

Section 13 – Lo scenario Mediterraneo (The Mediterranean Scenario)

Chairs: Federico Russo, Fabio De Nardis

Elenco e descrizione di tutti i panels

Panel 13.3 Violent Extremism in the Mediterranean: a critical approach.

Chairs: Fabrizio Cuccu, Guendalina Simoncini, Alessandra Bonci

The Mediterranean area has traditionally been at the centre of a political and academic discourse focused on security. In fact, policymakers and academia usually privileged a problem-solving approach, leading sometimes to superficial analyses of the social, political and economic processes the region is going through. Accordingly, after the uprisings occurred in 2011, the attention towards security and terrorism highly increased on both sides of the Mediterranean leading to numerous analyses based on the concepts of 'Violent Extremism' and 'Radicalisation'. However, such concepts have been often criticized because of their ontological instability. Furthermore, in recent years a set of knowledge and practices internationally conceived has been imported in several countries of the Mediterranean through bilateral and multilateral international cooperation. The process of exportation of this knowledge and practices in Mediterranean countries presents many criticisms and requires great attention, in that such policies are not always based on empirical evidence but rather on a security-oriented approach, which focuses on behavioral and psychological factors and identifies specific social movements and groups as security threats. The critical assessment of such policies is starting to acquire great importance in the context of the southern Mediterranean. In fact, eight years after the so-called 'Arab Spring', we assist to the implementation of PVE programs in countries such as Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt. This panel aim at proposing a critical reflection about the theoretical and practical dimension of Violent Extremism in the Mediterranean context. We particularly encourage the submission of papers: Providing an empirical analysis of the specificities of Violent Extremism and Radicalisation in the Mediterranean area, with special attention to the Southern Mediterranean area and to social movements and groups usually included in the 'Violent Extremism' definition. Analysing the role of women in so-called violent extremist groups or movements and in counterradicalisation or PVE/CVE policies. Proposing an overview of processes of policy-transfer in the fields of security and development. How are PVE/CVE principle translated in Muslim majority countries in the area? Offering a critical comparison of experiences and practices between northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.