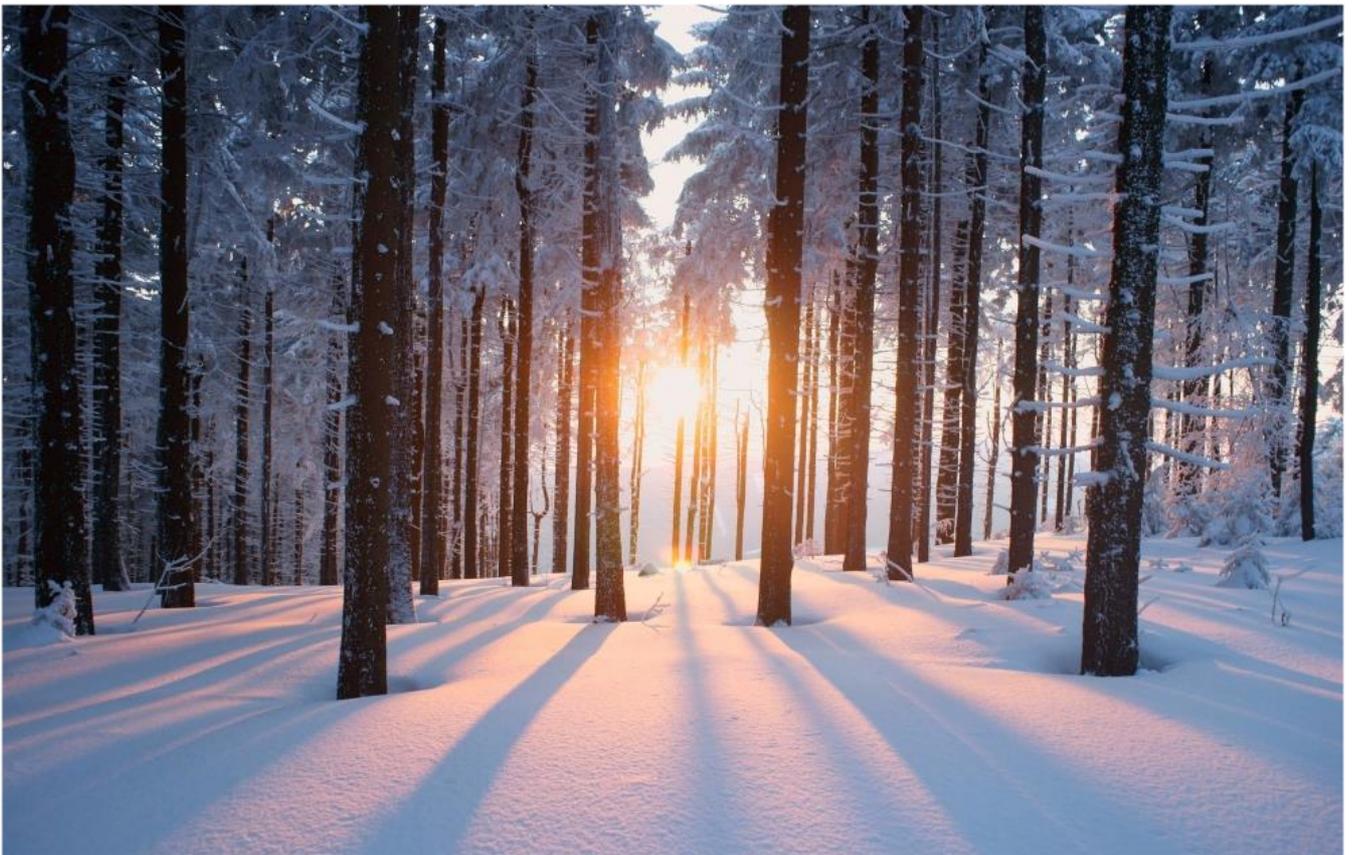




# NEWSLETTER



**Winter 2017**



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear members,

The year 2017 marks our 10th anniversary year. The idea for the European association started in the beginning of this century through participation to a few ATAP conferences in Anaheim, California. The field of threat assessment and management was still relative new and it still is. During the era prior to AETAP stalking and domestic violence prevention were the main topics and many European countries had very recently adopted stalking laws including a broad variety of restraining orders. The first meeting took place in Brussels in 2005 with less than 20 experts from across Europe. However, the two day meeting did not lead into the founding decision of AETAP. It would take two more years and more similarly thinking professionals to start planning our first official conference in Lucern, Switzerland. In 2008 we were more prepared and ready and the conference was the starting point for the association as well.

