

*I like, follow, share, stalk, and  
groom you*

*social media and threat assessment*

Jan Van den Bulck

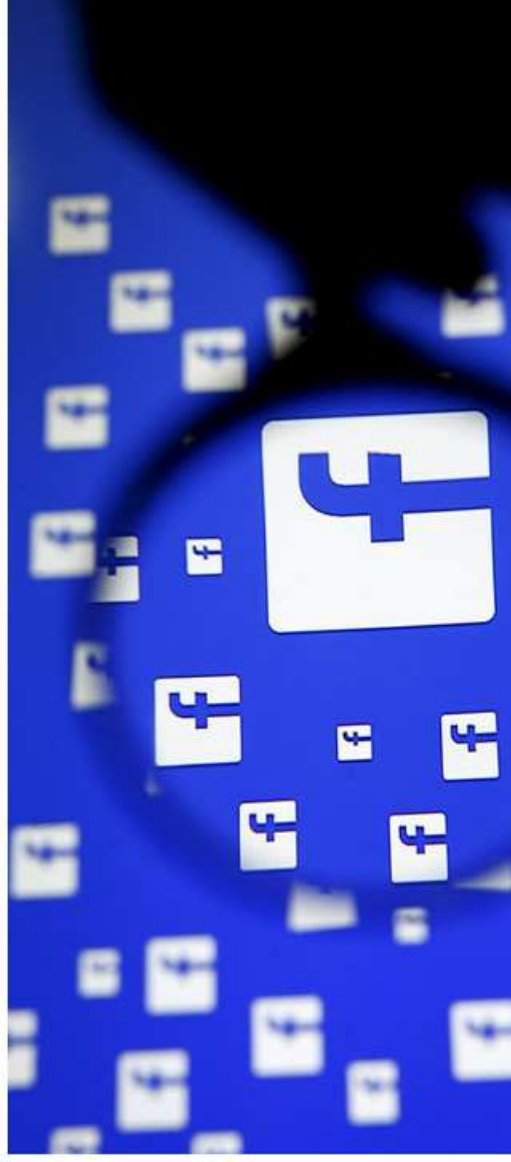
U of Leuven, BE

@janvandenbulck

# **Does social media cause radicalization?**

On the topic of brainwashing and terrorism, the jury is still out, David Tabachnick writes.

BY: DAVID TABACHNICK / JANUARY 5, 2016



**OPENCANADA.ORG**

On the face of it, it is hard to believe that reading Facebook posts, tweets or watching videos online, no matter how gory, can somehow transform someone into a homicidal extremist bent on destroying the West.



# Lessons from epidemiology

- “I had measles and I didn’t kill me”

# Lessons from epidemiology

- “I had measles and I didn’t kill me”
- Radiation research

# **CRASH COURSE IN MEDIA EFFECTS**

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- Face to Face communication
- Mass Communication
- “Hybrids”

# CRASH COURSE IN MEDIA EFFECTS

- Face to Face communication
- Mass Communication
- “Hybrids”

“Reinforcing Spirals Model”



A black and white photograph of Marshall McLuhan, an older man with thinning hair, wearing a dark suit and tie. He is leaning forward with his arms crossed on a dark wooden table. Below the table is a vintage television set, which displays a close-up of his own face. The entire scene is framed by a film strip border with sprocket holes on the left and right sides. The number '4' is visible in the top left corner of the film frame.

“The medium is the message”

Marshall McLuhan

1911-1980

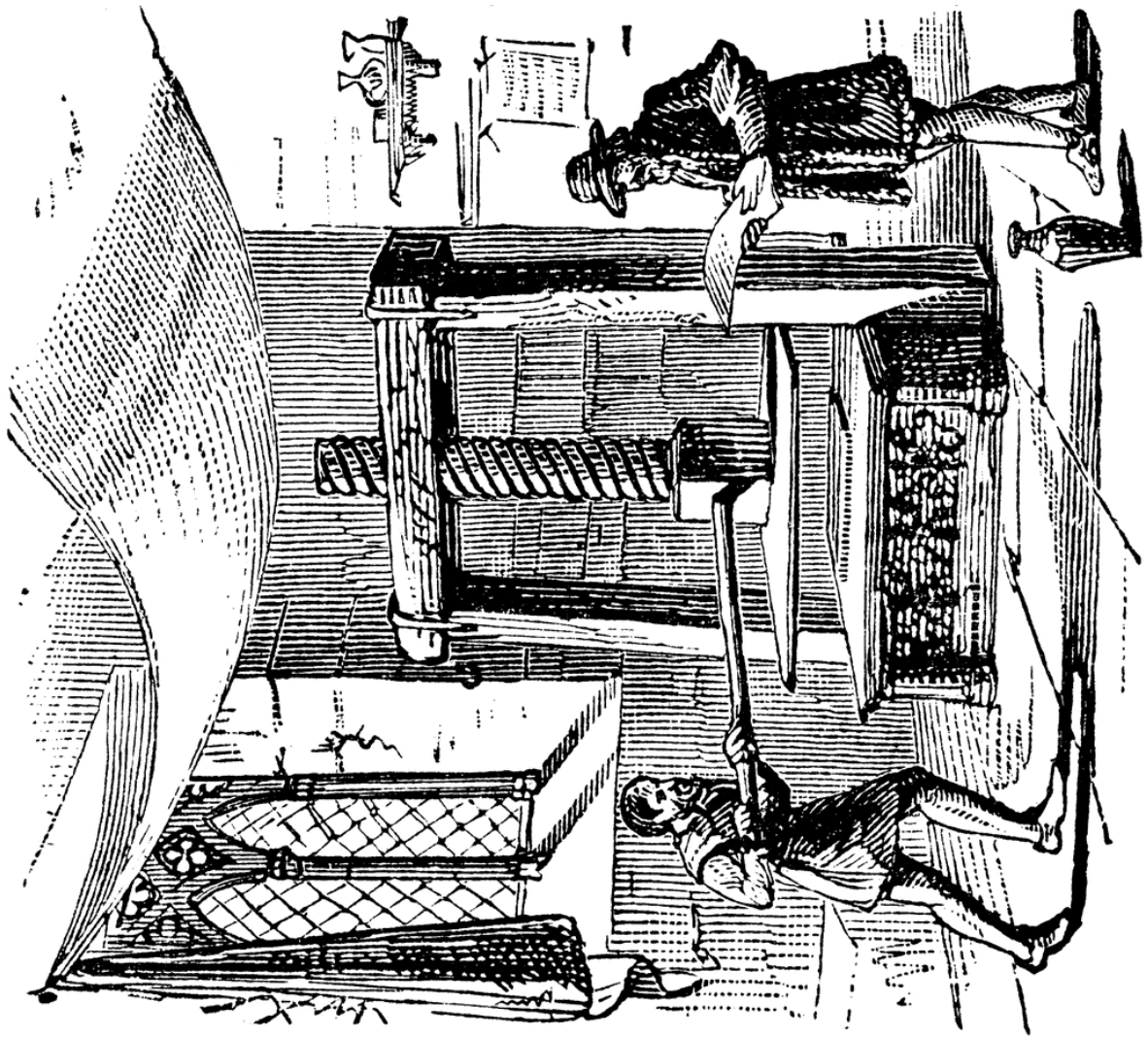
# “The medium is the message”

