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“Looking Beyond 9/11: Islam in the West and
Democratic Trends in the Middle East and North Africa”

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ABSTRACT ONLY – WORK IN PROGRESS

“ ‘Embedded Academics’ and the War on Terror:
Race, Religion and the Securitization of Muslim Youth”

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International security and intelligence communities have identified the radicalization and *jihadization* of Muslim youth as the greatest threat to global security. Relying on academic studies, these intelligence communities construct new taxonomies of difference that outline new categories such as *Islamist radicals* and create de-historicized and de-contextualized archetypes of religiously and racially degenerate bodies that must be policed and regulated through controlled immigration and security policies. These typologies serve as an attempt to weed out “good Muslims” from “bad Muslims” and in their articulation are reminiscent of colonial archetypes of racial, cultural and civilizational differences that now rely upon a racialized security industrial complex to identify, manage and contain the savage from the civilized. New ontological categories such as the *radical*, *terrorist* and the *jihadist* are created that further demarcate Manichean divides and serve to justify imperialist policies and practices that operate within what Agamben notes is a state of exception where civil liberties are eroded to safeguard national security interests galvanized by a culture of fear and national paranoia. This paper will examine the dynamics of race, religion and securitization as they impact the phenomenon of Islamist youth radicalism in the West.