Panel 8.8 Political violence, terrorism and counter-terrorism: Dynamics and challenges

The topics of terrorism and counter-terrorism have received a large amount of scholarly attention in the field of International Relations (IR) and Security Studies in the recent years, spanning from more fashionable topics such as root causes, radicalization and de-radicalization, to intelligence and military practices and technology. This panel explores the multi-level dynamics of political violence and critically investigates the responses that have been adopted to counter it. The aim of this panel is, therefore, to engage in a critical discussion on theoretical underpinnings even beyond traditional IR studies, as well as, related methodological challenges and practices, in order to bridge the gap and assess the limitations between theory-building and current practices. Consistently, this panel expects to contribute to the existing debate by collecting papers focusing on different aspects of this form of political violence, the plethora of actors involved as well as the strategies designed to countering it and their potential shortcomings. Hence, this panel welcomes both theoretically based and case-oriented contributions concerning terrorism and counterterrorism actors and dynamics in different areas of the world. Different theoretical perspectives are welcome to reflect upon and discuss these challenges, also from multi-disciplinary perspectives which might take into account how 'non-traditional' security questions of gender, race and class intersect.

Chairs: Laura Berlingozzi, Lorenzo Zambernardi