Membership numbers at the moment are around 70 professionals and we would love to see more join our association. Compared to all three other TAPs, we operate in a geographical region that has 24 languages just in the EU, which clearly has an impact on our extension process. Our numbers do grow, but slowly. So far the people that have decided to discontinue their membership have done so due to job change or change of focus in their current assignments. So please keep in mind that we are more than happy to see more members and the best person to spread the word is a current AETAP member.

Cooperation with other TAP's is still strong. AETAP has managed to send at least one representative to each TAP conference around the globe. All presidents and their boards are strongly committed to enhance the cooperation and benefits of the global network are seen at least on a monthly basis with either victims or perpetrators traveling across country lines and from one continent to another. If you do have an opportunity to visit any of the other TAPs, please do so. The travel will most definitely be worth the time and the investment.

We are extremely happy to announce, that the European Accreditation is finally ready! More information will be on our website soon and for those who are interested, there is also a possibility to sharpen your skills at the Core competencies workshop day in Dublin, at our 10th conference this coming April. Check out the program and topics from our website at [www.aetap.eu](http://www.aetap.eu)

Dublin conference will be the 10 conference of our association. We have grown with a slow but steady pace. We have managed to have conferences in eight different countries so far.



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Our focus has changed to workplace violence, school shootings and terrorism as the threat picture has also changed throughout the years, but we have not forgotten our original interest related to stalking and domestic violence prevention. Unfortunately there is still plenty to do and all actors in the field of threat assessment and management are desperately needed. AETAP will continue on its path to promote research on threat assessment and management, to implement tools and structures in relation to the topic, teach and train professionals in threat assessment and management. While pursuing excellence in these fields, your input is needed and highly valued. Thank you for being a member of AETAP.

On behalf of the AETAP board,

**Totti Karpela, President**

Helsinki, Finland

**AETAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Dublin, 24 - 27 April 2017

Welcome to beautiful Dublin - Ireland, where European threat assessment history continues. The 2017 annual international AETAP conference, the 10th in our history, will take place at the world famous and historical Trinity College, right in the city centre of Dublin.

On Monday the 24th attendees can chose between attending two workshops. Dr. Randy Kropp from Canada will lead the SARA-V3 workshop, explaining a set of guidelines for assessing the threat of intimate partner violence (IPV). Participants will learn how to apply the SARA-V3. More information about this workshop further on in this newsletter. AETAP also provides a 'core competencies' workshop for beginners in the field, or those participants interested in a better understanding of the basic concepts, models and practices in modern threat assessment.

The official conference starts on Tuesday, and on Wednesday there will be two parallel sessions with focus on academia or corporate. It is possible to change the tracks between the breaks.

The 10<sup>th</sup>  
AETAP conference in Ireland combines a wealth of experience and the latest information from Europe, North America, Australia, Africa and Asia. We have secured great speakers from a variety of backgrounds with a fascinating mix of professional experience.

Dublin was founded as a Viking settlement in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and became Ireland's principal city. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century the city expanded and was the second largest city in the British Empire for a short period. Consequently, to the partition of Ireland in



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1922, Dublin became the capital of Ireland.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century Dublin is still a very interesting city with many things to see. The AETAP Conference of 2017 will take place at Trinity College which is the oldest university in Ireland, founded in 1592. Other things to see in Dublin are the Kilmainham Gaol (the old prison), the world famous Guinness Storehouse, St Patrick's Cathedral, and the Old Jameson Distillery. Temple Bar is a very popular attraction in Dublin with its many typical Irish Pubs.

Dublin is a small city and most popular attractions are in walking distance from Trinity College, where the conference will be held. Other ways of transportation in Dublin are by city bus or taxi, also there are multiple Hop on Hop Off Bus Tours.

**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

**Validation research on the Stalking Risk Profile (SRP)**

Investigative psychologists from the Threat Management Unit of the Dutch National Police are teaming up with risk assessment and stalking experts from De Forensische Zorgspecialisten (DFZ) in Utrecht, Netherlands, and the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science in Melbourne, Australia, to conduct research into stalking and stalking risk assessment in the Netherlands. Dr Troy McEwan, one of the world's leading stalking researchers, will be visiting the Netherlands for six months in 2017 and working with Dr Vivienne de Vogel (DFZ) and Cleo Brandt and Bianca Voerman (Dutch National Police) on the project. The main aim of the research is to evaluate the Dutch-language Stalking Risk Profile (SRP), determining its predictive validity and comparing it to the results of a recently published evaluation of the English-language version of the instrument

([http://www.safetylit.org/citations/index.php?fuseaction=citations.viewdetails&citationIds%5B%5D=citjournalarticle\\_523976\\_13](http://www.safetylit.org/citations/index.php?fuseaction=citations.viewdetails&citationIds%5B%5D=citjournalarticle_523976_13)).