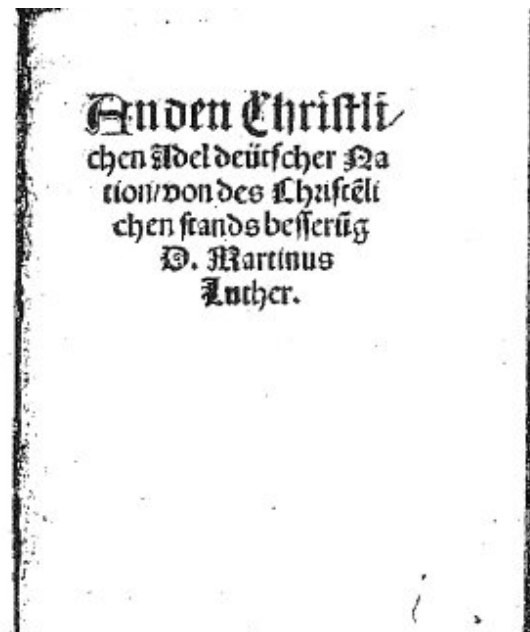
- When new media appear, society and people change with hem.



Code of Hammurabi







Luther pamphlets



## How Luther went viral

Dec 17th 2011 | From the print edition



10K

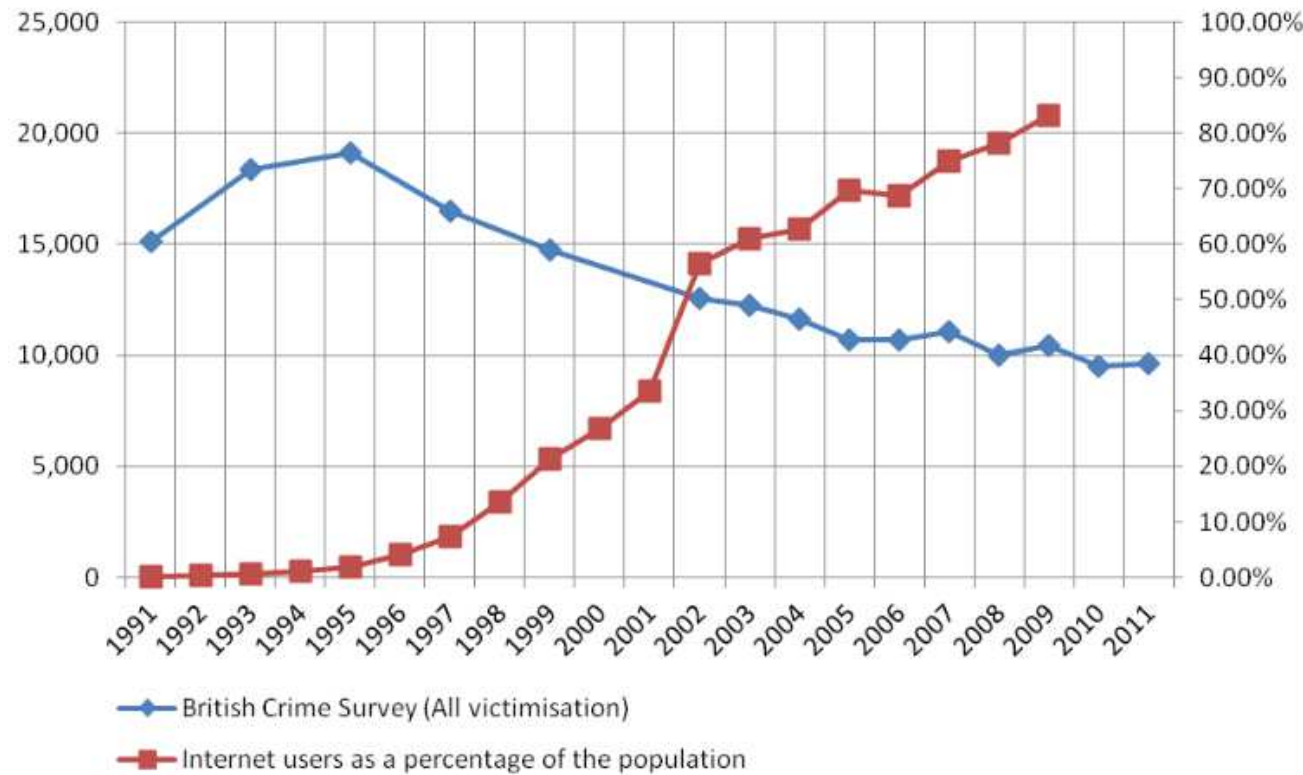


Examples



# Crime substitution hypothesis

**Figure 2:** BCS statistics (total victimisation) compared with percentage of the UK population using the internet

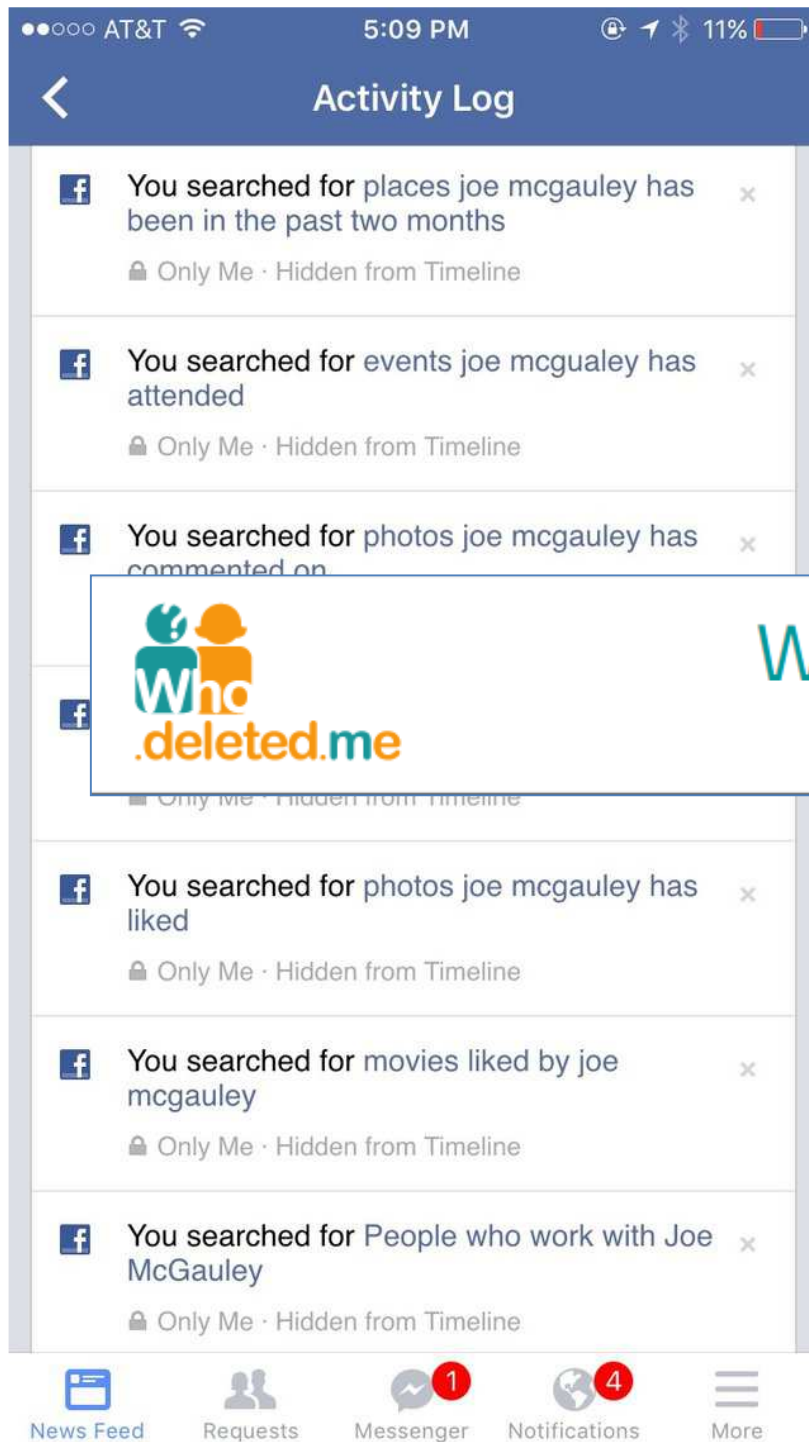


Cashmore, J. CRIME REDUCING ENTERTAINMENT: THE CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA.



# Stalking and social media

# Stalking and social media



Who deleted me on Facebook?

Our 478 287 users know the answer!

# 10 Facebook Hacks on Stalking

✍ MONOSHITA AYRUANI

All stalkers, at one point or the other, have had to go through the painstaking process of explaining others that they are NOT stalking. They would say that it's like conducting a thorough research on a person which may or may not involve creeping them out and violating their personal space. But who are we kidding? We all stalk! Here's the best explanation I've come across till date:

"So I've always defended myself saying I am not hacking into anyone's account and what I'm doing is basically patiently scrolling through info they have allowed me to see."

– Sincerely,

A badass stalker.

**6591**

Total Reads

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**8. Synced Apps** – Apps like SoundCloud, synced with Facebook will give away what they are up to. Music they are listening to is a key to knowing what mood they are in!

The only “trekkie” in town?



