



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021



INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK OF THREAT ASSESSMENT

EDITED BY J. REID MELOY AND JENS HOFFMANN

SECOND EDITION

OXFORD



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"In the end, everything will be good. And if it is not good, it is not the end"

Oscar Wilde

The last 12 months have been more than extraordinary and no one would have believed at the time that we would be able to move in public wearing only face masks, that open borders would suddenly be closed and that there would be curfews and school closures lasting weeks. The impossible suddenly became possible - the possible suddenly became impossible.

The Covid situation also made our annual conference impossible for the first time in AETAP's history. Moving the conference from 2020 to 2021 became a reality. Unfortunately, like many other organizers, last month we had to accept reality with a heavy heart: postponing this year's conference to 2022.

However, the past year has also left positive traces. For example, we have all moved closer together virtually and were able to experience that many impossible things can be made possible with this kind of interprofessional collaboration. This closer relationship also seals our new partnership with FRANCOPOL. We are very pleased to now be able to address French-speaking professionals and to have a professional exchange with them.

A special thank you goes to dr. Philip Saragoza for his very interesting and fascinating contribution to this newsletter. A new area that will need the attention of threat assessment experts in the future.

With our exciting 2021 [webinar series](#) we will stay in touch with you virtually until our next AETAP conference. Continue to cultivate our network and make many things that previously seemed impossible, possible.

On behalf of the AETAP board,

Andrea Wechlin & Karoline Roshdi

AETAP President & Vice President



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COVID-19 & THREAT ASSESSMENT

We would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone reading this newsletter, to share thoughts, work experiences and research related to the Covid-19 pandemic. These unusual times have a major impact on society and logically will also influence our work field. There must be a lot for us to learn from each other. Please send anything you would like to see published in the next newsletter to our board member and co-editor of this newsletter, Lieke Bootsma: lieke.bootsma@aetap.eu.

Thank you to our colleague Pippa Gregory who informed us about the most recently published statistics from the UK's Office of National Statistics (ONS) on Domestic Abuse during COVID-19 in England and Wales. This was published a few months ago but definitely worth reading:

[https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseduringthecoronaviruscovid19pandemicenglandandwales/november2020#:~:text=This%20represents%20a%207%25%20increase.increase%20from%20218%2C968%20in%202018.&text=The%20police%20recorded%20206%2C492%20violence.in%202019%20\(Figure%202\).](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseduringthecoronaviruscovid19pandemicenglandandwales/november2020#:~:text=This%20represents%20a%207%25%20increase.increase%20from%20218%2C968%20in%202018.&text=The%20police%20recorded%20206%2C492%20violence.in%202019%20(Figure%202).)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

The GRIEVANCE Project - an update

GRIEVANCE is a five-year project (2018-2022) funded by the European Research Council, conducted at University College London's Department of Security and Crime Science, and led by Professor Paul Gill. GRIEVANCE seeks to make significant advances in increasing our understanding, and thereby reducing the risk, of various forms of targeted violence. Various strands of research are relevant to AETAP members.

Isabelle van der Vegt, Maximilian Mozes, Bennett Kleinberg, and Paul Gill have recently finalised the Grievance Dictionary, an open-source tool that can be used to automatically analyse threatening and violent language use at scale. The Grievance Dictionary can be used to measure important threat assessment concepts such as hate, weaponry, paranoia, desperation, and help seeking in text. All 22 dictionary variables (total 20,502 words) were selected based on consultation with expert threat assessment practitioners.



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Validation of the dictionary showed large differences on several dictionary categories for different text samples deriving from lone-actor terrorists, online extremist forums, and abuse directed at public figures. The study has also demonstrated the possibility of using the dictionary categories for machine learning classification, for example to distinguish between different types of violent text samples. Importantly, the Grievance Dictionary is available publicly (see: <https://osf.io/3grd6/>). The paper will shortly be published in the Behavior Research Methods journal, but a pre-print of the study is already available here: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.04798>

Bettina Rottweiler is currently working towards establishing an empirical evidence base for risk and protective factors of radicalisation and violent extremism. Data comes from two nationally representative population surveys conducted in the UK and Germany. The focus is placed upon identifying underlying psychological and cognitive mechanisms related to the development of extremist attitudes and intentions. Her analyses examine the interactional nature of risk and protective factors in order to understand the complex relationships underlying these processes. Recent results for example confirm that a stronger conspiracy mentality leads to increased violent extremist intentions. However, this relationship is contingent on several individual differences. The effects are much stronger for individuals exhibiting lower self-control, holding weaker law-relevant morality, and scoring higher in self-efficacy. Conversely, when stronger conspiracy beliefs are held in combination with high self-control and a strong law-relevant morality, violent extremist intentions are lower. Such individual features thus constitute interactive protective factors for violent extremism. Hence, it is often in adverse circumstances (e.g. the experience of risk factors) where the true value of protective factors becomes apparent and this has a multitude of insights for how we should design interventions focused on countering violent extremism. These results may inform and advance the development of more evidence-based risk assessment tools by providing empirical evidence.

Nadine Salman's research focuses on the role of professional judgment in threat and risk assessment of violent extremism. Recently, she and Paul Gill published the results of an online survey with 41 professional threat and risk assessors in the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management. This survey provides insight into the experiences and opinions of these professionals, particularly regarding how they conduct violent extremism risk assessments, their expectations for training, and the experience and characteristics of those that conduct them.



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The findings highlight that the training and experience required differ greatly across different disciplines involved, and the importance of considering the context in which threat and risk assessment takes place. These findings also highlight that specific cognitive abilities and personality characteristics, such as analytical skills, objectivity, and conscientiousness, were considered desirable for risk assessors.

