

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

UNESCO CHAIR IN PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM



Organization
of the United Nations
for education,
science and culture



• "UNESCO Chair in Prevention of
radicalization and violent extremism"
• University of Sherbrooke, Concordia University,
• University of Quebec in Montreal

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INTRODUCTION

At the end of this complicated and lively year, we are happy and proud to have managed to continue our efforts to make a difference here and to contribute to promoting Quebec and Canadian expertise abroad.

– UNESCO-PREV Chair Executive Office



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

For the UNESCO-PREV Chair, as for everyone around the world, 2021, much like 2020, was a year of adaptation and resilience when it came to the COVID-19 pandemic. This time of crisis has not led to a decrease in radicalization, hate speech, misinformation, or violent extremism. Far from it. Within this context, the UNESCO-PREV Chair has relentlessly continued its activities in Quebec, Canada and internationally.

01 **Firstly**, the Chair has expanded its mapping of centres of expertise and its pool of experts in the prevention of violent radicalization and extremism. It also expanded its online activities through its social media accounts to promote its activities and those of its partners. Despite travel limitations due to the pandemic, the Chair continued its collaborations and joint activities (remotely) with its government partners, academic partners and practice environments in Quebec and Canada. Internationally, the Chair collaborated on various projects with its partners, namely UNESCO, OIF and OTAN, in many European, African and Latin American countries.

Second, the Chair continues its action-research programs. Its PREV-IMPACT Canada program, which focuses on the evaluation of programs that aim to prevent violent extremism, has, among other things, resulted in the publication of two research reports on the subject, both of which are available online. The Chair has also continued its research on misinformation, conspiracy thinking and violent extremism in Quebec, Canada and from a comparative international perspective.



02

Along with its African and Belgian partners, the Chair has completed a major research project on prevention mechanisms in the French-speaking world, mandated by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie ([International Organization of La Francophonie], OIF) and the network FrancoPREV, which will be available in 2022. In all, the Chair has conducted close to fifty activities and has produced roughly thirty scientific publications. Take for example the publication of an international book co-edited by professors David Morin and Sami Aoun *Le nouvel âge des extrêmes? Les démocraties occidentales, la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violent* published by the Université de Montréal Press, which brought together more than forty specialists and researchers from different disciplines from a dozen countries. The Chair also published its first annual journal on the prevention of violent extremism within scientific journals.

03

Third, the Chair has taken part in many training, awareness and knowledge transfer programs. Its teachers and professors have continued to train and mentor its students. The Chair offered its second massive open online course “From Hate to Hope: Building Understanding and Resilience.” It also collaborated with the master’s program in International Political Communication and Democratic Risk - a combined degree along with the University of Sherbrooke, the Catholic University of Louvain and Sciences Po Aix. The project *Someone* and its initiative *Landscape of hope* received substantial funding from the Fonds de Recherche du Québec ([Quebec Research Fund], FRQ), the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Michaëlle Jean Foundation so that they can continue working with marginalized communities. The Chair presented at many conferences and contributed to many valuable exchanges between the governments of Quebec and Canada on several subject areas. Finally, the Chair has been very active in the media, contributing to nearly twenty podcasts, videos and webinars and participating in one hundred and forty-five interviews.

At the end of this year 2021, we finally received some great news. In light of the very successful results achieved by the UNESCO-PREV Chair, the Chair has had her mandate renewed by UNESCO for a period of another four years. The Chair thanks UNESCO for this vote of confidence, as well as all the members of our dynamic teams and its partners who have helped make this success possible. Rest assured that the Chair will continue, with rigour and determination, its mission to try and make a difference in the fight against violent extremism as well as to continue to contribute to influencing Quebec and Canada’s expertise internationally.

We hope you enjoy reading the rest of the report and we look forward to continuing our work together!

David, Ghayda, Vivek et Marie-Ève

THE CHAIR'S MISSION

The Chair aims to act as a centre of excellence to develop, share and promote research and actions in the context of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of violent radicalization and extremism.

It ensures close cooperation among researchers and communities of practice in a comparative, multidisciplinary and north-south perspective. The program also includes specific activities relating to the development, production and distribution of knowledge.

OBJECTIVES



Identify, network and enhance the cooperation between centres, structures of expertise and communities of practice in preventing radicalization in both Canada and internationally.



Provide a high level of expertise and develop innovative action research programs, as well as models based on evidence and best practices, to shape not only public policy but also radicalization and violent extremism prevention programs at the local, national and international levels.



Support the capacity building of key stakeholders, particularly in academic and community settings, as well as online.



Raise awareness, ensure visibility and transfer knowledge to the public and media.

THE CO-CHAIRHOLDERS



David Morin

Full Professor

School of Applied Politics, University of Sherbrooke



Vivek Venkatesh

Full Professor

Inclusive Practices in Visual Arts, Department of Art Education and Director of the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance, Concordia University



Ghayda Hassan

Psychologist

Full Professor

Director of the Canadian Practitioners Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence, University of Quebec in Montréal

DIRECTOR OF MEDIA DIVISION



Marie-Ève Carignan

Associate Professor

Department of Communication, University of Sherbrooke

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee monitors the work according to the Chair's objectives. It advises the chairholders and is responsible for, among other things, approving the annual activity reports, as well as any significant changes to the budget or the Chair's objectives. The Executive Committee also approves the annual planning of research and dissemination of research activities, as well as the Chair's scientific program as defined by the Scientific Committee. It meets once or twice a year.

The committee is composed of:

Four representatives from the University of Sherbrooke

Pr David Morin

Co-Chairholder

Pr Sami Aoun

Director of the Scientific Committee

Pr Jean-Pascal Lemelin

Assistant Vice-Rector, Research and Graduate Studies, University of Sherbrooke

Pre Thérèse Audet

Vice-Dean of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Studies

Two representatives from the University of Quebec in Montréal

Pre Ghayda Hassan

Co-Chairholder

Mme Caroline Roger

Director of Partnerships and Innovation Support Department

Two representatives from Concordia University

Pr Vivek Venkatesh

Co-Chairholder

Mme Dominique Michaud

Director of Research Development at the Office of the Vice-Rector, Research and Graduate Studies

One consultant on the prevention of violent extremism

Dani Dani

from the office of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development

EXPERT COMMITTEE

In accordance with its statutes, the UNESCO-PREV Chair establishes an independent committee of high-level national and international experts.

The committee is mandated with advising the co-chairholders in the development of the Chair's programming and annual activities, strengthening its scientific work quality and developing networks among its partners. The Expert Committee also promotes the other centres of expertise's activities and encourages collaboration between them. The committee is formed of experts with proven skills and experience in preventing violent radicalization and extremism. It is **independent, multidisciplinary and representative**, as far as possible, of the different regions of the world.



The committee is chaired by Professor Sami Aoun, full professor at the School of Applied Politics of the University of Sherbrooke, and is composed of the three co-chairholders and the following members:

Abdelwahab Ben Hafaiedh

Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Humanities of Tunis University; President of the Applied Social Science Forum (Arab region); Secretary General of Civil Actors in Fight Against Violent Extremism (CAFA) Network.

Jonathan Birdwell

Regional Head Europe, Middle East, Africa—Policy and Insights for the Economist Impact.

Nicolas Chabot

Head of the State Security Team at the Department of Intelligence, Analysis and Operations Support Services of the Ministry of Public Security of Quebec.

EXPERT COMMITTEE



Larry Gbevlo-Lartey

Chair of the Human Security Research Centre.

Alfredo Joignant

Full Professor at the School of Political Science of University Diego Portales (UDP); Main Researcher, Political and Social Conflict area (UDP); Main Researcher, Observatory of Conflicts of the Centre for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES).

Daniel Koehler

Director of the German Institute for Radicalization and Deradicalization Studies (GIRDS); cofounder of the open-access journal Journal on De-radicalization.

Simon Kuany

Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education Specialist at the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in Iraq.

Pascale Laborier

Professor of Political Science, Co-Director and President of the Department of Political Science at the Université de Paris Nanterre; Head of the Scientific Council on Radicalisation Processes (COSPRAD), ATHENA Alliance.

Amer Makarem

Director of Youth Association of the Blind (YAB) in Lebanon. Special Education Professor at the University Saint-Joseph (USJ).

Carol Mottet

Expert in Human Security within the Human Security Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in Switzerland.

Marie-Bernarde Pérés

Expert Advisor within the Direction of Inclusive Society and Interculturalism at the Ministry of Immigration, Francization and Integration of Quebec.

Cécile Rousseau

Full Professor at the Department of Psychiatry (Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry) of McGill University; Research and Clinical Psychiatrist and Director of the Transcultural Child Psychiatry Clinic at the Montréal Children's Hospital; Scientific Director of the SHERPA-RASP Research and Training Centre.

Bakary Sambe

Executive Director of the Timbuktu Institute—African Centre for Peace Studies; coordinator of the Observatory of Religious Radicalism and Conflicts in Africa; Professor-Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Religions (CER) at Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, in Senegal.

Sara Savage

Social Psychologist and Senior Researcher for the Psychology and Religion Research Group of the Department of Psychology at Cambridge University; Executive Director of the research group IC Thinking.

Lori-Anne Thérooux-Benoni

Director of the Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), in Dakar.

Corinne Torrekens

Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB); Researcher for the Group for Research on Ethnic Relations, Migrations and Equality (GERME).

THE TEAM



GENERAL COORDINATOR

Sylvana Al Baba Douaihy, Ph. D.

Ph.D. in Contemporary Religious Studies at the University of Sherbrooke and professor in the Graduate Department of International Studies at Laval University.

FINANCIAL COORDINATOR



Jean Perrault, Ph. D.

Holds a doctorate in Psychology with more than 25 years of experience in research project management.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Karine Bolduc

Executive Secretary, School of Applied Politics, University of Sherbrooke.

PROGRAM MANAGER OF PROJECT SOMEONE



Kathryn Urbaniak

Instructor and researcher with degrees in educational technology, information technology and business administration.



SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR

Pablo Madriaza, Ph. D.

General Coordinator of the Canadian Practitioners Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (CPN-PREV).

PROJECT SOMEONE COLLABORATORS



Annabelle Brault

Doctoral student and researcher-creator in music therapy at Concordia University.



Lucy Lu

Researcher in art therapy, consulting therapist and artist



Catherine Montmagny-Grenier, Ph. D.

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THE TEAM

PROJECT SOMEONE COLLABORATORS



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Josie-Ann Bonneau

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Veronica Mockler

Research assistant and artist in contemporary art, social pedagogy and documentary media.



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Coordinator of the Innovative Social Pedagogy Project.



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Sandra Chang-Kredl, Ph. D.

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Owen Chapman, Ph. D.

Associate Professor in Sound Production and Scholarship in the Department of Communication Studies at Concordia University.



David Hall

Accomplished producer and filmmaker, known for the documentary *Blekkmetal*, about the single edition of the Norwegian festival of the same name, in 2015.



Martin Lalonde, Ph. D.

Regular professor in the School of Visual and Media Arts' education unit at the University of Quebec in Montréal (UQAM).



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Communications officer and master's candidate in Media Studies.

THE TEAM

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ASSOCIATE RESEARCHER IN THE COORDINATION OF THE OIF STUDY



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Ph.D. candidate at the School of Criminology at the University of Montréal.