# The only “trekkie” in town?





# Trekkies...

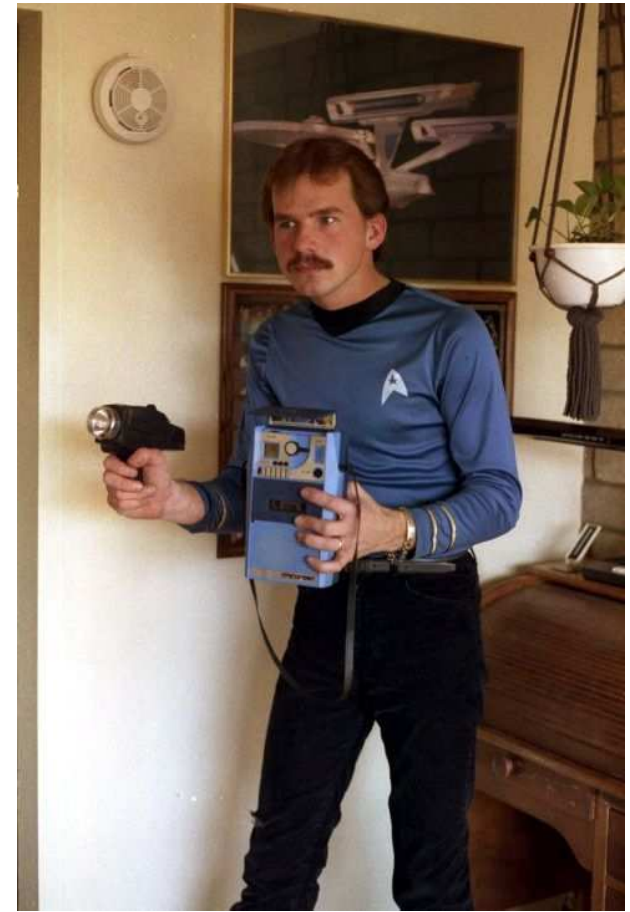


# Trekkies...





# Trekkies...



# Trekkies...

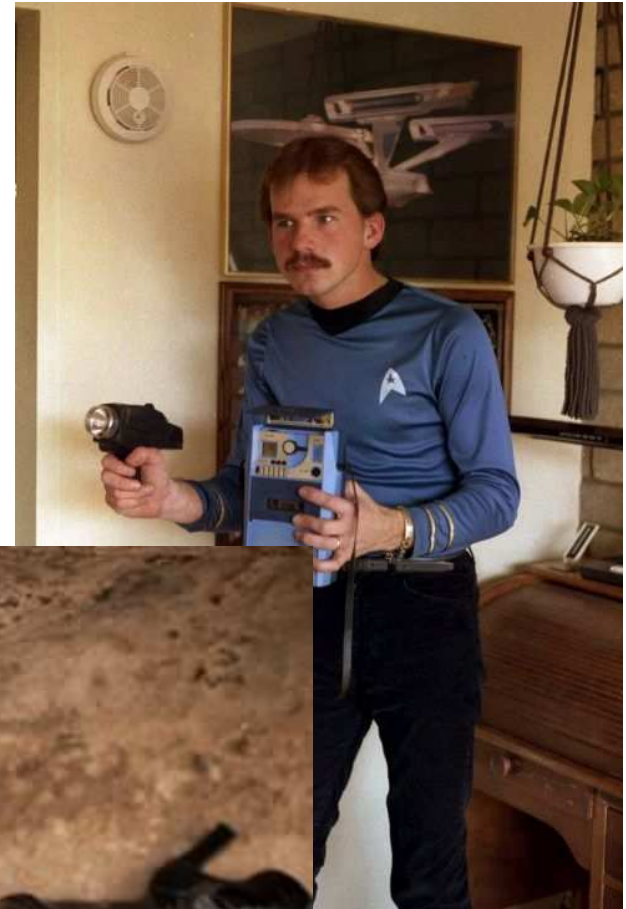








Photo Courtesy Treknews.net







# “More of the same”?

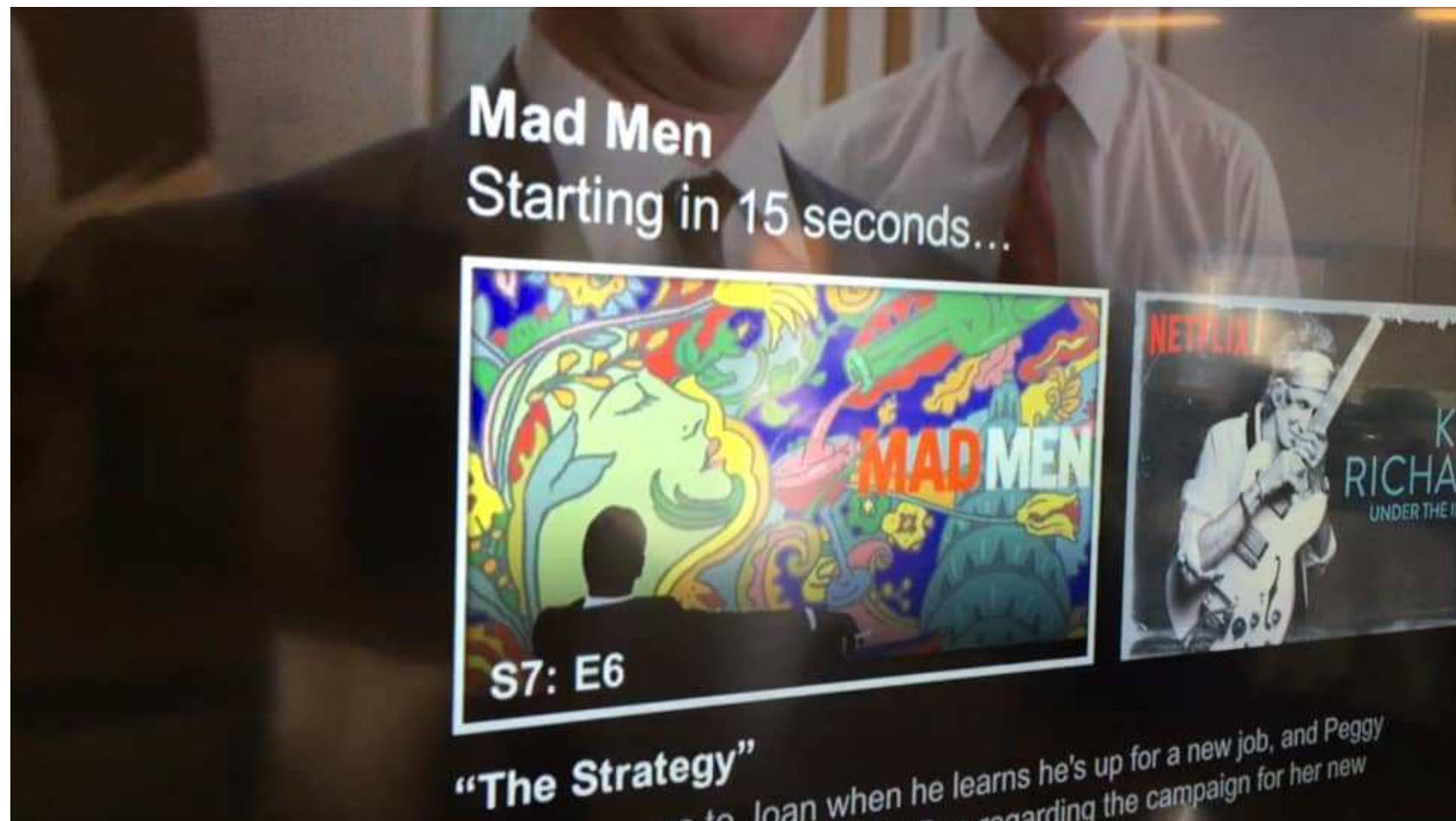
- “There has always been porn”

