

Abstract

Research on radicalisation is characterised by an excessive emphasis on risk factors that lead to manifestations of different forms of extreme political violence. This dissertation presents the results of research focused on factors that make communities resilient against behavioural radicalisation. The empirical basis draws on extensive data from 139 research participants from six countries, obtained primarily from in-depth interviews and other ethnographic data collection techniques. Utilising Grounded Theory in Ethnography as the overarching methodological framework, I provide robust empirical evidence to build a unique case of group resilience against radicalisation among the Romani ethnic group. I identified five main factors of resilience that complement each other and work as brakes on behavioural radicalisation in mutual synergy. The factors of resilience are grounded in the organisational ontology of the group, their strong sense of belonging to a community, their propensity to avoid conflict, their ability to forgive rather than seek revenge, and a category of complex flexibility that includes present-time orientation, effective emotional regulation, and cognitive adaptability. I also identify risk factors related to potential radicalisation in the community, mainly the risk of continued deculturation of traditional Romani values.