

**More 'similar' than 'other': Muslim fundamentalism in the Netherlands as a Glocal Phenomenon**

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A widespread image in the Netherlands is that Islamic fundamentalism is an imported phenomenon, which mainly concerns second-generation youngsters from Muslim families. In academic studies one of the principal arguments is that these youngsters find themselves caught between two cultures and, consequently, suffer from an identity crisis.

In her presentation, which is based on a PhD study, Fiore Geelhoed questions the supposed 'otherness' of Dutch Muslim fundamentalists. The methods she employed are in-depth interviews, observations in mainly salafist mosques and the analysis of internet discussions. From the data she concludes that the lived experiences of orthodox, radical and extremist Muslims in the Netherlands show a much more modern and 'Western' orientation than commonly assumed. Regarding their background, the fundamentalists in this study are not only children from foreign Muslim families, but also autochthonous Dutch converts, converts from foreign descent and children from mixed (autochthonous Dutch-Muslim) marriages. In addition, their attitudes and religious practice reveal a modern, Western basis. Also the motivations and reasons that inspired their fundamentalist conversion are linked to modern cultural values and society. Altogether, in this presentation Geelhoed will present an image of Muslim fundamentalists as more 'similar' than 'other'. Islamic fundamentalism in the Netherlands thereby appears to be a truly glocal phenomenon.

The research of Fiore Geelhoed also features in a recent article in Trouw (in Dutch):

[https://www.intranet.vu.nl/images\\_upload/1E7CAD22-DDA0-1649-32B994945C1CA186.pdf](https://www.intranet.vu.nl/images_upload/1E7CAD22-DDA0-1649-32B994945C1CA186.pdf)

And the cover of her book:

