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# The Interconnected Worlds of Security Practice: Tracing the Roots of 'Terrorism' in Time and Space

## Call for Papers

9<sup>th</sup> European Workshops in International Studies, Thessaloniki, 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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### Workshop abstract

In October 2021, *Critical Studies on Terrorism* published a special issue to coincide with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The issue responded to Maya Zehfuss' lasting call to 'forget 9/11' (Zehfuss 2003): with contributors querying the exceptionalisation of the attacks in discourse, the security practices that exceptionalisation permitted, and the histories it served to overlook. Collectively, these papers raised the importance of rejecting the idea of a break with the past around 9/11, and of connecting the contemporary dynamics of international politics to their wider genealogy. A genealogy, that is, that encompasses a range of conceptual inheritances: from coloniality to gender, from statehood to temporality.

This workshop builds on *CSOT's* special issue: exploring the interconnections between present security practices and past histories of discourse – with the discourse on 'terrorism' acting as an entry-point to this exploration. Participants will ask:

- How do conflicts, rituals, and conceptual frameworks from the past enable (or even animate) contemporary security dynamics?
- What does it mean to connect present practices with the past?
- And what light might such a connection shed on the structures (especially the discursive structures) by which present securitisation operates?

These questions imply the possibility of further interconnections: between spaces within the international system. By asking '*when*' have present security practices been foreshadowed, we are also asking '*where*' they took shape. Put simply,

- What are the cases we should explore to understand this historical taking shape?
- How can we locate the genealogy of present practice in space, as well as time?

Recent scholarship has emphasised the spatialisation of the 'terrorism' discourse, for example, in colonial India (McQuade 2020), revolutionary France (Erlenbusch-Anderson 2018), or the Cold War United States (Stampnitzky 2013).

- How do these spaces interact?
- And what does it mean when contemporary security practitioners recycle concepts like 'terrorism', which carry such a disjointed spatial genealogy?

Sessions in this workshop will be designed in interactive format: with papers being circulated beforehand, and with the workshop's substance being a collaborative discussion of individual paper themes/collective implications. We invite contributions responding to the questions above: tracing the roots of security practice in time and space, with a view to resolving some of the presentism affecting critical security studies. We are accepting abstracts via [the EISA website](#), until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (submission outcomes communicated by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022).