

CALL FOR PAPERS

VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Global Extremism Papers — Issue II (2027)

An annual journal published by the Program on Extremism
at the George Washington University

ISSN	DOI	ABSTRACT DEADLINE
3070-9954	10.4079/3070-9954	September 30, 2026

In partnership with the Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET) and the Centre for Statecraft and National Security (CSNS), the Department of War Studies at King's College London.

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THEME AND SCOPE

Artificial intelligence is changing the digital spaces in which radicalization and extremism develop. It shapes how people find content, produce narratives, form identities, interact, translate, and are moderated online. Extremist adoption is no longer hypothetical: Islamic State supporters have circulated AI-generated news bulletins within hours of attacks, neo-Nazi networks produce synthetic propaganda imagery at scale, and automated translation now carries extremist content across language barriers at negligible cost. The relationship also runs in reverse: hostility toward AI itself, its infrastructure, its companies, and its perceived social costs is emerging as a mobilizing grievance in its own right. Governments and technology companies are deploying AI to counter these threats in turn, yet we still know little about how effective these countermeasures are, what their limits and side effects may be, or how quickly both offense and defense are evolving.

Public debate, meanwhile, has run ahead of the evidence. Algorithmic "rabbit holes," generative propaganda, deepfakes, and automated recruitment are routinely invoked as established facts, but the research record is thinner and more equivocal than the debate suggests. Empirical studies of recommender systems, for instance, indicate that exposure to extremist content is driven as much by user demand as by algorithmic supply. The problem is not that these threats are imagined. It is that they are asserted more often than they are measured.

This special issue seeks to close that gap. It welcomes evidence-based, policy-focused research on how violent extremists use artificial intelligence and how AI systems are reshaping radicalization and mobilization. We encourage submissions that examine violent extremists' AI-related practices, their measurable impact on radicalization, and their implications for policy and governance, grounded in data rather than in scenarios.

While the issue is global in scope, it gives particular attention to the preparedness of the United States and, to a lesser extent, Europe, and to how their institutions are responding to AI-driven radicalization and extremism. It also focuses on the Middle East, where AI is consumed in languages that platform moderation serves poorly, and where AI systems are quickly becoming trusted intermediaries for the most complex and contested questions, including, increasingly, a vehicle for jihadist content. What policy gets right in the coming years will depend less on anticipating every capability these systems might acquire than on measuring the ones extremists are already using.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

01 AI-Driven Radicalization in the U.S. Digital Ecosystem

Empirical assessment of algorithmic amplification, recommender systems, and engagement optimization in shaping exposure to extremist content.

02 Anti-AI Sentiment, Generative AI, and Domestic Extremist Mobilization

Evidence of how U.S.-based extremist actors use generative tools to scale narratives, recruit supporters, or coordinate activity, as well as how opposition to AI itself, including anti-technology ideologies and hostility toward AI infrastructure, companies, and workers, is emerging as a driver of extremist mobilization.

03 U.S. Institutional Preparedness for AI-Enabled Extremism

Evaluation of federal and state capacity (e.g., DHS, DOJ, FBI) to address AI-driven radicalization and synthetic media threats.

04 First Amendment Constraints and Counter-Extremism Policy

Analysis of how constitutional protections shape regulatory and platform responses to AI-enabled extremist content.

05 AI, Extremism, and U.S. Electoral Security

Evidence-based examination of AI-generated misinformation, deepfakes, and extremist mobilization in election contexts.

06 AI and Extremist Narrative Production in the Middle East

Assessment of generative AI in ideological messaging, translation, and transnational dissemination.

07 Cross-Border Digital Radicalization Between the U.S. and the Middle East

Analysis of digital linkages, diaspora dynamics, and AI-enabled content flows connecting regional extremist ecosystems.

08 AI-Facilitated Recruitment and Mobilization in Conflict-Affected Contexts

Examination of the use of AI tools in fragile or post-conflict Middle Eastern environments.

09 Platform Governance and Regulatory Capacity in the Middle East

Comparative analysis of regulatory approaches, enforcement challenges, and institutional limitations.

10 AI in Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)

Evaluation of AI-enabled prevention tools deployed by governments, civil society, and platforms in both regions.

11 Violent Extremist Exploitation of AI and Digital Regulations in the UK and EU

Examination of AI frameworks, commitments, regulations and policy responses to violent extremist uses of AI in the European and UK contexts.

12 Violent Extremism and the Emergence of Agentic AI Systems

Assessment of new potential threats and regulatory challenges relating to the emergence of AI agents with autonomous capabilities.

TIMELINE

MILESTONE	DATE
CFP Release	Monday, July 13, 2026
Abstract Deadline	September 30, 2026 (~60 days)
Acceptance Notice	October 30, 2026
Full Paper Deadline	March 30, 2027
Reviews + Revisions	May 30, 2027
Final Submission	June 30, 2027
Publication	July 30, 2027

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We seek 10 scholarly papers, each between 4,000 and 5,000 words (excluding references and appendices). Papers must be original, unpublished, and grounded in rigorous empirical research, theoretical analysis, or policy-oriented assessments rooted in established academic traditions.

Please refer to the [PoE Paper Preparation Guidelines](#).

Authors of accepted papers will receive an honorarium of USD 1,000 per paper.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Interested authors should submit an abstract (300–500 words) stating their research question, methodology, key arguments, and a brief biography (150 words). Full papers will be carefully reviewed and may be subject to editing before publication.

Please send submissions and inquiries to extremism@gwu.edu with the subject line:

"PoEFCP27 – the Era of Artificial Intelligence."

SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following:

Scholarly Rigor: Papers must demonstrate strong theoretical frameworks, empirical depth, and methodological precision.

Originality and Contribution: Submissions should present novel arguments, challenge existing paradigms, or introduce new empirical findings.

Analytical Depth: The research must engage critically with relevant literature, historical contexts, and contemporary debates.

Methodological Soundness: Authors must clearly articulate and justify their research methods, whether qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods approaches.

Policy Relevance and Practical Implications: Papers should address real-world applications and offer insights relevant to policymakers, law enforcement, and scholars in the field.

Clarity and Coherence: Arguments must be logically structured, well-articulated, and supported by credible sources.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONS



Program on Extremism

The George Washington University **Program on Extremism** provides cutting-edge research and policy analysis on radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism.



The **Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET)** is the academic research arm of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). GNET is housed within the Centre for Statecraft and National Security (CSNS) at King's College London. GNET aims to better understand the ways in which terrorists use technology.



The **Centre for Statecraft and National Security (CSNS)** brings greater depth and expertise to the making of national security policy today, through research-led professional development and direct engagement with policymakers.

Based within the Department of War Studies at King's College London, CSNS was founded in 2025 following the merger of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and the Centre for Grand Strategy. Our team are all academics with extensive experience of engaging directly with policymakers and other stakeholders seeking a deeper understanding of the challenges of national and international security.

CSNS is part of the [Ax:son Johnson Institute for Statecraft and Diplomacy](#), a consortium of academic institutions that seek to foster historically informed statecraft.