



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

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THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL RISK FOR GROUP-BASED VIOLENCE: THE MULTI-LEVEL GUIDELINES

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Importance of Groups

- Groups can exert a powerful influence on the behavior of individuals via several mechanisms

Norms and
values

Modeling

Group
identification

When are Groups Relevant?

- Multi-level risk assessment is highly relevant when considering some common forms of violence

Youth
gangs

Adult
gangs

Political
movements

Social
movements

Group Based Violence

- Actual, attempted, or threatened physical injury that is deliberate and nonconsensual by an individual whose decisions and behavior are influenced by a group to which they currently belong or are affiliated with



Unique

Systemic

Dynamic

Groups

- A group within the context of group-based violence is an identifiable collection of two or more individuals who have some stable pattern of associations based at least to some extent on shared attitudes, norms, or values



Boundaries

Scope

Influence

Forms of GBV

Extremist

Environmental/
Animals Rights

New Religious
Movements/
Cults

Freeman
Sovereign
Citizens

Honor-based

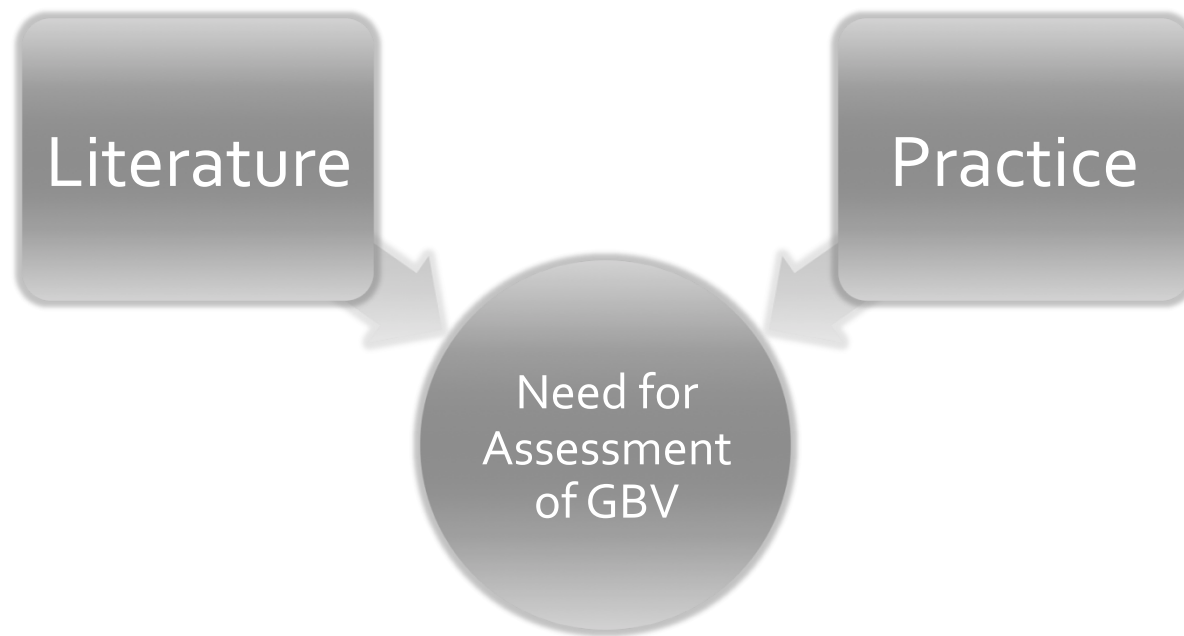
Gangs

Organized
Crime

Youth Gangs

Urban Guerilla

GBV: Nature of the Problem



Implications

Can't rely on standard individual-level threat assessment models

- HCR-20, VRAG, PIV, JACA, etc.

Can't rely on standard group-level threat assessment models

- Intelligence analysis

Assessing Risk for GBV

MLG

- For comprehensive, management-oriented assessment of group based violence by specialists
 - Males or females, age 14 and older
 - Individual member or affiliate of a group
- 20 risk factors in 4 domains
 - Individual
 - Individual-Group
 - Group
 - Group-Societal