COORDINATOR OF THE “MISINFORMATION AND CONSPIRACY MOVEMENTS” COMPONENT



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RESEARCH COORDINATOR



Sylvain Bédard

Research coordinator with the Archipelago of Design on the issues of conspiracy, misinformation and democratic resilience.

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Emmanuel Choquette

Postdoctoral researcher. His research is at the intersection of political science, communication and humour studies.

INTERNS OF THE CHAIR



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Master's II candidate in International Relations at Sciences Po Toulouse.



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Master's candidate in Applied International Law and Policy at the University of Sherbrooke.



Maude Plourde

Candidate for the bachelor's program in criminology at the University of Montréal.



Jane Preteroti

Master's candidate in Applied International Law and Policy at the University of Sherbrooke.



Élise Rodrigue Poulin

Master's candidate in Education at the University of Sherbrooke.

THE TEAM

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Loïc-Alexandre Rousseau

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Samy Rebaine

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Bachelor's student in Sociology with a concentration in criminology at Bishop's University.

RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS



Nicolas Quiroga

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WEBMASTER



Stéphane Martire

Bachelor's student in Applied Politics in International Relations at the University of Sherbrooke.

COLLABORATORS 2021

EUROPE TEAM

The Europe Team of the Chair is comprised of researchers from the Unité mixte de recherche en éducation, formation, travail, savoirs ([Joint Research Unit in Education, Training, Work and Knowledge], EFTS) of the **University of Toulouse II Jean Jaurès** (France), including:

Prof. Séraphin Alava

Dr. Nawel Chaouni

Dr. Chafiaa Djouadi

Rasha Nagem (Ph.D. Student)



Among its many collaborators in 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair would like to extend special thanks to the following people and apologizes in advance for those that may have been forgotten:

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Michaëlle Jean Foundation

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Canadian Commission for UNESCO

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Jean-Daniel Lafond

Michaëlle Jean Foundation

Tara Lapointe

Michaëlle Jean Foundation

Isabelle Levert-Chiasson

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Mohamed-Sufyane Malagouen

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Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence

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University of Ottawa

Sarah Ousman

CPN-PREV

Marie-Bernarde Pères

Ministry of Immigration, Francization and Integration

Olivier Plasman

Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles [Wallonia-Brussels Federation]

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Chief Scientist of Quebec

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Grégory Robert

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie [International Organization of La Francophonie]

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University of Quebec in Montréal

Stéphanie Valentin

Public Safety Canada

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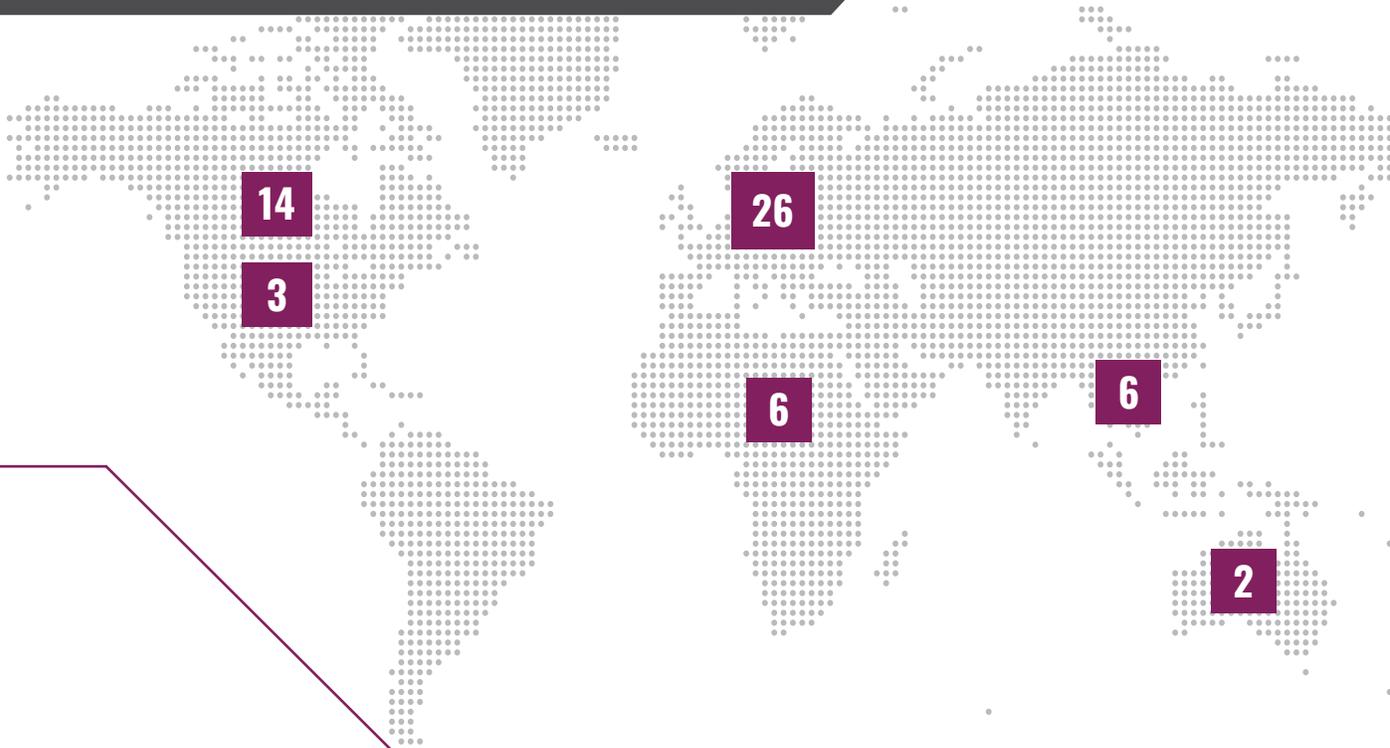
François Vandeville,

Comité interministériel de prévention de la délinquance et de la radicalisation [Interministerial Committee for Crime and Radicalization Prevention], France

Elaine Young

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

BANK OF EXPERTS



In an attempt to identify, network and improve cooperation between hubs of expertise and communities of practice in the prevention of radicalization, in Canada and internationally, the Chair has created a regularly updated map and a bank of experts on the specific issue of the prevention of violent extremism (<https://chaireunesco-prev.ca/reseau/banque-d-expert-e-s/>). This bank of experts, comprising more than 50 people, 21 of which are women, aims to identify and publicize individual expertise in specific areas of prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary prevention; types of extremism; evaluation; etc.) and geographic zones. It is intended for researchers and communities of practice.

The bank of experts covers, at the moment:

North America : 17 experts

Canada 14, United States of America 3

Europe : 27 experts

France 10, United Kingdom 6, Belgium 2, Germany 3, Austria 2, Switzerland 1, Macedonia 1, Denmark 1, Sweden 1

Africa : 6 experts

Kenya 1, Senegal 1, Sudan 1, Tunisia 1, Burkina Faso 1, Ghana 1

Asia : 2 experts

Singapore 1, Lebanon 1

Australia : 3 experts

[View the bank of experts](#)

STATISTICS

25 podcasts, videos and webinars



16 organized conferences

+

74 conference participations

51 partners



21 countries

+

6 continents



145 media appearances

+

30 scientific publications

AND MANY OTHERS

OUR ACTIONS IN 2021

The UNESCO-PREV Chair is proud to be part of the Quebec-UNESCO community, supported by the MRIF (Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie of Quebec).

01

NETWORKING AND DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

The UNESCO-PREV Chair has strengthened and developed its collaborations with numerous partners in Quebec, Canada and abroad, through work meetings, various committees and joint projects.

MAPPING OF CENTRES OF EXPERTISE, EXPERTS AND INITIATIVES IN PVE

The UNESCO-PREV Chair continues to update its map which now includes 139 structures working on prevention (17 more than last year); **39 in North America, 72 in Europe, 12 in Asia and 16 in Africa.** Its bank of experts now includes 55 people (8 more than last year), 33 of which are men, 22 are women, spanning 5 continents.





MANAGING AND UPDATING A DYNAMIC VIRTUAL PLATFORM FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSIONS (WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA)

The Chair continues to update regularly its website and social media. It publishes information and documentation about prevention, its work, and the news of its partners' projects on its website as well as on its Facebook page, created in February 2020, and Twitter account.

SUMMARY FOR NOV 2021	
Subscribed to Facebook 422	Visitors to the Site 22K
Subscribed to Twitter 568	Clicks 35K
Retweets 491	

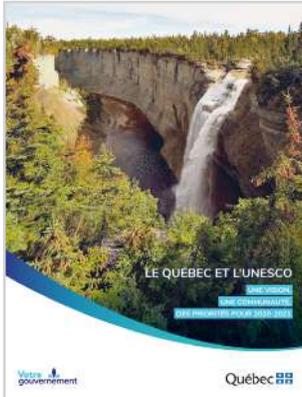
- After almost two years of existence, the Facebook page has **422 subscribers** with many of the posts reaching, in 2021, more than **1000 people**.
- The Twitter account has **578 followers** and has made more than **166,200 impressions** (total number of times Tweets have been seen) in 2021 and **491 retweets**.
- The website sees the most traffic, especially in Canada, the United States of America, France and Germany, with more than **22k visitors** in the year 2021 (website usage has been tracked since September 2020) and **35k clicks**.

INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS GUIDELINES COMMITTEE FOR BEST PRACTICES IN THE PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION



The International Consensus Guidelines Committee (ICGC) aims to identify best practices in the prevention of radicalization leading to violence and to develop guidelines that can then be adapted to the reality of each country. Intended primarily for practitioners, these guidelines will be based on evidence from a series of systematic reviews led by the Canadian Practitioners Network for Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (CPN-PREV). After a consensus meeting, the international committee continues to produce guidelines, following the DELPHI process, in partnership with the Canadian committee, led by the CPN-PREV and based on the experience of experts and the systematic reviews produced by the CPN-PREV. Deliverables: 1) International workshop on the production of best practice guidelines on the prevention of radicalization; 2) Results of the DELPHI survey of experts; 3) Guidelines. In 2019–2020, the DELPHI process started. In 2020, the last two rounds of consultations were carried out (71 experts were involved), which led to the development of the final guidelines in 2021. The report and recommendations based on this project will soon be published.

THE CHAIR AND UNESCO



The Chair has continued its collaboration with UNESCO. The Chair has had a particularly fruitful collaboration with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, notably with the project PROFILE. The co-Chairholder Vivek Venkatesh participated in an online discussion panel on April 14, 2021, called “Le Statut de l’artiste migrant : la protection des droits sociaux et économiques” [The Migrant Artist’s Status: the Protection of Social and Economic Rights] which was organized as part of the event Accéder à soi. Accéder à l’autre. La convention de l’UNESCO de 2005, la liberté artistique et l’inclusion des personnes migrantes dans les sociétés démocratiques [Access the Self. Access the Other. The 2005 UNESCO Convention, Artistic Freedom and Inclusion of Migrants in Democratic Societies]. Prof. Venkatesh also participated, on June 25, 2021, in a panel called “From online hate to offline violence: Addressing and encountering hate speech and violent extremism through education in a digital world” as part of the Counter-Terrorism Week virtual event, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Lastly, the UNESCO-PREV Chair is proud to be part of the Quebec-UNESCO community, supported by the MRIF (Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie of Quebec), as stated in their report entitled *Le Québec et l’UNESCO - une vision, une communauté, des priorités pour 2020-2021* [Quebec and UNESCO - one vision, one community, priorities for 2020–2021].

