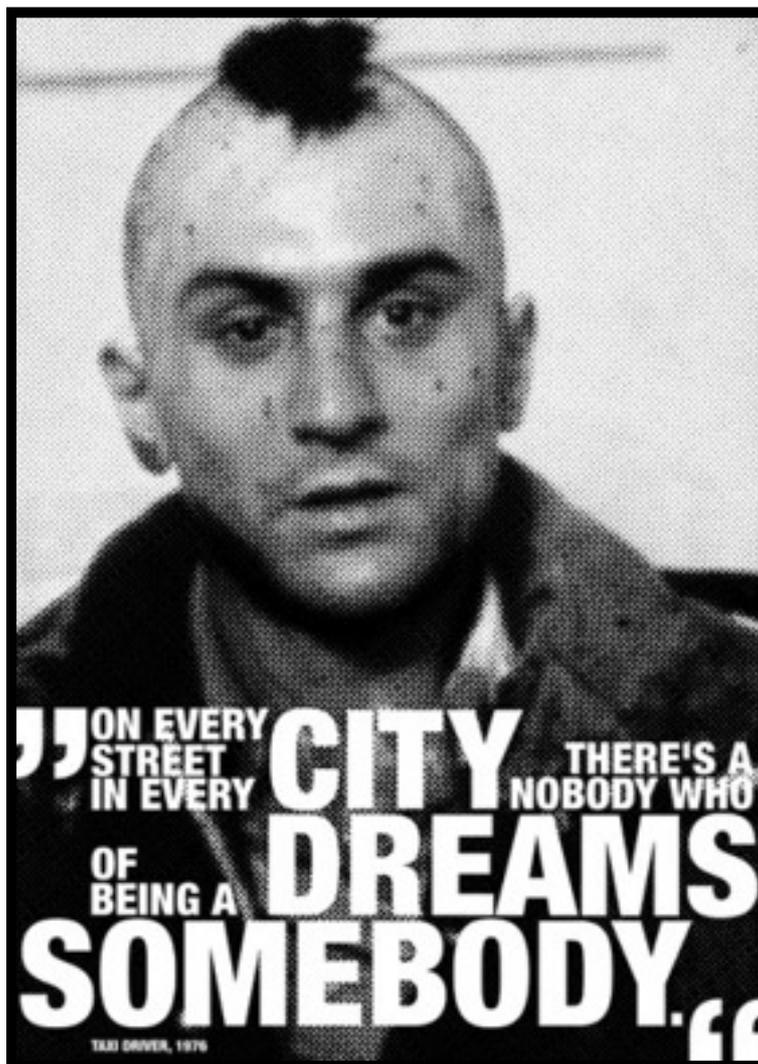




NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016





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MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

Dear members,

Many things have happened since our last newsletter. Due to past few years, the threat assessment community has focused heavily into the prevention and study of terrorism-related incidents but the other forms of targeted violence have not disappeared anywhere. The existing issues related to stalking, domestic violence, school- and workplace violence, multi-disciplinary work, victim support are still just as important issues, so we all have much to do and many people to reach.

The association held its 9th European conference in Ghent, Belgium this April. We were very pleased to see 100+ participants, many old timers but also many new faces as well. One of the major changes was the big increase in the corporate representatives as well as many guests from overseas besides our few loyal and regular attendees. Due to very recent terrorist attacks in Belgium we needed also to provide additional security to our conference attendees. This was provided by the local police and private security service providers. On the more pleasant side, our additional evening program included the gala dinner in the monastery and casual evening in the oldest restaurant of Belgium were both outstanding.

Our administrative team has also gotten one new member. Mr. Alain De Preter from Belgium, a familiar face in AETAP conferences since 2010 was asked to join our team as associate board member and to our delight he agreed. Alain has been active working for the association for some time now and he had an important role regarding our past conference in Ghent. We are convinced he has the commitment and energy to be a part of our team.

Accreditation issues are hopefully in the final stage, many years of hard work lead by Dr. Jens Hoffmann and Mr. Bram Van der Meer. At the moment ATAP has started their process last year and CATAP and APATAP are both in the process as well. Once we get the accreditation started, it will be a major step for European threat assessment professionals. I look forward to seeing many of you getting the accreditation and I thank you all for your patience.

