

*Spiritual needs and radicalization  
in provincial prison facilities in Quebec (2017-2021)*

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The incarcerated population is characterized by a new spiritual and religious pluralism which questions the Ministry of Public Security (MSP) and pastoral care agents. The objective of this research is three-fold: analyse the spiritual and religious needs of the incarcerated population in provincial detention centres, and evaluate the programs related to chaplaincy and spiritual care, looking at the issue of radicalization as it comes up.

**Among the questions asked:**

- How well do pastoral services respond to the objectives of the MSP? How should we define and measure these objectives (overall well-being, rehabilitation, social reintegration)?
- How well do the pastoral services offered respond to the spiritual needs of incarcerated persons who need such services, and can they respond better?
- What types of spiritual or religious needs do incarcerated persons express, if any?
- Does radicalization manifest in prison facilities in Quebec? How?
- Are prison personnel able to detect signs of radicalization, and which tools are available to this end?

This research concerns detention centres under provincial jurisdiction (where defendants are held less than two months). It will be conducted through interviews with key stakeholders and incarcerated persons, as well as observations carried out in the prison environment.

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