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## Welcome from the Editor

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce the release of Volume IX, Issue 2 (April 2015) of *Perspectives on Terrorism* at [www.terrorismanalysts.com](http://www.terrorismanalysts.com). Our free online journal is a joint publication of the *Terrorism Research Initiative* (TRI), headquartered in Vienna (Austria), and the *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies* (CTSS), headquartered at the Lowell Campus of the University of Massachusetts (United States).

Now in its ninth year, *Perspectives on Terrorism* has over 5,000 regular subscribers and many more occasional readers and visitors worldwide. The *Articles* of its six annual issues are fully peer-reviewed by external referees while its *Research Notes*, *Policy Notes* and other content are subject to internal editorial review.

This issue begins with analysis by Lorenzo Vidino on the history, ideology and tactics of various radical Islamist organizations through which several individuals have found their way into terrorist networks, and how European authorities have responded to these organizations. Then Anton Weenink explores whether behavioral problems and disorders can be found in a sample of radical Islamists that are known to police in the Netherlands as actual or potential 'Jihadis'. Next, Mark Sedgwick cautions us on the risks of using terms like "jihadism" too loosely in our analysis of ideological motivations for terrorism. And in the final research article, Samuel Bettwy examines how terrorism has been depicted in cinema since the 1970s, and how this affects public perceptions and cultural discourse about terrorism.

A Policy Note provided by Juliette Bird describes the evolving role of NATO in confronting terrorism and violent extremism. This is followed by a Research Note by Ely Karmon that illustrates how al-Qaeda and the Islamic State are competing for territorial control and the hearts and minds of jihadists worldwide. The Resources section features an extensive bibliography by Judith Tinnes on genocide and mass atrocities against civilians. The book reviews section by Joshua Sinai highlights several new publications, including two popular books on ISIS. Philip Holtmann provides a brief Op-Ed about how Jihadi subculture tries to present itself as true, original and traditional, by using the Islamic method of authorization and legitimation to attract followers and convert them to their point of view. And the issue concludes with information about the ongoing efforts within the TRI Networks of Ph.D. Theses Writers.

This issue of the journal was prepared by the co-editor of *Perspectives on Terrorism*, Prof. James Forest, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, while the next issue (June 2015) will be prepared in the European offices of the *Terrorism Research Initiative* (TRI) by Prof. em. Alex P. Schmid.