PARTNERSHIP WITH FRANCO-PREV AND AFRICA

In the context of a study on prevention mechanisms in the French-speaking world, commissioned by the OIF, the UNESCO-PREV Chair has strengthened its collaboration with several African partners, including the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the African Centre for International, Diplomatic, Economic and Strategic Studies (CEIDES) and the Applied Social Science Forum (ASSF). In the context of this same study, the Chair organized videoconference meetings in November 2021 on the subject of the country reports that make up the study. These meetings brought together experts from the Franco-PREV network. These technical workshops allowed the teams that created each report to present five to seven recommendations of their own. They also served the purpose of encouraging reflections on the topics of these “national” presentations to inform the global study by providing transversal perspectives on the different contexts that were covered.

The three workshops were structured as follows:

- Presentation of the country reports from Togo, Nigeria and Cameroon by the ISS and the CEIDES; Wednesday, November 3rd.
- Presentation of the country reports from Tunisia and Morocco by the ASSF; Tuesday, November 9th.
- Presentation of the country reports from Canada and Belgium by the Chair of UNESCO-PREV and the CRÉA; Tuesday, November 16th.

The relevant, evidence-based recommendations, rooted in the values of La Francophonie that came out of these meetings, were incorporated into the overall study and were ultimately brought to the attention of the member states and governments of La Francophonie.



FRANCE / QUÉBEC / BELGIQUE RELATIONSHIP



Videoconference with Les Jeunes IHEDN—Study of Radicalization in Canada

Les Jeunes IHEDN [IHEDN Youth] is a French association that brings together youth that are passionate about issues related to defence, security and geopolitics. The association has about 2000 members and several overseas delegations, including one in Canada since the fall of 2019.

The Les Jeunes IHEDN report sheds light on the issue of radicalization within Europe. In order to include the Canadian vision of radicalization in a comparative perspective, Prof. David Morin participated in a meeting with Les Jeunes IHEDN to discuss this subject matter with them in March 2021.



The Chair has maintained its ties with the Comité interministériel de prévention de la délinquance et de la radicalisation du gouvernement français ([Interministerial Committee for Crime and Radicalization Prevention], CIPDR) for the purpose of planning a series of workshops in 2022. Several preparation meetings took place between the Chair and the CIPDR on January 13, January 16 and November 17, 2021. The Chair also had an exchange with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in France within the context of the FrancoPrev network.



The chair continued its close collaboration with the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles [Wallonia-Brussels Federation] within the context of the FrancoPrev network. In January 2021, Prof. Morin also spoke at the FWB's Réseau de prise en charge des extrémismes et radicalismes violents [Network for the Management of Extremism and Violent Radicalism] webinars.

The second Euro-Mediterranean Seminar for the Engagement of Youth Against Violence took place from December 15 to December 17, 2021, at the Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies (Granada). The event was organized by the Euro-Arab Foundation, the REDE Project, the Conveyors of Knowledge association, the Youth ID association, the UNESCO-PREV Chair and the European project PAVE. The event brought together youth from euro-Mediterranean countries, primarily from the south of Spain and France, from different walks of life to help them think about the role that youth play in the prevention of violent extremism with a multicultural approach. The languages used for this event were Spanish, French and English.

On February 2, 2021, the UNESCO Chair met with M. Egmont Renard from Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations, one of UNESCO's partners, to touch base about ongoing projects and to discuss the possibility of collaborations.



Prof. Olivier Champagne-Poirier and Prof. Marie-Ève Carignan presented, in 2021, on “La couverture médiatique du terrorisme – étude de cas” [Media Coverage of Terrorism – A Case Study], as part of the course “Journalisme et terrorisme” [Journalism and Terrorism] at UCL Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium.

And finally, the Chair collaborated on the International Political Communication and Democratic Risk master's degree – a triple diploma at the University of Sherbrooke, the Catholic University of Louvain and Sciences Po Aix. This program leads to a master's diploma in Communication from the University of Sherbrooke, a master's degree in Communication from the Catholic University of Louvain with either a Specialization in Organizational and Public Relations Management (Louvain-la-Neuve) or a Specialization in Media Communication Strategies (Mons), and a master's degree in Political Science with the “International Political Communication and Democratic Risk (CORIS)” specialization at Sciences Po Aix.

OTAN



On December 1 and 2, 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair received a visit from Lieutenant-Colonel Yves Desbiens at the University of Sherbrooke, to discuss the possibility of collaborating with STRATCOM. Lt. Col. Desbiens gave a presentation during his visit, on December 1.

During the RIGA Stratcom Dialogue, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Riga, Latvia (online), on May 6, 2021, Prof. Carignan gave a presentation entitled *The Future of Democracy—New Understanding of Free Speech and Responsibility?* The presentation focused on mobilizing social groups via digital platforms, the rise of domestic violent extremism and the spread of polarization, which have changed the fabric of democracy in the digital age.

RESEARCH AND ACTION ON SOCIAL POLARIZATION TEAM (RAPS)



In 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair has been involved in projects with the Research and Action on Social Polarization team (RAPS). In April 2021, the co-Chairholder, Vivek Venkatesh, took part in a virtual half-day event with the researchers from RAPS on the theme “La pandémie et des polarisations sociales : points de vue et perceptions des établissements d’éducation” [The Pandemic and Social Polarization: Points of View and Perceptions from Educational Institutions]. This event was organized in collaboration with the University Institute SHERPA and the Ministry of Education of Quebec.

In the context of the publication of the book *Le nouvel âge des extrêmes : les démocraties occidentales, la radicalisation et l’extrémisme violent* [The New Age of Extremes? Western Democracies, Radicalization and Violent Extremism], the authors Ghayda Hassan, Cécile Rousseau, Marie-Laure Daxhelet and the researchers Élise Bourgeois-Guérin and Sébastien Brouillette-Alarie wrote the 23rd chapter “Le secteur de la santé mentale et des services sociaux et la prévention de la radicalisation violente au Québec” [Mental Health and Social Service Sectors and the Prevention of Violent Radicalization in Quebec]. This chapter was the subject of a summary prepared by the University of Sherbrooke on the role that the Quebec health system plays in dealing with radicalization and featuring Dr. Rousseau.

On February 11, 2021, Prof. Cécile Rousseau and the co-chairholder, David Morin, presented on “Les théories du complot : comprendre pour protéger le lien social” [Conspiracy Theories: Understanding to Protect the Social Link] within a series of webinars called “Le monde aujourd’hui” [The World Today], organized by the Montreal Institute of International Studies (IEIM).

Subsequently, on February 25, 2021, the Chair co-organized with the RAPS team a reflective virtual workshop on the existing evaluation models when it comes to the prevention of violent extremism. The workshop was called “Évaluer nos pratiques en prévention de l’extrémisme violent : comment faire?” [Evaluating Our Practices in Preventing Violent Extremism: What Do We Know?]. The goal of the workshop was to question the research results carried out by the Chair to develop evaluation guidelines. The scientific coordinator of the Chair, Pablo Madriaza, was responsible for synthesizing the collected results.

The UNESCO-PREV Chair and RAPS collaborated on different projects that deal with the issue of conspiracy theories in Quebec and Canada. Notably, the Chair collaborated on the program CoVivre which aims to inform, protect and support marginalized communities in Montréal during the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the context of this program, Marie-Ève Carignan and David Morin act as the consultants for a communication campaign that aims to prevent adhesion to conspiracy theories.

Finally, the Chair contributed to many funding applications led by the members of RAPS (see the funding section).

CANADIAN PRACTITIONERS FOR THE PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION AND EXTREMIST VIOLENCE — CPN-PREV

On November 25 and December 10, 2021, the director of CPN-PREV and co-Chairholder of the UNESCO-PREV Chair, Ghayda Hassan, participated in a series of panels entitled “**Composantes réussies et moins réussies dans les programmes de prévention tertiaire**” [Successful and Less Successful Components in Tertiary Prevention Programs] and presented the results of the 2nd and 3rd systematic review of the CPN-PREV.

On July 17, 2021, Prof. Ghayda Hassan participated in an educational session entitled “**Preventing Violent Radicalization: Building Awareness,**” organized by the Order of Social Workers and Social Worker Technicians of Ontario.

On November 25, 2021, the CPN-PREV and the UNESCO Chair on the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism organized a panel discussion entitled “**Approches réussies et moins réussies dans les programmes de PEV primaire et secondaire : Une revue systématique**” [Successful and Less Successful Approaches in Primary and Secondary PVE Programs : A Systematic Review] about the results from the 2nd systematic review of the CPN-PREV.

On December 10, 2021, the CPN-PREV and the UNESCO Chair on the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism organized a panel discussion entitled “**Approches réussies et moins réussies dans les programmes de PEV tertiaire: Une revue systématique**” [Successful and Less Successful Approaches in tertiary PVE Programs: A Systematic



Review] about their results from the 3rd systematic review of the CPN-PREV.

Within the context of the PREV-IMPACT program, the Chair is in the process of evaluating “Virtual Partnering in Practice,” an initiative of CPN-PREV that aims to create a community practice within the network of members that work in tertiary prevention.

The Chair is also partnering with CPN-PREV on the International Consensus Guidelines Committee for Best Practices in the Prevention of Radicalization (ICGC) . A list of recommendations for the community practice has been established, and the report will soon be available.

CEFIR

CÉGEP ÉDOUARD-MONTPETIT



CENTRE DE
PRÉVENTION
DE LA RADICALISATION
MENANT À LA VIOLENCE

CPRLV and CEFIR

In 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair published “**Revue 2020 sur la prévention de l’extrémisme violent dans les revues scientifiques**” [2020 review of the scientific literature on the prevention of violent extremism] in collaboration with the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV). This publication reports on publications having to do with prevention in 2020 and will allow for a yearly follow-up monitoring the evolution of scientific production on the subject of prevention.

The UNESCO-PREV Chair and the Research and Action on Social Polarization (RAPS) team co-organized a virtual colloquium on May 7, 2021, in partnership with the CPN-PREV, the CPRLV, the CEFIR, the IRIPI and the ICPC entitled “Les polarisations sociales à l’heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l’altérité et les identités en temps de crise” [Social Polarizations at the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic : Problematize Alterity and Identities in Times of Crisis] as part of the 88th Acfas Conference.

COLLABORATION WITH THE FCTF EXPLORATORY DIALOGUES GROUP



DEVELOP RESEARCH-BASED ON PRACTICES

PREV-IMPACT PROJECT

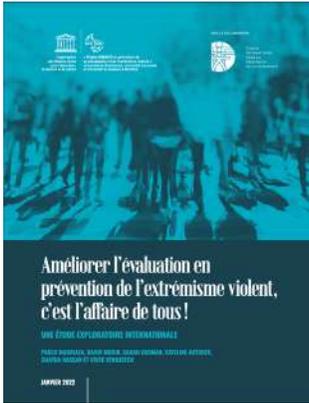
Throughout 2021, many products and activities were developed within the context of this project.

Systematic Review

In 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair completed the PREV-IMPACT systematic review, the results of which will be published in 2022. The goal of this systematic review is to catalogue program evaluations for the prevention of radicalization leading to violence (PRV), published up until December 2019, in order to identify evaluation methodologies and make recommendations for program evaluation. The strategy used is based on the methods of the Campbell Collaboration review (<https://www.campbellcollaboration.org>). In 2020, The Chair completed the data collection, i.e. 219 selected studies, as well as the coding and analysis. The final report was completed in 2021.

