

**Ali, A.E. & King, S.J. (2020). "He Could Be Dangerous": Orientalism, De-Radicalization, and the Representation of Refugee Muslim Boxers in TSN's *Radical Play*. Forthcoming in the *Sociology of Sport Journal*.**

In April 2016, TSN (The Sports Network), one of Canada's most prominent broadcasting stations, aired a documentary mini-series, *Radical Play*, that describes how European organizations are "harnessing sport to prevent isolated Muslim youth from joining extremist groups". The first part of the documentary focuses on Younes, a 17-year old refugee in Hamburg, Germany who has been recruited to participate in a de-radicalization program run through a local boxing gym. This paper offers a contextualized reading of *Radical Play* that explores how the problem of radicalization is constructed in the Canadian context, how sport is positioned in relation to deradicalization projects, and how deeply held beliefs about Muslim boys and men are communicated to Canadians through sporting discourses. While *Radical Play* heralds the power of boxing to help young Muslim men avoid the lure of radicalization, we argue that Orientalist tropes animating perceived cultural differences between East and West underpin this benevolent narrative. We contend that *Radical Play* constructs its protagonist, Younes, and his migrant trainee peers, as ever-imminent threats who must be vigorously monitored and evaluated by experts who are considered qualified in spotting signs of radicalization. In further tracing the emergence and effects of de-radicalization discourse, we make visible the increasingly prominent place of sport programming in constructing the psyche and embodiment of the "subject at risk for radicalization" and show how modernization projects that attempt to deradicalize "at risk" migrant youth from their alleged terrorist tendencies prompt reckoning with the surveillance logics of the sport for development tradition.