One of the most exciting aspects of the research will be evaluating the performance of the SRP in cases of stalking and harassment of public figures assessed by the Threat Management Team over the past three years.

Using cases drawn from police and forensic mental health files, the researchers will also be able to collect detailed information about stalking in the Netherlands, and examine effective and ineffective police responses in stalking cases. The project will continue throughout 2017 with results to be made available in 2018 and 2019.

**Troy McEwan**

Australia



## Mapping Risk & Threat Assessment Approaches for Violent Extremism

The Centre for Research and Evidence in Security Threats (CREST) in the UK is undertaking a project to map the risk and threat assessment terrain for violent extremism. It aims to address the complexities of this task identify standards for instruments developed in different operational contexts and different pre and post crime contexts produce a directory for practitioners collating the instruments currently in use, their operational context and purpose, and the evidence for their theoretical and empirical underpinning, inter-rater reliability, validity and utility as this develops.

It will take as its model the *Framework for Risk Assessment and Management Evaluation* (FRAME) introduced by the Risk Management Authority (RMA) established in Scotland in 2004 to ensure that risk decisions are based on proportionate, purposeful, and defensible practice.

This includes a *Risk Assessment Tools Evaluation Directory* (RATED) which describes the criteria for the comparison of currently available clinical risk guidance, and which the CREST project aims to parallel for the assessment of extremist violence. The Directory will be updated as the literature on the performance of these tools develops.

A second phase of the project is in development that is planning a blind 'road testing' of these instruments on case studies for which the outcome is known but not disclosed at the time of the assessment. Firstly, if it can be arranged we will approach the originators of these instruments to complete some pilot case studies in order to record their optimal performance, and secondly we will ask other risk and/or threat assessors, suitably trained, to repeat the process to provide measures of inter-rater reliability as well as overall criterion validity. We expect this process to tell us what instruments work best in what situation and with what level of training. We then plan to take this project to scale and repeat it with a greater number of cases.

Watch this space for updates as the project develops.

### **Monica Lloyd,**

CREST Research Fellow, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

**Caroline Logan,** Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS FT and University of Manchester, United Kingdom

## **PUBLISHED RESEARCH**

### **Journal of Threat Assessment and Management**

*What is JTAM?*

One of the many benefits of AETAP membership is complimentary access to *Journal of*



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*Threat Assessment and Management (JTAM)*. *JTAM* publishes cutting edge research, case studies, and commentary for professionals and scholars whose work focuses on operational aspects of the assessment and management of risk for interpersonal violence. Learn more at <http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/TAM/index.aspx>.

*What's new with JTAM?*

The final Issue of 2016 is now available online. It includes Part I of a Special Section on Campus Threat Management. Part II, to be published in the first Issue of 2017, will focus in part on threat assessment and management in European higher education settings.

In addition to welcoming papers on general topics of relevance, *JTAM* also invites manuscripts for a Special Issue on *Threat Assessment and Management in Healthcare Settings*. The submission deadline is 1 April 2017. This Special Issue seeks to address some of the most pressing challenges for assessing and managing risk of violence in this unique workplace setting. We strongly encourage submissions that address diverse aspects of this problem, including issues related to law; policy; administration and organisation; security; training; and development, implementation, and evaluation of procedures for triaging, assessing and managing violence risk. Diverse formats of papers are encouraged, including case studies of individual persons, case studies describing program implementation in organisational settings of any size, commentaries, primary research, and secondary research (e.g., systematic reviews, meta-analyses). Contact Dr. Laura Guy with any questions ([lguy@sfu.ca](mailto:lguy@sfu.ca)).

*How do I access JTAM?*

Active AETAP members can access *JTAM* online or receive copies by mail. In addition to access to all current and previous full-text *JTAM* articles, members also have online and abstract level access to over 80 journals published by the American Psychological Association. Please contact your regional Senior Editor, Jens Hoffman ([jens.hoffmann@t-p-s.net](mailto:jens.hoffmann@t-p-s.net)), with any questions about accessing *JTAM*.

