Annual Meeting 2016
Quick Fire 2: Terrorism and Radicalization

- A Typology of Terrorist Involvement presented by Neil Shortland
- Terrorist Ideology Project presented by Gary Ackerman
- One God for All? Religion and Group Radicalization presented by Jóhanna Birnir
- Organizational Determinants of Violence and Performance presented by Gina Ligon
- Patterns of U.S. Extremist Crime presented by Steven Chermak
- Unifying Approaches to Adversarial Modeling presented by Julia Smith
- Shadows of Violence: Empirical Assessments of Threats, Coercion, and Gray Zones presented by Barnett Koven
- Using Experimental Research to Study the Dynamics of Radicalization presented by Anthony Lemieux
- Cut from the Same Cloth? Comparing Domestic Extremists and Gang Members presented by David Pyrooz
- Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States-Foreign Fighters (PIRUS-FF) presented by Patrick James
- Recruitment and Radicalization Among U.S. Far-Right Terrorists presented by Pete Simi
A Typology of Terrorist Involvement
John Horgan & Neil Shortland

Theoretical Principles

• Involvement in the Global Jihad Movement (GJM) is diverse, and theoretical and analytical frameworks need to accommodate this diversity

• There are socio-demographic and behavioral differences between individuals who act alone, and those who acted as part of a terrorist cell or a formalized terrorist group when operating in support of the GJM.

• The relationship between offence type or role type and subsequent sentencing of offenders remains unexplored and poorly understood.
Terrorist Ideology Project

Core Team: Gary Ackerman (PI) & Herbert Tinsley

Goal: Unpack “terrorist ideology” to investigate connections with violent behavior

- 1,415 artifacts across 19 orgs collected and archived
- Extensive lit review and theoretical work (2 papers in prep)
- Variables defined and codebook created
- Pilot coding of 4+ groups begun: ~80 variables coded yearly

Open Source Ideologically Relevant Artifacts (Manuals and Supportive Elements)
Definition and Conceptualization of Ideology (Literature Review, Definitional and Conceptualization Scheme)
Representative Sample of Groups and Movements (Geographical, Temporal, Ideological Variety)
Analytical Tools (Operationalized Variables, Codebook, Etc.)
One God For All
Jóhanna K Birnir & Nil S. Satana

• 1202 ethnic majorities and minorities from the All Minorities at Risk data (AMAR) coded for religious family and sect

• Groups matched with a variety of databases on conflict including:
  • AMAR rebellion
  • Global Terrorism Database 2013
    All incidents matched with group, when sufficient information is available

• Our theory:
  Alternatives in Outbidding.
  Ethnicity, Religion and Conflict
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Organizational Determinants of Violence and Performance

The L.E.A.D.I.R Dataset: Leaders and Online Influence
Gina Ligon, Douglas Derrick, Michael Logan & Julia Fuller

**Jabhat Fateh al-Sham: Snapshot**

**Leadership and Organization**
- Pragmatic leadership decision making
- Hierarchical structure, formalized training

**Branding & Online Influence**
- Counter-ISIL messaging
- 2nd to ISIL in terms of presence and diversity

**Attack-Level Performance**
- Attacks often require moderate degree of coordination and expertise.
- More likely to attack non-symbolic target and/or victims.

**Organizational-Level Performance**
- Highly effective in recruitment.
- Very effective short-term fundraising, but only somewhat effective long-term fundraising.
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Michael Logan, M.A.
Julia Fuller
I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Violence (incidents//perps)
   • 195 //385 FR
   • 44//88 AQAM
   • 179//261 ELF/ALF

B. Financial (schemes//perps)
   • 659//1379 FR
   • 177//331 AQAM

C. Extremist Groups
   • 375 hate-affiliated groups

D. Failed/Foiled Plots
   • AQAM failed/foiled plots against 294 specific/general targets//723 perps
   • FR failed/foiled plots against 391 specific/general targets//1016 far right perpetrators (in progress)

II. ECDB DELIVERABLES

A. 25 invited research presentations

B. DHS (3) & NIJ (2) supplemental funding

C. 4 PhD dissertations & 2 others in progress

D. 10 book chapters; 10 technical reports, 15 research briefs

E. 30+ journal articles including:
   • JQC (2); CPP; CD
   • TPV (4); SCT (6); DAC (3);
   • HS (2); PQ; JIV; JOFV; FC
Unifying Approaches to Adversarial Modeling
Ronald Breiger, H. Brinton Milward & Charles Ragin