International Study 1

In June 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair published, along with its partners, one of which being the International Centre for Crime Prevention, an international study entitled **“Constraints and Opportunities in Evaluating Programs for Prevention of Violent Extremism: How the Practitioners See it”** with the aim of documenting the experiences, the struggles and the learnings from researchers and practitioners who have conducted evaluations of programs and practices in the prevention of violent radicalization and extremism in various Western countries. Within the context of this study, interviews were conducted with 57 stakeholders from six continents (North America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Asia and Oceania).



International Study 2

In November 2021, the Chair published the study “Improving evaluations of programs for the prevention of radicalization violent extremism. An international exploratory study”. This study aims to document the experiences, challenges and learnings of actors involved in the evaluation of programs and practices in the prevention of violent radicalization and extremism in 9 Western countries. A total of 54 participants were interviewed, including 32 researchers/evaluators, 19 practitioners and 3 government representatives from Belgium, Canada, England, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States.

PREV-IMPACT GUIDE

The Chair has written a practical guide to raise awareness and support the work of practitioners, researchers and evaluators who wish to initiate an evaluation process for a prevention program in the field. In order to adapt this guide to the reality of the practical environment, it created a consultation committee composed of five front-line practitioners, the guide writing team (two people) and the members of the Chair (two people). This committee participated in four workshops in which it worked on the adaptation of the guide, particularly with regard to the revision of the scientific language used and with concrete examples of evaluation. The guide is currently being translated into English and will soon be available on the Chair’s website.

VPIP EVALUATION PROJECT

As mentioned in the section on the collaboration with CPN-PREV, the Chair is currently evaluating the Virtual Partnering in Practice Project, based on its evaluation guide. This evaluation consists of two phases, the first of which just started. An initial workshop was organized to reconstruct the theory of change of the project with the design and implementation team. The workshop allowed them to develop metrics that were then tested by several discussion groups and individual interviews as well as an online survey of the practitioners involved in this project.

DISINFORMATION, CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Since January 2020, even before the World Health Organisation (WHO) considered that the severity of the COVID-19 would qualify it as a pandemic, we were already seeing, on social media and public space, an overabundance of information of variable veracity relating to this virus. This phenomenon, which the WHO refers to as an “infodemic,” is an environment where the public is faced with a rapid spread of all kinds of information, both accurate and inaccurate (Merriam-Webster, 2020). It has been of great concern to the Chair since the emergence of the disease, as it has created an increase in discrimination and hate speech against certain cultural communities, associated with the virus or its spread, as well as an increase in other sources of inequities and systemic issues.

These findings led the Chair’s team to act quickly to better understand what was driving fake news and conspiracy theories, related to the pandemic or not, as well as the challenges faced by public health authorities in implementing various communication strategies related to the adoption of social and health measures.

The potential social risks associated with mass disinformation are numerous: declining levels of trust in public institutions, politics and media, non-compliance with sanitary measures and aggravation of the propagation, deteriorating social climate and social disorder, online radicalization and recruitment for extremist groups, and potentially violent acts. The Chair put in place a funded research program with the primary objective of improving our understanding of this real-time phenomenon, by generating evidence to develop strategies to prevent adherence to conspiracy theories.

Specific research programs associated with conspiracy theories

- « Infodémie et désinformation massive à l’ère de la Covid-19 : Prévenir l’adhésion aux théories du complot en désamorçant les fausses nouvelles” [Infodemic and Massive Disinformation in the Age of COVID-19: Preventing Adherence to Conspiracy Theories by Defusing Fake News], project funded by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of Quebec as part of the call for solutions for COVID-19.
- « De la méfiance à la désinformation : portrait et mécanismes virtuels de diffusion de la pensée conspirationniste et de ses effets potentiellement violents au Canada” [From Mistrust to Disinformation: Portrait and Virtual Mechanisms of Dissemination of Conspiratorial Thought and its Potentially Violent Effects in Canada], project funded by the Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security (MINDS) program of the National Defence.
- Collaboration on the project “The Role of Communication Strategies and Media Discourse in Shaping Psychological and Behavioural Response to the Covid-19 Outbreak: a Comparative Analysis Between Canada and two Asian Countries/ Regions,” project funded by the Health Institute of Canada.
- David Morin and Marie-Ève Carignan are co-researchers on the project “Jeunes et « complot » au Québec : vocabulaire, résonance et logiques d’adhésion” [Youth and “Conspiracy” in Quebec: Vocabulary, Resonance and Logics of Adherence], funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) – Knowledge Development Grants.



- Marie-Ève Carignan is the co-researcher on the project “Impact des formations « Départager le vrai du faux sur le Web » de l’Agence Science Presse sur la littératie médiatique et la curiosité scientifique d’élèves du primaire” [Impact of the Agence Science Presse’s “Separating Facts from Fiction on the Web” Training on Media Literacy and Curiosity of Primary School Students], funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) – Individual Partnership Commitment Grants program.

STUDY ON PREVENTION MECHANISMS IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING WORLD



In 2021, in collaboration with the OIF, the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles [Wallonia-Brussels Federation] and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the UNESCO-PREV Chair coordinated the writing of seven country reports and one cross-cutting study report, conducted by the FrancoPREV network, on the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism that could lead to terrorism in the French-speaking world. The study’s main goals were to take stock of the situation and the challenges of prevention measures in various French-speaking countries, identify promising practices and lessons learned, and present conclusions and courses of action likely to contribute to the establishment of definitive and shared recommendations. The countries focused on in the research are: in Europe, Belgium; in North America, Canada; in North Africa, Tunisia and Morocco; and, in Central and West Africa, Cameroon, Nigeria and Togo. This study, the coordination of which was entrusted by the UNESCO-PREV Chair, was co-directed in partnership with the Institute of Security Studies (ISS), the Centre de ressources et d’appui (CRÉA) du Réseau de prise en charge des extrémismes et des radicalismes violents [Resource and Support Center of the Network for the Management of Extremism and Violent Radicalism], the African Centre for International, Diplomatic, Economic and Strategic Studies (CEIDES) and the Applied Social Science Forum (ASSF). The reports were officially published at the beginning of March 2022.

Within the context of this study, the Chair organized, in November 2021, a series of videoconference meetings around the country reports that the study was based on. The aim was to encourage reflection in connection with the presentation of these “national” results in order to inform the overall study as a cross-cutting perspective of the different contexts encountered.



MEDIA COVERAGE OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND ETHICS

The media coverage of violent extremism, radicalization and terrorist attacks raises various questions about the responsibility of information professionals in adopting various practices as well as that of the media in equipping the public to understand these phenomena. A reflection on the ethical responsibilities of the media that address these phenomena is necessary, as well as furthering research on journalistic practices and the analysis of media discourses on these issues.

In this context, the Chair has brought forward a comparative analysis of the journalistic treatment of five attacks perpetrated in five Western countries and claimed by ISIS, according to their compliance or non-compliance with an analysis grid based on the ethical principles recognized by the profession (constructed inductively and applied deductively to a corpus of print media). Semi-structured interviews are currently being conducted with journalists to get their reactions to the results of this media analysis and to discuss the issues they have encountered in this type of coverage. A review of the jurisprudence of media self-regulatory bodies on these issues is also underway. The project will result in a symposium for representatives of press councils, media professionals and researchers from around the world. This research was funded by the FRQSC.

At the same time, the Chair is undertaking another analysis project of media coverage in Quebec of four different attacks with four different motives (Ottawa, Pulse, Toronto and the Mosque in Quebec City). The analyses were completed in 2020 (quantitative analysis of the corpus using an inductively created analysis grid). The results of this analysis will be presented in 2022 at the 4th colloquium of the Rencontre internationale du Réseau international éducation et diversité (RIED) [International Meeting of the Education and Diversity International Network], with which the Chair is associated.

LANDSCAPE OF HOPE



Landscape of Hope is a unique remix project based on sampling that magnifies the stories of young people to encourage the development of resilience vis-à-vis racism, discrimination, prejudice and cyberbullying. This initiative is based on the digital arts and is youth-led. Landscape of Hope aims to empower with a critical digital literacy as well as technological tools that allow them to create innovative multimedia performances and installations so that they can share their experiences of hate, discrimination and cyberbullying. The goal of the Landscape of Hope team is to implement and evaluate a sustainable multi-sector youth-led approach to create multimedia stories that accurately reflect the experiences of youth in order to combat discrimination.

In February 2021, Landscape of Hope received substantial funding from the Fonds de recherche du Québec ([Quebec Research Fund], FRQ), the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. This allowed the transdisciplinary team to continue working with marginalized communities, including black racialized youth, thanks to workshops, the creation of installations and performance events in

Montréal and in Chicoutimi, Quebec, where the emphasis was placed on the Indigenous community partners. For more on the activities of Landscape of Hope in 2021, visit <https://projectsomeone.ca/fr/landscapeofhope>.

In June 2021, the Landscape of Hope team of the Project Someone developed **an evaluation guide for initiatives based on art and resilience**. While the guide is intended to help researchers and project partners measure the success and effectiveness of their work, it can serve as a practical tool for any organization undertaking similar work in the intersections of social justice, education and arts.

The methods and the included frameworks in the toolbox are a literature analysis on the evaluation of community projects, the evaluation of art education and the evaluation of projects based on resilience. It is important to note that the toolbox is based on the steps recommended by the Anti-Racism Action Program evaluation guide.

VIEWS FROM FORMER EXTREMISTS

This Project Someone initiative is based on the voices of those who have engaged in hate, namely former extremists, sharing experiences and insights on how to build resilience to radicalization leading to violent extremism and hate. Law enforcement officials and community activists also participated in these discussions to develop multi-stakeholder strategies, based on facts, and learning materials to combat violent extremism and hate in Canada. To know more about the publications resulting from this project, [click here](#).

Within the context of this initiative, the UNESCO-PREV Chair's Project Someone, in partnership with the Teaching and Learning Centre and the Department of Education, Human Sciences and Intercultural Communication (DSFUCI) of the University of Sienna, organized on June 23, 2021, the webinar "Preventing Violence Extremism: Insights from Former Right-Wing Extremists" on the prevention of violent extremism. This webinar analyzed the ideas of former right-wing extremists. The plenary discussion session was held by the co-Chairholder Vivek Venkatesh.

COLLECTIVE ACTION - THE NEW AGE OF EXTREMISM? WESTERN DEMOCRATS, RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM



At the time of the turbulent return of identity politics, namely religious, and in the context of relative erosion of citizen solidarities and constitutional loyalties, the social polarization generated by extremism of all kinds undermines social cohesion and weakens the foundations of our democratic societies. Where is the social science research on this? Where are the recurring debates and the issues that it raises? How can it contribute to the implementation of solutions?

By bringing together more than forty specialists and researchers from different disciplines in a dozen Western countries, this project contributes to the enrichment of knowledge in its own way. Firstly, on a theoretical level, by reviewing the contribution of several disciplines and conceptual models that shed light on various aspects of this complex phenomenon. Secondly, on an empirical level, by contextualizing violent extremism and presenting case studies from several Western countries. Finally, on a practical level, by analyzing the responses and policies put in place (or not) to counter these extremisms in the West.