**Laura Guy**

Vancouver, Canada

**Understanding Mental Illness and Violence: Now Is the Time**

You might think 'why another article on this topic?' Well, it is because Schug succeeds in addressing exactly the major problems with all studies on this complex relationship between mental illness and violence. Evidence to date indicates that mental illness may play a large role, a small role, or perhaps no role at all. One of the problems with the research are the umbrella terms; and mental illness is representing a continuum of severity. Three general conceptual relationships are possible:

- (1) mental illness causes violence (psychiatric symptoms may serve as motivators)
- (2) mental illness contributes to (but does not directly cause) violence (as facilitative)



impairments)  
(3) violence in spite of mental illness (i.e. an individual who was violent and/or criminal before the illness developed)

In sum, it can be concluded that you have to look at the case to judge about the specific relationship between mental illness and violence. It is case dependent. And that is exactly where we end at what we do: operational threat assessment!

Cited from **Robert A. Schug** (2016)

(Reference: <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/pdf/10.1089/vio.2016.0012> )

### **The HCR-20 Version 3: A Case Study in Risk Formulation**

Do you remember the inspiring lecture from Stephen Hart about **“Improving Threat management: formulation & case conceptualisation of violence risk”** in Stockholm a few years ago? Here is an excellent publication on the key process proposed for linking the assessment and overall management of risk in risk formulation – the act of understanding the underlying mechanism of an individual's harm potential in order to develop sensitive and proportionate hypotheses to facilitate change.

Individuals who are not well understood are not risk managed with focus, clarity of objectives, or confidence, and restrictive interventions are more likely to prevail as a consequence.

Formulation should be the springboard for intervention – it should be the individual theory of the client's harm potential that creates hypotheses about the generation of change. The formulation is a means to communicate the most important –risk relevant – information about the client. To read a risk formulation should be to understand the client's risk (what he or she seeks to achieve by violence). Looking for risk factor clusters may help the assessor to discern the most critical risk factors around which other risk factors coalesce. Another possible way to create your risk formulation is the 3D-model – drivers, destabilisers and disinhibitors.

Caroline Logan, from the Psychology Department in Manchester (UK), gives also a very clear example with the case study 'Paul'. In the risk formulation for Paul it is specified in which situations he is at risk, and why. Advice is also given on how additional information can be monitored or gathered. For instance, direct questioning, could be one of the options. However, the literature has paid little attention to the combination of forensic interviewing skills and clinical interviewing skills so far.

Cited from **Caroline Logan** (2014)

Reference:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14999013.2014.906516?scroll=top&needAccess=true>



## **INSTRUMENTS & TOOLS**

### **WAVR-21 V3**

The third edition of the WAVR-21, well known as an instrument to assess the risk of targeted workplace violence, was published in the fall of 2016. The V3 edition offers a number of updates and modifications. The authors, Drs. Stephen White and Reid Meloy of the USA, have adapted the WAVR "Worksheet" so that all threat assessment professionals may now use it, not just clinicians. A comprehensive Intake and Documentation Questionnaire is also a new feature. The manual has been greatly expanded to reflect more recent research and the continuing case experience of the authors, their colleagues, and the professionals who attend their WAVR-21 trainings.

A major change is the specific adaptation and expansion of the WAVR to include adult student and academic contexts where relevant. New material in the manual addresses the relationship to violence risk of neurological factors, PTSD, autism, campus-related alcohol abuse, sexual assault, and terrorist motives.

Expanded or new sections are offered on general prevention principles, formulating risk opinions, common bias errors, conducting assessment interviews, and intervention planning.

As always the authors have maintained a very accessible writing style, and the manual itself is a fine educational resource for understanding targeted violence risk and dynamics in workplace and campus contexts.

A software version of the WAVR-21 V3 is under development and will be available later this year.

A recent study out of the University of Nebraska demonstrated that "the WAVR-21 V3 would be a useful risk assessment measure of workplace violence in corporate organisations, educational environments, and government agencies. The findings were well within the range of results for validity studies of other violence risk structured professional judgment guides."

More information and how to purchase the WAVR-21 V3 manual and forms is available at [wavr21.com](http://wavr21.com).

### **Stephen White**

San Francisco, United States



## MEDIA

### “The making of an American Terrorist”

This article of journalist Robb gives a thorough case discussion about Robert Dear who committed a mass shooting at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Especially interesting is the striking resemblance between this case, possibly inspired by right-wing ideology, and jihadi terrorists. The false dichotomous thinking that someone is either a crazy loner or spurred by ideology is addressed again in this article.

