



NEWSFLASH – *WINTER 2014*



Winter in Stockholm



Message from the Board

In less than three months AETAP's main event will take place in Stockholm, Sweden. We are delighted to see that high quality speakers, from all over the globe will be presenting their most recent scientific findings and casework. This combination of academia and practice will always be an important aim for our conferences. We have noticed the increasing need for a stronger focus on threat management strategies, - ideas and - programs. The tendency is to focus on threat assessment issues, but it is clear that professionals are confronted with difficult questions and decisions once it gets to managing the risks. 90 minutes of every conference day will be dedicated to a 'Case Discussion', including a panel of experts giving their professional ideas and suggestions for case management.

On Monday the 7th of April AETAP will host the international board meeting. Representatives of all the international associations will be present, discussing international cooperation and finding ways on how to join forces. Our last meeting in Banff, Canada, showed that we all feel that further development and growth of global threat assessment and – management expertise will be successful when we approach this as international teamwork. Accreditation and certification of experts in the field is high on the agenda. On the third day of the conference a representative of every association will present their approach and model. It will become clear that there are many connecting points between the different models and approaches, and that the expert accreditation process is clearly an example of teamwork between the different associations.

The AETAP board welcomes you to the beautiful city of Stockholm. Besides a high quality program we are also looking forward to a very interesting social program, which we are confident you will all enjoy.

I am proud to present AETAP's first newsletter of 2014 to you. From now on, there will be two newsletters from our association every year. Old newsletters can be found on AETAP's website.

Bram B. van der Meer, AETAP President

February 2014

New Developments

Journal of Threat Assessment and Management

Reflecting the strong professional development of threat assessment and –management is the birth of the new *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*. The first issue of the journal will appear in Spring 2014!

AETAP members automatically receive free copies of every edition of the journal



JTAM is an international periodical for professionals and scholars whose work focuses on operational aspects of the assessment and management of risk for interpersonal violence. It is a scholarly journal, publishing peer-reviewed papers representing the science and practice of risk for violence and fear-inducing behavior. *JTAM* is published by the American Psychological Association and is a forum for scholarly dialogue regarding the most important emerging issues in the field.

The journal is unique in three ways. First, it is devoted exclusively to the subject of violence risk. Second, it is applied in nature, dealing with the development, implementation, and evaluation of procedures for assessing and managing violence risk. Third, it both reflects and promotes the values of interdisciplinarity and internationalism, based on the view that preventing violence requires collaborations that cross professional and, in many cases, geopolitical boundaries.

Stephen D. Hart, PhD is the Editor, joined by international senior editorial advisory board members Jens Hoffman, PhD, J. Reid Meloy, PhD, and Lisa Warren, PhD.

In addition to empirical reports of original research, the journal encourages submissions in the form of conceptual, theoretical, procedural, or legal reviews; case studies illustrating critical issues; and scholarly or professional comments and debates.

To submit an article or for more information, please visit: www.apa.org/pubs/journals/tam.

Published Research

The International Handbook of Threat Assessment, edited by J. Reid Meloy and Jens Hoffmann is now available. This is a book that every professional in the field of threat assessment and management should have, and will therefore also be for sale at our Stockholm conference. For those who do not want to wait this long, find information on where and how to buy on our website: <http://www.aetap.eu/aetap.eu/images/sampleddata/Meloy.MHT.3.pdf>

Nature, together with 'Science' the most widely read science journal in the world, recently published an article on *campus threat assessment*. This clearly shows how threat assessment is of increasing interest to scholars and professionals. The main issue that is raised is whether formal procedures designed to keep campuses safer actually work? The link to the article is: <http://www.nature.com/news/workplace-violence-caught-on-campus-1.14480>.

Italian researchers (Carabellese et al.) carried out an interesting review study: "*Stalking by females*", focussing on specific traits of female stalkers. This study has recently been published in *Medicine, Science and the Law* (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23761433>). The authors outlined a variety of different tactics adopted by the female stalkers and a lesser propensity to pass on to physical violence. Nevertheless, female stalkers are more frequently affected by erotomania, and this condition generally increases the risk of violence.



