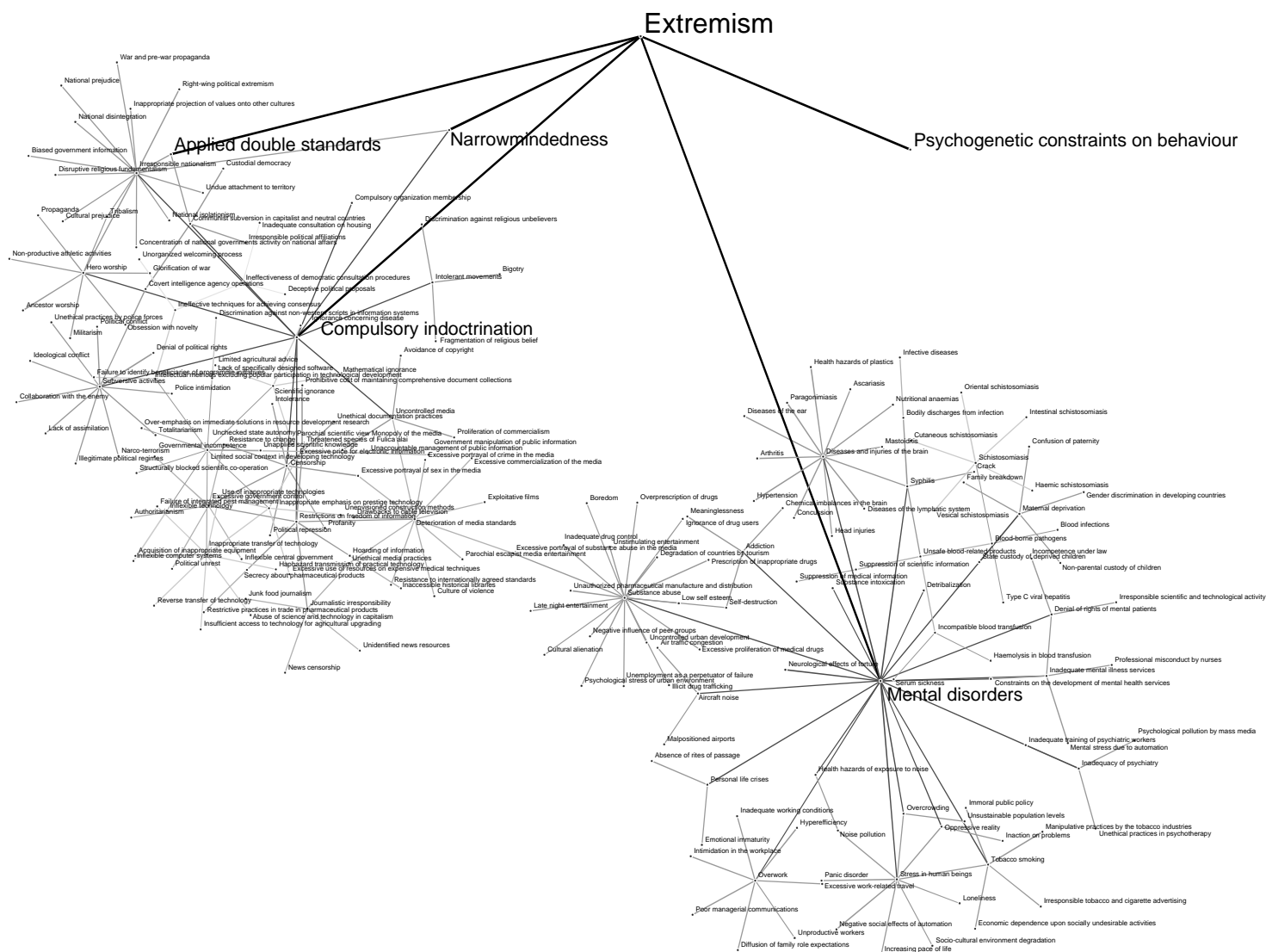


Figure 10.2.19.
Disruptive fundamentalism

Link type: aggravated by problems

UIA database: <http://www.iaui.org>

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&CL=2&DR=B3415>



Fundamentalism is any system of all-embracing belief held with rigid certitude and coupled with the moral assurance of the right to impose it on everyone else. Thus understood, whatever its ideational content, fundamentalism will be opposed to liberty in any form. Fundamentalists seek power over, variously, the family's reproductive practices and child rearing, the school, the seminary, the religious endowment, the denomination, the political party, the military, the government, and "outsiders," however the latter are defined. The word fundamentalism, therefore, aptly describes the basic method of the modern fanatical leader who reaches into the sacred past, selects and develops politically useful (if sometimes obscure) teachings or traditions, and builds around these so-called fundamentals an ideology and a programme of action. Fundamentalism, in other words, is the blending of traditional beliefs and their politicized, ideological defence. Fundamentalism can lead to fanaticism, a narrow-minded, passionate and combative attitude on the part of some people who are victims of propaganda and who then propagate exaggerated ideas which offer no compromise. It is often accompanied by ethnocentric nationalism, sexism, racism, even fascism. Fanatics may be adherents of religious and political sects, health cranks or heralders of a Utopian world, and are usually completely intolerant of discussions which debate their ideas. The advocacy of extreme methods by fundamentalists, particularly in the form of mass strikes and refusal to cooperate, may be practised by minority or special interest groups.