Our 10th European conference, 24 - 28 April 2017 Dublin, Ireland:

We are expecting a record crowd for our 10th conference. The location itself has created a very positive reaction amongst our members and regular attendees. Steps related to conference facility, accommodation and additional program are in progress. The call for abstracts should be launched during the next few weeks and already at this stage many international experts have approached us with an interest to present at the event.



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Spread the word please and also keep in mind the sponsorship possibilities that are available. If you know of an organization that might be interested to sponsor us, we would be extremely thankful for the tips.

iTAP is the next step in our global cooperation between all associations. Every time any of the associations are organizing the annual main conference, attending board members of all associations are meeting to follow-up on the latest with other continents. This summer the first global online meeting takes place between all associations (iTAP). We are very excited to assist yet another association to get started. This association will cover Africa and Middle-East. Hopefully we can share more information about this in the near future.

New members are steadily joining our association, but we still have room for more. Please keep in mind our ongoing membership recruitment program where you can get next years annual fee granted to you or even a free ticket to attend the next expert day seminar.

The first regional seminar in Germany is at the preliminary stages. Naturally main responsibility for the event management fall to the lap of our German members, with the assistance of current board and associate board members.

JTAM issues have been discussed many times during the past months. It looks like we are finally taking concrete steps to get rid of distribution issues. To be on the safe side, online access is also heavily supported. However, I want to thank our members for the patience you have shown.

All the best and thank you for supporting the European threat assessment and management community through your membership.

**Totti Karpela,
President**



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Our new Associate Board Member - mr. Alain de Preter

As our president has already mentioned - our board was recently strengthened with a new member: mr. Alain De Preter. We have asked Alain to provide us with a personal introduction, which he kindly did.

Alain also travelled to the city of Nice, shortly after the violent attacks that took place on July 14th 2016. He shares his personal impressions with us on the next page of this newsletter.

When a good friend of mine was murdered in 1993, I left Belgium for the United States and started studying the phenomenon of violence. I have spent a lot of time observing and talking with criminals, trying to understand how and why they choose their victims. I have never stopped visiting the US, in order to keep on learning. In 2007 the Belgian Minister of Internal Affairs licensed me as a security advisor and security trainer.

In my daily life I provide mandatory training to employees of the Belgian Justice Department, teaching violence assessment, conflict resolution and threat management. As a graduate of Gavin de Becker's ATAM-Academy, I am an advisor at ASMA vzw, a Belgian non-profit organization. The focus of this organisation is domestic violence, stalking and other forms of threatening behaviour.

Finally, I also work at a group of three medical hospitals, where I am an advisor for hospital employees and the security service. Violence and aggression is a serious problem hospitals are dealing with. I provide threat assessments, eg of stalking cases and other types of undesirable behavior towards staff and visitors.

In 2010 I published a book with the title: "Mij zal het niet overkomen" (*It will not happen to me*) in which I describe threatening situations that people can encounter, including practical suggestions on how to respond when being confronted with such violence.

Currently I am finishing a course in Forensic Investigation and I'm working on a third book on violence prevention.

Alain de Preter

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Personal experiences during a visit to Nice after the mass attack of July 14th



After the attack in Nice this summer, I decided to go and see with my own eyes what happened there. Just a few months earlier we had the attacks in Belgium, which changed and impacted many people's view on personal safety and security.

I experienced mixed feelings when I arrived in Nice and was welcomed at the airport by a young female and her father, who both had been close to the attacks when it happened.

While having coffee together, the young girl told me that on that particular evening of July 14th, the first thing she saw were people running everywhere. She, only 22 years old, was there with her younger brother. Before they also started running, she asked a police officer: "what's happening?" The officer was not aware of the precise situation, but told her: "Run, keep running for 15 minutes, don't look back and then hide". She took her little brother and did what the police officer had told her.

During the following four days I spent hours at the place where the attacks had taken place, and spoke with whomever wanted to share their feelings and thoughts about what happened. It was an awkward experience, standing there in this beautiful holiday area, in the shining sun: one of France's most vibrant boulevards. Thousands of flowers, candles, pictures, drawings, small tokens of appreciation were left on the Promenade des Anglais and in a park nearby - letters and flags from different countries.

People were still finding their way to the beach, walking by awkwardly, seemingly feeling guilty for enjoying their well deserved vacations. Other people told me they had to go and enjoy the sun, to play, rest and enjoy life, for otherwise the terrorists would reach their goal.

