

Edited by Elisa Orofino

# Rethinking Islamism beyond jihadi violence

*Fighting ideas leaving the sword aside*

SERIES IN SOCIOLOGY

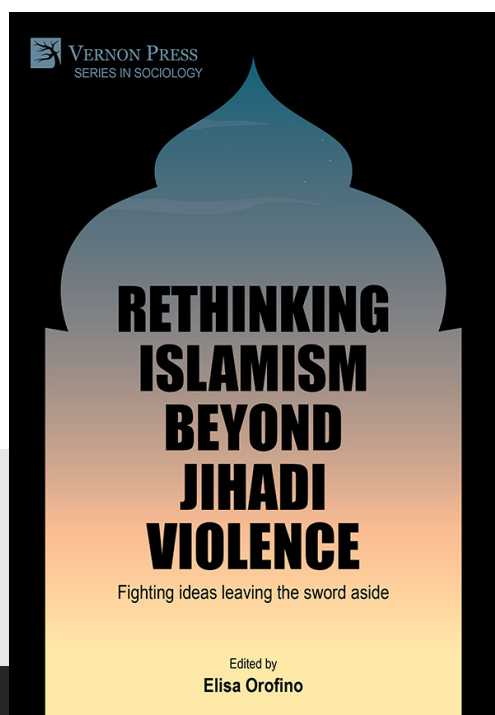
## Summary

For several years now, Islamism has been associated with 'jihadism' and violent extremism both in academia and in contemporary political debates. However, this association can be misleading: Islamism has much deeper roots than 'jihadi terrorism' and it stands as a powerful and complex ideology inspiring thoughts, actions and groups all over the world. Emerging as a protest-for-justice ideology claiming freedom against Western colonisation of the Muslim world, Islamism has triggered both individuals and groups worldwide since the early 1900s. Almost as a sacred ideology – based on the need to revive Islam as the only saving grace for Muslims around the world – Islamism started to be widely associated with 'jihadism' after 9/11. Before then, Islamism was not automatically related to terrorism but to resistance. Given that terrorists are only a small and definite portion of Islamists, this volume aims to re-focus research on Islamism beyond 'jihadism' by collecting relevant contributions on Islamist but non-violent organisations. More precisely, this volume innovatively contributes to current academic debates by exploring the origins of Islamism and the differences between 'jihadism',

the evolution of Islamism over time and places and the role played by the most influential non-'jihadist' Islamist organisations active today as powerful non-state actors.

## About the editor

**Elisa Orofino** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Policing Institute for the Eastern Region (PIER) at Anglia Ruskin University, where she leads research on Extremism and Counter terrorism. Her interest in Islamism started in 2009 during her bachelor and continued throughout her academic career. She graduated in Political Sciences cum laude and then expanded her research on Islamist groups and Islamist activism during both her Masters and PhD. She conducted research in different national contexts, including Italy, Egypt, the UK and Australia, where she was awarded her PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Melbourne. Since 2014, Elisa's research focus is on vocal/non-violent extremism and its alleged role as conveyor belt to terrorism. Elisa has conducted first-hand research on this topic, taking the non-violent but extreme Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir as a case study. Elisa published extensively on this topic over the years. She is the author of "Hizb Ut-Tahrir and the Caliphate: Why the Group is Still Appealing to Muslims in the West" (London: Routledge, 2020) and several other pieces including edited volumes, journal articles, book chapters and research papers. Elisa also leads different research projects and teaches extremism and counter-terrorism related subjects at both undergraduate and post-graduate level.



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