# “More of the same”?

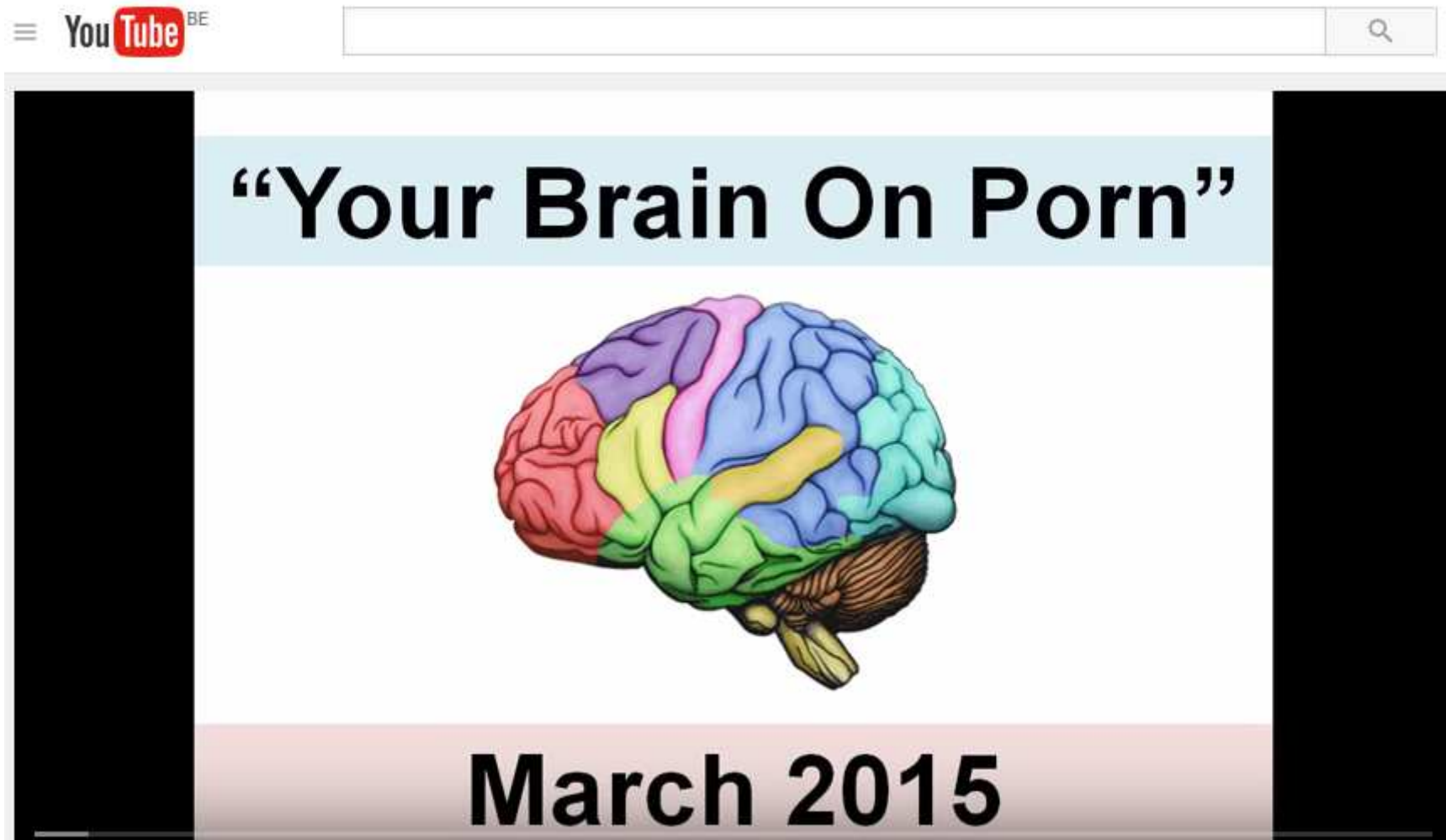
- “There has always been porn”
- 2006 → start of streaming
- “dose-response” relationships?
- Mutually reinforcing spirals?