During my first evening in Nice, I saw two young girls, perhaps 16 or 17 years old, lighting candles that had gone out during the previous night. It was nice to see their empathy and hope. I visited the victim center, press was not allowed. Inside were small beverages as well as psychological assistance for people in need. I looked at a person putting a white rose in the hands of a teddy bear next to the picture of the child their family had lost.

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What I realized on the way home, is how important it is that we do not consider the threat assessments we make, the criminal files we analyse and risk management strategies we advise, as goals by themselves, but rather as "a means to an end": a way of preventing human suffering.

Alain de Preter



BOARD MEMBER DR. JENS HOFFMANN INTERVIEWED BY DW NEWS

We feel proud that one of our board members was selected to be interviewed on international television. During the interview Jens Hoffmann, comments on the recent mass attacks in Munich and Ansbach (Germany). He is addressing the important role of the media, the likelihood of a copycat behaviour and also possible ways to prevent the copycat effect by avoiding personalisation of the offender. The interview can be found on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMy4gsVWSH8>

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Following up on the expert day that AETAP had organised in Ghent earlier this year, we are happy to announce the publication by Reid Meloy and Jacqueline Genzman, titled: '**The clinical Threat Assessment of the Lone Actor Terrorist**'. Reid and Jacqueline illustrate how the TRAP-18 instrument can be retrospectively applied to the case of Malik Hasan, who committed a mass murder at Fort Hood, November 2009. This scientific work will be published in: '*Psychiatric Clinics of North America*'.

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PUBLISHED RESEARCH



Although it is not necessary to introduce the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management anymore, I would like to write a few words about the two latest editions - perhaps motivating those members reading these two very interesting journals during the last weeks of summer. Besides the regular threat assessment articles, the September/December edition consists of 7 contributions - all focussing on '**Terrorism in Europe**'. Especially for threat assessment professionals here in Europe, having been confronted with several attacks that are still very fresh in our memories, this is an edition not to miss. Case studies are presented, with experts discussing offender behaviour, the concept of 'radicalisation' and also addressing investigative issues.

The most recent edition, March 2016, contains articles on the identification of violent extremists, and following up on the previous edition - dr. Meloy together with dr. Paul Gill discuss the Lone Actor Terrorist and the TRAP-18 instrument. And last but certainly not least - the AETAP board is proud to see our board member Renate Geurts publishing one of the first articles as part of her Phd program. Together with the well known scientists: Anders, Ask and Vrij, she is leading the publication titled: "Taking threats to the Lab: an Experimental Paradigm for Studying Verbal Threats".

I also would like to take this opportunity inviting our members to take that step and share your expertise and experience with the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management. No matter what your background, your contribution is needed and will be appreciated. It could be that you are not an experienced writer and feel uncomfortable writing for a journal - please contact someone from the AETAP board, and I am sure we will find help and advise. Especially our European members, most of them not native English speakers, might be reluctant to contribute with an article. Let this not demotivate you - contact us and we will find a solution,

Bram Van der Meer



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Across the universe? A Comparative Analysis of Violent behavior and Radicalization Across Three Offender Types with Implications for Criminal Justice Training and Education

John G. Horgan, Paul Gill et. All (2016)

The U.S. Department of Justice has recently published a thorough study, conducted by Horgan and Gill: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249937.pdf>

The results are interesting. Indications are that there is little to distinguish between 'lone actor terrorists' and 'solo mass murderers' - in terms of their socio-demographic profiles. However, their behaviors significantly differ with regards to (a) the degree to which they interact with co-conspirators (b) their antecedent behaviors, and (c) the degree to which they leak information prior to the attack.

The majority of mass murderers are concerned with personal emotions, of having been wronged by a specific person. Mass murderers typically do not concern themselves with post-event activity and strategic analysis, as solo-terrorists do. Unlike solo-actor terrorist, some mass murders appear to be more spontaneous incidents.

When we talk about 'threat', we need to consider multiple, overlapping questions including issues related to identification of threats (e.g., threat of what precisely?), exposure (e.g., under what conditions are particular offences more likely?) and management (i.e., which interventions are likely to be effective in terms of mitigating either risk, broadly speaking, or a specific threat?).

The results suggest that both types of offenders are very similar in terms of their behaviours, which in turn suggests that similar threat- and risk assessment frameworks may be applicable to both types of offenders.

