

IV. News from TRI's National Networks of PhD Theses Writers

Update by Alex P. Schmid

The Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI) is in the process of setting up additional national networks of PhD thesis writers. These are run by the PhD students themselves with the help of country-based, TRI-affiliated researchers who are often themselves post-graduate students working on their thesis or who have recently completed a doctorate. Admission is open to all bona fide academic and professional researchers of post-graduate level working on (countering) terrorism, political violence and armed conflict.

So far seven national networks have come into existence in

- **The United Kingdom.** Country coordinator: Gordon Clubb; E-mail: <G.Clubb@leeds.ac.uk>);
- **The Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium).** Country coordinator: Rene Frissen; E-mail: <r.frissen@forum.nl>);
- **Russia.** Country coordinator: Yulia Netesova; E-mail: <julianetesova@gmail.com>);
- **The United States.** Country coordinator: Jason Rineheart; E-mail: <jrineheart@gmail.com>);
- **Canada.** Country coordinator: Nick Deshpande; E-mail: <nick.deshpande@gmail.com>);
- **South Africa.** Country coordinator: Petra Harvest; E-mail: <petra.harvest@absamail.co.za>);
- **Australia:** Country coordinator: Levi-Jay West; E-mail: <lwest@csu.edu.au>).

Should you be a post-graduate researcher from the UK, the Netherlands (and Flanders), the USA, Russia, Canada, South Africa or Australia and wishing to join your national TRI network, you should contact the country coordinator directly. In all other cases, contact TRI's Director, Alex P. Schmid (E-mail: <apschmid@terrorismanalysts.com>) who will then explore with you and other members of the TRI network in your country how best to set up a national network.

The benefits of being a member of a national TRI networks include (but are not confined to):

- Enhanced awareness as to who is working on which topic at other national universities and in think tanks and foundations;
 - Bi- and multi-lateral exchange of information between members of the network;
 - Opportunity to engage in collaborative projects;
 - Organisation of workshops, seminars and conferences;
 - Developing joint grant proposals;
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- Providing collegial support to each other in the research- and writing-phase of the thesis preparation;
- Advice from TRI's national and international network of subject matter experts.

As this September 2012 issue of our journal is finalized, two reports were received from the country coordinators:

The Netherlands/Flanders (Belgium): After leading a lingering existence for some time, the Dutch-Flemish Network of Terrorism and Radicalization researchers has been revived and fused with the TRI network. Our cross-border network will host its next meeting in early October, 2012. In addition to a discussion with members about the possible form and function of the Dutch-Flemish network, this session will, on the substantive side, focus on the subject of secrecy. Prof. Dr. Bob Hoogenboom has been invited to give a lecture on the sociology of secrecy. While studying terrorism, security and related topics, one encounters the limits of transparency of institutions and authorities even in democracies. This is due to operational concerns and fears of endangering national safety and security. The same restraint can be seen with a number of civil society organizations or sometimes less civil groups of individuals engaging in radical, extremist or violent activities. During our first meeting we want to share experiences and discuss the ethical limits of, and resulting consequences for, our academic research. The meeting will take place on 4 October, 2012, from 15:00 – 18:00, at the Centre for Terrorism and Counterterrorism at Campus Den Haag. For more information or applications for membership in our network, please contact TRI's country coordinator Renee Frissen at r.t.l.frissen@cdh.leidenuniv.nl.

The United Kingdom: TRI's UK network, the Terrorism and Political Violence Association (TAPVA), held its inaugural meeting in May 2012 at the University of Leeds. The workshop 'Terrorism Theory, Radicalisation and Counter-Narratives' drew presenters from across the UK, demonstrating the broad membership of TAPVA in terms of geographical spread and interdisciplinarity. The keynote speakers included Prof. Caroline Kennedy-Pipe and Rich Davis of ARTIS. Since May, TAPVA has been awarded funding from the University of Leeds and BISA for its next project: a survey of the research interests of non-university partners and the impact that university research has on the stakeholder community. The network has been expanded to include affiliations with two organisations: the Foreign Policy Centre and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue. Further details will be given when our website www.tapva.com, is launched in October. – Gordon Clubb.