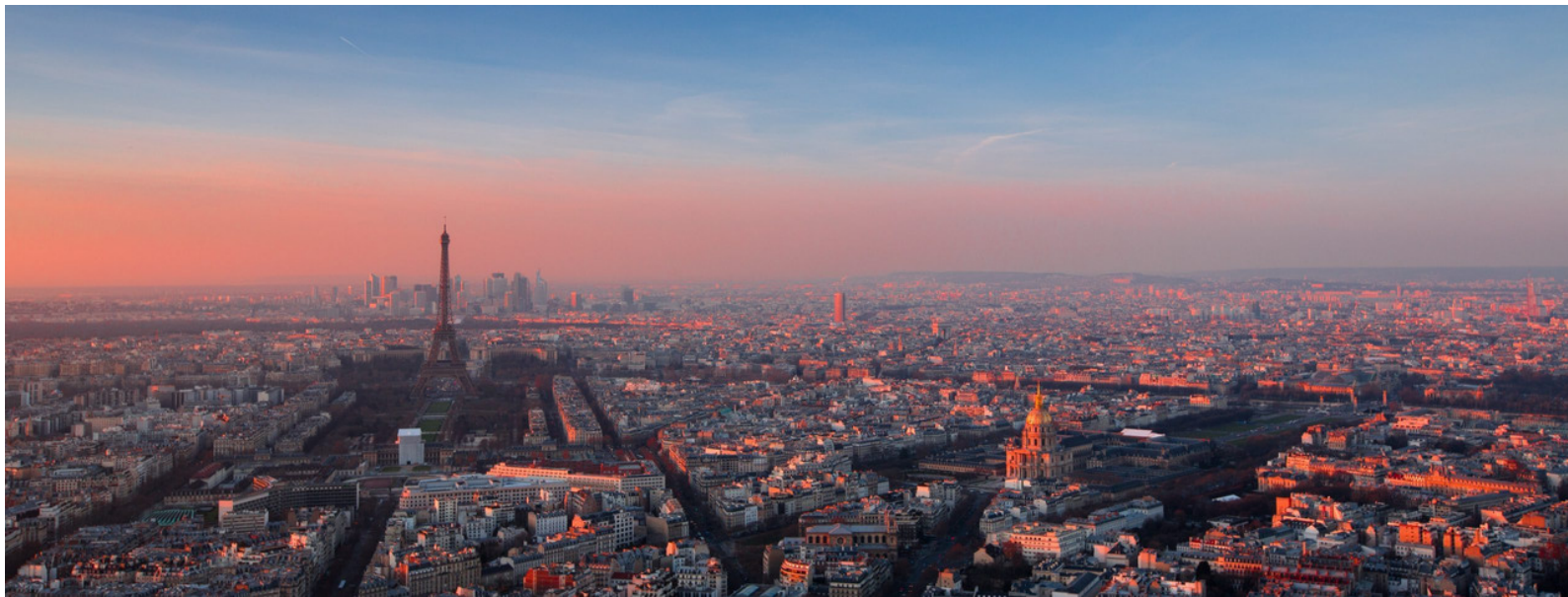




AETAP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Raoul Jaccard, Bram van der Meer

Dear AETAP Members,
Dear colleagues,
Dear all,

As we eagerly anticipate our 15th conference in Paris, we are taking the opportunity with this newsletter introduction to share information about our various 2024-26 objectives and initiatives.

Promoting threat assessment instruments and best practices in Latin countries. Given that the majority of literature and scientifically validated assessment instruments are in English, it seems pertinent for us as a European association to make efforts in making tools, best practices, and exchange of experiences accessible to non-English speakers. The choice of location for our conference this year, efforts to communicate with representatives of local law enforcement, and the organization of simultaneous translation are steps in making this a successful mission.

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AETAP

TOGETHER WE STAND

- Developing and publishing standards of best practice. As a European association, it is important for us to clarify what we mean when referring to threat assessment and management, and what the recommended best practices in the field are. We are getting very close to the end of several months of work with our Canadian colleagues to formulate the "CATAP & AETAP standards of practice". This document will soon be made available to our members, and to our sister organizations across the globe and to the public.
- Enhancing our website with useful tools for professionals in the field. We are working on several projects to enrich the association's website. In addition to a page presenting the CATAP & AETAP standards of best practice, the following achievements are in progress:
 - ·A page briefly introducing various recognized assessment tools with a link to provide direct access to instruments (e.g., triage tools available to members) or to websites where information can be found on how to obtain these tools or receive relevant training;
 - ·A page listing research and literature on various topics in the field (e.g., femicides, violent extremism, workplace violence, stalking/harassment, threats related to psychological disorders, etc.);
 - ·A page presenting different institutions that offer basic and continued education in the field of threat assessment and -management;
 - ·A brief online test that assesses one's skills in the threat assessment / management field and signposts reading suggestions in order to further develop knowledge.
- AETAP board-advisors. To better cover the various domains in which AETAP members are engaged, we have complemented our board with board-advisors. They will provide insights into trends, emerging phenomena and questions related to their discipline and area of influence, ensuring that these areas are included in the content of our conferences. We warmly thank these specialists – who will introduce themselves in this newsletter – for their voluntary commitment alongside us.