Understanding dynamic risk factors for violence

Gabrielle Klepfisz, Michael Daffern and Andrew Day (2016)

These Australian researchers critically discuss dynamic risk factors associated with violence. They argue that little attention has been given to theoretical issues. The authors suggest that there is a lack of evidence to suggest that changes in dynamic risk factors actually result in reductions of violent offending. They conclude that only few violence risk factors commonly regarded as dynamic, fulfil the requirement of reducing the likelihood of recidivism.



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It is clear that the causes of violence comprise a number of interacting processes, none of which are necessary or sufficient for violence to occur. This article is very complementary to the earlier work and presentations of Stephen Hart, Douglas et. all; each risk factor will have to be considered for every individual being assessed to determine whether the risk factor acts as a driver, destabilizer or disinhibitor. If it does none of these things then it cannot be considered relevant to the risk for violence. To purchase the full article go to: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1068316X.2015.1109091>

NEW INSTRUMENTS

Pathar

At our recent conference in Ghent we were honoured by a presentation from one of the world's leading experts on mass media, Prof.dr. Jan van den Bulck (Leuven University). He talked about social media and the links with threat assessment.

During his presentation, mr. Ron Tunkel from Europol mentioned an interesting instrument: a tool that could help analysing social media (networks). Probably useful for analysis of massive amounts of (social media) data on a specific topic. The user has to enter contextual information and results are displayed on a relational or geographical level. It could also display topics that the group finds most interesting. More information to be found on: <http://pathar.net/index.html>

BOOKS AND MOVIES

As we all know, the 'dark side of human behaviour' typically catches interest of the media. It is therefore not surprising that threats and acts of violence are popular topics amongst movie directors, documentary makers, and novel writers. High sensation levels may put off professionals in the field, as "threat assessment ought not to be entertainment". Yet some titles are worth taking in. After all, entertainment can sometimes be inspiring and educational too. Therefore I present a brief list for dreary weekends....

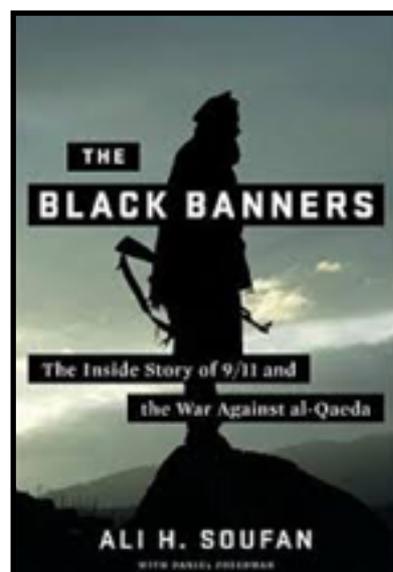
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Taxi Driver (Martin Scorsese, movie) - A young Robert DeNiro (1976) in the role of an unstable taxi driver in New York City where loneliness and rejection feeds his urge for violent action. A remarkable detail; the movie formed part of the delusional fantasy of John Hinckley Jr. that triggered his attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan in 1981.



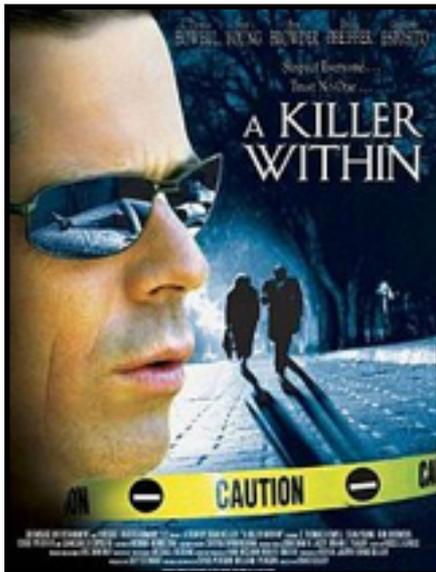
Fatal Attraction (Adrian Lyne, movie) - a classic 1987 American psychological thriller about a woman who refuses to allow her affair to end. "Fatal attraction" has become a household term for love turned to murderous obsession.

The Black Banners (Ali Soufan, book) - A narrative account of America's successes and failures against al-Qaeda, written by FBI Special Agent Ali Soufan. Soufan interrogated many terrorists in the years after September 11, 2001. A book that is relevant not only for its topic but also for the detailed insights into interrogation techniques for eliciting intelligence.



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A killer within (Macky Alston, Documentary) – A documentary on school violence in which the psychology professor, Bob Bechtel, reveals that he has murdered a fellow student at Swarthmore College, 50 years ago. He claims that his crimes portrays the extremes to which bullying can lead. The film follows Bechtel's coming out.



