

**Identity under construction: Glocal pathways to Islamic orthodoxy, radicalism and extremism in the Netherlands**

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Since the events of 9/11 at the start of this millennium, many scholars have tried to explain radicalization among Western Muslims. In the Netherlands this has led to several in-depth studies in which contact has been sought with members of the Salafi movement (e.g. Buijs et al., 2006; De Koning, 2008). Nonetheless, there are still parts of the explanatory puzzle missing. First, and as Schmid (2013) argues in so many words, when searching for explanations it is necessary to compare those who radicalize to those who do not. Second, previous studies have focused principally on Moroccan youngsters, even though the past years have shown that also Dutch converts have turned to orthodox, radical and extremist interpretations of Islam.

This paper results from a qualitative PhD study that has aimed at filling in those blanks. The focus in this paper is on one aspect of this study: differential pathways into orthodox, radical and extremist Islam and the possibility to frame these pathways as modern identity projects (Giddens, 1991) in response to 'identity strain'.