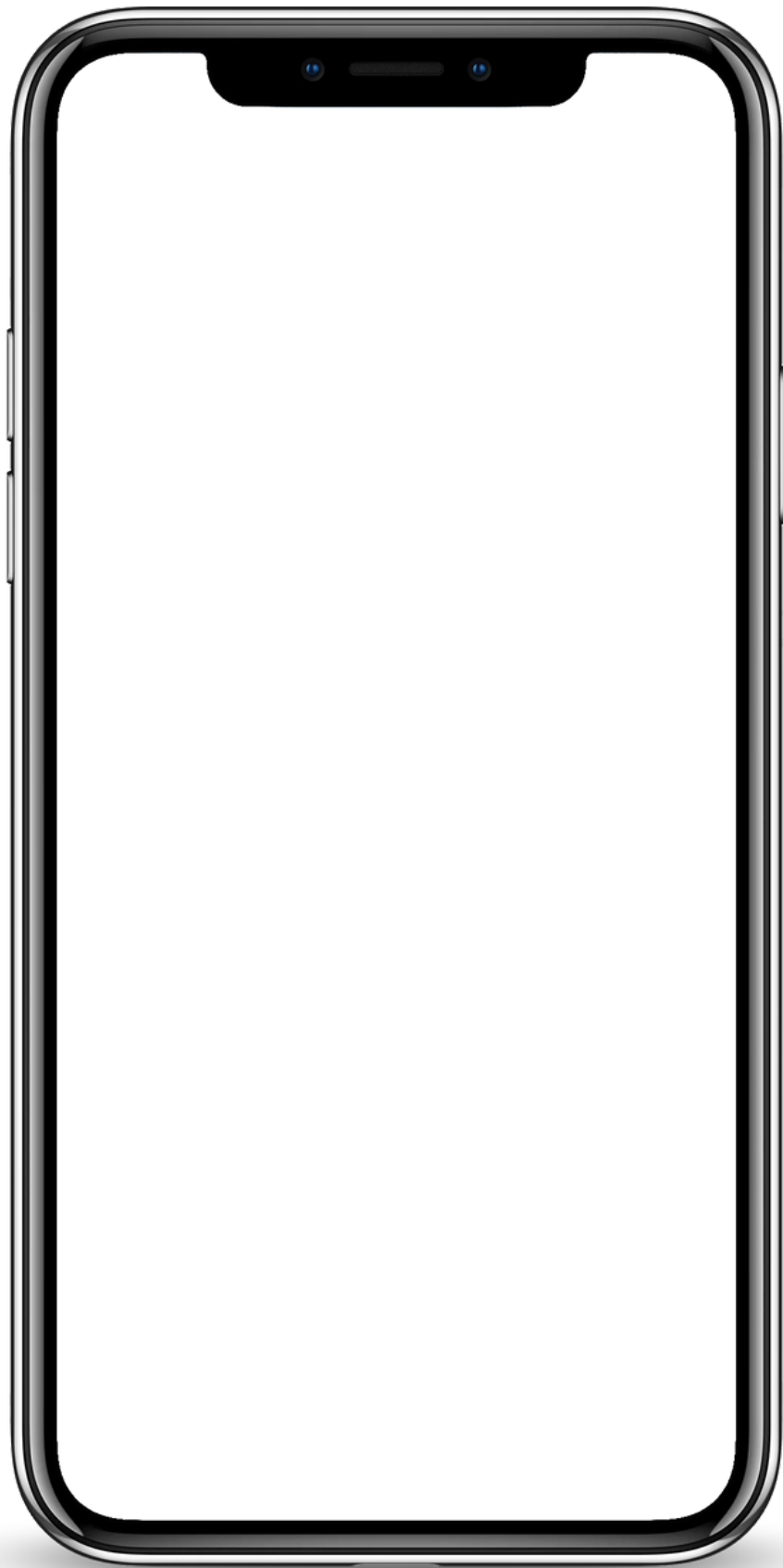


RECORD



Digital Dissent

Decoding the Critical Discourse of Francophone Ex-Muslims on X

Propagation and (de)conversion: Conflict of individual and group rights?"
Fourth International Conference ISFORB
2-3 May 2024, ETF Leuven, Belgium

3 mai 2024



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY
OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION
OR BELIEF



- Quick Research Genesis
- Expose the Research Questions
- Present one Example
- Questions



Critical Discourse of Ex-Muslims on Islam/isms

 **self-proclaimed**

francophone 

**Analysis of the rhetoric constructed on X (Twitter):
representations, arguments and ideological repertoire**

The objective is to capture:

- **The multimodal representations of Islam/isms**
 - **The multimodal representations of apostasy and apostates**
 - **How is Islam criticized**
 - **What arguments are put forward**
- > To grasp the underlying ideological repertoire**

Non-intrusive
Non-participatory
Freely accessible content
Status of observer
Follow the analysed profiles
Follow me back

Inductive / Abductive

← **Collectif d'Apostats**
168 posts



...  **Following**

Collectif d'Apostats
@LScepticisme

Apostats de l'islam, nous protégeons nos valeurs en critiquant l'islam par ses textes. [#exmuslim](#) [#Apostats](#)

 Joined January 2021

406 Following **406** Followers

 Followed by Vivi-Apostat, Allah Hubaal الله هبيل , and 5 others you follow

1

CDA

Fairclough, N.