For more, please visit the project website at <https://www.grievance-erc.com> , follow them on Twitter at @grievance_erc , or contact Paul.Gill@ucl.ac.uk for any questions.

Prof. Paul Gill

University College London

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

International Handbook of Threat Assessment – 2nd edition

Good news from the editors J. Reid Meloy and Jens Hoffmann. The second edition of the International Handbook of Threat Assessment will be published soon this spring. In the few years since its publication in 2014, the International Handbook of Threat Assessment has become the gold standard textbook for the prevention of targeted violence. With this new edition, editors J. Reid Meloy and Jens Hoffmann have expanded their landmark text, reflecting the rise of scholarship and growth within the field of threat assessment and management. The book spans across disciplines and explores the foundations of threat assessment, the fields of practice in which it is utilized, and provides detail on practical applications from the most notable threat assessors and programs in North America, Europe, and Australia. Since the first edition, new chapters focusing on lone actor terrorism, insider threats, cyberthreats, the use of artificial intelligence, bystander effects, and enhanced interviewing techniques, offer new guidance for threat assessment professionals. The International Handbook of Threat Assessment is the comprehensive resource for mental health practitioners, law enforcement, and professionals working to prevent targeted violence. This guide will serve as inspiration for further research and equip those working to intercept harm with the necessary tools for intervention. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/international-handbook-of-threat-assessment-9780190940164?cc=nl&lang=en&>

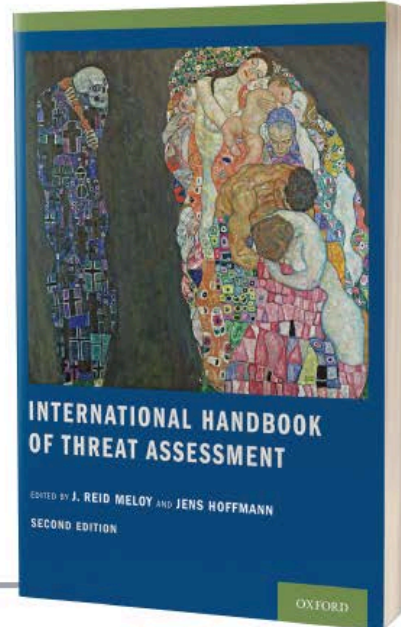
NEW FROM OXFORD PSYCHOLOGY

INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK OF THREAT ASSESSMENT

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"The second edition of the International Handbook of Threat Assessment is every bit as outstanding as the first. The contributors clearly elucidate the real-world implications of cutting-edge research on threats and the people who make them."

John Monahan, PhD

- New chapters focusing on lone actor terrorism, insider threats, cyberthreats, and the use of artificial intelligence
- Illustrates ways that everyday people can learn about warning signs for violence
- Includes updated case studies that reflect the growth of evidence-based research in the field of threat assessment

Dr. Reid Meloy is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, and a faculty member at the San Diego Psychoanalytic Center.

Dr. Jens Hoffmann is a forensic psychologist and head of the Institute of Psychology and Threat Management, based in Darmstadt near Frankfurt, Germany.

978-0-19-094016-4 | 704 pages | Paperback | April 2021

Price: ~~\$135.00~~ **\$94.50*** USD | ~~£88.00~~ **£61.60*** GBP

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The first handbook of threat assessment and -management in French

We are thrilled to announce the release of the first manual in French on the subject of threat assessment and management: *Évaluation de la menace et du risque dans différents contextes de violence*. Éditions Yvon Blais, Thomson Reuters: Montréal. BIBEAU Lynne, ed. (2020).

Lynne Bibeau (Ph.D.), board member of the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP), works as forensic psychologist at the Behavioural Science Unit of the Sûreté du Québec. She is part of the specialized team in police intervention/negotiation in crisis and hostage-taking situations. Her duties also include scientific research projects, and the development of training courses at the École nationale de police du Québec and other institutions. She has held a position in Threat Assessment – Vigilance national. Including a foreword by Dr. Stephen Hart, her manual contains a variety of sensitive and topical issues in our field, (co-)written by authors from North-America and Europe.

This book deals with threat and risk assessment in different contexts of violence: basic concepts, typology, structured professional judgment tools and case studies are presented to guide the analysis of the level of concern for the transition to a violent act targeting a specific person(s), public place, or symbolic location. Threat assessment and management is discussed through a brief history of this expertise that incorporates science and practice, followed by risk factors for homicide in several contexts starting with the most intimate - spousal/intrafamilial homicides - then the threat of a lone gunman/mass murderer in an educational institution and in the workplace, the threat to political figures and law enforcement officials, to extremist, terrorist violence. This book also discusses interviews with targeted persons and with the threatener where possible and necessary; mental health; the specifics of anonymous threats; and "live" risk assessment during police intervention or negotiation in crisis situations. It looks at the phenomena of contagion and "copycat" and the future of the specialized field of threat assessment.

Compared to the Anglophone and German-speaking world, French-speaking countries have lagged behind in this area. There is little doubt that this manual fills a void and will allow francophone readers to discover or at least better understand this field. <https://store.thomsonreuters.ca/fr-ca/pdp/valuation-de-la-menace-et-du-risque-dans-diffrents-contextes-de-violence/42760387>

Raoul Jaccard

AETAP Board Member

Examining Relationship and Abuse Tactics Associated with Nonfatal Strangulation Experiences Before and After a Protective Order (2021)

Nonfatal strangulation is associated with significant physical harm and lethal violence. The overall objective of this study was to examine relationship and abuse tactics for women with ($n = 369$) and without ($n = 276$) nonfatal strangulation experiences the year before, and the year after, a civil protective order (PO) against an abusive (ex)partner was obtained. Furthermore, this study sought to examine which abuse tactics, including nonfatal strangulation, were associated with mental health status at follow-up. In the year before the PO, 57% of women experienced nonfatal strangulation and 12.4% experienced nonfatal strangulation in the year after the PO by their abusive (ex)partner. Those with nonfatal strangulation experiences in the year before the PO were 3.5 times more likely to experience nonfatal strangulation after the PO.

