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ARENAS

ANALYSIS OF AND RESPONSES TO EXTREMIST NARRATIVES



HACK THE FEED

GOING EXTREME EXHIBITION

WORLD CONGRESS OF FRENCH LINGUISTICS

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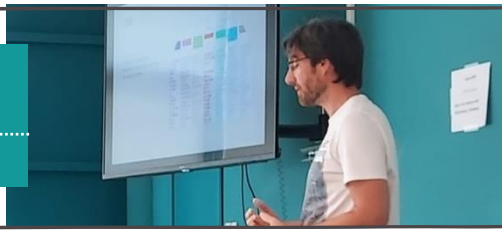

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ARENAS RESEARCH INFORMING DISCUSSION AT THE HEART OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

*On 23 June, **Professor Béatrice Fracchiolla of CNRS**, who leads ARENAS Work Package 5, spoke to the Parliamentary Alliance against Hate of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Her session, **"Combating Hate Speech in Public Debate"**, examined how hate speech is becoming normalised in public discourse and what could reverse that trend.*

The Alliance brings together parliamentarians from the Council of Europe's 46 member states. After an open discussion, members said they would pass the information to colleagues, particularly those who work with ECRI, the Council's monitoring body on racism and intolerance. With the project in its final year, this is the kind of policy contact ARENAS set out to make.

BLOG

Read the blog post to learn about what was presented and the opportunities created with ECRI



ARENAS RESEARCH PRESENTED AT THE WORLD CONGRESS OF FRENCH LINGUISTICS

Julien Longhi (CY Cergy Paris Université) and Ana Yara Postigo-Fuentes (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf) *took ARENAS work to the* ***10th Congrès Mondial de Linguistique Française, CMLF 2026.***

Their paper asks how political debate assigns the roles of victim and guilty party.

Using press coverage and a large set of social media posts, they found that Marine Le Pen's team responded to her conviction by presenting her as the target of an unjust system. Posts about immigration on X do the opposite: they cast French citizens as the victims who need protecting. Legal terms and emotive words carry much of the work. The paper is open access in SHS Web of Conferences.



For the full findings, read the blog post on the ARENAS website

GOING EXTREME EXHIBITION CONTINUES TO TOUR



*Since July, the **Going Extreme exhibition** has kept moving, and it has picked up new languages on the way.*

27th July

A Catalan version opened on 27 July at Escaló in the Pyrenees as part of the Dansàneu festival, with Sergi Soler of UAB introducing ARENAS. of Madrid come next.

9th September

On 9 September, Universitat Jaume I in Castellón showed the first Valencian version, timed with the inauguration of its Chair of Democratic History and Memory.

9th November

On 9 November, the exhibition opened in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Almería, where it is free to visit until 30 November.

Curator Steven Forti moderated a launch roundtable for about 75 people, and 28 joined a guided tour afterwards. Jaén and the Complutense University of Madrid come next.

Venues, dates and photos are in the individual posts: Catalan launch, new destinations and dates, Valencian opening, and Almería opening

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI HOSTS ARENAS CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

On 3 and 4 September, the ARENAS consortium gathered at the ***University of Helsinki's City Centre Campus for "The Circulation of Extremist Narratives",*** *an interdisciplinary conference organised by the Helsinki team.*



Academics from across the project were joined by researchers from outside it, journalists and civil society stakeholders. Steven Forti of UAB, who leads Work Package 3, gave the welcome, and Professor Katja Valaskivi of the University of Helsinki delivered the keynote. Three roundtables approached the topic through time and space, multiple political arenas, and media platforms and politics, with panellists from universities, a peace foundation, the journalists' union and community organisations. The conference also opened the English version of the Going Extreme exhibition, which stays in the lobby of the Metsätalo building for several weeks. Steven Forti and Sergi Soler of UAB, who designed it, led a guided tour.

