

## University of Groningen

### Ordering terror, terrorizing order

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Stellingen accompanying the thesis

*Terrorizing order, ordering terror: Governmentality, counterterrorism and the European Community/European Union, 1972-2016*

by Stef Wittendorp

1. Within Terrorism Studies and academia more broadly, the term counterterrorism suffers a lack of conceptual development.
2. The critical potential of critical security studies should be the development of an alternative terminology rather than the reification of the field's central term.
3. The securitized character of terrorism discourse has sidelined alternative forms of knowledge production about terrorism, thus narrowing the bounds within which it is discussed.
4. The existence of nuclear weapons remains far more dangerous compared to the occurrence of terrorism.
5. The European Union's (EU) security policies challenge the organization's foundational commitments as a project of peace.
6. Counterterrorism as an expanding domain of governance is not so much a consequence of a more severe terrorist threat, but of processes of knowledge production and responsabilization.
7. Terrorism discourse is a way of securing and (re)negotiating the boundaries of liberal democracy.
8. The EU should abandon the option of fast-tracking (security) legislation since it is not designed for urgent reflexes.
9. 'The fact that we live at the bottom of a deep gravity well, on the surface of a gas-covered planet going around a nuclear fireball 90 million miles away, and think this to be normal, is obviously some indication of how skewed our perspective tends to be' – Douglas Adams, author of *The Salmon of Doubt: Hitchhiking the Galaxy One Last Time*