Additionally, death threats in the year before the PO as well as having spent any time in the relationship with the abuser after the PO were uniquely associated with post-PO nonfatal strangulation. Furthermore, abuser control tactics and severe violence after the PO were significantly associated with mental health status at follow-up after controlling for baseline mental health status. Study results also suggest that those with nonfatal strangulation experiences may have an especially difficult time initiating and maintaining separation from abusive partners. Results suggest that there are specific risk factors to consider in tailoring PO protections, safety supports, and resources for those with prior nonfatal strangulation experiences.

Cited from: **Logan, T. K.** In: Violence and Gender.

https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/vio.2020.0012#utm_source=FastTrack&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=vio

Suicidal and violent ideation in acute psychiatric inpatients: prevalence, co-occurrence, and associated characteristics (2020)

Objective: We studied the point prevalence of suicidal and violent ideation, as well as their co-occurrence and associated characteristics in inpatients with mental health disorders. Methods: Data on suicidal and violent ideation, and sociodemographic and clinical information, were gathered from 1,737 patients when admitted to the acute psychiatric ward. Results: The point prevalence was 51.9% for suicidal ideation and 19.8% for violent ideation. The point prevalence of co-occurring suicidal and violent ideation was 12.3%, which was significantly greater than expected by chance.



Logistic regression analyses indicated that both suicidal and violent ideation were associated with young age and the absence of diagnoses of psychotic disorders; in addition, suicidal ideation was associated with female gender, violent ideation, and diagnoses of mood- neurotic and personality disorders, whereas violent ideation was associated with male gender, suicidal ideation, and diagnoses of mood and neurotic disorders. Conclusions: Overall, the findings highlight the need for further research on suicidal and violent ideation in people with mental health problems including, but not limited to, their association with adverse behavioral outcomes, as well as the need to routinely assess both suicidal and violent ideation in clinical practice.

Cited from: **Hart, S.D. et al.** In: *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sltb.12726> Project: [The SIPEA study. Suicidality in psychiatric emergency admissions.](#)

The Assessment and Management of Stalking Perpetrated by Clients Against Their Counselors (2020)

Mental health professionals are at heightened risk of stalking victimization, however minimal research has examined empirically supported risk factors for stalking and the efficacy of risk management strategies. Three hundred and six counselors were surveyed, and the present study focuses on the 7% (n = 23) who had been stalked by clients. Results describe the characteristics of stalking, perpetrators, and victims and the perceived efficacy of management strategies employed. Stalking behaviors tended to be of lower severity. Common perpetrator risk factors included relationship problems, anger, and obsession. Victim vulnerabilities were identified, where many victims engaged in behavior considered ineffective in response to stalking. Victims often encountered problems coping with victimization due to inadequate access to resources. Results indicate that risk management plans must be individualized and highlight ways that mental health professionals can and would like to be protected from stalking.

Cited from: **Storey, J. E. and Hart, S. D.** In: *Violence and Victims*

<https://connect.springerpub.com/content/sgrvv/early/2020/12/19/vv-d-19-00107>



NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND NEW FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

The “Incels” and the Ideology of Extreme Misogynistic Violence

November 10, 2020 marked the beginning of the trial of 28-year-old Alek Minassian, who faces 10 counts of first-degree murder and 16 counts of attempted murder. The charges stem from his April 2018 rampage, during which he intentionally drove a van over sidewalks in broad daylight in downtown Toronto. While Minassian's defense hinges upon the assertion that his autism spectrum disorder rendered him incapable of appreciating the wrongfulness of his conduct, the threat assessment community's unique interest in his case concerns a mass killing perpetrated by a self-avowed “Incel,” short for *involuntary celibate*. There have been a number of such attacks in recent years, committed by men who turned to violence to address their grievance and despair, rooted in a fundamentally misogynistic ideology.

At trial, one of the psychiatrists who examined Minassian testified that he told her he had hoped for female victims, particularly young, attractive women. During his interrogation with a detective hours after the massacre, Minassian identified himself as an Incel, described his attack as an act of “Incel rebellion,” and explained, “we want to overthrow the Chads, which would force the Stacys to... reproduce with the Incels.” These are labels threat assessors need to recognize – used enviously and derisively by the Incel community to describe physically attractive, sexually active men and women, respectively. Being familiar with the Incel ideology aids in the evaluation of potential radicalization and risk of violence in a subject of concern.

The roots and online spread of the Incel extremist movement

Incels first gained widespread notoriety after 22-year-old college student Elliot Rodger killed six people and injured many others before committing suicide at the conclusion of his May 2014 rampage in Isla Vista, California. In a series of YouTube videos he created during the months and weeks leading up to the offense, Rodger lamented his life having become a “living hell” after puberty, expressing feelings of “torture” and “injustice” over having never experienced physical intimacy with a woman. As is commonplace among Incels, he expressed indignation over his perception that women rejected “gentlemen” like himself while choosing “obnoxious brutes” – stereotypical “alpha males” (a.k.a. “Chads”) as sexual partners.



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He explained his planned mass murder as an act of retribution over these perceived unfair ills of society. Nearly four years later Alek Minassian hailed Rodger's actions as brave and inspirational for his own attack.