BLOG

To learn more about the conference, topics and speakers read the blog post on our website

ARENAS RESEARCH PRESENTED AT THE 6TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FORENSIC & LEGAL LINGUISTICS



Ana Yara Postigo Fuentes
Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf



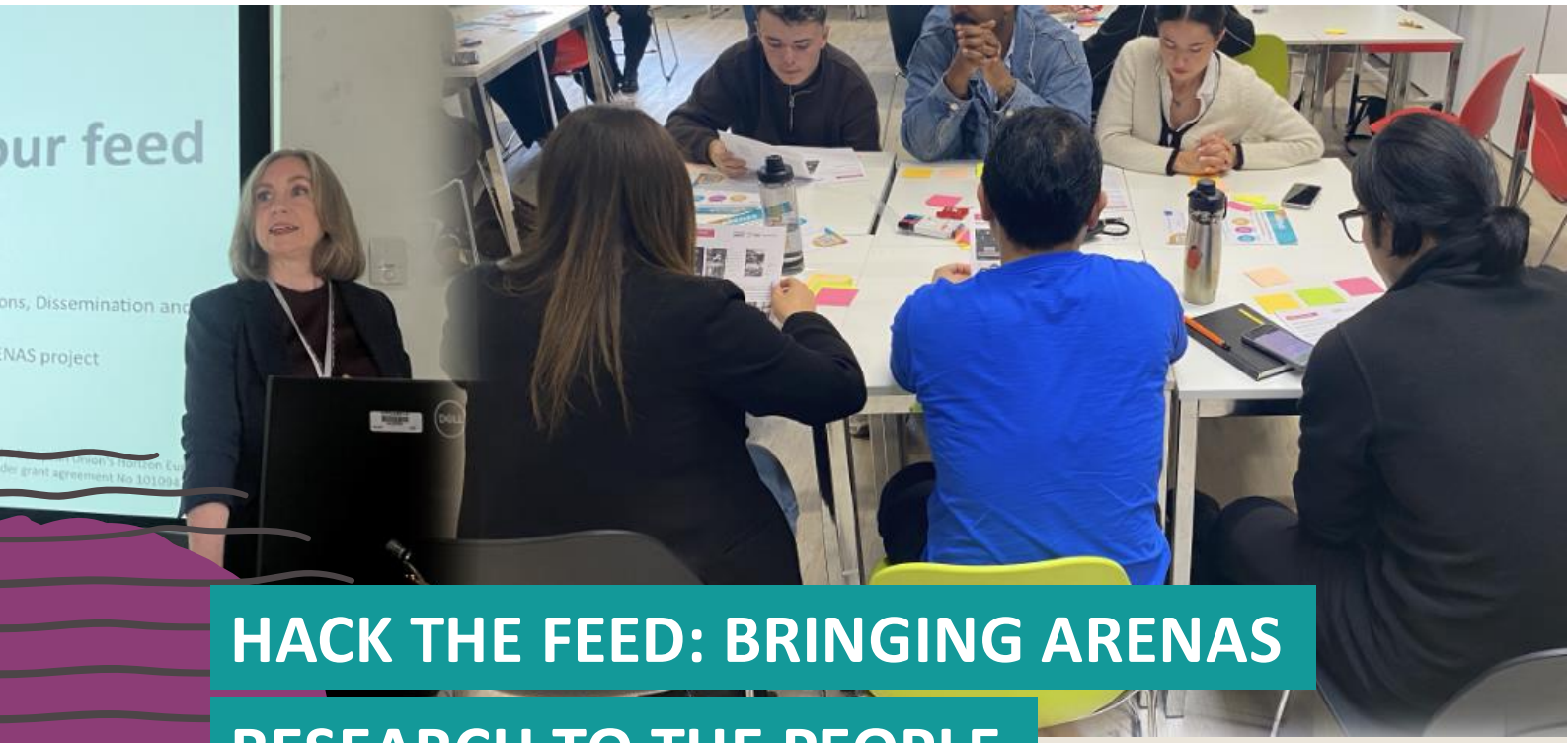
Julien Longhi
CY Cergy Paris University

Ana Yara Postigo Fuentes and Julien Longhi presented ***"Forensic-Linguistic Mapping of Extremist Narratives in French Political Discourse"*** *at the IAFLL conference, held at the University of Montpellier Paul Valéry from 22 to 25 June. The theme was* ***"Language, Power, Justice".***

Their data was the ARENAS collection of extremist narratives on X in France between May and August 2024, a stretch that took in the European elections and the Paris Olympics. They followed right-wing narratives about immigration as they moved from far-right to mainstream actors and got softened along the way. Their interest is in the middle ground where speech still sounds acceptable but turns exclusionary, and in how linguistic evidence can show where persuasion becomes harmful.



