

You are cordially invited to attend the  
**Center for Intelligence and Security  
Research**

Seminar Series

**Dr. Barbara Sude**

Thursday, November 29, 2018

**UTEP Library - Collaboration Hub 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
12:00 p.m.**

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**What History Tells Us About the Risk of Terrorism in  
Large Refugee Flows**



Public discussions of large movements of refugees, such as those from Syria, often focus on the risk that refugees will radicalize and supply militants to terrorist groups planning attacks in destination countries. However, key historical cases and the experiences of specialists working directly with refugees illustrate that radicalization is far from inevitable. Indeed, many oft-cited reports of terrorist links have proved false. For a RAND Corporation study, Dr. Sude and her colleagues closely examined historical refugee situations in the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia to identify key drivers contributing to ideologically-motivated militancy among refugee populations. The intent was to spur policymakers and planners to move discussion of refugee radicalization from assumptions to a more rigorous consideration of the major risk factors and ways those can be mitigated.

What kind of governmental and nongovernmental interventions most inhibit radicalization? Which add to the problem? What risks emerge when these factors are applied to current crises?

Barbara Sude served more than 30 years with the Central Intelligence Agency, where she specialized in counterterrorism, political Islam, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. She was part of the small cadre of pre-9/11 analysts on al-Qa'ida and followed the group as a senior analyst at both CIA's Counterterrorism Center and the National Counterterrorism Center. As a former senior researcher at the RAND Corporation, Dr. Sude most recently focused on counterterrorism, refugees, and asymmetric warfare. She is the lead author of *Lessening the Risk of Refugee Radicalization: Lessons for the Middle East from Past Crises* (RAND Corporation, 2015) and co-author of *Knowing the Enemy: Understanding the Islamic State and Principles for Defeating It* (RAND 2017). She received her BS in Arabic from Georgetown University and her PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University.

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