Minassian is not the only one to pay homage to Rodger. In fact, Rodger's initials are often invoked in online communications between Incels, with variants of the expression "Going ER" used to convey respect or even encouragement for those who might contemplate carrying out lethal violence in service of their common ideology. While Rodger is the attacker most often referenced as a "patron saint" of the Incel movement, others – from Marc Lepine, who committed the 1989 "Montreal Massacre," to George Sodini, the 2009 Pennsylvania fitness center shooter, and now Minassian himself – have also been canonized. Their acts are collectively understood as a logical endpoint of the Incel extremist worldview.

Baele, Brace and Coan (2019) describe that, like many other extremist worldviews, the Incels' view revolves around notions of social categories and a narrative that explains the dynamics between them.

Incels see themselves as the "in-group" of physically undesirable individuals suffering sexual exclusion by the "out-group" of the Chads and Stacys. The Incels have a black-and-white, dichotomous concept of these categories, with deterministic views about the physical attractiveness of men rooted in inherent, measurable traits – from facial bone structure, height, even wrist circumference. They assign labels to themselves based on these perceived shortcomings, which they believe exclude them from sexual relations (e.g. "heightcel," or "wristcel"). In their online communications, Incels commonly post images and share memes highlighting their physical inferiorities in direct comparison to prototypical Chads. Although Incels tend to believe that all women are fundamentally capable of finding sexual partners, their stark beliefs about physical attractiveness are not reserved for men. The "Stacy" is typecast as a curvaceous, voluptuous sex object who would only consider relations with a Chad.

As is also commonplace with extremist worldviews, Incels tend to view the intergroup dynamics between themselves and the Chads and Stacys as having cultivated a crisis that can only be addressed through some dramatic action, either the "uprising" or "rebellion" championed by Rodger and Minassian, or, much more often in the self-loathing Incel community – suicide. From the Incels' perspective, sexual relations in modern society are purely hierarchical, with Incels dwelling at the bottom of a power differential opposite the unattainable Stacys.



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While some Incels believe that they can gain sexual access by transforming themselves physically through measures such as stylistic haircuts, fashion, working out, or most dramatically, cosmetic surgery (actions collectively known as “looksmaxing”) many Incels develop a more hopeless outlook on their sexual prospects (a.k.a. taking the “Black Pill”). Within this nihilistic cohort, suicidality is commonplace, and envy, hatred and rage toward sexually successful men and women are not rare. For some in this most extreme corner of the Incel community, hostile fantasies fester and can materialize in a range of violent behaviors, including harassment, threats of physical and sexual violence, assault, homicide and mass murder, with lethal violence typically followed by suicide. A handful of these extremists have expressed the belief that their acts will upend the unjust sexual hierarchy and result in widespread cultural change.

Although violent Incel extremists have often found a virtual community online, they commit their acts as radicalized lone offenders. In addition to the Incel worldview, available case studies may reflect intermingling between the Incel ideology and extreme beliefs about race and ethnic identity.

These views tend to center on white supremacy, with select ire reserved for white women copulating with partners outside their race. Here, women are dehumanized as impulse-driven sex fiends mating with the physically dominant “beasts” so often depicted in racist tropes about African American men. Other extreme views sometimes held by Incels relate to social grievances invoked by disenfranchised young men, abutting the alt-right’s stance on broader “culture war” issues.

A broader continuum of anti-feminism sentiment and hatred

The worldview of Incels represents the most extreme pole of a broader assembly of men’s interest groups that have gained more following in recent years, especially through online networks; collectively, these groups are known as “The Manosphere.” As Ribeiro and colleagues (2020) chronicle, The Manosphere has its roots in the Men’s Liberation movement of the 1960s and 1970s, when traditional gender roles – including that of the man as breadwinner – were critiqued as oppressive. Later developments blamed feminism for the alleged crisis of masculinity, with Manosphere thought leaders depicting men as systemically disadvantaged at the hands of women through culture and institutions; the Men’s Rights Activists, another sect of The Manosphere, seek to correct these alleged imbalances through legal and policy changes.



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These ideological changes explain the widespread anti-feminism throughout The Manosphere (see the work of Farrell and colleagues, 2020, for further detail). Incels merely tend to focus on the impact of this alleged injustice on sexual relations in particular.

Nearly all sects of The Manosphere share an ideology based on what is often referred to as “Red Pill” philosophy, whose name is derived from the 1999 film *The Matrix*. In the film, the main character is presented with the choice of taking a blue pill and continuing to live in comfortable ignorance, or taking a red pill and becoming aware of the true machinations of the world. Men subscribing to Red Pill philosophy believe that they have been awakened to the “truth” that Western culture has been overtaken by feminism, and that one key aspect of this societal change has been a shift in the dynamics of sexual relations between men and women that is unfavorable to men. In the view of Red Pill thinkers, the sexual liberation movement empowered women to use their sexual characteristics to pursue men based on the notion of hypergamy – that is, seeking to partner with the highest-status men possible, regardless of personality or emotional qualities.

By extension, they believe that only a small minority of men, the “alphas,” are seen by women as truly sexually desirable, leaving the remainder of men, the “betas,” to compete for partnership through providing other things to women, such as financial security. Related to these beliefs, many Incels call for the subjugation of women as part of a broader reversion to pre-feminism gender roles.

“Pickup Artists” are one influential sect of the Manosphere, purporting that beta males can essentially be coached into alphas by acquiring communication skills and other tools that will make them more sexually appealing to women. Another sect, the “Men Going Their Own Way,” or MGTOWs, reach a state of disillusionment with sexual dynamics prompting them to detach. They disavow cohabitation, having children, or sometimes relationships entirely due to the premise that all of these prospects constitute a “raw deal” for men. Incels, however, believe that their poor genetic lot has doomed them to their fate. Ribeiro and colleagues’ 2020 study of user migration between Manosphere online communities suggests there has been gradual movement from the milder ideological sects of the Men’s Rights Activists and Pickup Artists to the more extreme cohorts such as the MGTOWs and Incels. They also found that these developments within The Manosphere correspond with an intensification of the hostile, toxic language increasingly characteristic of this misogynistic ideology. This research and related scholarship may offer insight into pathways of radicalization for individuals of concern to threat assessors.

