The association of acculturation and acculturative stress with radicalization of Muslim youth in the Netherlands

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Question
- Are acculturation and acculturative stress associated with radicalization of Muslim youth?

Goal
- Address the gap of empirical based information about the causes of radicalization (Dalgaard-Nielson, 2010).

Radicalization
- The growing readiness to pursue and support far-reaching changes in society that conflict with, or pose a direct threat to, the existing order (Dalgaard-Nielson, 2010).

Acculturation
- Acculturation is the process of cultural and psychological change that follows intercultural contact (Berry, 2003).

Acculturation stress
- The classical acculturation-stress hypothesis maintains that migrants experience a higher burden of mental health stress than the host population as a direct consequence of the migration process (Berry, 2001).

Acculturation profiles (Berry, 2006)
- Integration: Involved in both heritage culture as well as national culture
- National: Focused on the national society
- Ethnic: Strong orientation towards the heritage culture
- Diffuse: Lack of orientation and high level of confusion

Prior research
- The diffuse and ethnic profiles are linked with poor psychological and sociocultural adaption.

Hypothesis
- Individuals with diffuse and ethnic acculturation profiles would experience heightened acculturative stress and a higher risk of radicalization.

Participants
- First, second and third generation immigrants
- Aged 15 to 18 from 3 different cities in the Netherlands: Den Haag, Rotterdam and Leeuwarden.

Measures
- The Multi-group Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM; Phinney, 1992) will be used to measure the ethnic identity of the participants.
- “I am happy I am a member of the group I belong to”
- “I have a lot of pride in my ethnic group and its achievements”.
- Codebook for radicalization (van den Bos, Loseman & Doosje, 2009) will be used to measure acculturative stress and the radicalization process.
- “I get stressed when things change”
- “Thinking about uncertainty makes me feel depressed”
- “I think there can only be a good world if everyone would be Muslim”
- “It makes me angry when people are not proud of their Islamic heritage”.

Future directions
- Level of education, intelligence and non-response data as well as parental reports might be of interest in future studies.
- A longitudinal design could shed further light on the development of radicalization.

Implications
- This study may inform prevention programs of radicalization, and may add empirical based information to overcome the gap of knowledge on this topic.

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A mosque in Rotterdam, the Netherlands