

Name: Dr. Kjell Skylstad

Article: What Happened on the Way to Damascus? Creative Responses to Urban Radicalization

Abstract

Radicalized youths from many countries are finding their way to Syria to fight for the «Islamic State»(ISIS).What are the processes of indoctrination that motivates even seemingly integrated youths to join the ranks of terrorists? The Norwegian-Pakistani musician, filmmaker and human rights activists Deeyah Khan initiated a research project in the United Kingdom interviewing young people who had been motivated to enlist as jihadist fighters about their own experiences. The material she collected then formed the nucleus for her documentary Jihad which shows the role that the social and cultural background of immigrant youth plays in their unheeded and unfulfilled search for identity and belonging. What are the creative responses to urban radicalization that can only be achieved through cooperative partnerships between the social and cultural sector working toward a more inclusive social environment for all?

Personal Information

Kjell Skylstad, Prof. emeritus, Department of Musicology, University of Oslo and Visiting Professor, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

He is the initiator and chair of Intermusic Center <intermusiccenter.no> working to promote intercultural activities as a way to foster international understanding and dialogues toward conflict transformation

He has been Research fellow at the Institute for Evaluation Research at the Music Academy of Graz, Austria and has lectured extensively on the history of opera at the Norwegian State School of Opera and the Norwegian State Radio.