Look for targeted violence risk factors and warning behaviors embedded in these espoused “philosophies.”

What follows are recommendations to threat assessment professionals for increasing competence in this area. First of all, realize the growing importance and influence of these communities and acquire basic knowledge. Become familiar with the ideologies and common language of Incels and, necessarily by extension, The Manosphere. Further, continue to stay abreast of the changes and developing variations on these themes, including new terms and special memes. As always, look for risk factors for targeted violence in general, with particular attention to the following:

1. The failure of sexual pair-bonding. This has been recognized as a characteristic of lone actor terrorists, and is fundamentally shared by all Incels.
2. A personal grievance. Look for personal histories of rejection, anticipated rejection or other triggering events. Examine the degrees of blame the individual of concern assigns to himself versus society or identified groups for his plight.
3. Moral outrage framed by an ideology, especially with dehumanizing attitudes toward women.
4. Shifts in these beliefs over time in a more extreme direction, perhaps corresponding to the realized or perceived futility of prosocial options for improving one's likelihood of finding physical intimacy with a partner.
5. History of violence, stalking, harassment and conflict should include the assessment of online and as well as offline behaviors.
6. Endorsement by any Incels of violence committed by another espoused Incel. This is challenging due to the high volume of “hot talk” and justification of violence expressed on the internet. When possible, it is made easier by identifying additional risk factors associated with an individual of concern.
7. Suicidality, depression, poor self-esteem and hopelessness are common among Incels. If possible in such cases, providers of mental health treatment can be well-positioned to collaborate with threat assessment teams to identify and manage potential triggering events for the subject of concern. However, if both suicidal and homicidal tendencies are present, then tactical case management strategies become primary.
8. Warning behaviors as delineated by Meloy et al, 2012: pathway behaviors, fixation, novel aggression, leakage, last resort, energy burst, and identification.



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An especially important signal is any evidence of a shift from fixation on a belief to actual identification, i.e., the individual of concern now desires to become a “soldier” to violently advance a cause or belief system. *If warning behaviors are evident, monitoring should shift to active case management.*

Extensive study of the Incel community, the larger Manosphere, their developing ideologies and patterns of behavior is ongoing. Powered by the internet's ability to spread and influence extreme beliefs on an exponentially expanding scale, it is imperative that threat assessment professionals in all disciplines continue to follow the growing knowledge base on extremism and which individuals may pose a risk of targeted violence.

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December 2020

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS & EDUCATION



December 2020, AETAP signed a partnership agreement with FRANCOPOL with two major goals:

1. Strengthen access to resources in the area of threat assessment and management for French speaking countries police and security organizations;
2. Benefit from our reciprocal networks.

We are pleased to welcome FRANCOPOL as a member organization of AETAP and take this opportunity to briefly introduce them.

History

FRANCOPOL is an organization born from an initiative of the *Direction des relations internationales et du protocole de la Sûreté du Québec* (Canada) and the *Direction de la formation de la Police nationale française* (France). In 2002, following an event organized by the European Police College during which the work was conducted exclusively in English, the *Sûreté du Québec* and the *Police nationale* expressed the idea of creating a francophone network where expertise and training material in French could be utilized. Convinced that a common language and common values facilitate dialogue and cooperation, they formulated the first draft of what would later become FRANCOPOL. Several years followed devoted to strengthening the ties between the various police organizations of the Francophonie. FRANCOPOL was officially created at the constituent assembly held in Quebec City on September 8, 2008.

Mission

FRANCOPOL's mission is to promote the share of best practices, as well as research and reflection in the field of police training and expertise. It's objective is to become a pool of excellence in the share and emergence of new trends in police training. This network aims to increase the skills of police services to better serve citizens. FRANCOPOL distinguishes itself in particular through the use of French as the official language of the network.



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Goals

- Create a forum for exchange and collaboration between French-language police services and police schools working in the field of police training and related fields;
- Disseminate information on events, symposiums and meetings related to police training and practices;
- To share the knowledge of the actors in the field of police training and to stimulate reflections on new challenges and on updated training needs;
- Contribute to the development of francophone police organizations by increasing the exchange of information and expertise on subjects affecting this community;
- Encourage the development and integration of innovations in police training by sharing and developing pedagogical or didactic tools.

Values

FRANCOPOL is an apolitical association whose members support the right and the development of a democratic, professional and citizen service-oriented police force. The members of FRANCOPOL are committed to respecting cultural diversity and promoting the highest standards of ethics, democracy and respect for human rights. They are dedicated to advancing research, reflection and initiatives that will benefit the entire francophone police community.

FRANCOPOL's technical committees

The Technical Committees deal with very specific themes related to their field of action. They are also the pillars for setting up the program of the International Congresses. They allow the organization of seminars, specific workshops, as well as responding to requests for missions, particularly in Southern countries (Africa).

To date, there are 10 Technical Committees:

- Police schooling (academies) Committee
- Police behaviour
- Police and Citizen
- Cybercrime
- Fight against violence against women and children
- Fight against terrorism
- Crowd Management and Citizen's Rights
- Multiple Deaths
- Use of force
- Communication Management in Crisis Situations

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International congresses

The last congress took place in October 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. The chosen theme was “new threats and related training actions”. The theme of FRANCOPOL's next congress planned in Montreal is "Police and citizen: trust at the heart of interventions". Given the current global health situation, it will likely take place in 2022. This year, they plan to hold a Visio-conference during which the various technical committees will present their work on the relationship between the police and the citizen.