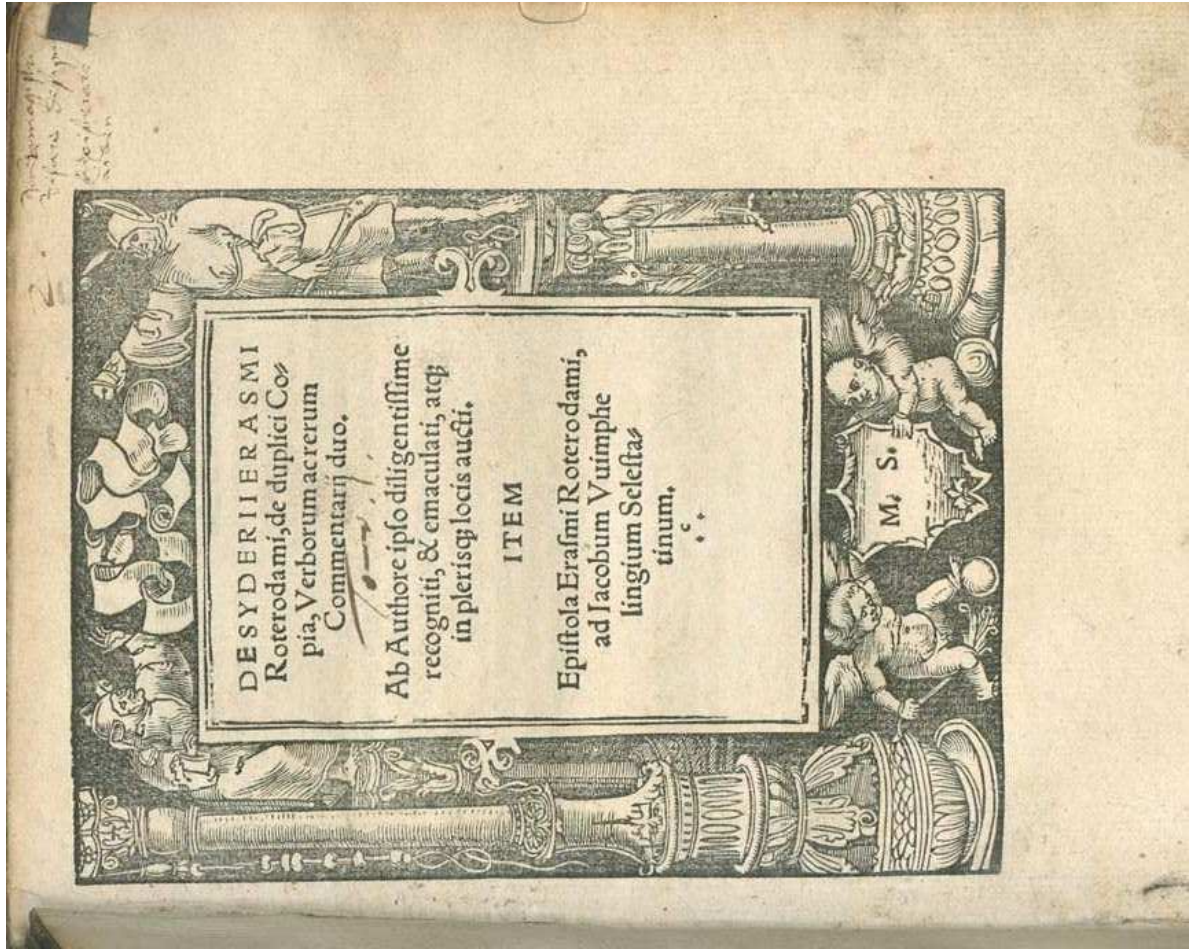
# Self-control



# Dose – response?





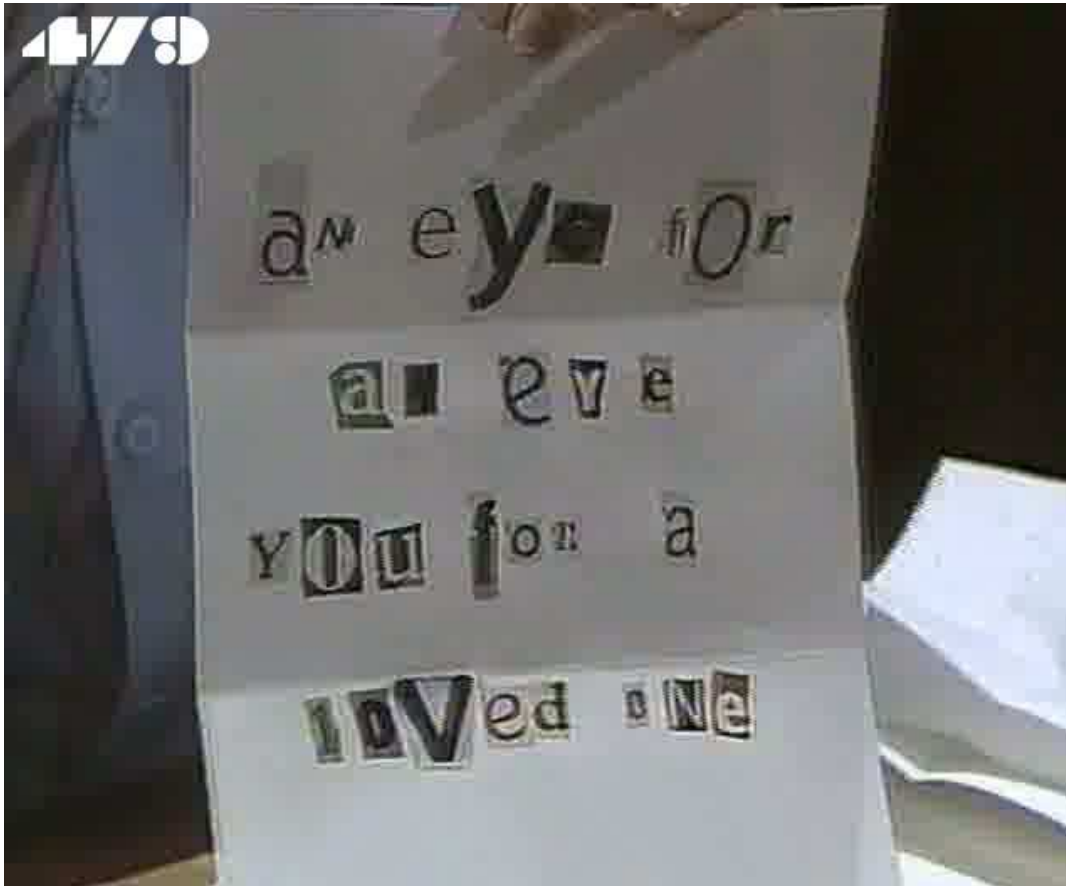


# EFFECTS of the mass media

- 3 “I”s

# “Imagine”

- “Example bias”



Kahneman



# First prison experience



# “Infer”

- Agenda setting



# “Infer”

- Cultivation
- “Risk ratios”



George Gerbner





# Israel-Palestine Violence: Fears of Third Intifada Put Jerusalem On Edge

by LAURA DEAN, GLOBALPOST CORRESPONDENT



► Israelis Take Self-Defense Classes at Shooting Range 1:18

# “Interpret”

- 1 message  $\neq$  1 meaning



# Effects of a drug overdose in a television drama on knowledge of specific dangers of self poisoning: population based surveys

BMJ 1999 ; 318 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.318.7189.978> (Published 10 April 1999)

Cite this as: BMJ 1999;318:978

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Susan O'Connor, consultant psychiatrist<sup>a</sup>, Jonathan J Deeks, medical statistician<sup>b</sup>, Keith Hawton, professor of psychiatry<sup>c</sup>, Sue Simkin, research assistant<sup>c</sup>, Allison Keen, research assistant<sup>d</sup>, Douglas G Altman, director<sup>b</sup>, Greg Philo, research director<sup>e</sup>, Christopher Bulstrode, professor of orthopaedics.<sup>d</sup>

[Author affiliations](#) ▾

Correspondence to: Dr O'Connor