Paul Gill, a professor of security and crime science at University College London (who will present at our conference in Dublin), comments: *“Many terrorists are not formally recruited or trained. Today's terrorists go online and find the ideology that fits their personal grievance and passively consume propaganda”*. Also in Dear's case websites meshed perfectly with his paranoid delusions, misogynist beliefs and violent fantasies. The right-wing media didn't just tell him what he wanted to hear. They brought authority and detail to a world he was convinced was tormenting him. They were his shelter and his inspiration, his only real community. He was fixated on magazines devoted to right-wing conspiracies. Far-right talk shows not only reinforced his views, they gave him a platform to express them. The calls to these shows made Dear feel like he was part of something bigger than himself. As with Islamic terrorists, the line between religious fundamentalism and extremist ideology grew blurry.

Reid Meloy, professor of psychiatry at the University of San Diego, was also cited: *“Forty percent of lone actors who commit terrorist acts are diagnosed as mentally ill. Paranoid individuals take what they hear in a very literal, concrete, absolutist way. They often don't understand sarcasm. It can excite them to violence.”* For Dear, the right-wing media and extremism they champion gave his delusions and rage a sense of higher purpose – one couched in a religiosity every bit as dangerous as that of Islamic fundamentalists.

Cited from **Amanda Robb**

New Republic, December 2016

Read the whole article at: <https://newrepublic.com/article/138950/making-american-terrorist-robert-dear-planned-parenthood>



## **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS & EDUCATION**

### **Live Webinar TRAP-18**

Reid Meloy

Dr. Meloy will be offering for the first time a live webinar on the TRAP-18 on April 12, 2017. Check this link for more information: [www.giffrinc.com/trap-18-webinar/](http://www.giffrinc.com/trap-18-webinar/)  
This is an excellent opportunity for those who had to miss AETAP's expert day last year in Ghent.

### **Masterclass: School & Campus Threat Management in a European Context**

Gene Deisinger

Bram van der Meer

Educational professionals, security staff and HR professionals are increasingly involved in the assessment and management of persons who engage in threatening and volatile behaviour. Such persons can include current and former students, faculty or staff as well as other persons not affiliated with the educational community. Their behaviour may range from tactics of bullying and intimidation, to stalking and harassment, to acts of violence that devastate a classroom or other workplace, student house, family or community.

This unique masterclass will help participants to better understand dynamics of such undesirable or concerning behaviour: develop and enhance strategies for early identification, assessment and intervention with concerning situations.

Presentations during the day will focus on disruptive behaviour at universities and the impact on threat management, lessons from the Virginia Tech shooting and best practices in building a threat Management team, key steps in the threat assessment and threat management process, and best practices at Leiden University.

This Masterclass will take place on 21 April 2017 and organised in the historical Academy building of the oldest university of the Netherlands, Leiden University. For more information and registration please contact dr. Gene Deisinger: [GDeisinger@SigmaTMA.com](mailto:GDeisinger@SigmaTMA.com)

### **AETAP Conference - Workshop 1: SARA-V3**

P. Randall Kropp, Ph.D.

#### *Description of the SARA-V3*

The SARA-V3 is a set of guidelines for assessing the threat of intimate partner violence (IPV). More than 20 years have passed since the first edition of the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA) was published. While earlier versions of the SARA have been successful -- they have been implemented in over 15 countries spanning 5 continents



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-- there have been significant developments in the field since the SARA was first released. The empirical and professional literatures on IPV have advanced significantly, and there have been several innovations in the SPJ approach that can be seen in guidelines such as the HCR-20 (Version 3), the Guidelines for Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM), and the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER). A revision was due, and the SARA-V3 is built directly upon these developments. Further, authors Randall Kropp and Stephen Hart, internationally recognised experts in IPV threat assessment, were able to incorporate feedback and knowledge gained from two decades of implementing earlier versions of the SARA. Overall, the result is a significantly updated instrument that is rooted in a current and comprehensive review of 35 years of IPV research, incorporating key advances in threat formulation, scenario planning, and victim safety planning. The SARA-V3 is now the state of the art SPJ guide for IPV threat assessment.

### *Workshop Format and Goals*

Participants will learn how to apply the SARA-V3. The workshop will include the following: (1) General principles of the SPJ approach to threat assessment with a specific focus of IPV; (2) Overview of the content of the SARA-V3, with special attention to changes made to the current edition; (3) Instruction on the administration of the SARA-V3, including formulation, scenario planning, and threat management steps; and (4) Case study exercise allowing participants to practice the knowledge gained in the workshop. It is anticipated that by the end of the workshop participants will understand the content and administration of the SARA-V3, and will be equipped to apply the instrument to their threat assessment work.