2

MULTIMODALITY

**Kress, G. , Van
Leeuwen, T.**

3

**ENUNCIATIVE
PRAGMATICS**

Charaudeau, P.

The corpus consists primarily of multimodal productions (Tweets)

Texts, Emojis, Images, GIFs, Videos, Sounds, (all semiotic forms)
Hashtags #

Tweet Classification

- 1. Simple Tweet:** text
- 2. Compound Tweet:** text + image, gif, or video.
- 3. Retweet:** Reposting with or without comment

Research Questions:

Multimodal Representations

ISLAM/ISMS

**How are Islam/isms
portrayed in the multimodal
critical discourse of ex-
Muslims?**

APOSTASY

**How is apostasy portrayed
in the multimodal critical
discourse of apostates?**

Research Questions:

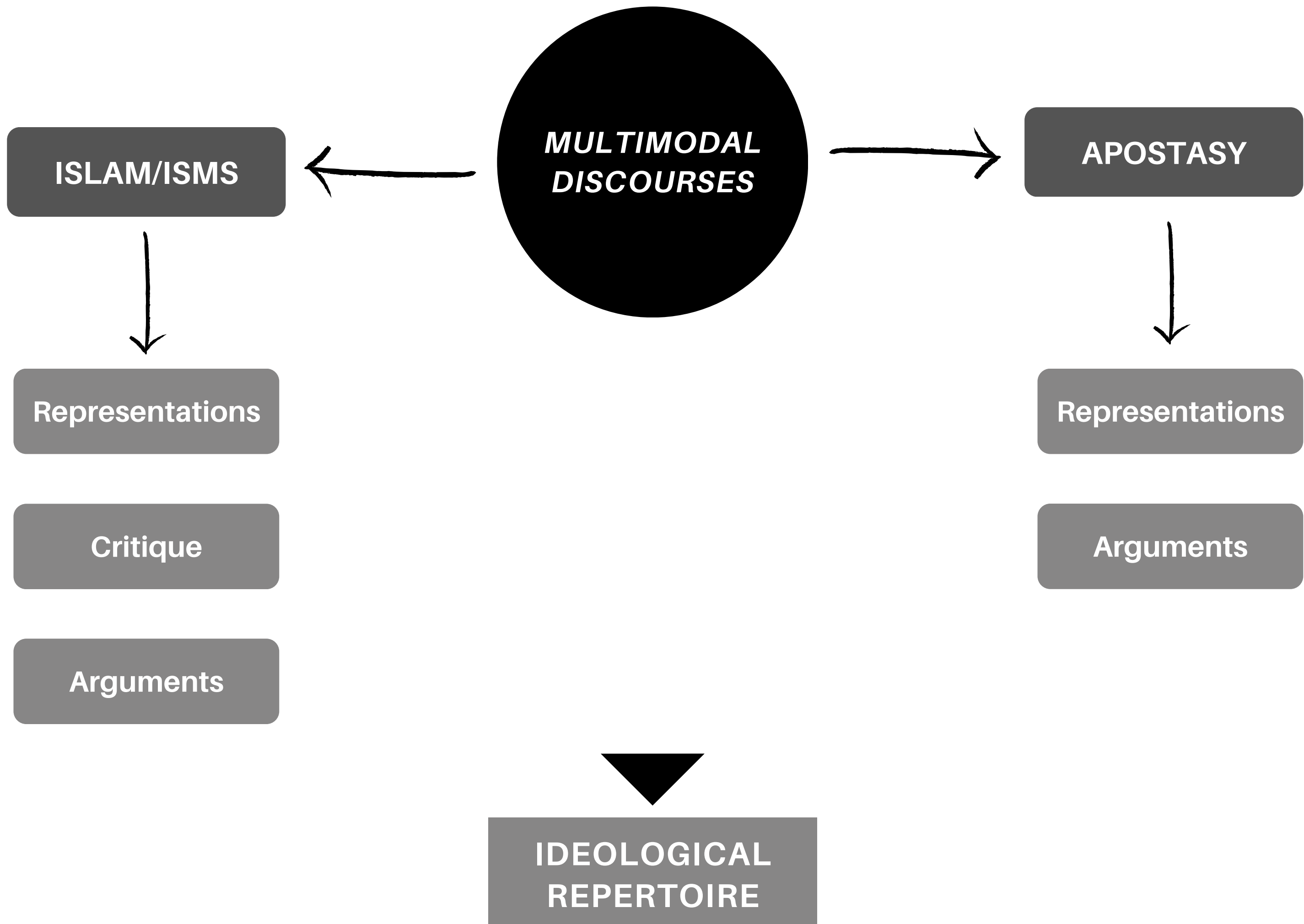
Critique and Argumentation

ISLAM/ISMS

**How is Islam/isms criticized
and what arguments are
deployed to support this
critique and delegitimize
Islam/isms?**

APOSTASY

**What arguments are
deployed to valorize
apostasy and apostates?**



What approach to 'critique'?

