



UNIVERSITÉ
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EA 3476 sur les médiations
communication, langue, art, culture



THE CONVERSATION

Call for Papers

VIOLENCES AND MILITANT RADICALISMS IN FRANCE'S PUBLIC SPHERE FROM THE 1980S TO THE PRESENT DAY

Symposium

November 14, 15, 16, 2018

University of Lorraine, Metz

Saulcy Campus

Simone Veil Building

Amphitheater 3

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The symposium “Violence and militant radicalisms in France’s public sphere from the 1980s to the present day” is part of the Vioramil program, selected and funded by the French National Agency for Research (ANR) (<http://vioramil.univ-lorraine.fr/>). Based on field surveys and/or corpus analyses, the contributions will cover four areas, exploring some of the following questions:

1. Mobilization and Communication Strategies of Radical Movements

Chair: Béatrice Fracchiolla and Anne Piponnier

Radical movements deploy numerous communication strategies to make themselves visible. How do activists acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for media practice? How is the radicality of opinions expressed and justified? How do militant media help to institutionalize and make visible opposition discourses? How are the “operation scenes” selected (public spaces, areas to defend, sites at risk, etc.)? By whom and by what means? How are the mobilization strategies, the militant acts and the organization of their visibility involved? How do journalists position themselves in terms of these practices (from connivance to criticism)? Are new forms of mobilization and transgression created in the public sphere?

2. Media Coverage, Narratives and Fictionalization of Militant Violence

Chair: Jean-François Diana and Arnaud Mercier

Any form of political violence, even the most socially rejected, generates fascination. What are the media rules in terms of the coverage of these acts? Is the logic of their spectacular mediation akin to a mechanism of encouragement and celebration? Or, is there a risk of euphemizing radicalism by inscribing it in the banality of the ordinary by repeating fictitious and aesthetic expressions? How can we analyze the dramatic force of images (accentuated by the continuous flow of information on TV channels and social media) and, at the same time,





how can we put things into perspective? How do perpetrators of militant violence report their actions, and how does Justice and the State respond to them, through censorship or counter-narratives? What is the role of the stratified and divergent public receptions in the process of the narrative construction of violence and radicalism?

3. Militant Violence: A Category under Discussion

Chair: Marieke Stein and Sylvie Thiéblemont-Dollet

Media representations tend to associate militant action with violence. Qualifying violent acts as deliberated “militant violence” is indisputable in cases such as terrorist attacks. However, it may also be debatable, when it comes, for example, to property damages on the fringes of demonstrations, or symbolic non-physical and non-material aggressions. This leads to questions about what is understood by “militant violence”. Contributions within this axis will focus on the way the category of “violent militant act” is constructed through the mediated discourses of different protagonists: activists, journalists, bloggers, youtubers, politicians, researchers, etc. The figure of the “expert” as part of the mediation process that forges the meaning of radicalization and violence needs also to be explored and defined. The processes by which acts can be signified as “violent” as well as their instrumentalizations and limits are also of major importance.

4. Traces of Violent Acts: Commemorate, Celebrate, Archive...

Chair: Béatrice Fleury and Jacques Walter

Commemorations are widely present in the public sphere. Whereas analyses from the victims’ point of view are frequent, research on radical activists is not only uncommon, but raises complex issues to be discussed and solved. The latter may, for example, be linked to the prohibition of some events, to the difficulty to get in touch with their protagonists, etc. For all those reasons and despite the difficulties, it is this dimension that we wish to see invested in this axis. Contributions will focus on the events that engender commemorations as a means to legitimation. They may also analyse the tributes published on the web concerning radical movements or/and their leading personalities. They could delve into the processes of preservation of the documents that mark the history of an action, which are generally kept, often discreetly and in private settings, by activists or nostalgic fans, etc.

Calendar

March 15, 2018: Deadline for submission of proposals.

March 26, 2018: Return of the evaluations along with, if accepted, the editorial protocol.

October 15, 2018: Deadline for submission of the complete text.

Terms of submission

Proposals specifying the chosen axis (2,000 words maximum, including bibliography) should be sent to: jacques.walter@univ-lorraine.fr and beatrice.fleury@univ-lorraine.fr.