**Accepted** 18 March 1999

Paracetamol is the drug most commonly taken in overdose in the United Kingdom,<sup>1</sup> causing a substantial number of deaths.<sup>2</sup> We have investigated the impact of the fictional portrayal of a potentially fatal paracetamol overdose in the television drama *Casualty* (seen by 12.8 million viewers) on short and long term knowledge related to paracetamol poisoning.

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Friday, April 9, 1999 Published at 12:29 GMT 13:29 UK

## Health

### Casualty 'sparked copycat overdoses'



Casualty features dramatic medical scenes

The number of people attempting overdoses jumped 17% in the week after an episode of Casualty featuring a similar suicide bid, according to a scathing study.

The episode of the BBC drama showed a depressed RAF pilot who took an overdose of paracetamol.



Paul Anstiss: "At first doctors

Researchers from Oxford University wanted to establish the influence television has over people at risk of

+ 17 %

# 3 I's

- “Imagine”
- “Infer”
- “Interpret”



Collisions between semi-trucks and trains  
make up 25% of all vehicle-train collisions



Led by the North Dakota Safety Council

# AND TRAINS WIN EVERY TIME



The Advance Warning Sign

warns drivers the road crosses railroad tracks ahead. This means you should  
**SLOW DOWN, LOOK & LISTEN for the sound of a train,**  
**and BE PREPARED TO STOP.**

# SUR LES RAILS LE DANGER EST PLUS RAPIDE QUE VOUS

EN GARE, RESTEZ VIGILANT.