Moreover, previous research shows that male and female stalkers without a prior intimate relationship are equally violent. Thus in these cases without prior intimacy, the perpetration of stalking in itself should be treated as a risk factor for physical violence, regardless of the gender.

The well-regarded Australian researchers, Troy McEwan and her team, worked together with the British psychiatrist dr. David James on this first detailed examination of approach and escalation in a 'general' stalking sample. Although this article "***approach and escalation in stalking***" was published more than a year ago (Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology), (http://www.researchgate.net/publication/254313427_Approach_and_escalation_in_stalking), it is still recommend to read this study. Amongst non-ex-intimate stalkers, approach and escalation were associated with psychosis and intimacy seeking motivation. 'Approach-only' cases in the sample of non-ex-intimates were more likely to be predatory, less likely to be women, and more likely to engage in multiple forms of approach and assault. This indicates that approach may be a more ominous behaviour in terms of violence when it has not been preceded by forms of communication. Explicit threats and violence were more present in ex-intimate cases. No associations with approach or escalation were found in ex-intimate cases. Similar associations for approach and escalation across different groups and in different countries strengthens this study.

Violence and Gender Journal

This new journal, - the inaugural issue will be published in Spring 2014 - is the only peer-reviewed journal focusing on the understanding, prediction, and prevention of acts of violence. Through research papers, roundtable discussions, case studies, and other original content, the Journal critically examines biological, genetic, behavioral, psychological, racial, ethnic, and cultural factors as they relate to the gender of perpetrators of violence. Led by Editor-in-Chief Mary Ellen O'Toole, PhD, Forensic Behavioral Consultant and Senior FBI Profiler/Criminal Investigative Analyst (ret.), *Violence and Gender* explores the difficult issues that are vital to threat assessment and prevention of the epidemic of violence. *Violence and Gender* is published quarterly online with Open Access options and in print, and is the official journal of the Avielle Foundation.

New Rochelle, NY, February 5, 2014 - Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers has announced the publication of six articles from *Violence and Gender*. The articles are available free on the *Violence and Gender* website:

<http://www.liebertpub.com/regwallsm.aspx?c=yqVI7bk%2fBFfeQSWSSPvO%2fvfzM1oxl%2fpvB5kAoYli2VBIIEEz7kxD8JnLnHfjoSBbyjJGXGFM2O9G7cIVAo%2bkOiRlIaXkwlbETWMX5LXh710oaUnIFEhwIsv9pdX%2fnmlJ&id=620>

Among the published articles is "[Why Do Young Males Attack Schools? Seven Discipline Leaders Share Their Perspectives](#)".



This offers an unprecedented look into the reasons for the high incidence of school shootings in the U.S., and addresses the reasons we see mostly young males (15–29) committing these types of crimes. The article delves into what motivates these perpetrators, including the potential role of the copycat phenomenon in behavior.

Sharing their perspectives are world-renowned experts Jorge Folino, MD, PhD, National University of La Plata (Buenos Aires Province, Argentina); James Garbarino, PhD, Loyola University Chicago (IL); Steven Gorelick, PhD, Hunter College, City University of New York (New York, NY); Helinä Häkkänen-Nyholm, PhD, PsyJuridica Ltd. (Espoo, Finland); J. Reid Meloy, PhD, University of California, San Diego (La Jolla, CA); Stanton Samenow, PhD, Alexandria, VA; and Yuki S. Nishimura, MD, PhD, Keio University (Yokohama City, Japan).

Other published articles include an insightful roundtable discussion with Christopher Kilmartin, PhD, University of Mary Washington (Fredericksburg, VA), and Col. Jeffery M. Peterson, USMC (ret.) and Center for Naval Analyses (Alexandria, VA), entitled "Sexual Assault in the Military: A Discussion of the Current Status and Future Prevention;" the Review article "The Mission-Oriented Shooter: A New Type of Mass Killer," by Editor-in-Chief Mary Ellen O'Toole, PhD; and a Perspective entitled "Understanding Brain Health Can Prevent Another Sandy Hook Shooting," by Jeremy Richman, PhD, Founder and CEO of The Avielle Foundation (S. Hook, CT).