SPJ Guidelines



HCR-20
START
SAVRY

SVR-20
RSVP
ERASOR

SARA
B-SAFER

SAM
SRP

MLG
ERG-20/
Channel

WAVR-21
WRA & ERA

Purpose

Threat assessment

- Process of speculating about violence risk posed by a perpetrator

Threat management

- Process of mitigating the violence risk posed by a perpetrator

Goals

Prevention

- Guide and coordinate activities

Accountability

- Improve transparency and consistency of decisions

Protection

- Infringement of rights, exposure to liability

Intended Use: Populations



Criminal
Justice

Security

Mental Health

Other Threat
Assessment
Professionals

Intended use: User qualifications



Development

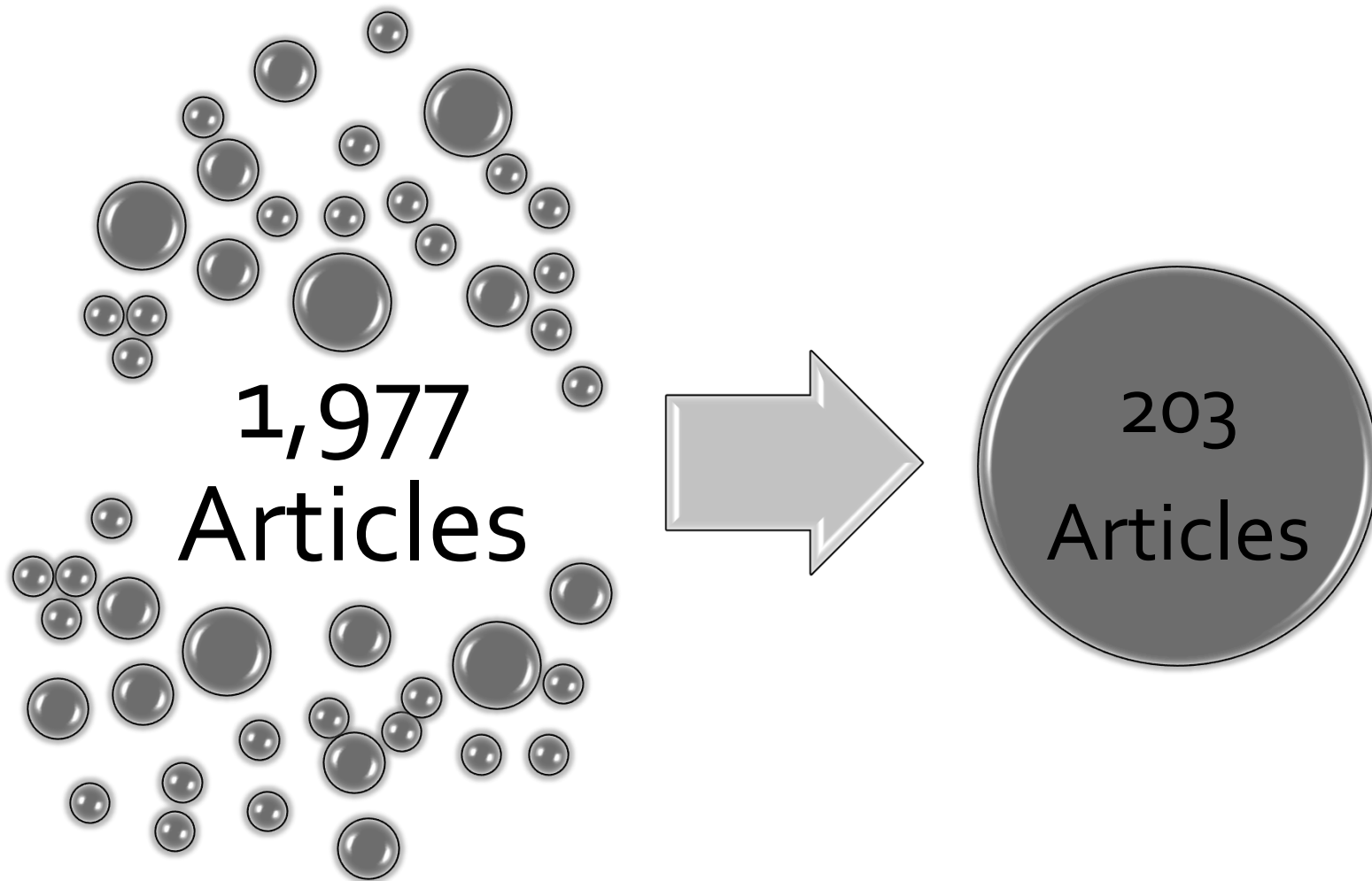
Empirically-based

- Campbell Collaboration Review

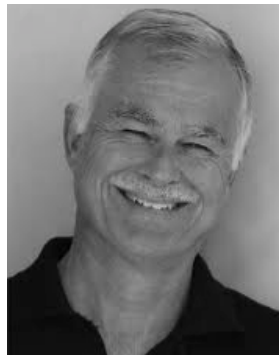
Consensus-based

- Reviewed by internationally recognized experts in threat assessment, terrorism, and organized crime

