



## **Call for Papers**

# **Research and Practice Colloquium: Conceptualising, Understanding, and Preventing Mixed Forms of Extremism**

**School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool (Hybrid event)  
September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Across Europe, North America, and Oceania, recent data highlights a troubling trend: an increasing number of individuals being referred to counter-extremism and de-radicalisation programs are exhibiting mixed extremist viewpoints, rather than the singular doctrinal perspectives typically associated with historically prevalent forms of extremism, such as those associated with the Far Right or Islamism. In many countries, this pattern is also reflected in numbers of individuals being charged with hate crimes and terrorism related offences.

While widespread fears have been expressed about a growing number of young people turning to or engaging with concerning ideational perspectives – such as Incel, misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, and conspiracy theories – significant knowledge gaps persist regarding the contexts, processes, and experiences that may encourage or influence involvement and immersion. Although studies gathering primary data from individuals exploring, adopting, and promoting mixed ideological perspectives is ongoing, gaining access and ethical approval is exceptionally challenging.

As part of the research project and network ***Conceptualising, Understanding, and Preventing Mixed Forms of Extremism*** (CUPMFE) and hosted by the *International Criminological Research Unit* (ICRU), a research cluster at the University of Liverpool, this Research and Practice Colloquium seeks to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders. Our ambition for the hybrid event – which will take place in both face-to-face and online format – is to generate dialogue that can facilitate a deeper understanding of the nature and impacts of mixed, unclear, and unstable forms of extremism. In bringing together academics, practitioners, and civil society actors, we also wish to provide a space for network members to present their research, discuss conceptual perspectives, share new and best practice in safeguarding and risk prevention and debate shared methodological and ethical challenges.

### **Keynote Speakers:**

#### **Professor Hilary Pilkington (University of Manchester)**

“Studying ‘radicalisation’ and ‘extremism’: Why we need to reset the research agenda”

#### **Dr Laura Zahra McDonald (Founder/Director of ConnectFutures)**

“MUU in the mainstream: Understanding, preventing and tackling the normalisation of intersectional hate, conspiracy and violence with young people”

#### **Dr Lisa Sugiura (University of Portsmouth)**

“Researching online male supremacism responsibly”

#### **Mr Alistair Barfield (Director of Deflect and Protect CIC)**

“Understanding the intersections: Autism, radicalisation and parasocial relationships”

Members are invited to submit abstracts (250–300 words) to be considered for either individual or co-authored paper presentations, thematic panels, or roundtables. If you are suggesting a thematic panel or a roundtable you will need to include between 4 and 6 nominated participants. We are also happy to receive submissions for Posters where appropriate.

While we are open to submissions on a wide range of themes surrounding mixed, unclear, and unstable forms of extremism, we welcome, in particular, submissions in the following areas:

- Researching Mixed Forms of Extremism: Dilemmas and Future Pathways
- Ethical, Methodological, and Fieldwork Challenges
- Futures of Online Extremism: Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, and All sorts
- Policing and Cyber-Security Challenges: Surveying, Identifying, and Intervening
- Preventing Extremism: Education, Culture and Practice
- From Boys to Men: The Roots and Causes of Misogynistic Culture
- Conspiracy Theories
- Exiting the Mixed Extremism Space
- The Relationship Between Neurodiversity and Extremism: What Do and Don't We Know?
- Regulating Online Spaces: Problems, Quandaries, and Solutions
- International and Global Perspectives

Please submit abstracts [via this form](#). Please indicate on the form for consideration both the format of your proposed contribution and whether it fits into or outwith the themes suggested above. The deadline for abstract submissions is **5pm BST on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

This is a **hybrid event** that can be attended online via Zoom or face-to-face in the School of Law and Social Justice Event Space, University of Liverpool. Places face-to-face are limited and priority will be given to existing network members. Our intention is to use this opening event as a springboard for the CUPMFE network and we will be both soliciting interest for the development of collaborative publications emanating from presentations and creative thoughts and ideas on how you would like the network to work for you.

For further questions or queries please email us at: **[CUPMFE@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:CUPMFE@liverpool.ac.uk)**

**For more information on CUPMFE, please visit our [website](#). For more information on the International Criminological Research Unit (ICRU), please visit the [research cluster webpage](#).**