Criticism can contribute to **highlighting injustices**, inequalities (as well as illogical reasoning) and provide **a basis for activism** among affirmed apostates. Zienkowski (2018) proposes a notion of criticism as **public metadiscourse that enables individuals to recognize, rearticulate, and/or reconfigure the logics and rationalities that lead to social suffering.**

Analysis framework(CMDA)

01

Micro: Analysis of multimodal texts (Semiotics of the image)

- **Description**
- **Interpretation**
- **Explanation**

02

Meso: Analysis of discursive practices

- **Description**
- **Interpretation**
- **Explanation**

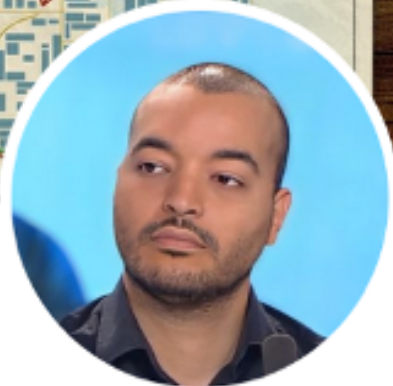
03

Macro: Analysis of social discursive practices

- **Description**
- **Interpretation**
- **Explanation**

Example

 **Majid Oukacha** 
16.7K posts



 **Following**

Majid Oukacha 
@MajidOukacha

 Mon nouveau livre « 100 contradictions et erreurs scientifiques dans le Coran »
: amazon.fr/dp/2958761908
[Translate bio](#)

   youtube.com/MajidOukacha  Joined May 2015

6,367 Following **66.9K** Followers

 Followed by jack lefou,  IBLIS UAKBAR 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌, and 76 others you follow



Majid Oukacha ✓
@MajidOukacha

Bienvenue dans la famille des ex-musulmans !

[Translate post](#)

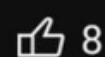


Réponses



@ [redacted] il y a 1 h

Ça y est , je sors de l islam , je suis finalement convaincu, vous m'avez ouvert les yeux , je me sens libre , merci , grâce à tes vidéos



8



Majid Oukacha ✓ @MajidOukacha · Oct 24

Ma nouvelle vidéo « Je réponds à Jésus Musulman et je DÉMONTE sa critique de mon livre (droit de réponse) » est sur Youtube : youtube.com



Rechercher



Réponse au livre de Majid Oukacha : "100 contradictions et erreurs scientifiques dans le Coran"

Jésus Musulman
54 k abonnés

S'abonner

1,7 k



Partager



Enregistrer



0:20 / 1:30:11



Je réponds à Jésus Musulman et je DÉMONTE sa critique de mon livre



Majid Oukacha
129K subscribers



Subscribed



5.1K



Share



Clip



107K views 6 months ago



Majid Oukacha ✓
@MajidOukacha

Bienvenue dans la famille des ex-musulmans !

[Translate post](#)



Réponses



@ [redacted] il y a 1 h

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"Welcome to the family of ex-Muslims!"

Responses

"That's it, I'm leaving Islam. I'm finally convinced, you've opened my eyes. I feel free. Thank you, thanks to your videos."

Representation islam/isms	Underlying arguments	Representation apostasy	Underlying arguments
darkness	Dogma Restrictions	Family	Belonging
prison	No freedom	Eye opening	Freedom Truth
I'm leaving	Religion from which one can exit	Gratitude	Feeling of being saved Emancipation

These representations and arguments can reinforce the idea that Islam is incompatible with the values of individual freedom and personal autonomy pointing towards a certain ideology

That was the first tweet, hundreds more to go :)



1. Question related to ideology.

By choosing to conduct critical discourse analysis (à la Fairclough), one cannot escape the notion of ideology. That being said, at the moment, political, religious, economic, or social ideologies remain broad and complex currents, which do not allow me to clearly identify any one of these currents in the discourse of ex-Muslims. Certainly, there are elements of liberalism, feminism, nationalism... but it is not easy to categorize these discourses.

I would tend to approach apostasy from Islam as an ideology by itself constructed from these major currents and linked to each individual's experience.

What do you think about this?



2. Question related to metapolitics:

Relying on Zienkowski's (2019: 137), Metapolitics involves the clash of “conflicting modes and models of politics” and the “reshaping of the structure of the public realm as well as the entities, borders and processes that constitute it”.

In the frame of my research, I would tend to speak of meta-religion... Metareligion would refer to discourses and movements that seek to influence religion, religious discourse, and the relationship to religion, and to influence ‘confessional’ society by modifying the philosophical, cultural, and ideological foundations on which religious decisions rest.

Does this seem coherent to you?