Special thanks to André Etter, FRANCOPOL's vice-president for Europe, for sending the above information. French speaking AETAP members, interested in access to FRANCOPOL's resources, or/and attending their events, are kindly invited to contact the AETAP liaison board member (raoul.jaccard@aetap).

Raoul Jaccard

AETAP board member





THREAT ASSESSMENT AND - MANAGEMENT WEBINARS

AETAP WEBINARS

For 2021 AETAP is organising monthly webinars directed by senior experts in the threat assessment- and management field. We invite everyone to visit AETAP's website regularly for updates on topics, speakers and registration possibilities.

We are excited to promote our first monthly webinar titled:

COVID Exit-Plan: How to Prepare Your Organisation for Post-Pandemic Threats

As we continue to navigate an uncertain future, organisations are asking themselves how to best prepare for possible threats in a post-pandemic world. Year 2020 has forced many people to situations that cause stress and anxiety. Unfortunately, some people don't handle these situations well, which has led to increased numbers of conflicts, suicidal behaviour, substance abuse and crime.

Questions we'll answer during the webinar:

- What are the emerging behavioural trends organisations are facing due to Covid?
- How can we proactively address these challenges?
- What threat assessment approaches should you focus on post-Covid?

We will look at situations from psychological, HR and security perspectives.

Presenters: **Melissa Muir** (ATAP) & **Totti Karpela** (AETAP)

Date & time: Tuesday 23rd February 2021, 14:00 - 15.30 Central European Time (CET)

Duration: 90 minutes

Platform: Zoom

Free registration: <https://app.glueup.com/event/32479/register/>

Presenter Biography

Melissa Muir has been an HR professional in the U.S. courts for 25 years. Informed by threat assessment and management principles, Melissa is passionate about putting them into practice to improve the safety and health of our organizations. Melissa is the Past President of the Northwest Chapter of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) and serves on the national sponsorship and communication committees.



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She has championed a multidisciplinary approach and presented to every TAP organization on bridging the gap between threat management and human resources. With the federal courts, Melissa developed a comprehensive video series focused on preventing workplace violence. She has developed and delivered communications training across more than 50 agencies of the federal government, from grammar to crisis communications. She has innovated courses on preventing workplace harassment and has facilitated courageous conversations in this area for more than two decades. Melissa holds an MBA from the University of Washington, and a law degree with a focus on employment law and mediation from Seattle University School of Law. Mr Karpela, a graduate of the Finland's Police University College, has a 20-year career in the National Police of Finland where he worked as a unit supervisor and subject matter expert. During his career, Mr. Karpela was part of a team that specialized in managing threats that were directed towards law enforcement and judicial officials. Mr. Karpela has undergone specialised training pertaining to the psychological assessment of offending behaviour and has experience in both the private and public sectors, particularly working with high-risk and high-harm offenders. For the majority of his career Mr. Karpela also worked at the National Police University, teaching management of aggressive behavior and conflict resolution skills.

Totti Karpela has worked as a subject matter expert since 1986, consulting and coaching government organizations and corporations on five continents in the prevention of violent crime, security issues, conflict resolution and risk mitigation. Mr. Karpela holds a CTM-accreditation, a professional accreditation for security professionals related to the assessment and management of violent behavior. Mr. Karpela is also accredited to provide consultation and training related to the European equivalent, CETAP. He holds numerous professional certifications related to violence risk assessment. Other relevant NGO responsibilities: Subject matter expert for European Council and O.S.C.E. in crime prevention projects. He is a board member of the Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals (AETAP). He is also a senior research fellow at the Association for Counterterrorism and Security Professionals - Centre for Security Studies and a committee member for the Nordic Counter Terrorism Network. Mr. Karpela has also authored three books on police operations with organized crime (1995), personal security (1998) and case management guide for stalking cases (2001). Mr. Karpela has co-authored a book on management and leadership related to prevention of problematic behavior in the workplace (2019). He has also authored a chapter on the use of social psychology in counter terrorism operations as well as management guide on persistent and vexatious complainants (2018). Totti divides his time between two homes, one in Hong Kong and the other in Helsinki.



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Please note: Your registration will be confirmed via an automated email.

48 hours prior to the webinar you will receive a second email from 'info@aetap.eu' providing you with a special link to attend the Zoom webinar.

For any registration questions please email: info@aetap.eu

AETAP'S **second webinar of 2021** will be held on **30 March 2021** and is titled:

The Relationship of Conspiracy Beliefs and Violent Extremism

A series of recent right-wing terrorist attacks have occurred across the U.S., Germany and New Zealand. What all of these attacks had in common was that each perpetrator referenced conspiracy theories such as the great replacement theory or white genocide in their manifestos. Additionally, the fringe conspiracy theory QAnon has been identified as a playing crucial role for domestic security, which has the potential to lead to domestic acts of terrorism. These incidents suggest a functional role of conspiracy theories within violent extremism.

What are the psychological motives for believing in conspiracy theories?

Based on our newest research findings from the U.K. we examine the psychological mechanisms linking conspiracy beliefs and violent extremism and we aim to explain why certain people engage in conspiracy thinking and how this can lead to violent extremist intentions. Research shows that extremism and belief in conspiracy theories share underlying psychological mechanisms, which arise due to certain social, existential as well as epistemic needs. However, if these psychological needs are not met, individuals might engage in coping mechanisms to restore those. As such, believe in conspiracy theories may act as a coping mechanism, which aims to satisfy important social psychological motives when these needs are threatened and thereby may increase extremist intentions.

What are the contingent effects of conspiracy beliefs on violent extremist intentions?