Comparative Advantages:
- Methods for analyzing insurgencies as networks of sequences events
- Statistical inference for models

DHS/S&T
Unify important aspects of quantitative & qualitative approaches for predicting adversarial behavior; new techniques & software

University of Arizona
PhD student RA
Collaborating in formulating new research techniques/software for adversarial models
Seminar in adversarial/anomalous cases

Intellectual Partners
Talk at Yale seminar
UC-Irvine development of software for set-theoretic adversarial modeling
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Shadows of Violence: Empirical Assessments of Threats, Coercion, and Gray Zones
Amy Pate & Barnett S. Koven

• The Gray Zone:
  – Between peace and war
  – Multiple instruments of power
  – Ambiguity/clouded attribution

• Strategy: Develop typology of NSAs to decrease ambiguity

• Approach:
  – Conceptual Mapping
  – Qualitative deep dive on 3 cases
  – Quantitative analysis of event-level data for all 3 cases
  – Bayesian network analysis on Libyan case
  – 3 Simulations
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Using Experimental Research to Study the Dynamics of Radicalization
Anthony Lemieux & Victor Asal

Overall Summary:
• 7 studies, 6 countries, 5,995 participants
• Impact of Grievance
• Impact of Images
• SDO & RWA
• Activism & Radicalism Intentions
• Analyses and Papers in Development (with Erin Kearns - Post-Doctoral Fellow; James Walsh)

Online Experiments
1. **Grievances**: + engagement & support for both protest and violence
2. **Images**: Oppressive --> + Protest justified
   Evil --> + Violence justified
   Intelligent --> Mixed results
3. **SDO & RIS**: + violence; - peaceful action
   **AIS**: + peaceful, - violent action
   **RWA**: - action

Augmented Reality
Cutting edge technology to enhance experimental design, impact, and implications

Comparative U.S. Based
To examine differences with AR experiment
Cut from the Same Cloth?
Comparing Domestic Extremists and Gang Members

David Pyrooz, Gary LaFree, Scott Decker & Patrick James

Comparisons (N measures):
1. Group involvement (2)
2. Demographics (9)
3. Family (2)
4. Religion (7)
5. Socioeconomic (7)
Total=27 comparisons

Similar in
• SES

Inconsistent across domains

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Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States – Foreign Fighters
Michael Jensen & Patrick James

- Mixed-methods research to investigate the behavioral patterns of individuals that left, or aspired to leave, the U.S. for the purposes of participating in foreign conflicts
- Contains 171 variables covering pre-travel, travel, post-travel, and plot-related behaviors
- Funding partners: Office of University Programs, S&T Directorate, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
- Project end date: December 2016

Key findings:
- Reduction in radicalization duration 16.3 mo. in 2002 → 9.8 mo. in 2015
- Observable pre-travel radical behaviors in 95% of cases
- Involvement in domestic plots predominantly from those who express an interest in traveling but do not do so
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Recruitment and Radicalization among U.S. Far-Right Terrorists

Pete Simi & Steven Windisch

METHODOLOGY

Research Question
• What are the most prominent barriers to preventing violent extremists from committing acts of MCV?

Data Collection and Analysis
• Sample included 34 former white supremacists
  • Participants were recruited through multiple snowball samples
  • Data were gathered through life-history interviews
    • Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed into text files
    • Interviews included questions about the subjects’ lives prior to involvement, entry into the movement and exit from the movement
  • Ethnographic themes related to factors hindering MCV were extracted as part of the analysis

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
• Counter-message strategies could promote the extent of double standards and “backstabbing” among extremist groups
• Counter-messages could also highlight moral issues by emphasizing the “innocence” of potential victims. These messages could promote individual and organizational preferences toward non-violent political tactics by highlighting the efficacy and righteousness of political activism over MCV

In-Fighting:
“There’s so much in-fighting. I think that’s a buffer for the violence that would’ve gone outside the group if it wasn’t happening within the group.”

Preference for Interpersonal Violence:
“I was always more of a fist and boots kind of a guy... It is little more manly to get in there and duke it out. There was just definitely a rush in beating somebody’s head in. I don’t know like a primal thing.

Type of Barrier | Frequencies
--- | ---
Moral Apprehension | 12
Drugs/Alcohol | 12
Interpersonal Violence | 11
Hypocrisy | 9
Personal Obligations | 9
In-fighting | 8
Counter-productive | 6

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