We hope that these developments contribute, even modestly, to our association enriching the practices and knowledge of professionals committed to assisting potential victims of targeted violence. Please do not hesitate to stay connected and let us know how to make our association a valuable resource for professionals like you.

Happy reading.

Raoul Jaccard,
AETAP President

Bram Van Der Meer,
AETAP Vice-President



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BOARD ADVISORS

Paul Gill

Paul Gill is Professor of Security and Crime Science at University College London and will be taking on the role of academic advisor to the board. Paul's work focuses on the behavioural underpinnings of radicalisation and terrorism. His current work involves developing the evidence base for risk and protective factors for violent extremist outcomes, the development of measurements of violent extremism, the evaluation of risk assessment and management processes and countering insider threats. He currently manages projects from a range of funders including the European Research Council, the Home Office, and CREST. Collectively his projects have been worth over 14 million euro. Past projects focused upon various aspects of terrorist behavior including IED development, terrorist network structures, lone-actor terrorism, insider threat, domestic abuse, and school shootings. His doctoral research focused on the underlying individual and organizational motivations behind suicide bombing. This piece of research won the Jean Blondel Prize for the best Ph.D. thesis in Political Science in Europe for 2010. He has published in leading psychology, criminology and political science journals and his latest book on violent extremism risk assessment and management is published with University College London Press. In the past 12 months, Paul has provided briefings at the White House, Quantico, Public Safety Canada, the Home Office, Norwegian Extremism Commission, Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals, Europol, and the Swedish Police amongst others.

See Update from the Scientific Community later in this issue for more news from Paul.

Gurdip Rai

Gurdip Rai is a seasoned threat assessment professional with 17 years of experience across diverse corporate environments. She brings expertise in proactive threat identification, risk mitigation strategies, workplace violence prevention, and crisis management. Prior to embarking upon her career in threat management, Gurdip spent over a decade gaining experience in Human Resources where she acted in the capacity of a Business Partner and Employee Relations Investigator. Since joining Google's security team, she has played a pivotal role designing the program for the region before the pilot began in April 2019. In October 2019, the program became fully operational in all 33 jurisdictions within EMEA. Outside of work, Gurdip enjoys the theatre, travel, and channelling her creative energy into furnishing her self-build home.

As a board advisor, Gurdip is committed to bridging the understanding between the corporate world's security needs and the evolving best practices within the threat assessment and management field. Over the past 5+ years, her contributions to workplace violence in the corporate workspace include being an active member of AETAP, attending in person and virtually since joining in 2019, and presenting virtually at 3 x TAPs (AETAP 2022, AETAP 2022 & AfATAP 2022) to share the learnings from creating and setting up a workplace violence prevention program at Google.

Gurdip would bring a DEI perspective from her diverse background. She has 17+ years in the corporate sector with access to other organisations with a wide reach which would benefit interfacing between them and to continue to put AETAP on the map.



PAUL GILL



GURDIP RAI

Google UK is also now a Beacon Member of [EIDA](#) (Employer Initiative of Domestic Abuse), an organisation which supports companies to take effective action on domestic abuse. Beacon Members are leading culture change among UK employers by raising awareness of domestic abuse and supporting their employees who are impacted by it. CARE is proud to be a Beacon Member of this important organisation.

Gurdip considers that she will contribute towards answering the following on behalf of the corporate world:

- How can threat assessment teams better collaborate with HR, legal, and executive teams within corporations?
- What are emerging trends and technologies that TAM professionals should be aware of to optimise corporate threat response?
- How can we balance proactive threat assessment with individual privacy concerns in corporate settings?

She would also help inform TAM professionals on:

- Emphasising the value of proactive vs. reactive threat assessment models in corporate environments.
- Highlighting the importance of tailored risk mitigation plans that address industry-specific and company-specific threats.
- Underscore the need for continuous training and adaptation of threat assessment professionals to stay ahead of evolving risks in the corporate world.