We examine the conditional effects of conspiracy beliefs on violent extremist intentions. More specifically, we investigate whether the relationship between conspiracy beliefs and violent extremism depends upon individual characteristics such as varying levels of self-efficacy, self-control, and law-relevant morality. Variable interactions examine where conspiracy beliefs exert strong effects on violent extremist intentions. The analysis is based on a German nationally representative survey (N = 1502). Our results confirm that a stronger conspiracy mentality leads to increased violent extremist intentions. However, this relationship is contingent on several individual differences.



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The effects are much stronger for individuals exhibiting lower self-control, holding a weaker law-relevant morality, and scoring higher in self-efficacy. Conversely, when stronger conspiracy beliefs are held in combination with high self-control and a strong law-relevant morality, violent extremist intentions are lower. Such individual features thus constitute interactive protective factors for violent extremism. These results have important implications for practice in the area of violent extremism risk assessment and management. Conceptually, the results demonstrate the need to further elaborate the conditional effects of certain risk as well as protective factors for violent extremism. Link to the paper: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2020.1803288>

Presenters: **Bettina Rottweiler** (Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London, UK) & **Paul Gill** (Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London, UK)

Date & time: Tuesday 30r March 2021, 14:00-15:30 Central European Time (CET)

Duration: 90 minutes

Platform: Zoom

Registration: WILL OPEN SOON

Presenter Biography

Bettina Rottweiler is a PhD student at University College London's Department of Security and Crime Science. Her research focuses on identifying psychological and cognitive mechanisms of radicalisation. Her analyses examine the interactional and mediating nature of risk and protective factors for violent extremism in order to understand the complex relationships underlying these processes. She works as a research assistant on the ERC-funded Grievance project.

Paul Gill is a Professor at University College London's Department of Security and Crime Science. He has conducted research funded by the Office for Naval Research, the Department of Homeland Security, Public Safety Canada, DSTL, the National Institute of Justice, CREST and MINERVA. These projects focused upon various aspects of terrorist behaviour including IED development, risk assessment, terrorist network structures, and lone-actor terrorism. He currently leads the ERC-funded Grievance project <https://www.grievance-erc.com>.



Webinars for French speaking colleagues

In 2021 AETAP will also be offering four webinars for our French speaking colleagues.

Quatre webinaires sont prévus en français cette année en collaboration avec CATAP et FRANCOPOL. Des précisions sur ces présentations ainsi que les dates prévues seront notées dans les semaines à venir sur le site de l'AETAP.

Michel ST-YVES Psychologue judiciaire à la Sûreté du Québec au Module des sciences du comportement

L'évaluation de menaces anonymes. Illustration avec plusieurs cas pratiques.

Aurélien SCHALLER Psycho-criminologue, Adjoint opérationnel au chef du service pénitencier neuchâtelois, responsable de l'Unité d'Évaluation Pénale.

Détection et gestion précoce des constellations de violence domestique à risque de récurrence.

Lynne BIBEAU Psychologue judiciaire à la Sûreté du Québec au Module des sciences du comportement.

Extrême droite radicale. Étude de cas du tireur à la Mosquée de Québec.

Raoul JACCARD Psychologue à la Police Neuchâteloise, responsable du groupe Menaces et Prévention de la violence.

Introduction à l'utilisation de la "Pyramide de risque", instrument pour une première appréciation de risque de passage à l'acte de violence. Illustration à l'aide d'une étude de cas.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF THREAT ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONALS (CATAP)

Our Canadian colleagues offer several webinars on demand at <https://catap.ca/Violence-Prevention/Events>. Topics include 'Family violence and Cultural safety', 'Gender-based sexual violence within families', 'Identifying Risk for Intimate Partner Violence' and 'Whither Terrorism in the 2020's'.



ASIAN PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF THREAT ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONALS (APATAP)

APATAP is delighted to announce their 2021 virtual symposium. They hope that the online format will help bring everyone together from across the globe. The symposium will commence with a full-day (**March 26**) online masterclass on stalking delivered by two leading experts in their field.

For more information: <https://apatap.wildapricot.org/Masterclass>

The three-day symposium takes place over three Fridays between April and June: 30 April, 28 May or 25 June 2021. The program for each day lasts around 5-hours (including breaks). The Program Committee will publish the program at the end of February 2021. <https://apatap.wildapricot.org/Submission>

Registration for the 4 –day Symposium is now open. Member's rate applies to affiliated threat assessment organisations including all TAP's. Register at: <https://apatap.wildapricot.org/Register>. Submissions are also now open for the APATAP 2021 symposium series! De invulling van de masterclass op 26 maart is inmiddels bekend.

ASSOCIATION OF THREAT ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONALS (ATAP)

The North-American association is organising a virtual conference.: <https://www.atapworldwide.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1483077&group=>

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF THREAT ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONALS (AfATAP)

Our colleagues from the African continent will be hosting two webinars: on February 25th and on March 11th.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the mental health of employees in South-Africa

Date: Thursday **25 February 2021**

Time: 14h00-15h30

Format: Free webinar (registration essential)

Link to register: <http://thq.fyi/se/rc29w2s>

In any threat assessment one of the dynamic risk factors that needs to be considered is a person's mental and emotional state. Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown levels continue to pose significant psychological challenges to everyone, many of which we are only now starting to understand. In this OSMET webinar we speak to Clinical Psychologist [Navlika Ratangee](#) who is a Managing Director of [ICAS Southern Africa](#).



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Navlika will discuss the general changing pattern of psychological challenges facing people who have made use of ICAS' counselling services since Covid-19 appeared in South Africa, compared to previous non-Covid periods. Employers, especially HR personnel, ethics officers, EAP staff, and in-house security, will gain insight into what difficulties employees are facing and how these need to be considered when supporting and protecting employees.