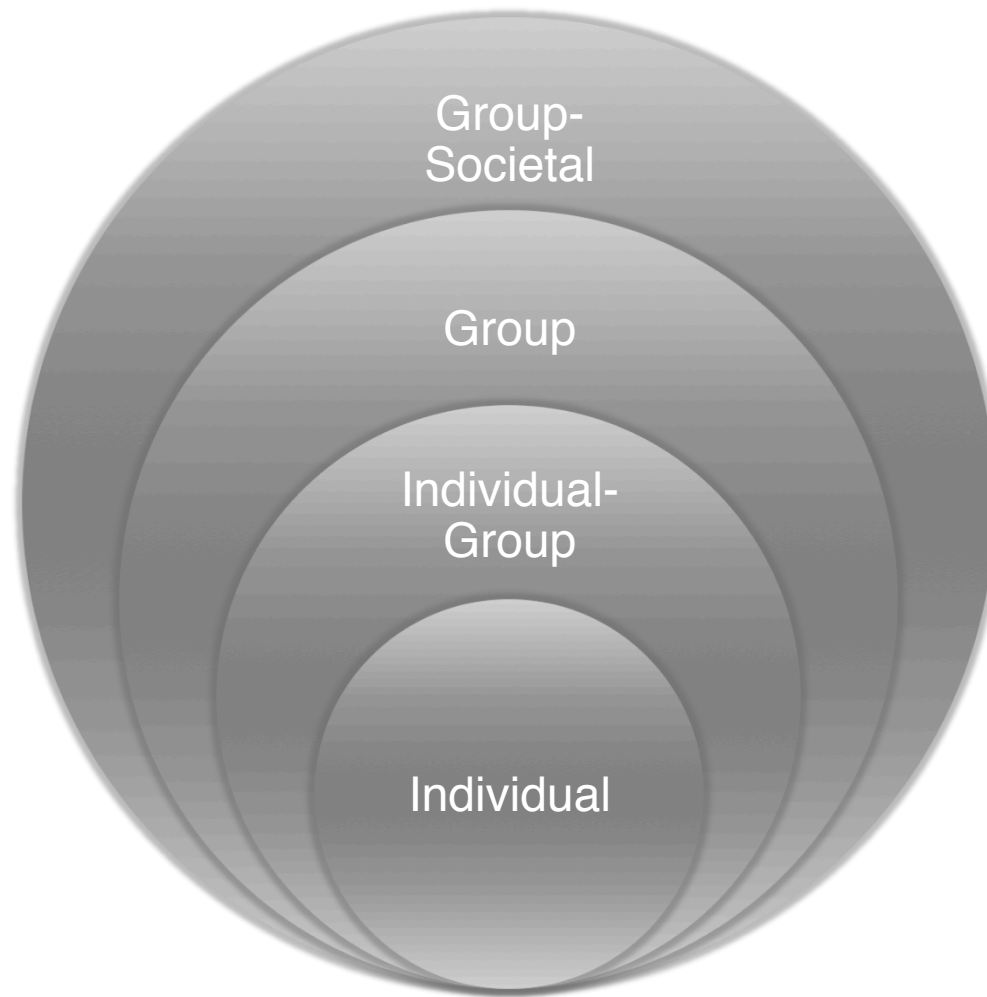
Campbell Collaboration Review



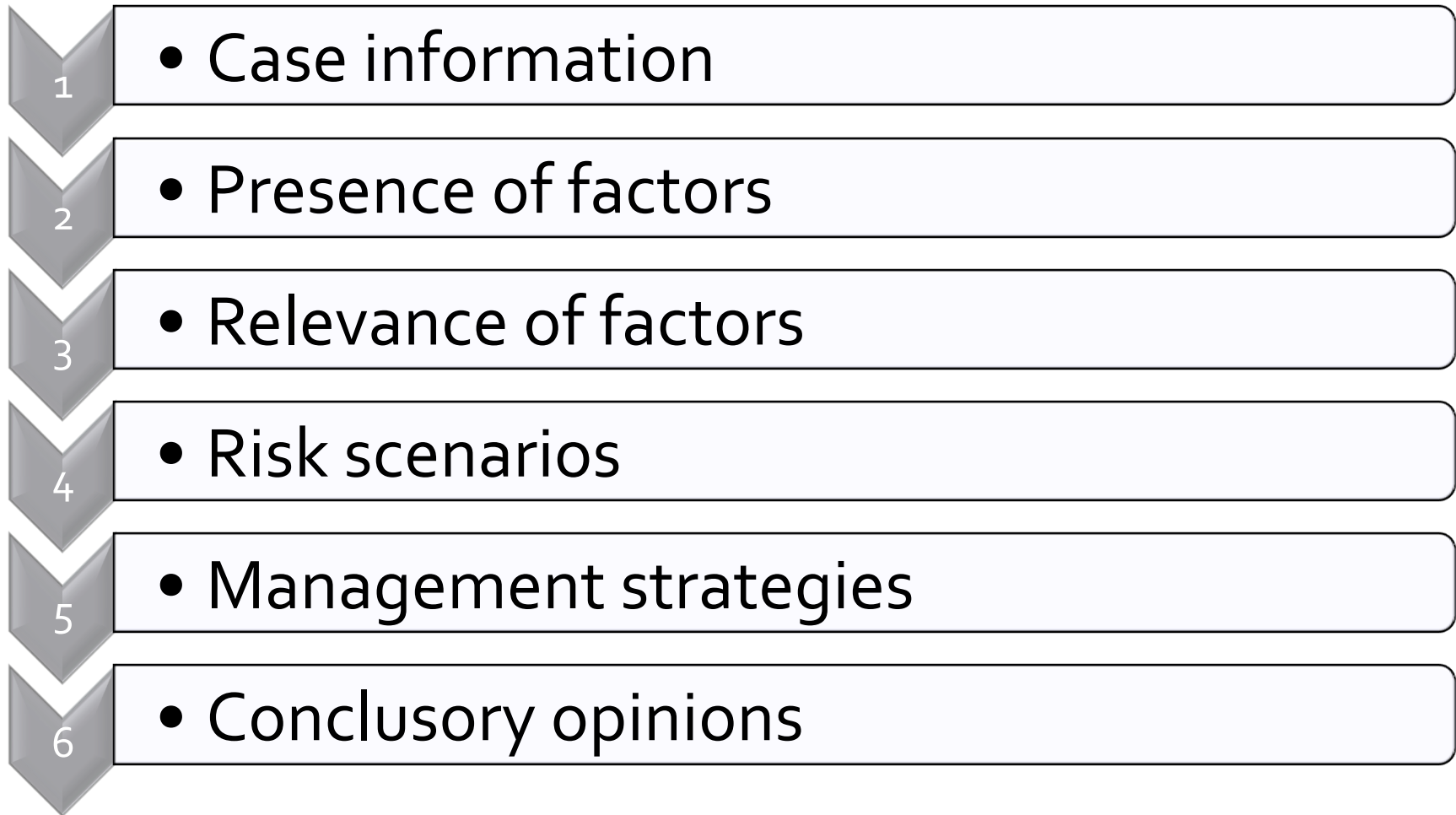
Consensus-Based



MLG Model



Administration



Step 1: Gathering Information

Clarify the nature and purpose of the evaluation

Identify the information reasonably necessary to form an opinion

Step 1: Gathering Information



Step 2: Presence of Risk Factors

Past

- Prior to past year

Recent

- Within past year

Individual Domain

- I1. Violent Behaviour
- I2. Escalation in Violent Behaviour
- I3. Nonviolent Criminal Behaviour
- I4. Problems Resulting From Victimization
- I5. Mental Health Problems
- I6. Lack of Pro-social Integration