### *Who should attend?*

This workshop is appropriate for security, law enforcement, correctional, and health professionals charged with confronting intimate partner violence in the home, workplace, and post-secondary institutions.

### **ATAP Conference**

August 16-19 2016, Anaheim, USA  
ATAP 2016 summary

The 26th ATAP was again a display of traditions, logistics and organising skills. In 2016 ATAP had its 26th annual Threat Management conference in Anaheim, California. The conference was the biggest of its history and as usual, marvelously organised.

The conference consisted of four lecture days with three tracks running simultaneously. In the past ATAP has traditionally been very focused on serving the law enforcement audiences, but this year was somewhat exceptional. Law enforcement case-study topics are still heavily visible in the program, but in 2016 the program was more balanced with topics suitable for other audiences as well. Main themes were focused also around terrorism as well as online activities. One very nice change was that core



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competencies track provided extremely useful information for those who are new to the field but also excellent tips to people who were considering to take the CTM-exam. In 2017 AETAP is doing something similar related to Core competencies. Please remember to check out our website and program for 2017 conference.

The AETAP board has been able to send one board member to every major TAP conference that are organised globally. This is to show support and enhance communication between all TAPS but also to seek out good topics and speakers to our own annual conference. I am happy to say that 2017 in Dublin we will have some of the excellent speakers from ATAP presenting at AETAP as well.

ATAP is the oldest and the biggest of all four TAPs and they keep growing. This year three new chapters were started and ATAP is yet again at the front lines developing the activities for their members. This certainly something that is very beneficial for AETAP as well, since we can benchmark similar activities later for our members to enjoy. If you have the possibility, please consider adding ATAP to your travel itinerary this year. The trip is well worth the investment.

**Totti Karpela**  
AETAP President

### **CATAP annual Conference**

Whistler Mountain, October 23-27, 2016

The annual CATAP conference, held in beautiful Whistler Mountain, was well attended by a strong delegation representing mental health, policing, security, criminology and other corporate threat management professionals. We enjoyed three days of excellent presentations as well as highly informative expert seminars on Open Source Intelligence Techniques (Michael Bazzell), and Extremism: (Peter Collins & Reid Meloy). Among the presenters were world leading experts such as Stephen Hart, Randy Kropp, and Reid Meloy. The program was very well composed and stretched from presentations on personality disorders and sex offenders, to several presentations on workplace violence.

The absolute peak of the conference was seen by many as the half day panel discussion on cultural implications in threat assessment. Drs Stephen Hart, Karl Hanson, Mark Olver and Daryl Kroner were in the panel, where Dr Hart represented the SPJ approach to threat assessment and the other three the actuarial approach.

The background to this panel discussion is a recent Federal Court ruling in Canada where the use of actuarial risk assessment tools in risk assessment with Aboriginal persons in Correctional Service of Canada were thrown out. This of course raises the question of the cross-cultural validity of risk assessments. How generalizable are risk assessments to different people groups? What measures should a forensic clinician use to assess those from minority groups?



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Dr. Stephen Hart started the discussion and very convincingly concluded that a threat cannot be understood as a number, and that maybe the least good technique we have to evaluate and understand risk on an individual level is to solely use statistics on a group level. Somewhat confusing for the attendees, the three other members of the panel then used their time on presenting statistics on a group level.

Worth mentioning is that the number of posters has increased. There were ten high quality and very interesting posters that drew a lot of attention among the attendees. It seems that a poster session is something that increasingly is getting more and more important at our conferences.

Finally, it is always such a great pleasure to be fortunate to enjoy the almost overwhelming kindness and hospitality at the CATAP conferences. Always outstanding and world leading speakers, perfectly organised conferences, and a friendly and good atmosphere. We will do our very best to make the AETAP conference in Dublin, April 24-28, 2017, become something like this.

**Dr. Henrik Belfrage**

AETAP Board Member

**APATAP (13-15 February 2017, Singapore)**

APATAP is having her annual conference in Singapore this year. Registration deadline is already 01/02/2017! So check out their very interesting program soon at <http://www.cvent.com/events/apatap-2017-annual-conference/agenda-3126bf3edb324f01bde9c80c2c24d885.aspx?i=68613207-b23b-41e2-bed2-b7bbc3270596>