The official launch of this project took place on March 1, 2021, and received interesting media coverage:

- “Livres – Le nouvel âge des extrêmes : entrevue avec le co-auteur David Morin”, *Désautels le dimanche*, June 27, 2021
- “Le nouvel âge des extrêmes : entretien avec David Morin”, May 6, 2021, *Forum Saint-Laurent on International Security*
- “Le nouvel âge des extrêmes : prêts à agir”, *La Presse*, March 28, 2021, with Francis Langlois
- “Le nouvel âge des extrêmes : entrevue avec Sami Aoun, professeur”, *Le 15-18*, March 23, 2021
- “Faut-il s’inquiéter des extrémistes ?” *La Tribune*, March 20, 2021, with Sami Aoun and David Morin
- Interview with Sami Aoun, *CFAK 88.3*, March 11, 2021

The project was also the subject of video capsules produced by the University of Sherbrooke, broadcast on the Chair’s social media and addressing the issues in four chapters:

- “Quel rôle pour le système de santé québécois dans la prise en charge de la radicalisation ?” Capsule featuring Cécile Rousseau, co-author of Chapter 23.
- “Internet est-il un espace de radicalisation ?” Capsule featuring Séraphin Alava, author of Chapter 8.
- “L’extrémisme violent en Scandinavie,” Capsule featuring Magnus Norell, author of Chapter 14.
- “La place du politique dans la violence terroriste.” Capsule featuring Xavier Crettiez, author of Chapter 3.

REVIEW OF THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS



In 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair published **the 2020 Review on the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Scientific Journals** in collaboration with the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV). This review reports on publications about prevention for the year 2020 and will allow an annual follow-up of the evolution of the scientific production on the subject of prevention. This journal targets scientific articles whose primary or secondary objective is the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism. Only the scientific articles were retained, bibliographies, reviews or reviews of articles are therefore excluded from the annual review.

The review differentiates between articles that have prevention as their primary topic and those that address it secondarily, for example, in their conclusion. The review also includes the geographical and academic origins of the authors as well as the regions of the world covered by the articles. It also presents the methodology and the definition of the terminology used. In addition, the results are divided between articles that focus on prevention in general and those that focus specifically on prevention and online radicalization.

YOUTH AND “CONSPIRACY” IN QUEBEC: VOCABULARY, RESONANCE AND LOGICS OF ADHERENCE

Professors Carignan and Morin are participating as co-applicants in Professor Stéphanie Tremblay’s project “Jeunes et « complot » au Québec : vocabulaire, résonance et logiques d’adhésion pour l’année 2021” [Youth and “Conspiracy” in Quebec: Vocabulary, Resonance and Logics of Adherence For the Year 2021].

This qualitative project, for exploratory purposes, revolves around three specific objectives:

- 1) explore the meaning and resonance of conspiracy theories (CT) in the imagination of youth:
 - a) in terms of vocabulary, ideas and themes associated with CT;
 - b) in terms of “epistemic beliefs” or their relationship to knowledge;
 - c) in terms of the political imagination, that is, in their reading of social relations and power dynamics within Quebec society;
- 2) identify the rationale for adherence to CT:
 - a) by shedding light on the uses that young people make of it;
 - b) understanding the interaction between various CT in belief systems;
- 3) explore the potential impacts of youth enrollment in CT:
 - a) in terms of social or political mobilization and
 - b) of the attesting or protesting relationship towards the “system” or the public authorities.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PRACTICE SETTINGS

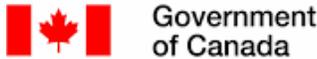
WORKSHOPS WITH QUEBEC GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

The Chair continues its collaboration with the Government of Quebec. Many activities and discussion meetings took place in 2021. a Chaire a poursuivi sa collaboration avec le gouvernement du Québec. Plusieurs activités et rencontres d'échanges ont eu lieu en 2021.

- On December 9, 2021, the Chair presented the results of its research on conspiracy theories related to the pandemic to the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles [Parole Board of Quebec].
- On April 27, May 17, November 18 and November 23, 2021, Prof. Morin participated, as an expert, in a training session on international risk and security management delivered by the Canadian Research Institute on Humanitarian Crises and Aid (OCCA) to the Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie
- On March 31, 2021, the director of the media division, Marie-Ève Carignan, was a panellist for an event organized by chief scientist of Quebec, Rémi Quirion. The expert on misinformation and media content analysis was joined by journalist Jean-François Cliche and filmmaker Émile Roy to discuss possible short, medium and long-term counterbalances to misinformation. The webinar is available [HERE](#) (in French).

Québec 

WORKSHOPS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



The Chair also continued its collaboration with the Government of Canada. Many activities and discussion meetings took place in 2021.



- On June 23, 2021, Prof. David Morin and Prof. Marie-Ève Carignan led the meeting “De la méfiance à la désinformation : La pensée complotiste et ses effets potentiellement violents au Canada” [From Mistrust to Disinformation: Portrait and Virtual Mechanisms of Dissemination of Conspiratorial Thought and its Potentially Violent Effects in Canada], as part of the expert lecture series of the National Defence’s MINDS program.
- On March 19, 2021, Prof Vivek Venkatesh participated in a **discussion about Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy** with the honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion of Canada and other organizations from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) funding project.
- On January 26, 2021, Prof. Venkatesh and Morin presented “Right-Wing Extremism: An Overview” at Global Affairs in Ottawa, Canada (presented virtually).

SOCIAL INNOVATION PEDAGOGY

This project, funded by a contribution of \$780 000 over three years (2021-2024) to the UNESCO-PREV co-Chairholder, Vivek Venkatesh, mobilizes evidence-based social pedagogy principles to promote critical digital literacy and empower marginalized communities.

The Innovative Social Pedagogy to Empower Indigenous Communities, Reduce Gender, and Racial Biases project is funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). This project takes place on three sites, namely Montréal, Chicoutimi and Edmonton, for three years. The Project Someone (Concordia University, Montréal), the University of Alberta and the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi, as well as community partners, will co-create, adapt and evaluate four types of distinct interventions. It includes interactive workshops, documentaries and multimedia presentations, online courses and policy briefs.

The work is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 concerning quality education, equality, gender, partnerships and building strong institutions that promote peace and justice.



TRAINING AT THE MONTRÉAL PLANETARIUM

In order to equip its facilitators to better address misinformation and conspiracy theories in the sciences (particularly related to astronomy), the Planetarium of Montréal invited Prof. Marie-Ève Carignan and David Morin, on October 25, 2021, to provide training on this subject. The training aimed to introduce the facilitators to the different conspiracy theories that they could be confronted with, to help them understand the factors of adherence to conspiracy theories and misinformation, and to offer them tools to know how to react.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM “LES ENJEUX DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL À L'ÈRE DE LA PANDÉMIE ET L'OLYMPISME ET LE DROIT INTERNATIONAL” [INTERNATIONAL LAW ISSUES IN THE ERA OF THE PANDEMIC AND OLYMPISM AND INTERNATIONAL LAW]

Prof. David Morin presented “Les théories du complot en temps de pandémie” [Conspiracy Theories in Times of Pandemic] on May 19, 2021, as part of the Summer School in Applied International Law and Policy of the DIPIA master’s Program of the School of Applied Politics at the University of Sherbrooke.

EVALUATING PRACTICES IN THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM



On April 28, 2021, the Chair organized, in partnership with the CPN-PREV, Shift and the John Howard Society, the workshop “Evaluating Our Practices in Preventing Violent Extremism: What Do We Know? ”. This workshop brought together 26 people from 12 Canadian organizations and consisted of two parts. The first was a presentation of the results of a study that the Chair did on the subject. The second was divided into two sub-workshops; Shift and the John Howard Society each led one. During the two sub-workshops, the participants discussed ways to involve all relevant stakeholders in the evaluation processes. The objective of this workshop was to initiate a discussion based on the results of two studies conducted by the Chair and the experience of practitioners in the field, considering the insufficient number of evaluations measuring the effects of the implementation of these programs.

FRANCE-QUEBEC ROUNDTABLE ON CONSPIRACY THEORIES



As part of the 2021 edition of the Press and Media Week, the co-Chairholder David Morin participated, on May 5, 2021, in the virtual France-Quebec Roundtable, “Les théories du complot : comment en parler?” [Conspiracy Theories: How to Discuss it?]. This roundtable, led by the Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec ([Quebec Federation of Professional Journalists], FPJQ), brought together teachers, journalists and the public. Its goal was to lay the groundwork for a dialogue with those who engage in this type of discourse.



“ON SE RESSEMBLE + QU’ON PENSE” [WE ARE MORE ALIKE THAN WE THINK]

As part of its project Dialogue+, Actions interculturelles, in partnership with the UNESCO-PREV Chair, launched, on January 15, 2021, a mobilization campaign entitled “On se ressemble + qu’on pense” [We are more alike than we think] to break down prejudices about cultural diversity. The launch event took place on the Zoom platform in the presence of many influential individuals and youth leaders with Dialogue+, who support this major initiative to foster intercultural understanding. Prof. David Morin participated.

The Dialogue+ survey, published in March 2019 on Canadians’ perceptions of discriminatory practices and the phenomenon of violent radicalism, revealed that 31% of respondents report having experienced discrimination in the six months before the survey. Additionally, 53% claim to have witnessed discrimination in the same period. In this survey, discrimination included any hateful gestures, discriminatory words or derogatory language directed at respondents or those around them.

This awareness campaign is therefore intended to serve as a tool to position intercultural dialogue as an essential condition for the wellbeing of a society and to raise awareness among the people in Sherbrooke of the richness of the cultural diversity in our community. The “On se ressemble + qu’on pense” campaign illustrates the concrete ways that, beyond our cultural difference, we are all the same.

RAISE AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



88th Acfas 2021

The UNESCO-PREV Chair and the Research and Action on Social Polarization (RAPS) team co-organized, in partnership with CPN-PREV, CPRLV, CEFIR, IRIPI and ICPC, a symposium on social polarization in times of pandemic as part of the 88th Acfas Conference. Overall, the Acfas conference is the largest multidisciplinary, interuniversity and intersectoral scientific event in the French-speaking world. It brought together researchers from different disciplines and universities and individuals from the practical fields (government, education, health, community) that are involved in these issues in recent years. The symposium organized by the UNESCO-PREV Chair, originally scheduled for May 7 and 8, 2020 at the University of Sherbrooke, was rescheduled and took place virtually on May 7, 2021. Its theme had been adjusted to incorporate the evolution of the research that had been done and the evolution of social issues. The day of the symposium was entitled “Les polarisations sociales à l’heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l’altérité et les identités en temps de crise” [“Social Polarizations in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Problematizing Otherness and Identities in Times of Crisis“].

It was divided into three panels, as follows:

- Panel 1 - Hassan, G., Bellot, C., Fortin, V., Miconi, D. (May 7, 2021). Pandémie, inégalités sociales et discrimination systémique, Panel presented at the 88th Acfas Conference, as part of Colloque 635 “Les polarisations sociales à l’heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l’altérité et les identités en temps de crise”.
- Panel 2 - Carignan, M.-È., Morin, D., Bronner, G. Geoffroy, M., Tremblay, S. (May 7, 2021). L’altérité, pierre angulaire de la pensée complotiste : d’un extrémisme à l’autre, Panel presented at the 88th Acfas Conference, as part of Colloque 635 “Les polarisations sociales à l’heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l’altérité et les identités en temps de crise”.
- Panel 3 - Rousseau, C., Cénat, J.-M., Rufagari, M.-C., Slamanca-Cardona, M. (May 7, 2021). Pouvoir d’agir des communautés, Panel presented at the 88th Acfas Conference, as part of Colloque 635 “Les polarisations sociales à l’heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l’altérité et les identités en temps de crise”.

