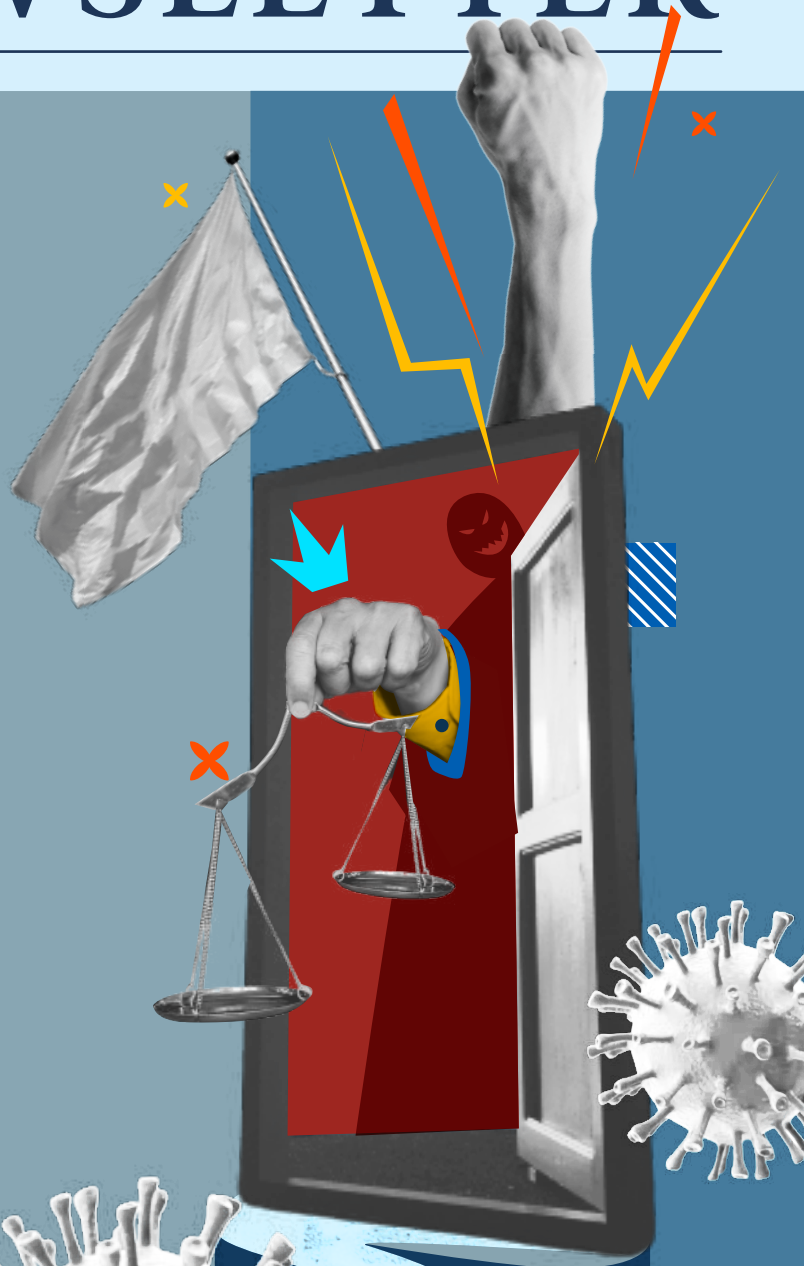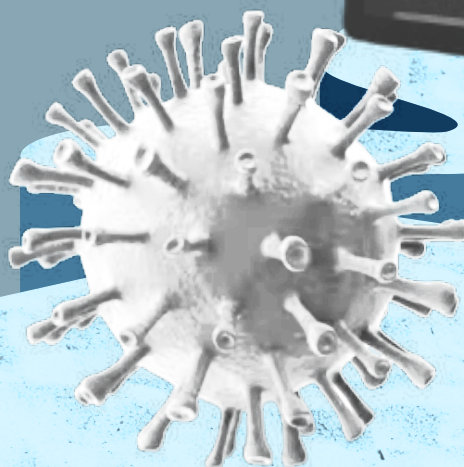# NEWSLETTER

# The Three Ps of Radicalisation Post Covid: Push, Pull, and Personal

# Introduction

Throughout the month of June, SEAN-CSO focused on "The Three Ps of Radicalization Post Covid: Push, Pull, and Personal." We started by understanding that three factors can lead to radicalisation; push, pull, and personal factors. After more than two years of the pandemic, COVID-19 has impacted our lives in many sectors, including radicalisation. These changes were mainly triggered by the pandemic restrictions such as lockdown and social distancing. This month we did some research, held a webinar, and interviewed a figure regarding how the 3Ps post-COVID-19 have affected radicalisation in Southeast Asia.

## In Touch with Taufik Andrie from Yayasan Prasasti Perdamaian (Indonesia)

Knowing the drivers behind radicalisation can be difficult if we don't put ourselves in the field. Therefore, we interviewed Taufik Andrie, Executive Director of the Institute for International Peace Building, also known as Yayasan Prasasti Perdamaian (YPP), to learn more about it.

YPP has been operating for 13 years, **working on CVE issues by interacting with former and current terrorist convicts and women and children's affairs in in the area of of disengagement from violent extremism**. This year, they are working on deportants and returnees from radical groups abroad in cooperation with Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights in the Surakarta area of Central Java under the National Action Plan for CVE (RAN-PE) scheme. In addition, YPP also focuses on women and children's affairs and their disengagement from violent extremism.

On the subject of drivers behind radicalisation, Andrie explains that in the context of women and children, he found several pull factors on the field such as identity issues, masculinity issues, and adrenaline rush. Furthermore, they are pushed by peer group pressure related to interaction with relatives or their environment that are rooted in radical ideology.