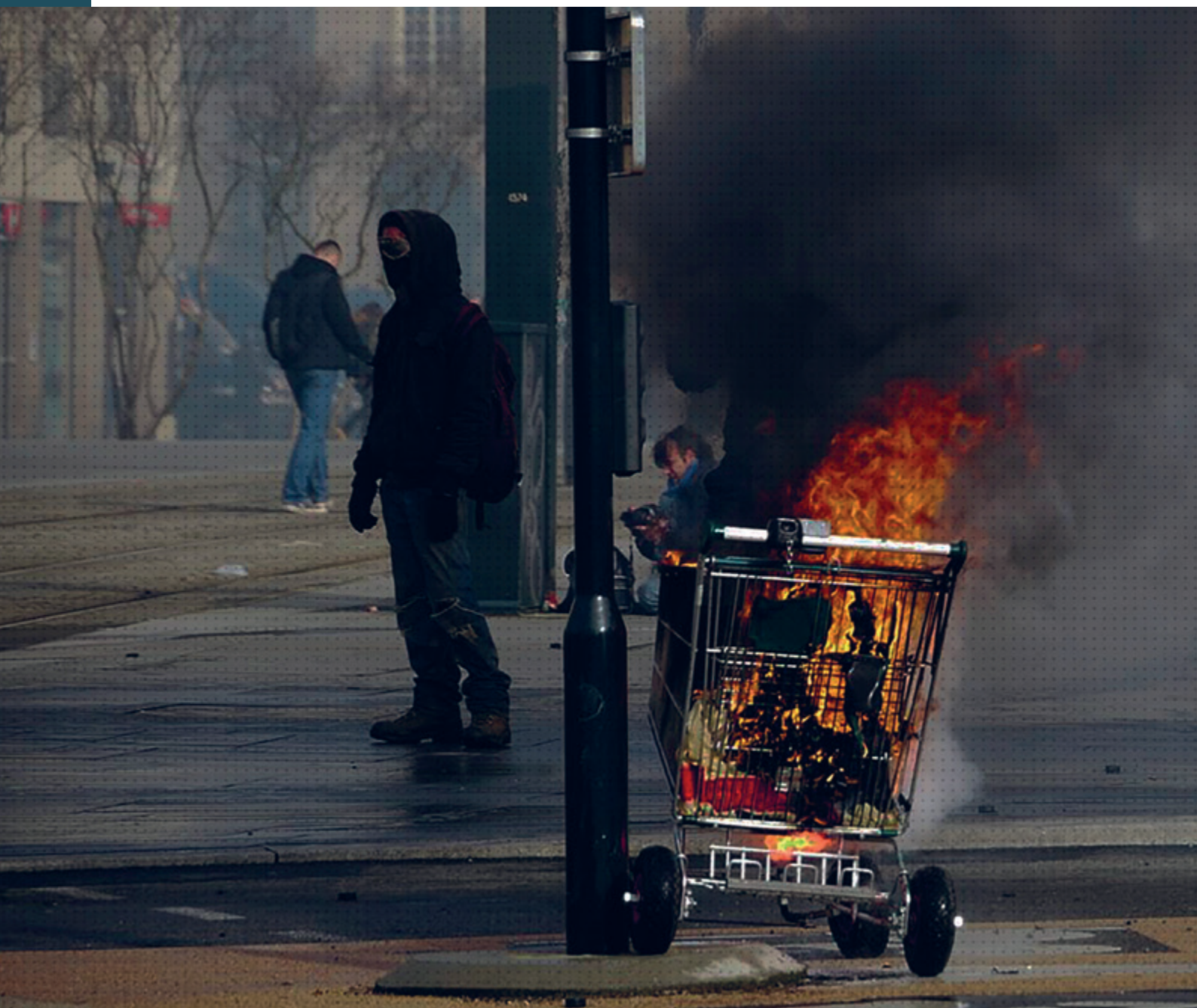
An acknowledgment of receipt will be sent by email.

Proposals will go through a double-blind evaluation: **indicate the author's contact information only on the first page** (last name, first name, email, research unit, institution). After evaluation, the accepted complete texts will be published in a volume of the collection "Violence and Radical Activism in France" at Riveneuve Éditions.

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