In addition, the UNESCO-PREV co-Chairholder, Vivek Venkatesh, gave a speech on the principles of social pedagogy at the symposium entitled “L’éducation, rempart contre le populisme?” [Education, a bulwark against populism?], organized by the Conseil supérieur de l’éducation [Quebec Superior Council of Education] at Acfas 2021 and co-chaired by Maryse Lassonde, Nadine Forget-Dubois and Mylène Gauvreau.

58th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE SOCIÉTÉ QUÉBÉCOISE DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE ([QUEBEC POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY], SQSP)



In the face of global upheaval and the new challenges of governance, the SQSP convention asks the question about the political division that seems more intense since the digital age. It is also interested in the resistance towards the division by civil, political movements and international organizations. As part of the convention, which was held virtually from May 17 to May 20, 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair organized a half-day workshop on the theme of “Reprendre ou étendre son pouvoir? Entrepreneurs et discours complotistes au Québec après un an de pandémie” [Reclaiming or expanding power? Entrepreneurs and Conspiracy Discourses in Quebec after a Year of Pandemic]. This workshop allowed political scientists to reflect on the promoters of the conspiracy movement in Quebec, their objectives and the ideas that they defend. More specifically, it was an opportunity to discuss the role the Internet plays in spreading conspiracy theories and to observe the effects and consequences of these discourses on Quebec society and on social polarizations.

SYMPOSIUM

“Couverture médiatique de l’extrémisme violent : étude du portrait dressé par la presse québécoise de quatre attentats revendiqués pour des motifs différents” [Media Coverage of Violent Extremism: A Study of the Portrait Painted by the Quebec Press of Four Attacks for Different Motives] as part of the 4th international meeting of the Réseau international Éducation et diversité ([Education and Diversity International Network], RIED). Delayed because of COVID-19, this symposium was supposed to take place from July 1 to July 3, 2020, but was rescheduled to 2021, and then to 2022. It will therefore take place from June 30 to July 2, 2022.



1st BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE SOCIÉTÉ QUÉBÉCOISE POUR L’ÉTUDE DE LA RELIGION ([QUEBEC SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS], SQER)

For the very first biannual convention, on April 23, 2021, the UNESCO-PREV Chair organized a panel: “Les théories du complot ou la concurrence des récits sur la « réalité »” [Conspiracy theories or the competition of narratives on “reality“]. In this regard, the co-Chairholder, David Morin, and the director of the media centre, Marie-Ève Carignan, gave a presentation entitled “Qui et pourquoi? L’adhésion des Canadiens aux « théories » du complot dans une perspective comparée internationale” [Who and Why? Canadians’ Adherence to Conspiracy «Theories» in an International Comparative Perspective].

STUDY HALF-DAY

On April 13, 2021, the Chair organized a virtual study half-day: “La pandémie et les polarisations sociales : points de vue et perceptions des établissements d’éducation” [Pandemic and Social Polarizations: Points of View and Perceptions of Academic Institutions], in partnership with the Ministries of Education and Higher Education and the University Institute SHERPA.

SERIES OF CONFERENCES. CROSSED PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL EXPLOSIONS IN CHILE AND COLOMBIA. A NECESSARY DIALOGUE



From June 17 to August 19, 2021, the Chair co-organized a series of **virtual conferences**, in partnership with Chile’s Centre for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES), the Alternatives NGO, based in Canada, the University of Cauca, the Rosario University in Colombia and the independent media agency Pressenza. This series of conferences proposed a comparative dialogue between Chile and Colombia based on five axes of reflection about the recent social explosions in both countries.

- 17 June, Session 1 - Violence and repression: an attempt to reflect on the relationship between the outbursts, violent protests and state repression. The role of the police and the front lines were discussed.
- 1 July, Session 2 - Singular mobilizations?: describe the particularities of recent social mobilizations in both countries within the historical context of social movements.
- 15 July, Session 3 - The activism of today: individuals involved in social movements at the heart of today’s protests, namely women, indigenous and youth, as well as their forms of interaction, coordination and political action on the ground.
- 29 July, Session 4 - Social outbursts and polarization. We often say, without any proof, that social outbursts are a natural response to the polarization that already exists in society. Does this hypothesis ring true in the case of the social outbursts in Colombia and Chile? Are we not in the presence of, often artificially created, polarization of the political elite? What role does the polarization of the political elite have in the genesis of two social outbursts and how were they managed?
- 5 August, Session 5 - Student movements and social revolt. Consider the roles that students and youth play in social outbursts in terms of being key players in recent social mobilizations in Chile and Colombia.
- 19 August, Session 6 - What are the solutions to the conflict? Consider the possible solutions and perspectives to the conflict, with a particular focus on the constitutional solution of Chile and the answers that are proposed for Colombia.

SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS - KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE

In order to fulfil its objective of dissemination and transfer of knowledge, the UNESCO-PREV Chair supported scientific publications related to the prevention of violent radicalization and extremism. It edited a collaborative project on the subject that brings together Western researchers, published in March 2021. The Chair has also launched an annual international journal that focuses on both the research and practice of PEV, in partnership with the CPRLV. These tools will be essential for knowledge exchange within the network.

WEBINAR ON MISINFORMATION: WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Social media allows anyone, anywhere, to share whatever they way. The voices which were once silenced now have a large platform. Consequently, people can stay in touch across oceans and borders and communities of support can form around specific issues. However, these same characteristics make it very easy for false information to go viral on social media.

Science Up First is a national initiative working with a collective of independent scientists, researchers, health care and communication experts. The goal is to share the best scientific research available in a creative way to put an end to the dissemination of misinformation.

Within the context of this initiative, the director of the media division of the UNESCO-PREV Chair and member of the Science Up First board of directors, Marie-Ève Carignan, participated, on November 30, 2021, in a live event entitled “Comment démêler le vrai du faux en contexte de pandémie” [How to Sort Out the Real from the Fake in the Context of a Pandemic], organized by Science Up First and presented by Laurent Turcot.



INTERNAL WEBINAR - PODCASTS, NETWORK FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE FÉDÉRATION WALLONIE-BRUXELLES [WALLONIA-BRUSSELS FEDERATION]

Since January 2018, the Réseau de Prise en charge des extrémismes violents de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles [Wallonia-Brussels Federation's Network for the Management of Extremism and Violent Radicalism] has organized seminars for those concerned with the prevention of violent extremism, as part of their duties. These seminars, similar to training sessions, are intended to strengthen participants' knowledge of the issue of violent extremism in order to equip them in their professional practices. Each seminar is facilitated by an external facilitator.



As a result of the public health crisis and subsequent lockdown, the Réseau adapted the format of the seminars by introducing a series of internal webinars recorded as **podcasts**.

Prof. David Morin participated on November 10, 2021, in a webinar about the collective work entitled *Le nouvel âge des extrêmes. Les démocraties occidentales, la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violent* [The New Age of Extremes? Western Democracies, Radicalization and Violent Extremism]. The webinar was led by Philippe Massay, director of CAPREV.

“ THE WORDS IN CONTEXT ” DATABASE

Developed in 2018 by Project Someone researchers to critically analyze online speeches on themes and topics of interest to Lebanon and its surroundings, **the Words in Context database** was launched in January 2021 in a comprehensive online platform. Each theme is accompanied by a policy brief that summarizes the main findings of the research conducted based on the Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (CACDA) method.

The database is intended to support decision-making and policy formulation by researchers and public policymakers, as well as to contribute to social action, counterterrorism narratives and related practices of international community practitioners and leaders. The database will increase knowledge of online hate patterns, extremism, misogyny and gender-based violence as well as their uses for researchers, public policymakers, community practitioners and leaders in the Canadian and Lebanese contexts.



CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SOCIÉTÉ, DROIT ET RELIGIONS DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE [SOCIETY, LAW AND RELIGIONS RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SHERBROOKE] - SoDRUS

In times of uncertainty and social polarization, like the one currently being experienced with the COVID-19 health crisis, the risk of violent radicalization can be significant. Extremist groups, including jihadists, can take advantage of these circumstances to adopt recruitment strategies that help them to isolate and indoctrinate people in such a way that they engage in a process of radicalization that can lead to violence. The process of de-radicalization helps people who had engaged in radical thinking or behaviour to reintegrate socially.

In order to better understand the process, it is important to pay attention to the role that Islamic religious discourse plays in deradicalization and violent extremism prevention programs. Can religious discourse contribute to the deradicalization process of people who have adopted radical thought or behaviour? This issue was discussed in order to see to what extent an alternative, appeasing and tolerant religious discourse can be part of a radicalization prevention strategy and an important aspect of the deradicalization process.

This roundtable, organized on May 23, 2021, by the UNESCO Chair for the prevention of radicalization and the Centre de recherche Société, Droit et Religions [Society, Law and Religions Research Centre] of the University of Sherbrooke, gave the floor to experts and practitioners working in the field of deradicalization. Co-Chairholder David Morin, doctoral candidate Tarik Tairi and other interveners participated in this activity.



“L’AVENIR NOUS APPARTIENT” [THE FUTURE IS OURS] REPORT

In February 2021, the CPN-PREV director and co-Chairholder of the UNESCO-PREV Chair, Ghayda Hassan, and her colleague Cécile Rousseau, were the subject of a television broadcast entitled “L’avenir nous appartient” [The Future is Ours], a solutions journalism TV show aimed at the general public, to share the work of the CIUSSS team for the prevention of discrimination and violent radicalization in the Centre-Ouest-de-l’île-de-Montréal. The testimony of two experts, one a clinical psychologist and the other a child psychiatrist, supported the importance of mentoring among radicalized youth.

OUR PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA

The Researchers of the UNESCO-PREV Chair are regularly solicited by the media in Quebec and elsewhere.

WEBINARS, PODCASTS AND EVENTS

(INCLUDING CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS)

December 2021

Hassan, G. (2021, December 10). Successful and less successful approaches in tertiary PVE programs: A systematic review, webinar presented by CPN-PREV.

Novembre 2021

Carignan, M.-È. (2021, November 30). Combattre la désinformation au Québec. Participation in a live event organized by La Science D'abord.

Morin, D. (2021, November 30). CRIDAQ – Désinformation et risques démocratiques. Étude des conséquences sociales potentielles de l'adhésion des Canadiens aux théories du complot.

Aoun, S. (2021, November 27). Signing session at the Salon du livre de Montréal for the release of the book *Penser la citoyenneté : Laïcité, pluralisme et islam*

Carignan, M.-È. (2021, November 26). Signing session at the Salon du Livre de Montréal for the release of the book *La Maison-Blanche vue du Québec* with Karine Prémont.

Hassan, G. (2021, Novembre 25). Successful and less successful approaches in primary and secondary PVE programs: A systematic review, presented by CPN-PREV.

Aoun, S. (2021, November 21). Professor Emeritus Sami Aoun receives two important distinctions from the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec and the Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy of Canada.

