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Captivated by fear

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Propositions

Accompanying the PhD Thesis

Captivated by Fear: An Evaluation of Terrorism Detention Policy

by Tinka M. Veldhuis

1. Drastic and expensive measures have been taken to fight the risk of prisoner radicalization, even though it is wholly unclear whether such a risk actually exists. (This dissertation.)
2. Considering the amount of political and public attention that prisoner radicalization has received in the past decade, surprisingly little valuable knowledge has been produced on the subject. (This dissertation.)
3. The policy to segregate terrorism prisoners from the mainstream inmate population seems to be a bureaucratic kneejerk in reaction to perceived threats, time pressure, and fear rather than a rational decision based on realistic assessments. (This dissertation.)
4. Terrorists dangle at the bottom of the inmate-hierarchy. (This dissertation.)
5. In order to develop a sustainable response to violent extremism, policy makers should look beyond short-term solutions and prioritize policies that pursue public safety in the longer run. (This dissertation.)
6. Security experts often base their statements on weak evidence and tend to echo rhetorical claims that resonate with and reinforce a public discourse of fear and vulnerability. (This dissertation.)
7. The amount of publications on terrorist threats may go hand in hand with the level of fear and insecurity among the public.
8. Don't let us forget that the causes of human actions are usually immeasurably more complex and varied than our subsequent explanations of them. (Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Idiot*.)
9. Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less. (Marie Curie.)