Publications in progress

Knoll J. & Meloy J.R. (in press). *Mass murder and the violent paranoid spectrum.* Psychiatric Annals.

Meloy J.R. & Yakeley J. (in press). *The violent true believer as a "lone wolf:" psychoanalytic perspectives on terrorism.* Behavioral Sciences and the Law.

Threat Assessment Tools & Techniques

The ***Stalking Risk Profile*** (SRP) has recently been translated into Dutch, and the article is currently in press. Workshops on stalking, and on how to apply the tool will be held in the Netherlands in the near future.

The Violence Triage Tool

At a minimum many professionals and workplaces around the world are required under legislation and ethics to identify and respond to obvious warning signs for violence risk. When there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violence risk exists and is significant a comprehensive violence risk assessment is often required.



This is a big burden to bear given that failure to do so may result in legal liability if actions failed to meet professional standards and resulted in harm to others. Despite these requirements, there has been very little guidance about what warning signs should be considered and what immediate action should be taken.

The Violence Triage Tool is a structured procedure that assists professionals with identifying and responding to warning signs for violence (Watt, Hart, Belfrage, & Rypdal, in progress). Violence triaging helps professionals to determine if they have reasonable ground to be concerned about violence risk and to guide their decision making with respect to immediate action, documentation and communication, and referral for comprehensive violence risk assessment.

For instance, some primary warning signs for violence that would give professionals reasonable grounds to be concerned about violence risk include any documented, reported, or suspected history of violence acts (e.g., actual, attempted, or threatened physical harm to others), violence ideation (e.g., thoughts, images, fantasies, or urges to physically harm others) and violence intent (e.g., intent or plans to physically harm others), particularly if the warning signs are recent, serious or escalating. Additional secondary warning signs that may be important to consider include whether a perpetrator is experiencing a personal crisis (e.g., job loss), interpersonal conflict (e.g., relationship separation), or acute mental distress (e.g., depression). Depending on the outcome of your violence triage possible actions may include responding to emergencies, ongoing monitoring, gathering additional information, seeking a second opinion, and referring the case for a comprehensive violence risk assessment to those qualified to do so. Given that how many professionals and workplaces are required to identify and respond to warning signs for violence risk, this skill is something that everyone would benefit from learning how to do.

We are currently in the process of writing the manual, developing worksheets, and creating applications for the Violence Triage Tool which are due to be available by Fall 2014. We are also in the process of conducting research on the tool in Norway, Sweden, and the United States in both mental health and law enforcement sectors. Due to the high demand for these skills we are currently offering one-day workshops on the process of violence triaging which have been met with great success. The next available workshops are being offered in Australia, Norway and Sweden in Spring 2014.

You are welcome to contact Dr. Kelly Watt at kwatt@proactive-resolutions.com for further information about the tool or the workshops.

Dr. Kelly Watt



Book Review

Aggression in the workplace – preventing and managing high-risk behavior.

Dr. Marc McElhaney has written an excellent and interesting book about threat management at workplace, a book that clearly shows his expertise in the matter. Dr. Marc McElhaney serves as director of Critical Response Associates and the President of its parent organization, the Centers for Dispute Resolution, LLC.

He received his Ph.D. in clinical and community psychology from the University of South Florida and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. McElhaney has presented his findings also at the AETAP 2013 conference in Vienna, Austria.

If I would need to describe the general concept of the book, I would say that it strongly advocates the “win-win” solution for all parties. As Dr. McElhaney states; “A critical element of the ultimate goal is to ensure that the subjects of concern walk away with a belief that they were heard, and that their concerns were addressed in a fair and good faith manner. We have found this to constitute a critical ingredient in our ability manage these risks of violence over the long haul”.