The full account of the paper is available when you read it on the blog



HACK THE FEED: BRINGING ARENAS RESEARCH TO THE PEOPLE WHO SHAPE OUR FEEDS

What do digital marketing students and social media influencers need to know about extremist narratives?

***Denise Callan of Momentum**, who leads communications, dissemination and exploitation for ARENAS, set out to answer that at **Hack the Feed**, a workshop within the Memory Makers project.*

Students from TUS Athlone, influencers, and staff from TUS Athlone, University of Galway and Jagiellonian University took part. Her session, "How Stories Spread Across Your Feed", covered the difference between a claim, a frame, a narrative and an ideology, and how a word like "remigration" travels from fringe circles into everyday language. In the afternoon, students analysed real posts and drafted replies on behalf of media personalities, schools and NGOs. The advice they took away: interrogate the source, explain the story, don't simply amplify it.

BLOG

Click here to read the full post on the ARENAS website

ARENAS RESEARCHER BÉATRICE FRACCHIOLLA SPEAKS AT DAY-LONG EVENT IN MONTREUIL

On 26 September, more than 100 people gathered in the banquet hall of Montreuil town hall for ***"Unmasking Far-Right Ideas",*** *a day of debate, testimony and film supported by the* ***Ligue des droits de l'Homme. Béatrice Fracchiolla, University Professor in Language Sciences at CNRS,*** *opened the morning with a talk called* ***"How Far-Right Ideas Take Root in Language".***



Her point is that extremist narratives rarely state things outright. They rely on in-group vocabulary, shared metaphors, coded keywords and argument patterns that make an "us versus them" view feel natural, and she traces how these move from fringe spaces into mainstream speech. Other speakers included documentarian Daniel Kupferstein, translator Olivier Mannoni and Catherine Tricot, director of Regards.

BLOG

Her presentation is available through the link to read the blog post

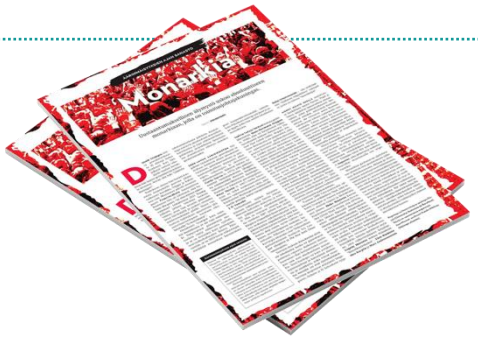
ARENAS GLOSSARY OF FAR-RIGHT EXTREMISM PUBLISHED IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

*The **ARENAS Glossary of Far-Right Extremism,** coordinated by **Steven Forti**, started as a serialised publication in Italy. It now appears in five languages through partner publications.*



In Italian, MicroMega releases a new entry every two weeks with a podcast episode, running until March 2027. Voima publishes one article a month in Finnish, and Solidaritet has run the Danish edition since mid-July. Le Grand Continent has carried the French and Spanish versions since the end of July. Far-right terms often cross borders, so a word gaining traction in one country tends to turn up in another. Reading the same entries in several languages makes those links easier to spot.

Glossary in Finland



Glossary in French & Spanish



Glossary in Danish



BLOG

Click here to find your language on the blog

ARENAS PARTNERS ATTEND FINAL ONLINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Representatives of all the ARENAS partners gathered online this week for the project's ***final online General Assembly meeting.***



Each Work Package leader delivered a presentation on the work carried out in their Work Packages over the past six months and the tasks planned for the next six months. Each presentation also outlined the highlights of the past six months' activity, any challenges encountered in delivering that work and flagged any potential obstacles they foresee in the next six months. The floor was opened to questions after each presentation, enabling work Package leaders to elaborate on any issues raised by the attendees.

Four online General Assembly meetings were scheduled for the six-month intervals between the projects' in-person General Assembly meetings during the project. The purpose of the General Assembly meetings is to evaluate the results obtained in the project, review the implementation plan, decide on further work-plan adjustments (if necessary), and suggest updates to the implementation plan if required.