Dear readers, whenever you see or read an interesting movie, documentary or book that you want to share with our professional network in the next newsletter, please email renate.geurts@aetap.eu

Renate Geurts

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS & EDUCATION

European Network on Public Figure Threat Assessment Professionals (ENPFTAP)

Oslo, June 2016

Call me a lucky guy being able to attend two great conference program's close after each other. The first; the AETAP at Gent, Belgium and the second the ENPFTAA at Oslo, Norway. Of course the abbreviation AETAP is known to the readers, but ENPF... what?

Well the European Network of Public Figure Threat Assessment as I found out a working group of the LEWP Law Enforcement Working Party. This network's main objectives are based on the increased travel of public figures within the European Union. Based on the need for conformity creating a platform for the exchange of (operational) information, knowledge, development of common set practices etc. within the diversity of European departments whom are responsible for the protection of public figure. The last but not least; "according to national legislation".

While AETAP has a more open structure towards the kind of participant's either from commercial or governmental entities, ENPFTAA was a more "closed user group" based on a governmental "law enforcement signature.



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What struck me is the resemblance in topics, presentations and speakers between the AETAP and ENPFTAA in general. For me AETAP had a more academic level of approach, the ENPFTAA had more operational topics and presentation of case studies. Looking at the similarities of topics on threat assessment and threat management, one could raise the question why not one conference with joint goals. At the same time operational information and development of measurements related to the protection of public figures will remain a “close user” issue.

Not only because the great venues and program's I consider myself lucky achieving my goals and objectives at these conferences. Getting more knowledgeable about the issues and topics handled by our team back home. AETAP gave me insight and value about networking, gathering and refining information for my colleague the “investigative-psychologists” for their risk assessments. ENPFTAA gave me more handles for the operational aspects of my job.

Herman Olij

Inspector of Police, Casemanager

Netherlands National Police - Threat Management Team

International Conference on Terrorism, Extremism and Mental Health Services Cambridge, 26-27 September 2016

This 11th North London Forensic service conference will be of interest to mental health professionals – psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses and managers – and also to counter-terrorism practitioners and academics in terrorism studies. The growing evidence that mental disorders are of importance in this area, contrary to the previous consensus, will be explored. More importantly, the conference aims to begin to consider the practical implications of this for practitioners and how multi-agency approaches may be helpful. Check the program for more details: http://www.aetap.eu/images/NLFS_Conference_Booking_Form_2016.pdf

Third International conference on law enforcement and public health Amsterdam, 2-5 October 2016

This conference is meant for everyone who is involved in policing, law enforcement, public health, social welfare and human rights – and more – who are facing complex social and health issues in their work. It is also for everyone who is keen to learn about more practical responses to complex social problems, and to share their experiences. **LEPH2016** moves the discussion from **Description** (LEPH2012) and **Analysis** (LEPH2014) to **Action** (LEPH2016).



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The Conference Program will be heavily weighted towards promoting collaborative action – in practice, research, policy development and in the integration of these three elements. Find the program at <http://www.leph2016.com/program/conference-program/> and register at www.leph2016.com

ATAP

August 16-19 2016, Anaheim, USA

While getting this newsletter ready for publication, the 26th annual ATAP conference is held. Have a look at the diverse program that our American sister organization has offered and be inspired to attend their next event in August 2017.

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.atapworldwide.org/resource/resmgr/2016_TMC_Digital_Program_Fin.pdf

CATAP

October 23-27, 2016, Whistler, Canada

CATAP has announced a two day workshop (October 23rd and 24th) about 'open source intelligence techniques', followed by a three day conference. The conference brochure with all the speakers, times and biographies can be found here: <http://www.catap.org/resources/Documents/CATAP%202016%20Conference%20and%20Workshop%20brochure.pdf>. Early bird rates are given until Sept. 2016.

APATAP

13-15 February 2017, Singapore

Our friends from the Asian Pacific region are organising their 6th annual conference. The deadline for abstract submissions has just ended. The title of the 2017 conference: "The threat from within: From home grown terrorists, tot terrorists within the home and workplace". Dr. Kate Barrelle will give an expert day on 'radicalisation towards and disengagement from extremism'. Two keynote speakers are confirmed for the main conference already: Dr. A Majeed Khader from Singapore and Dr. Paul Gill from London University College. For more information please visit: <http://www.apatap.org/annual-conference>
