

Mimesis and the Globalization of Religious Terrorism

James W. Jones

The Internet has become the major recruiting tool for terrorists with an international agenda (for example, the Jihadi movement or the Aryan Nations). Based on statements by and interviews with religiously motivated terrorists, Jihadi recruitment videos, and various websites this presentation will describe the way mimesis works to aid in the recruitment of potential terrorists, review research on the possibilities for personal transformation and radicalization over the Internet, and discuss some of the ways these media-driven, mimetic processes make contemporary, religiously motivated terrorism significantly different from previous, local, ethno-nationalistic terrorism. Goal of the presentation will be to provoke discussion about the mimetic and religious processes involved in contemporary terrorism.