The book consists of 230 pages of material that has been written with wealth of experience and knowledge. Eight chapters lead the reader through various perspectives to the threat management. The book has several excellent “pointers” and reminders to guide the reader to the right direction. Dr. McElhaney starts by emphasizing the importance of preparation and prevention, then paints a picture of people who commit workplace violence (identifying the at-risk-employee) and follows through with the common errors and oversight. The next chapter lead the reader through a ten-step solution how to prevent workplace violence. From the prevention the book goes to how respond to a possible threat with an overview of the assessment and management process. Since not all incidents end happily, Dr. McElhaney then goes through how to conduct a safe termination. One very important and interesting chapter covers the manager’s guide to crisis and conflict management; how to defuse angry employees. The last chapter is about stalking and predatory behavior in the workplace. Dr. McElhaney has also added an interesting and helpful appendix of workplace violence policy, organizational self-assessment questionnaire, a interview checklist for violence assessment and finally examples of “safe return to work agreement” as well as a “sample termination agreement”.

Having worked with workplace violence incidents since 1989, I found the book to be a great help for anyone interested of the prevention side of violence. The book serves as a good foundation to start looking at your organizations response level but it also gives good advice for more seasoned professionals. Anyone working in the threat management, security, corporate HR or PR functions will definitely benefit from reading this book.

The book was originally published in 2004, but it has not lost its touch. Same principles and techniques are still valid ten years after.



At the moment Amazon.com sells soft cover version of the book 26,00 USD, which is a bargain considering how many valuable advice the book consists of.

I should mention that I am a bit biased to write this review, since Marc and myself work together and have know for a number of years. But for honesty's sake, the book was the reason how we met and how our cooperation started. I warmly recommend the book for anyone interested of the topic.

Totti Karpela

International Associations, Professional Networks & Education

CATAP annual conference 28-31 of October, 2013 Banff, Alberta (Canada)

Another impressive event with great speakers took place in October, in absolutely one of the most beautiful parts of the world. There is no doubt that the Canadians, every year, succeed in providing a high quality learning experience for threat assessment experts. The 2014 workshop and conference will be from Monday October 20th to Friday October 24th. Please save the dates in your calendar. The conference will be at the beautiful Chateau Whistler Resort in Whistler BC.

APATAP annual conference 13-15 of November, 2013 Melbourne, Victoria (Australia)

Australasian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (APATAP) had its third annual conference in Melbourne mid November. The young and enthusiastic association had managed to gather 60+ participants from the region and a few long distance travelers to join the event. Participants varied from mental health professionals, law enforcement, private security and a few representatives from the corporate world. Main sponsor for the conference was Microsoft, which also generously gave the association access to their conference facility. Like the Canadian and European associations, APATAP also has a separate expert seminar attached to the conference program. Unlike AETAP our Australasian colleagues have decided to start the program with the experts day. Speaker on the first day was detective inspector Jonathan Rouse and the topic was Cybercrime and Internet Sex Offenders.

Main seminar had presentations from a broad field of topics, yet the most common background of speakers was from psychology or psychiatry. APATAP also had a few poster sessions available for the participants to familiarize themselves with.

APATAP conference had law enforcement related topics such as “The benefits and pitfalls of working with the Police” and an interesting presentation of Sovereign citizens by a principal intelligence analyst of WA police.



The conference also covered topics such as assessing risk in overly persistent and querulant complainants, assessment of problem behaviours in New South Wales. University world was also briefly covers in presentations regarding staff training for early identification and management of student problem behaviors but also a presentation about a tertiary security team in a university environment. The conference audience also had a possibility to gather information about improving outcomes for mentally ill fixated persons, understanding fire setting, assessing and managing risk in threateners with mental illness as well as of a conceptual model for differentiating rapists and their offences. One very fresh and interesting presentation was given on a motivational typology of threateners and also a presentation from a corporate world regarding a practical assessment of intrusive, inappropriate or threatening letters.

If you are interested to get more information about the topics or about the speakers, I am more than happy to forward your requests to the people responsible for their presentations.