Morin, D. (2021, November 16). Facilitation of a workshop on the prevention of violent radicalization and extremism in the French-speaking world with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

Morin, D. (2021, November 16). Magazine 404 – La hausse des crimes haineux au pays.

Venkatesh, V. and Huebner, J. (2021, November 12). La technologie au service de l'artiste. "Diffractions", Montreal Museum of Fine Arts & PRISME, virtual webinar.

Morin, D. (2021, November 10). Podcast **Le nouvel âge des extrêmes. Les démocraties occidentales, la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violent** hosted by Philippe Massay, director of CAPREV.

October 2021

Carignan, M.-È. and Morin, D. (2021, October 28). Participation in a symposium on extreme polarization and public participation with the Institut du Nouveau Monde.

Carignan, M.-È. (2021, October 27). Participation in the second season of the Convictions podcast on Radio-Canada OhDio, entitled **QAnon : La Quête** hosted by Jeff Yates and Brigitte Noël.



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Venkatesh, V. (2021, October 19). Une performance conversationnelle sur la pédagogie sociale : Bâtir une résilience contre la discrimination dans les communautés marginalisées, Inter-University Videoconference. Autour de l'éducation artistique, virtual.

Grégoire-Labrecque, G., Venkatesh, V., Danquah, J. and Manion, K. (2021, October 12). **Untangling the blurry lines of “engaged” research.** Public Scholars Program, virtual.

Venkatesh, V. and Seck, I. (2021, October 6). Dialogue: Racisme systémique et éducation, organized by Amnistie Internationale Canada Francophone.

September 2021

Scrivens, R. and Venkatesh, V. (2021, September 30). The role of the internet in facilitating violent extremism: Insights from former right-wing extremists. Consortium for Research on Terrorism and International Crime, virtual.

Venkatesh, V., Scrivens, R. and Khalil, L. (2021, September 29). What role does technology play in violent extremism and terrorism? Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

Carignan, M.-È. and Morin, D. (2021, September 9). Participation on an episode of the TV show Nos années vingt, Télé-Québec. Discussion following a report about the opposition to health measures.



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Morin, D. Screening of the film Un pays qui se tient sage followed by a discussion on the legitimacy of the use of violence, Maison du cinéma, Sherbrooke.

Venkatesh, V. (2021, September 2). Hate Speech: A Violent Attack on Canadian Diversity, organized by Montreal Council of Women, Panellist alongside Barbara Perry and Amira Elghawaby, virtual.

July 2021

Morin, D. (2021, July 5). Participation on the podcast Ce n'est qu'une théorie on Qub radio, entitled QAnon, part 2, hosted by Alexandre Moranville-Ouellet.



©Qub radio

Madriaza, P. Regards P. “Regards croisés sur les explosions sociales au Chili et en Colombie. Un dialogue nécessaire”, Series of colloquiums, in partnership with Alternatives, le Centro de Estudios de Conflicto y Cohesión Social (COES) et l'Université Rosario (online)

- June 17, Session 1 – Violence et répression
- July 1, Session 2 – Des mobilisations singulières ?
- July 15, Session 3 – Les activismes d'aujourd'hui
- July 29, Session 4 – Explosions sociales et polarisation
- August 5, Session 5 – Mouvements étudiants et révolte sociale
- August 19, Session 6 – Quelles solutions au conflit

June 2021

Morin, D. (2021, June 28). Participation on the podcast “Ce n’est qu’une théorie sur Qub radio”, entitled QAnon part 1, hosted by Alexandre Moranville-Ouellet.



©Qub radio

Venkatesh, V. Addressing and Countering Hate Speech and Violent Extremism through Education in a Digital World, Side Event of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week 2021, United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG), UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (OSRSG-VAC), in partnership with the Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Norway, New York (online).

Venkatesh, V. (2021, June 23). Preventing Violent Extremism: Insights from Former Right-Wing Extremists. Plenary discussion moderator (online) Webinar co-organized with the Department of education, human sciences and intercultural communication (DSFUCI) of the University of Siena (online).

Venkatesh, V. (2021, June 17). Roundtable on urban security “Trajectoires de lutte : résistances locales et émancipation”, Panellists invited as part

of the series Territoires en conversation : Sécurité urbaine, en collaboration avec Paroles d’excluEs (online).

Venkatesh, V. (2021, June 2). From l’engagement citoyen à la responsabilité académique, Panellist invited to the student colloquium SHERPA-CREDEF : Migration, diversité(s) et engagement : enjeux pratiques et de recherche.

May 2021

Venkatesh, V. (2021, May 27). How Public Pedagogy Promotes Pluralism, Guest at an Episode of **Purposeful Empathy with Anita Nowak**.

Venkatesh, V. (2021, May 25). Online Hate & Social Media: Next Gen’s Digital Learning Exchange May Panel, Guest panellist, Mosaic Institute (online).

Morin, D. and Tairi, T. (2021, May 24). La place du religieux dans les discours alternatifs en intervention et prévention de l’extrémisme violent, Seminar-type roundtable, in partnership with the Centre de recherche Société, Droit et Religions de l’Université de Sherbrooke (SoDRUS), University of Sherbrooke (online).

Venkatesh, V. (2021, May 21) Landscape of Hope and Project SOMEONE. **Presentation of the project. Cybersecurity revolution 2021 (SECREV) (online)**.

Morin, D. (2021, May 19). Les théories du complot en temps de pandémie, Guest panellist, Applied International Law and Policy summer school of the DIPIA master’s program, École de politique appliquée de l’Université de Sherbrooke Les enjeux de droit international à l’ère de la pandémie et l’olympisme et le droit international (online).

Carignan, M.-È. and Morin, D. (2021, May). Episode 1 - Désinfo en temps de pandémie : la tempête parfaite on the **Dépister la désinfo podcast**, a production of the Agence Science-Pressé, in collaboration with the agence de contenu 37e AVENUE and MonCarnet.com.

Venkatesh, V. (2021, May 11). Social Pedagogy to Build Resilience Against Discrimination: Magnifying the Voices of Marginalized Populations, Keynote Speaker at the Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) 50th Annual Conference, Adaptable, Flexible, and Creative Research Administration in the New Normal (online).

Hassan, G., Bellot, C., Fortin, V. and Miconi, D. (2021, May 7). Pandémie, inégalités sociales et discrimination systémique, Panel presented at the 88e Congrès de l'ACFAS, as part of Colloque 635 "Les polarisations sociales à l'heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l'altérité et les identités en temps de crise".

Carignan, M.-È., Morin, D., Bronner, G., Geoffroy, M. and Tremblay, S. (2021, May 7). L'altérité, pierre angulaire de la pensée complotiste : d'un extrémisme à l'autre, Panel presented at the 88e Congrès de l'ACFAS, as part of Colloque 635 "Les polarisations sociales à l'heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l'altérité et les identités en temps de crise".

Legault-Laberge, R.-M., Carignan, M.-È., Tremblay, M.-N., Koussens, D. and Lebel-Grenier, S. (2021, May 5-7). Colloque 436 "Le vivre-ensemble à l'ère des bouleversements" at the 88e Congrès de l'ACFAS.

Rousseau, C., Cénat, J. M., Rufagari, M.-C. and Slamanka-Cardona, M. (2021, May 7). Pouvoir d'agir des communautés, Panel presented at the 88e Congrès de l'ACFAS, as part of Colloque 635 "Les polarisations sociales à l'heure de la pandémie de COVID-19 : problématiser l'altérité et les identités en temps de crise".

Carignan, M.-È. (2021, May 6). The Future of Democracy - New Understanding of Free Speech and Responsibility? Communication presented at the Riga Stratcom Dialogue Conference, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Riga, Lettonie (online).

Morin, D. (2021, May 6). Interview with Amandine Hamon, Ph.D in Communication from the University of Montréal, on the publication **Le nouvel âge des extrêmes? Les démocraties occidentales, la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violent**, 6th edition of the Forum Saint-Laurent sur la sécurité internationale (online).

Venkatesh, V. (2021, May 5). Pédagogie sociale - Comment bâtir une résilience durable dans les communautés marginalisées. In M. Lassonde, N. Forget-Dubois and M. Gauvreau, L'éducation, rempart contre le populisme? [Colloquium]. L'Association canadienne-française pour l'Avancement des Sciences (ACFAS), 88th Congrès de l'ACFAS (online).

Morin, D. (2021, May 5). Les théories du complot: Comment en parler? Guest panellist to the roundtable, Professional Journalist Federation of Quebec Fédération, press and media week, in collaboration with Agence Science-Press and the Centre pour l'éducation aux médias et à l'information (Clemi).

April 2021

Morin, D. (2021, April 29). Episode 3 – Terrorisme et extrémismes violents au XXIe siècle – part 3, Keynote speaker, Les belles soirées, University of Montréal, Montréal (online).

Morin, D. (2021, April 22). Episode 2 – Terrorisme et extrémismes violents au XXIe siècle – part 2, Keynote speakers, Les belles soirées, University of Montréal, Montréal (online).

Carignan, M.-È. and Morin, D. (2021, April 23). Qui et pourquoi? L'adhésion des Canadiens aux théories du complot dans une perspective comparée internationale, panellists for the segment "Les théories du complot ou la concurrence des récits sur la réalité", 1st biannual convention of the Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQER).

Morin, D. (2021, April 15). Episode 1 – Terrorisme et extrémismes violents au XXIe siècle – part 1, Keynote speaker, Les belles soirées, University of Montréal, Montréal (online).

Venkatesh, V., Sifry, D. L., Madiba, G., O'Neill, K. and De Eyre, S. (2021, April 15). Rights and Responsibilities in Building an Online Community, Track 3: Raising Public Awareness of Online Hate: What It Is and What We Can Do, The Action Summit to Combat Online Hate, Organized by the Canadian Coalition to Combat Online Hate, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs CIJA and Funded by the Government of Canada (online).

Venkatesh, V. (2021, April 14). Le statut de l'artiste migrant : la protection des droits sociaux et économiques, Panellist Axis 1, Table 2, Accéder à soi, accéder à l'autre : La convention de l'UNESCO de 2005, la liberté artistique et l'inclusion des personnes migrantes dans les sociétés démocratiques, UNESCO Chair on the diversity of cultural expression of Laval University, UNESCO Chair for human rights and democracy, L'Observatoire de la diversité et des droits

culturels and the CELAT and the Centre de recherches Cultures — Arts — Sociétés. diversité et des droits culturels et le CELAT et Centre de recherches Cultures — Arts — Sociétés.

Venkatesh, V. and Papazian-Zohrabian, K. (2021, April 13). Outils et avenues possibles pour mitiger les polarisations sociales, Guest lecturer for the virtual half-day La pandémie et des polarisations sociales : points de vue et perceptions des établissements d'éducation, co-organized with the Institut SHERPA, the RAPS team and the Ministry of Education of Quebec.

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- Part 2 « **Quels actes faut-il considérer comme violents et inclure dans l'analyse du phénomène de la radicalisation et de l'extrémisme violents?** »
- Part 3 « **Quelle est selon vous l'importance des réseaux sociaux par rapport à la question de la radicalisation? Font-ils en sorte que des gens se radicalisent davantage?** »
- Part 4 « **Quelle est la différence entre le djihadisme et l'extrême droite? Y a-t-il un groupe qui est plus menaçant dans l'espace occidental? Et à travers ces deux tendances, où se situe l'extrême gauche?** »
- Part 5 « **Quels sont les débats récurrents et les enjeux que la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violents soulèvent dans le champ scientifique? Où en est la recherche? Comment nous donne-t-elle des éclairages?** »
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David Morin

Tenured Professor, School of Applied Politics,
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Vivek Venkatesh

Tenured Professor, Art Education, Faculty of Fine Arts and director of the Center for the Study of Learning and Performance, Concordia University.