Wees geen  
**dummy!**



Loop **nooit** op de sporen

Ontdek onze spot op: [www.loopnooitopdesporen.be](http://www.loopnooitopdesporen.be)



INFRABEL



# “New media” – what’s special?

- Interaction
- Connectivity
- “Impression management”

# Impression management

# Impression management



# Impression management



**Jan Van den Bulck**

March 6, 2014 · 1 person

Or as they say in Santa Barbara: let's talk about research over lunch.



Like Comment Share



**Jan Van den Bulck** with Kathleen Custers.

November 18, 2011 · 1 person

All in a day's work!



# Posturing



**Jan Van den Bulck**

August 14, 2010 · 🌐 ▼

20 years ago the world was so much safer!







**Eric Harroun** added a new photo.

October 2, 2013 · 🌐



🔄 Share

👍 6



**Eric Harroun** added a new photo.  
October 2, 2013 · 🌐



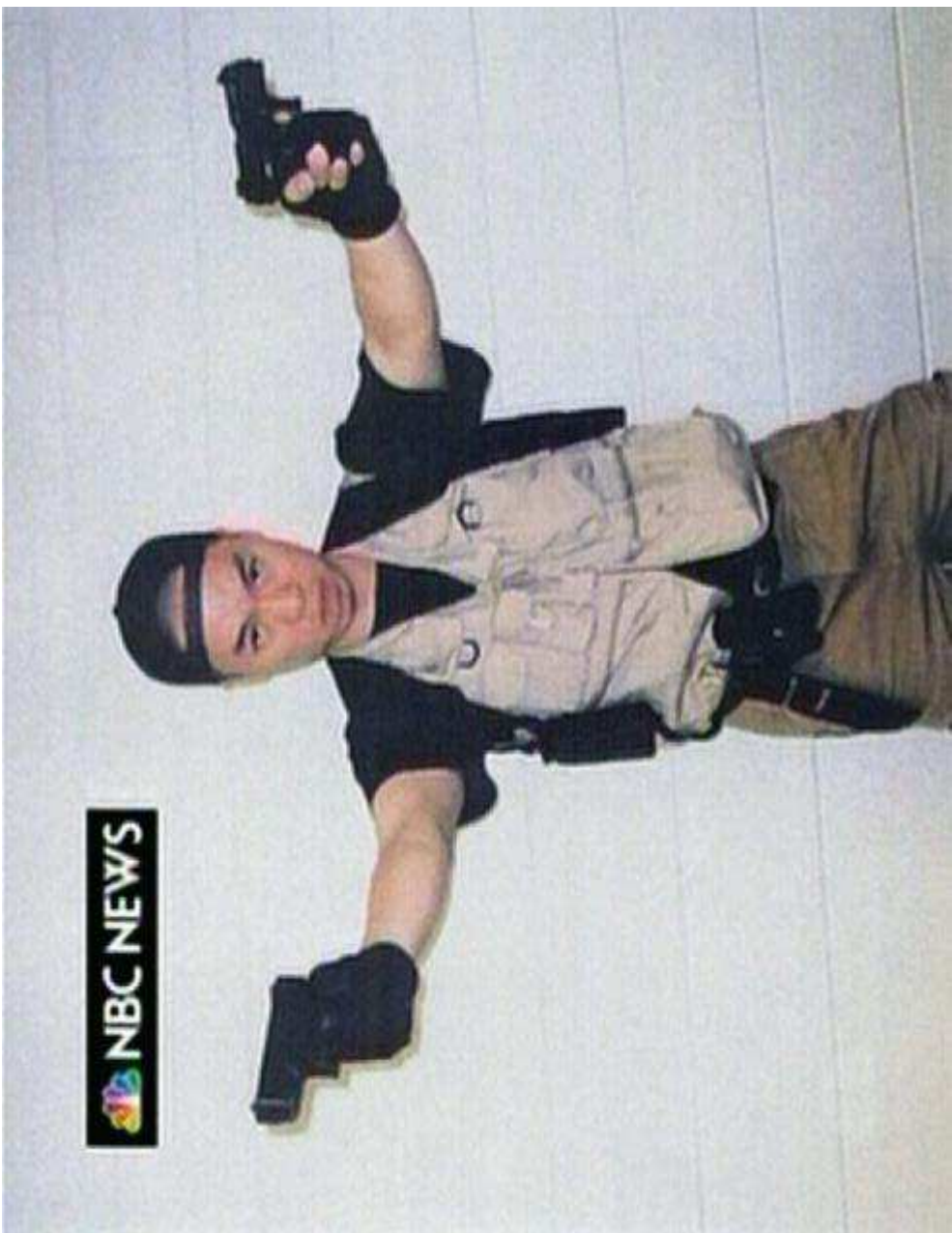
🔗 Share

👍 6



**Eric Harroun** added a new photo.  
September 24, 2013 · 🌐





# Hypothesis:

- “Normal” posturing



- “Happy jihadi”



- “Mad killer”