About the speaker

Navlika Ratangee is currently the Managing Director of ICAS SA. A GIBS MBA graduate and Clinical psychologist with diverse experience in human capital management, behavioural risk, change management, managerial consulting, global management consulting, leadership, women in leadership, organisational resilience and organisational strategy. She also has a wealth of experience in dealing with mental health in the workplace and has consulted to many South African corporates in this regard.

Navlika has an abundance of training, customer engagement experience and has been selected by McKinsey & Company for their WomEmpower event, developing future female leadership for the global community. She regularly acts as a guest lecturer at GIBS, is a group mentor for PGDip and MBA programmes, and research examiner for MBA programmes.

Completing her MBA in 2016 with distinction, Navlika was also awarded the prize as top graduate for the programme. She has furthered her executive education at Harvard Business School, Boston. Navlika has presented at many conferences locally and internationally and has also been a contributor of a chapter in 2 books *Managing the COVID-19 vortex* and *Tourism, Travel and COVID-19*, called *Promoting personal and workplace mental health in the age of COVID-19*.

Case study: A shot in the Dark: When a Persistent Threatener Finally Commits a Violent Act.

Please join us for this insightful teaching case-study which illustrates the persistency of persons who threaten an organisation, even after moving from an insider position to an outsider position. Join our two internationally renowned speakers for this exceptional learning experience.

Date: **11 March 2021** (Thursday) Time: 14h00-15h30 (Johannesburg time)

Format: Free Webinar (registration essential, space is limited)

Presenters: Dr. Russell Palarea (USA) and Chuck Tobin (USA)

Link to register: <http://thq.fyi/se/22DnvnM>



Summary:

In this case-study the presenters will take attendees through a multi-year progression of an employee's downward spiral from employee, to stalker, to threatener, to suicidal individual. This case presented extremely unique challenges across multiple states with a variety of targets within a single corporation. All of which culminated with his presenting a firearm at his former employer's workplace in order to kill himself on their doorstep, eventual conviction for his offenses, and continued stalking upon release from custody. A detailed review of investigative, protective and consultative strategies will be provided, along with expert psychological evaluation of the subject.

About the speakers

Russel Palarea

Dr. Russell Palarea is the Founder and President of [Operational Psychology Services](#) (OPS). He is an internationally recognized expert on threat assessment, insider threat, and counterterrorism, providing consultation in these areas to Fortune 500 corporations, global security firms, law enforcement, government agencies, and universities. Through his company, Dr. Palarea serves as the contract Consulting Operational Psychologist for the U.S. *Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security* (DS).

He was brought to DS in 2012 to spearhead the creation of the State Department's Threat Management Program, and currently provides threat assessment consultation for State Department leadership, facilities, and personnel through the Office of Protective Intelligence Investigations and Insider Threat Program. Additionally, he serves as an instructor for the DS Training Academy and a presenter for the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC).

Prior to joining the private sector, Dr. Palarea served for 10 years as a Staff Operational Psychologist with the *Naval Criminal Investigative Service* (NCIS), providing his expertise to the NCIS Threat Management Unit, Counterterrorism Department, and Insider Threat Program. Dr. Palarea also consulted on investigations for the *Federal Bureau of Investigation* (FBI) *Joint Terrorism Task Forces* (JTTF), and served on the *Department of Defense* (DoD) Psychological Autopsy Working Group and Fort Hood Task Force, which focused on targeted violence prevention.



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Dr. Palarea trained personnel at numerous U.S. Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence agencies, JTFs, and state and local entities, and served as an instructor for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), CIA University, and DoD Joint Counterintelligence Training Academy (JCITA). His international experience includes training national law enforcement, security services, and military in Canada, South America, Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Dr. Palarea has conducted research on stalking, workplace violence, and assessment of communicated threats with the Los Angeles Police Department Threat Management Unit, U.S. Capitol Police Threat Assessment Section, Nebraska State Patrol, and Lincoln Police Department. His journal publications have appeared in *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, *Violence & Victims*, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, and the *Journal of Threat Assessment*. Dr. Palarea has co-authored book chapters on psychiatric diagnoses and the offender-victim typology of stalking in Meloy's *The Psychology of Stalking*, crisis negotiations in Kennedy & Zillmer's *Military Psychology*, ethics in crisis negotiations in Kennedy & Williams' *The Ethics of Operational Psychology*, and the role of sexual fantasies in sex offenses in Robertz' *Violent Fantasies*. He is currently a Consulting Editor for the *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*.

Since 1996, Dr. Palarea has been an active participant with the [Association of Threat Assessment Professionals](#) (ATAP). He was elected as ATAP's President in 2017, a role in which he currently serves. In 2012, ATAP awarded him with its Meritorious Service Award for his proposal to establish the International Relations Committee, serving as the Committee's Chair, and facilitating relationships with the Canadian, European, and Asia Pacific partner associations. Dr. Palarea holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UCLA and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Forensics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Chuck Tobin

As the President and CEO of [AT-RISK](#), Chuck Tobin brings more than 25 years of industry expertise to the organization's selection of high-quality service offerings. Mr. Tobin has created a strong team of industry professionals with a vast network of resources through his long-standing, well-respected reputation in the security market.

During 2007 and 2008 Mr. Tobin served as the national Director of Security for the Hillary Clinton for President Campaign, securing facilities throughout every state in the nation, as well as managing a variety of direct and indirect threats to the candidate.



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He has also served as security consultant to a Greek political party and its leader George Papandreou, as well as protected and consulted with several other international political candidates. Mr. Tobin has provided protective and investigative services to clients globally as well as conducting training for transition forces, protection teams, and investigators from Beijing to Washington, DC.

Mr. Tobin is a past- President for the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP)