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Ph. D. General Coordinator of the UNESCO-PREV Chair

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Professor, Science Education, Université de Toulouse II Jean Jaurès

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The Work of our Young Researchers

STUDENTS UNDER SUPERVISION

Aliaga, Guilhem (2021), co-directed by Marie-Ève Carignan and David Morin. “La communication des leaders d’opinion conspirationnistes québécois sur Twitter pendant la crise sanitaire de la COVID-19”. Double master’s degree in International Strategic Communication from the University of Sherbrooke and the Catholic University Louvain.

Brault, A. (in progress), doctoral thesis directed by Vivek Venkatesh. Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Bouchard, Isabelle co-directed by Marie-Ève Carignan and David Morin. “Analyse de la couverture des médias écrits canadiens sur le groupuscule La Meute”. Master’s in International Strategic Communication from the University of Sherbrooke

Cortés Santander, J. -L. (in progress), directed by Vivek Venkatesh. Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Das, S. (in progress), directed by Vivek Venkatesh. “La prévention de la radicalisation en milieu postsecondaire au Canada”. Doctorate, Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Dussault, Janie (in progress), co-directed by Marie-Ève Carignan and Karine Prémont. “Le phénomène d’appropriation du discours antiraciste par les leaders nationalistes blancs américains sur le réseau socionumérique Twitter”. Master’s dissertation, School of Applied Politics, University of Sherbrooke.

Elsayed, D. (in progress), doctoral thesis co-directed by Vivek Venkatesh and David Waddington. Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Harb, R. (en cours), (in progress), directed by Vivek Venkatesh. “Enseigner pour développer la résilience avec les populations vulnérables”. Doctorate, Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Huebner, E. J. (in progress), master’s dissertation directed by Vivek Venkatesh. Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Joseph, Alexandra (2022), co-directed by Marie-Ève Carignan and Stéphane Bernatchez. “La régulation de la désinformation dans le cyberspace : modélisation de la dialectique entre la pyramide et le réseau”. Master’s in the Law Faculty, University of Sherbrooke.

Khennache, Yanni (in progress), directed by David Morin. Master's in International Public Politics, University of Sherbrooke.

Lacroix, Caroline (2021), directed by Marie-Ève Carignan. "Les premiers effets de la pandémie de Covid-19 sur les journalistes du Québec". Master's (research) in Communication from the University of Sherbrooke.

Mohsen, Tania (2021), directed by Marie-Ève Carignan. "Analyse de la couverture réalisée par les quotidiens québécois de l'attentat à la Grande Mosquée de Québec". Master's (research) in Communication from the University of Sherbrooke.

Montgomery, A. (in progress), doctoral thesis co-directed by Vivek Venkatesh and David Waddington. Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Nociti-Dubois, Noëmi (in progress), directed by Ghayda Hassan. "Le rôle de l'inclusion spéciale afin de réduire la déshumanisation et les croyances radicales". Doctorate, University of Quebec in Montréal.

Ousman, Sarah (in progress), directed by Ghayda Hassan. "L'évaluation du risque d'agir violent dans un contexte de radicalisation au Canada". Doctorate, University of Quebec in Montréal.

Pacitti, Olivia (in progress), directed by Marie-Ève Carignan. "Combattre la désinformation par l'éducation aux médias". Double master's in International Strategic Communication from the University of Sherbrooke and the Université catholique de Louvain.

Shabani Kyabawa, (in progress), directed by David Morin. "La prise en charge des enfants soldats en République démocratique du Congo : Les enjeux relatifs au processus de désengagement des groupes armés et de la réinsertion dans la société". Master's in Applied Politics from the University of Sherbrooke.

Snider, L., (in progress), co-directed by Vivek Venkatesh and Lorrie Blair. "Explorer l'apport du paysage sonore interactif comme nouvelle forme de narration et de documentation du patrimoine culturel". Doctorate from Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

St. Laurent, M.-R. (2020-2022), directed by Vivek Venkatesh. "Studying extremist narratives in underground cultural scenes". Post Doctorate, Funding grant from SSHRC \$90,000, Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

Tairi, Tarik (in progress), directed by David Morin. "La construction d'un discours alternatif (avec une dimension théologique forte) au discours djihadiste pour renforcer la prévention et la déradicalisation des personnes djihadistes". Doctorate in Contemporary Religious Studies from the University of Sherbrooke.

Touré Kapo, L. (2021-2022), directed by Vivek Venkatesh. "Project Someone community consultant". Funding grant of \$40,000, Concordia University, Montréal, QC.

We would like to thank the members of our dynamic team. We also thank our universities and all our academic, government and practice partners.



GRANTS AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Under the terms of the four-year grant agreement signed between the Université de Sherbrooke, the Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, the Minister of Public Security and the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion, the UNESCO-PREV Chair received financial support from the **Government of Quebec**.

The UNESCO-PREV Chair received funding from the Community Resilience **Fund of the Department of Public Safety of Canada as part of PREV-IMPACT Canada**: Evaluation model for prevention of radicalization to violence in Canada (2019–2023).

The Chair received funding from the **Fonds pour la recherche du Québec ([Quebec Research Fund], FRQ)** as part of the Support program for UNESCO Chairs of Quebec (2019-2022).

In 2021, the Chair has also relied on various additional grants.

The Chair received funding from the **Organisation internationale de la Francophonie [International Organization of la Francophonie] and the French Ministry** for Europe and Foreign Affairs as part of the study on prevention mechanisms in the Francophone world (2020-2021).

Marie-Ève Carignan and David Morin received funding from the **Ministry of Economy and Innovation** as part of the “Infodémie et désinformation massive à l’ère de la Covid-19 : Prévenir l’adhésion aux théories du complot en désamorçant les fausses nouvelles (2020-2022)” [Infodemic and Massive Disinformation in the Age of COVID-19: Preventing Adherence to Conspiracy Theories by Defusing Fake News (2020-2022)] project. They also received a cooperation grant as part of the National Defence’s Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security (MINDS) program for their project : “De la méfiance à la désinformation : portrait et mécanismes virtuels de diffusion de la pensée conspirationniste et de ses effets potentiellement violents au Canada” [From Mistrust to Disinformation: Portrait and Virtual Mechanisms of Dissemination of Conspiratorial Thought and its Potentially Violent Effects in Canada] program. Additionally, the Chair received funding from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) obtained by Professor Mélissa Gagné for the project “The role of communication strategies and media discourse in shaping psychological and behavioural response to the Covid-19 outbreak: a comparative analysis between Canada and two Asian countries/regions (2020-2022)” project, for which professor Carignan was the co-researcher.

Professor Carignan received funding for her project “Enjeux déontologiques et éthiques lors de la couverture d’attentats : quelle responsabilité sociale pour les médias d’information ?” [Deontological and Ethical Issues When Covering Attacks: What Social Responsibility for the News Media?] from the **Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et Culture (FQRSC)** pour le Soutien à la recherche pour la relève professorale (2019-2022) [Quebec Research Fund for Society and Culture – Support for new professors (2019-2022)].

As part of Project Someone, Vivek Venkatesh (primary co-researcher), Owen Chapman (primary co-researcher), Sandra Chang-Kredl, Annabelle Brault and Martin Lalonde (co-researchers) and other collaborators received three grants totalling close to \$450,000 from Canadian Heritage, the Fonds de recherche du Québec [Quebec Research Fund] and the Michaëlle Jean Foundation for the project Landscape of Hope/Paysage de l’espoir.

A new project, led by the UNESCO-PREV co-Chairholder, Vivek Venkatesh’s group at the University of Concordia, addresses systemic forms of discrimination faced by diverse groups of Black, Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) and people of colour. In order to do this, the initiative records how these communities are sustainably building resilience in an increasingly polarized society. Based in Montréal, Chicoutimi, Quebec and Edmonton, in Alberta, the Innovative Social Pedagogy to Empower Indigenous Communities, Reduce Gender, and Racial Biases (ISP) project is the most recent initiative by the Project Someone. The PSI project was launched in April 2021 thanks to a contribution of \$780,000 over three years from **the Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program** of **Employment and Social Development Canada**.

As a key partner, the Chair received a part of the prestigious funding grant of \$1.8 million from Concordia University’s Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance (CSLP) thanks to the funding from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture ([Quebec Research Fund – Society and Culture], FRQSC) from 2020-2027.

Finally, the Chair received funding from the University of Sherbrooke, Concordia University and the University of Quebec in Montréal.



The Chair and its members are also partners in several grants obtained.

Hassan, G., Madriaza, P., Venkatesh, V., Kubicek, B., McCoy, J. S., King, M., Katz, O. and Brouillette-Alarie, S. (2021-2022). “Deconstructing violent radicalization: Towards a critical anti-oppressive framework” e-learning course (Operating: \$27,243). Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Connection Grant.

Miconi, D., Rousseau, C., Perry, B., McCoy, J., Hassan, G., Frounfelker, R., Levinsson, A., Morin, D. and Venkatesh, V. (2021-2022). Social polarization during the COVID-19 infodemic: A multi-province two-wave longitudinal study to counter online disinformation and violent radicalization among young Canadians (Operating: \$92,000). Department of Canadian Heritage. Digital Citizen Contribution Program.

Rousseau, C., McCoy, S., Perry, B., Hassan, G., Miconi, D., d’Haenens, L., El-Hage, H., Ellis, H., Mekki-Berrada, A., Morin, D. and Venkatesh, V. (2021-2022). Social polarization and behavioral intentions during the COVID-19 pandemic: A multi-site study of risk and protective factors in Canadian youth (Operating: \$240,975). Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Operating Grant: COVID-19 Research Gaps and Priorities.

Audet Gosselin, L., Geoffroy, M., Latreille, M., Nantel, A. and Venkatesh, V. (2020-2023). Pratique religieuse dans les cégeps : nouvelles avenues pour une meilleure

intégration (Operating: \$360,000). Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). College and Community Social Innovation Fund.

Bérubé, J., Venkatesh, V. and Gauthier, J.-B. (2020-2022). Équité, diversité et inclusion dans les industries culturelles : quel est le rôle des organismes culturels ? (Operating: \$62,920). Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) - Insight Development Grant.

Bourgeon-Guerin, E., Hassan, G., Rousseau, C., Venkatesh, V., Beauregard, C. and Cocker, A. (2020-2022). Côte à côte : le mentorat comme voie d’intervention en contexte de polarisations sociales ? (Operating: \$72,857). Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Insight Grant.

Chamsine, C., Arvisais, O., Charland, P., Guidère, M. and Venkatesh, V. (2019-2021). Étude du curriculum créé et implanté par l’État islamique en Irak en vue de soutenir les initiatives d’éducation en situation de crise et le développement de narratifs pour contrer la radicalisation et la violence : conflits, croyances et éducation (Operating: \$70,675). Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Insight Development Grant.

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- Ministère de l’Économie et de l’innovation du Québec
- Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires étrangères (France)
- Ministère de l’Immigration, de la francisation et de l’intégration du Québec
- Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
- Public Safety Canada
- Social Science and Humanities Research Council
- The Department of National Defence



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