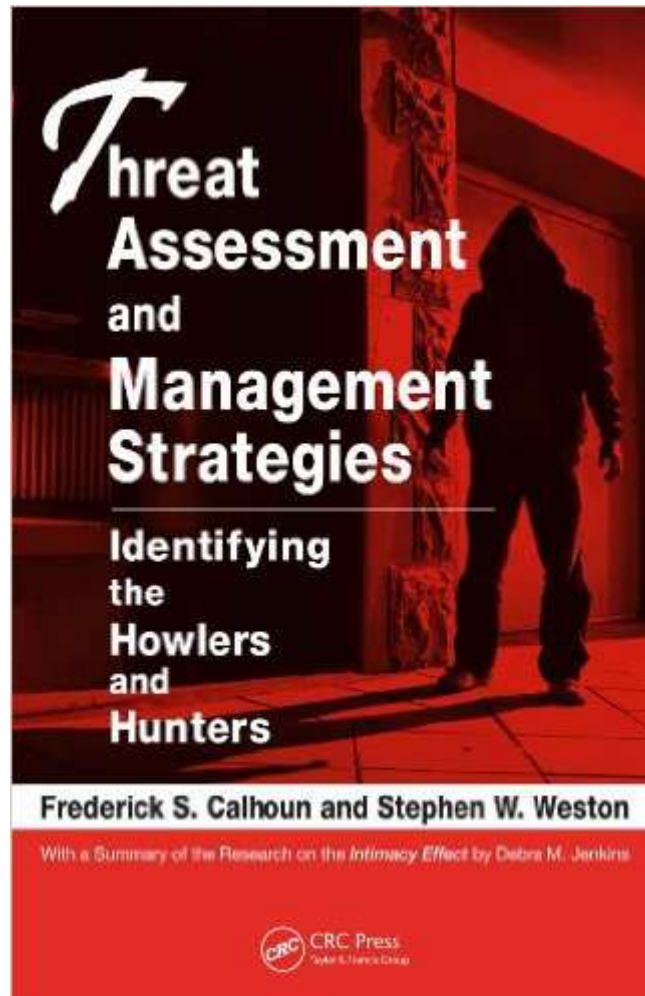


# Parasocial interaction



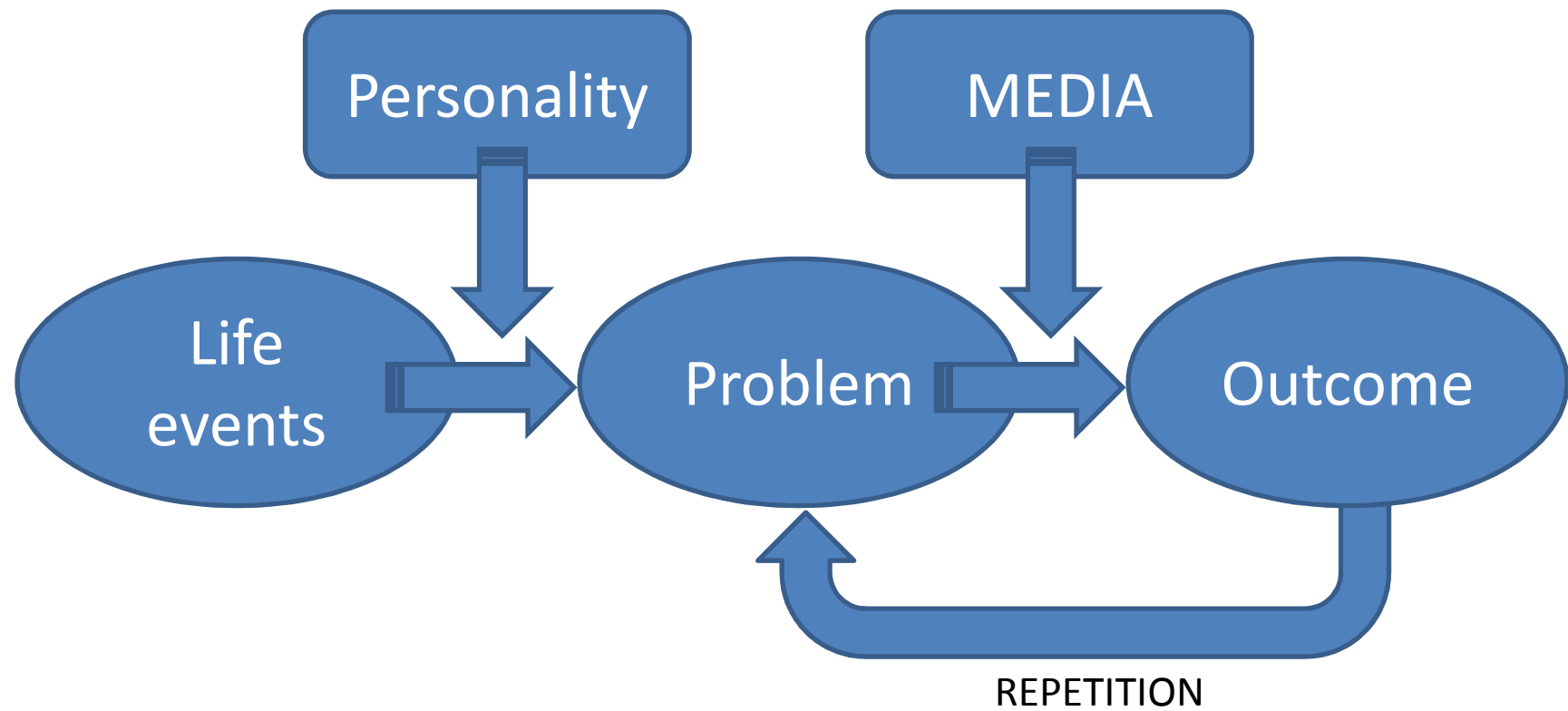


# Lack of interaction



# Media and problem behavior

(pathologies)



# Reinforcing spirals

(putting it together)

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**Grisly ISIS propaganda video shows the brutal executions of victims including an Iraqi soldier who crawls on his hands and knees as he begs for mercy**

• WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT





ISIS has beheaded British aid worker David Haines. The video features the terrorist known as "Jihadi John" ...

### ISIS Executes five British Spies in new Video ... - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUppu932uD0>

Jan 3, 2016 - Uploaded by Media Africa

Guy pulls a Jeep Car using beard watch it video here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_xHycVPevk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_xHycVPevk) Isis ...

### ISIS Kills 21 Christians In Shocking Video - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1KUgYxyFnM>

Feb 17, 2015 - Uploaded by FTD News

ISIS kills 21 Christians in new 5-minute long video showing a line of captive men in orange jumpsuits being ...

### ISIS execution video shows killing of five Syrians ... - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t81Qu1eCGd0>

Jan 4, 2016 - Uploaded by TomoNews US

RAQQA, SYRIA — A suspected British jihadi and an English-speaking boy aged around 5 appear in an ...

### Uncovering intelligence from ISIS video - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH8H0fDbJYA>

Aug 21, 2014 - Uploaded by CNN





# “Grooming from afar”

- Dose
- Impression management
- Emotion



FIG. 34 Samuel Topaz on Facebook.





# Media advice

# Media advice

## Mastermind of Paris terror attacks was linked to at least six UK hate preachers including 'Tottenham Ayatollah' Omar Bakri Muhammad

- Paris attacks mastermind Abdelhamid Abaaoud was killed on Wednesday
- He and other Paris attackers, linked to
- Radical preacher who founded group
- They included an ISIS bomb maker
- [See more of the latest news on the Mirror](#)

By JAY AKBAR FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 17:06 GMT, 22 November 2015 | UPDATED: 22



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Wills and Kate visit India & Bhutan >

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## Paris attacks mastermind Abdelhamid Abaaoud 'planned more terror attacks on Jews, schools and transport system' before siege death

10:43, 28 NOV 2015 | UPDATED 12:41, 28 NOV 2015 | BY RUSSELL MYERS, STEVE ROBSON

The architect of the Paris plot Abdelhamid Abaaoud intending to carry out further shootings before he was cornered by French police

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