Evening programs were relatively close to the main venue, within an easy walking distance. Both evenings had lively discussions and networking with the out-of-the-city visitors. Perhaps the venue location affected the local participants in a way that mostly long distance participants stayed for networking. Hopefully something that future seminars will have it differently and clearly something that we need to take into consideration with future AETAP seminars.

The volunteers of APATAP had clearly put a lot of energy and effort to provide a top-class conference. Material was nicely organized, presentations were later available through the website (like AETAP has) and even with a few last minute cancellations the organizers were able to fill the program with interesting presentations and talks. I am convinced that every participant who took the time to attend were happy for the investment (time- and moneywise) they invested for the conference themselves.

Next year the conference will take place in Brisbane on 26th-28th, be sure to mark the date into your calendar. Brisbane is also a great place to take your family to enjoy of beach life. Perhaps you could bring your whole family along?

Totti Karpela

AETAP annual conference: 7-11, April 2014, Stockholm (Sweden)

AETAP is proud to present her program:

<http://www.aetap.eu/aetap.eu/images/AETAP-Program-2014.pdf>.

Newly integrated into the program are the expert panels and poster sessions. We hope to fulfill.

Posters are still very welcome and need to be submitted before March 1, 2014:

<http://www.aetap.eu/aetap.eu/images/AETAP%20Poster%20Sessions%202014.pdf>



ATAP annual conference: 12-15, August 2014, Anaheim (USA)

Another conference to look forward to. The call for presentations is currently on ATAP's website: <http://atapworldwide.org/associations/8976/files/documents/tmc/2014/Call-for-Presentation-2014.pdf>

Swiss conference on Threat Management, September 2013, Olten CH

Switzerland is full of movement and activity in the field of Threat Management and Assessment. In the Canton of Solothurn a regional prevention program of targeted violence in schools was implemented in 2009 and afterwards they started a 3 year project to develop a structure to implement a threat management team being responsible for the whole Canton.

This team is linked to all main departments and other important counselling centres like those for domestic violence. So all relevant information about warning behaviours come together. After finishing this great project the first expert conference on Threat Management in Switzerland was held in September 2013 in the Canton. The interest was enormous. Around 300 experts and persons from Switzerland, Germany and Austria who are working in the field attended the conference and it was fully booked within a short time. An overview about the situation in whole Switzerland and also Europe was given and the regional Model of Solothurn was presented. Speakers from different fields gave their view about threat management, like experts for child -and youth psychiatry -and adult psychiatry. The role of threats and violence against women, imprisonment and Threat Management and also the warning behaviour typology were some of the main topics. By presenting case studies in some of these speeches also the practical side and experience was reported. Very impressive was a presentation of a forensic psychiatrist who made a risk assessment in the field of intimate partner violence without the view of threat management years ago. The result could not show any risk in the past but the woman was killed afterwards. From a perspective of Threat Assessment he made now a new assessment with DyRiAS-Intimate Partner violence (Dynamic Risk Assessment tool for Spousal Homicide) of this case and the result showed a high risk. So an urgent intervention would have been the next step in this case.

Also the theoretical side was discussed. Especially the topic data protection is well addressed all over the world. To implement the Model of Solothurn a revision of the law about data protection was needed and the steps to realize this change in Solothurn were shown. The attendance of the conference was so great that a second conference about Threat Management in Switzerland will be held in 2014.

Karoline Roshdi.



Violence Risk Assessment Workshops, 3-7, March, 2014, Rheinau, CH

Dr. Stephen Hart & Dr. Randall Kropp will organize workshops about the HCR-20, B-Safer (Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk), the Patriarch (The Assessment of Risk for Honour Based Violence), the SAM (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment), the SARA (Stalking Assessment and Management) and the SVR-20 (Manual for Sexual Violence Risk).

More information about these events can be found on our website:

http://www.aetap.eu/aetap.eu/images/Workshop_Stephen_Hart_Randall_Kropp.pdf.