Individual-Group Domain

IG1. Group-Based Identity

IG2. Violent Role or Status in Group

IG3. Commitment to Group

IG4. Negative Attitudes Towards Out-Group

Group Domain

G1. Group Violence

G2. Escalation of Group Violence

G3. Violent Group Norms

G4. Group Cohesion

G5. Strong Violent Leadership

G6. Isolative Group

Group-Societal Domain

GS1. Intergroup Threat

GS2. Perceived Injustice

GS3. Extreme Social Status of the Group

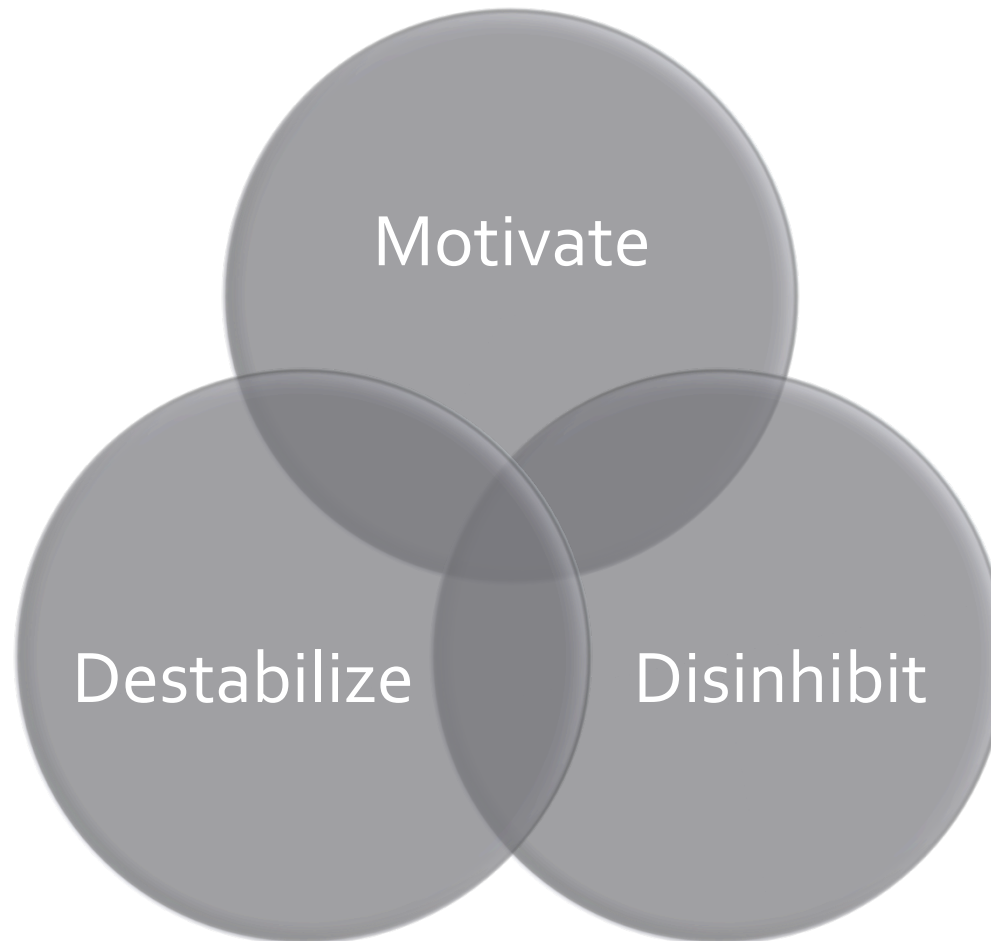
GS4. Social Instability

Step 3: Relevance of Risk Factors

Evaluate functional relevance with respect to violence and management

Identify root cause(s) of violence by asking, "Why?"

Nature of Risk Factors



Step 4: Scenario Planning

Focus on primary hazards or feared outcomes

Detail scenarios to test plausibility and maximize utility

Developing Scenarios

Repeat

- Consider all past violence, not just most recent

Twist

- Change in motivation, victimology, behavioral topography

Escalation

- Including lethal or "worst case"

Improvement

- Including desistence or "best case"

Step 5: Management

Use scenarios to guide management plans

Specify management interventions (strategies and tactics)

Strategies

Monitoring	Supervision	Treatment	Victim Safety Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surveillance or repeated assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imposition of controls or restriction of freedoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitation, including further assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancement of security resources for identifiable targets

Step 6: Conclusory Opinions

Case Prioritization

- Degree of effort or intervention required

Violence

- Group or non-group based violence

Life-Threatening
Violence

- Risk for life-threatening violence

Immediate Action

- Urgent intervention taken or needed

Likely victims

- In-group or Out-group members

Conclusion


Conclusion



Current methods have failed to account for unique factors that impact GBV risk



Ability to assess change in risk for GBV



Field is moving beyond types of violence that are primarily reliant on the individual to external influences and more social influenced crime



Facilitate quality empirical research

User Feedback

- “This has opened a new dimension in risk assessment and established a way to organize and understand and articulate factors relevant to group based violence.”
- “Training had a good balance of theory and application which is critical in understanding the nuances of the various types of groups involved.”
- “I’ll continue to use and consider the MLG and recommend it’s use to other.”
- “Lots of utility and promise.”

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