handbook of Social Change and Psychology: Challenging Social Inequalities*, eds Rachel Tribe, Claire Marshal and Trishna Patel. *Cambridge University Press*. In preparation.

Policy Reports and Applied Research (*Selected*):

- **Rebbani, M.** Report: Law Enforcement and Civil Society to Prevent Violent Extremism – Lessons Learned Protecting Children and Engaging Women. Kazakhstan, French Ministry of the Interior (CIVIPOL), February 2024.
- **Rebbani, M.** Desk Review: Protection of Vulnerable Targets – Gaps and Opportunities in West Africa. United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Vulnerable Targets Program, January 2023.
- **Rebbani, M.** Report: Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) Detentions Programme Iraq, U.S. Department of State/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, December 2021.

GRANTS & SPONSORED RESEARCH

Awarded:

- Primary Interventions for Radicalization
DHS Science and Technology Directorate / Campbell Collaboration.
Co-Principal Investigator, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.
Budget period: 2024–2025. Project budget: **\$55,226**.
- Launching an Academic and Applied Discipline in Violence Prevention and Public Safety
Congressional Community Project Funding, requested by Rep. Jerrold Nadler.
Co-Principal Investigator, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.
Budget period: 2026-2027. Project Budget: **\$1,000,000**.

Under Review:

- Technology-Facilitated Abuse of Minors by ‘764’ and Related Violent Online Networks: Victim Experiences, Service Needs, and Barriers to Help-Seeking and Reporting
NIJ FY 2026 Research and Evaluation of Services for Victims of Crime.
Principal Investigator, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.
Budget period: 2027-2029. Amount requested: **\$850,000**.
- Examining the Overlap of Community Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Dynamics
Fund for a Safer Future.
Principal Investigator, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.
Budget period: 2027-2029. Amount requested: **\$250,000**
- Bridging Focused Deterrence and BTAM: A Unified Model for Preventing School Violence.
Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY25 STOP School Violence Program.
Principal Investigator, John Jay College of Criminal Justice & University of Pittsburgh.

Budget period: 2027-2030. Amount requested: **\$2,000,000.**

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCES (Selected)

- 2026 – The European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), Izmir, Turkey – Improving Security: Expertise, Care, and Uncertainty in Counter-Extremism, WS TA - Rewriting Security in Fractured Times
 - 2025 – European Society of Criminology (EUROCRIM), Athens, Greece – Deep Hanging Out: A Call for Ethnographies of National Security
 - 2023 – Pan European Conference on International Relations (EISA), Potsdam, Germany – Countering Violent Extremism & Neoliberalism: The Quebec Experience
 - 2023 – European Workshops in International Studies (EISA), Amsterdam, Netherlands – Tales from the Field: Unraveling Canadian CVE Practices
 - 2023 – American Society of Criminology (ASC), Philadelphia, U.S. – Countering Violent Extremism: Towards a Hybridization of National Security Practices
 - 2022 – American Society of Criminology (ASC), Atlanta, U.S. – Canadian CVE: What Impact on Counterterrorism
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **United Nations Field Officer**, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Tunisia, Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, 2021/22
 - **Strategic Advisor, National Security Program**, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams, C Division, Canada (2017/21)
 - **Researcher & Community Coordinator**, Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV), Montreal, Canada (2015/17)
 - **Subject Matter Expert** (*Consultancy*)
 - United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Algeria (2026)
 - United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Madrid Office (2022/23)
 - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Iraq Office (2021/23)
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HONORS & AWARDS

- **CUNY Book Award** — City University of New York (2025)
- **Exceptional Doctoral Dissertation Distinction** — Université de Montréal (2024)
- **Fellowship** — Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society (TSAS) (2022)
- **Emerging Thought Leader Award** — Women in International Security (WIIS) (2020)
- **J.A. Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship** — SSHRC, Concordia University (2013–2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Modalities: Lectures, seminars, and tutorials. Experience teaching in-person, synchronous online, asynchronous online, and Hybrid-Flexible courses.

- John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY, NYC)
Graduate: CRJ 7001 Science & Practice of Public Safety; CRJ 789 Violence Across the Globe; CRJ 768 Law & Society; CRJ 798 Homeland Security and Terrorism.
Undergraduate: CBJA 250 Crime Prevention and Control (Lecture).
- Leiden University College (The Hague, Netherlands)
Undergraduate: Global Challenges: Peace & Justice (Tutorial); Introduction to Socio-Legal Studies (Seminar).
- Leiden University Law School (Leiden, Netherlands)
Undergraduate: Terrorism & Counterterrorism (Honors Seminar).

LANGUAGES & PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- **Languages:** English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (competent)
- **Professional Certifications:** TRAP-18, VERA 2R, WAVR-21, HCR-20, START, CTIO (Terrorism/Behavioral Risk Assessment tools)
- **Research Methods:** Applied security research, qualitative research, institutional ethnography, fieldwork
- **Professional Memberships:** International Institute for Geopsychiatry, American Society of Criminology, European Society of Criminology, European International Studies Association, Women in International Security–USA, Law and Society Association

POLICY ENGAGEMENT & APPLIED EXPERTISE (Selected)

- Invited Expert/Trainer: UNICRI–UNODC Intensive Training Program for National Delegations to the UN (New York, 2026) — Delivered session on terrorism, violent extremism, hate speech, and prevention strategies for police advisors and diplomatic staff.
- Moderator & Rapporteur: Group Work Reports: Engaging Women in PVE and Protecting Children from Violent Radicalization. EU LEICA/BOMCA Program, Almaty, Kazakhstan, February 2024.
- Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) CVE Working Group. Addendum to the Good Practices on Women and Countering Violent Extremism: Mainstreaming Gender. Contributed as expert participant (2019/2023).
- 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: Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, security and society (TSAS), Annual meeting, October 2022, Ottawa, Canada
- Mission Expert/Trainer: CVE & Risk Assessments in Prison for Iraqi Prison Authorities, August 2022, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Sulaymaniyah, Iraq
- Mission Expert/Trainer: CVE & Risk Assessments, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, November 28th- December 8, 2021, Erbil, Iraq
- Speaker: Women & CVE in Detention, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Tunis, Tunisia, October 14, 2021
- Mission Expert & Rapporteur: Prison CVE Assessment, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, part of the Delegation of the Coalition Against ISIS, Iraq, Chamchamal Prison Site, May 2-6th 2021