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WHO ARE THE KEY FIGURES IN ‘TERRORISM STUDIES’?

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

The first part of this chapter constructs a analytical framework to enable the key figures in the field of terrorism studies to be identified. Use of this framework by future studies will ensure that their analysis of terrorism studies is based on a sample of authors and works which have been selected with sufficient methodological rigour. To have impact, such studies – which may interrogate the quality of research on terrorism, or examine the relationship between terrorism ‘knowledge’ and power, or attempt to reveal the existence of an ‘invisible college’ – must be able to show that they apply to the core (or, at least, *a core*) of terrorism studies, and that the selection of this core was achieved in a rigorous and explicit manner. The second part of this chapter employs this framework in order to identify three ‘pools’ of researchers: a *periphery pool* of over 300 authors, a *central pool* of 140 authors, and a *core pool* of just 31 authors.