Key takeaways from the meeting are that the project is on target to publish all deliverables on time, has succeeded in reaching and engaging with all the key target groups, and the consortium continues to work very well together to not only meet, but exceed the project objectives.

ARENAS

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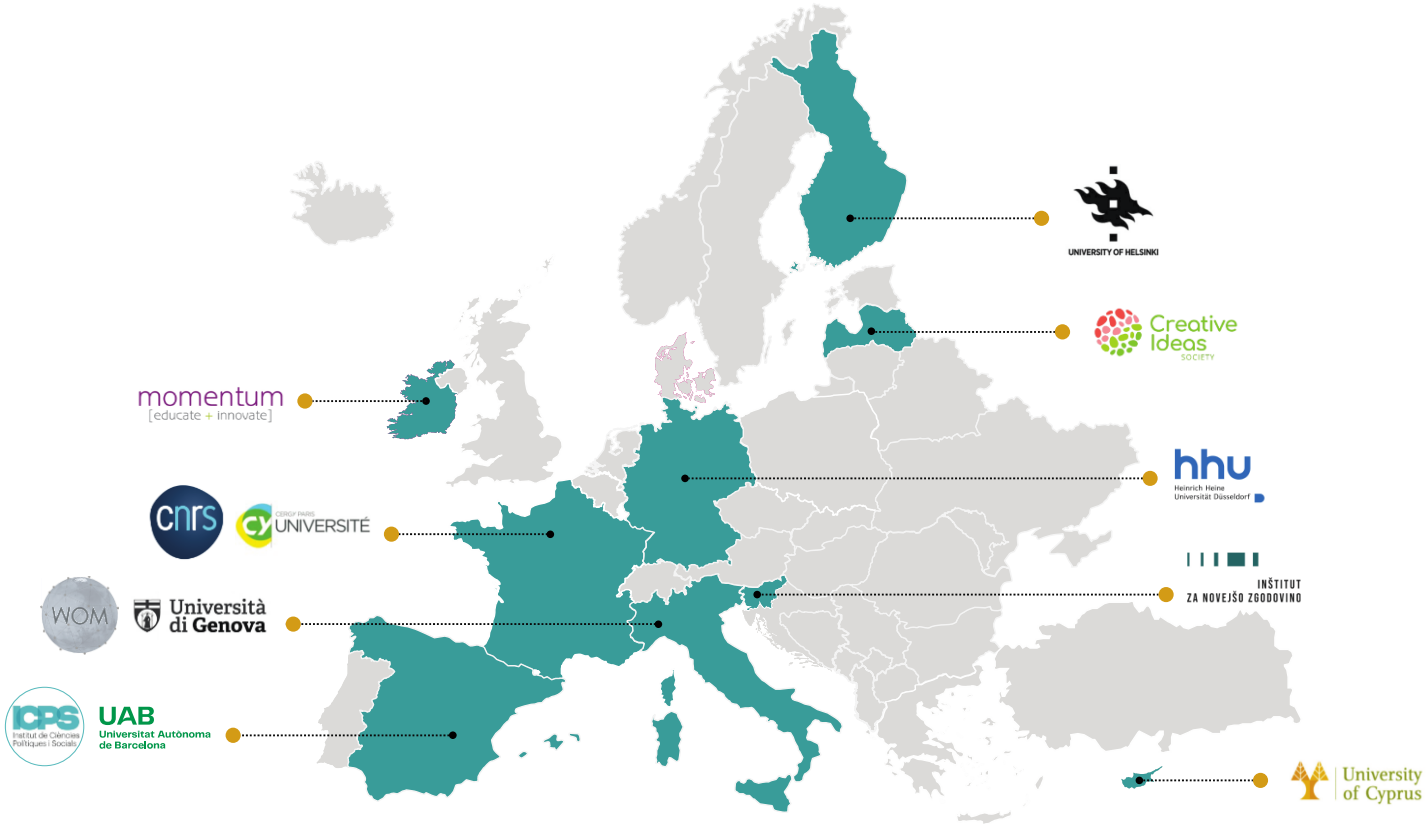
OUR PARTNERS

Our **partnership consists** of **12 organisations from 9 countries**, each bringing unique experience, expertise and skills to the project.



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Follow our journey

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