These factors however, according to Andrie, are different in each case. We found, in the case of women, factors such as fighting for

equal chance, the feeling of obligation to their spouse, or simply being influenced by false deeds like the case with ISIS. In the case of juveniles he found that role-playing strategy, and battle royale games could also influence them in participating in violent activities.



"I think these factors are interrelated and complex; sometimes, individuals can have more than two factors influencing their behaviors. However, the interesting thing is that these studies can be understood through identifying multilayers of push and pull factors. Some might be strong in ideology, while others are less strong," added Andrie.

Then, what can we, as a society, do to help in tertiary and secondary intervention sectors? "I believe in the theory that ideology cannot be killed; it is difficult. However, we can instead **'channel their energy'** or occupy them with other activities that can help them

strive and disengage from violent activities," said Andrie.

He believes that creative content, social entrepreneurship, or **community-based correction** could help disengage individuals from violent actions. That is why he believes intensive communication is necessary, especially in the case of juveniles in or outside correctional facilities. "Our job is to be good listeners, help them communicate with their parents, be their friends, get them to learn new things, or even help them pursue higher studies."

In the last question, we asked him how to increase social awareness about CVE. He believes that society needs to be continuous-ly forced to know and participate in every step. "Let's say they have the genes or characteristics of radical groups; we need to respond to them, not squeeze them out. **That is why society holds a vital role; they socially interact and have the space to create community-based programs for these radicalised individuals**. Because we cannot deny that after they go through law enforcement processes, they will return to us, the society," he concluded.

He believes that creative content, social entrepreneurship, or community-based correction could help disengage individuals from violent actions. That is why he believes

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# Get to Know the 3Ps: Push, Pull, Personal Factors

As much as the definition of radicalisation remains a contested concept until now, we can agree to define radicalisation as a path that can lead to violent extremism. Although, there needs to be an explanation of how radicalisation occurred in the first place. According to Matteo Vergani, Muhammad Iqbal, Ekin Ilbahar, and Greg Barton's study, scholars found three factors that can lead to radicalisation. These factors are known as the 3P; Push, pull, and personal factors, which can be interrelated, but don't rule out the possibility of standing by themselves.

1. **Push**
   Known as the structural root causes of terrorism.
   Example: State repression, poverty, relative deprivation, and injustice

2. **Pull**
   These factors can make the lifestyle of extremism appealing.
   Example: Extremist propaganda, ideology, group dynamics, and other incentives.

3. **Personal**
   Unique individual characteristics.
   Example: Psychological disorders, personality traits, and traumatic life experiences.

*Source:*

*Vergani, Matteo, Muhammad Iqbal, Ekin Ilbahar, and Greg Barton. "The Three PS of Radicalization: Push, Pull and Personal. A Systematic Scoping Review of the Scientific Evidence about Radicalization into Violent Extremism." Studies in Conflict & Terrorism 43, no. 10 (2018): 854–54. https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610x.2018.1505686.*

## Webinar Highlights

# Does Radicalisation and Extremism Change Overtime?

In many ways, it's visible to see how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our lives, however, it remains a mystery when it comes to radicalisation and extremism. This interesting discussion became the topic for a webinar held by IMAN Research and SEAN-CSO titled "The Three Ps of Radicalization Post Covid: Push, Pull, and Personal". On Wednesday, June 1st, 2022, speakers Matteo Vergani and Noor Huda Ismail shared their thoughts and insights on the topic.

Matteo Vergani, a researcher and senior lecturer in Sociology at Deakin University, presented his research on the 3Ps of Radicalisation. During COVID-19, pandemic restrictions such as lockdown had diminished some terrorism activity. Nevertheless, Vergani said that terrorist activity might resurge even more significantly after the pandemic. Vergani also mentioned that COVID-19 had affected the 3Ps in Southeast Asia, specifically in the economic sector. As unemployment rose in most countries; people lost their income and had to live below the poverty line. Low-income households in Southeast Asia had to make sacrifices regarding their food consumption and education. "In Thailand, the majority of children who missed school during the pandemic were in rural areas from the South. And that's exactly the target population of the extremist group," Vergani added.

"We are still in the middle of a pandemic. We don't know the effect on future activities," said Vergani, discussing his research limitations. He believes that there needs to be a future study on the after-effects of the pandemic within other sectors, not only on education.

After Vergani's presentation, Huda took over the stage. The visiting fellow RSIS at NTU Singapore, Huda presented his preliminary research on "Christian terrorists" in Indonesia. Within his presentation, Huda criticized Vergani's 3Ps. According to Huda, reciprocal radicalisation is one more important factor for radicalisation. In his case, he met Berti, who's involved in the killing of Muslims in a communal conflict in Ambon. One of the reciprocal radicalisation factors to Berti was the feeling of insecurity towards the 'enemy'. "I have to respond violently because Muslims attacked the city of Ambon from Java," Berti said.

The discussion between Vergani and Huda shows the importance of further research regarding the topic and to keep up with recent developments.

**Upcoming Webinar**

## Is there any alternative to prevent violent extremism other than the lens of hard security?

Violent extremism has always been looked at from the lens of hard security, and the softer approach would be PCVE such as community building. However, there could be another way of preventing it: building empathy in all communities.

Let's hear what our experts have in mind regarding this issue and share your thoughts.

Save the date!

**Wednesday, July 6th 2022**

**3:00 PM (Jakarta Time) or 4:00 PM (Kuala Lumpur Time) or 6:00 PM (Melbourne Time)**

Please register at:
**bit.ly/EmpathyBuildingasVP** to get the Zoom link. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

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