Ibrahim Karakus

Ibrahim Karakus is the Director Corporate Security and Threat management Expert, employed at Deutsche Lufthansa AG. He is also the Co-Founder and Organizer of the „Forum Bedrohungsmanagement FBM (Forum Threat Management). Ibrahim was born in Türkiye but has lived in Germany since his first year of life and completed his school education and studies in Germany, finishing with a diploma in economics. He is father of 2 children, an 18 year old son and a 15 year old daughter.

Ibrahim is pleased to represent and to bring the corporate perspective of threat management in the TAM community. It is important to him to know the requirements, the difficulties, and the challenges of building up an effective corporate threat management organization but also to maintain the organization as an important factor over time. In addition, his offer also extends to detailed knowledge of how to build up an effective threat management within companies and how to position it. Starting with the profile for suitable employees who can take over the role as Threat managers, through the training of these profiles, setting up an effective case management and all the way to the necessary and essential network (!) of internal and external partners.

The FBM is essentially a network of professional threat managers, or those who want to become one, who deal with the topic of threat management at the company level, handle relevant cases in the represented companies and take on the role of threat manager. They are very happy and proud that they already bring together representatives from over 70 companies from the DACH region in the FBM. The main goals of the FBM are building networks, exchanging experiences and technical expertise, and the joint further development of the topic. In addition, they are committed to ensuring that they can work together in a trusting dialogue, that knowledge is pooled and that overall, a recognized professional profile as “Corporate Threat Manager Professionals” is developed. The AETAP board are incredibly grateful to our advisors for giving up some of their previous time to support our work, and very much look forward to working together with them in the future.



IBRAHIM KARAKUS

AETAP CONFERENCE

22nd - 25th April 2024, Paris

We are delighted to be holding our 15th AETAP conference in Paris on 22nd-25th April. This is the first time the event will take place in France, and the first time we will be offering simultaneous translation for our delegates who are French speakers. Twin tracks in the afternoon on each day will also run; one in English and one in French. These changes reflect our ambition, as outlined in the Presidents' introduction, to reach out to our Latin colleagues across Europe and make our shared practices more accessible for all.

At the time of going to press, registration for the conference is still open, although tickets are becoming limited.

Please have a look at our website - <https://www.aetap.eu/next-conference/> - for further details on the program, practical information about the event, or to register to attend so you can share in the latest insights from our field of Threat Assessment and Management.

In addition to the three-day conference, we are honoured that Dr Stephen Hart will be delivering a workshop on Violent Risk Triage using the AVRT tool. The workshop has been designed to be suitable for everyone involved in threat assessment, no matter your level of expertise. Further information is available at the conference link above.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Other changes which are taking place within AETAP include restructuring and enhancing our website to encourage shared learning. We will be introducing a Research page, signposting members to key papers and developments which will be themed according to key threat topics. One of these topics which is likely to impact everyone within the threat assessment community, regardless of their role, is that of gender-based violence. Whether you are a law enforcement officer investigating a domestic femicide, a private security professional responding to an ex-partner stalking case, or a corporate threat manager handling domestic violence reports within the workplace, we all understand the

need to respond to these matters with diligence, sensitivity and up-to-date professional knowledge. AETAP is committed to supporting this response by sharing the latest information and promising developments within this area.

Almost all European countries officially acknowledge the pervasive and heinous nature of gender-based violence in our societies. 44 countries have signed up to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) which was signed by the European Union in 2017 and acceded in June last year. There were at least 2558 victims of femicide, the most extreme form of gender-based violence and loosely defined here

as the gender-related killing of women by men, in 2022 across 37 European countries according to figures provided for the WAVE Country Report 2023. However, inconsistencies in definitions and data collection practices mean that these figures should be taken as estimates and the "the true scale of gender-based killings/deaths of women will certainly be higher". There are nearly always warning signs of the violence to come in these cases which means that they are almost certainly preventable; we just need to be looking for, and responding effectively, to the risk indicators.

Recent research by Rosa Viñas-Racionero and colleagues identified that four indicators of coercive control, as reported by the victims'

and offenders' family members and close friends, were present in 85% of a nationally representative sample of 150 femicides. Physical violence was reported by witnesses as being evident in the six months prior to the femicide in 70% of cases, microregulation and restriction in 75% of cases, an extreme pattern of victim isolation in a third of cases, and episodes of surveillance and pursuit in 40% of cases. Behaviours driven by jealousy were also witnessed in approximately 73% of cases. The researchers discovered through their interviews that gendered dynamics were used to render the victims compliant and submissive, entrapping them within the abusive relationship, and they therefore robustly argue for the inclusion of indicators of controlling and coercive behaviours within domestic violence risk assessment tools. The researchers also found, however, that prior abuse was reported to law enforcement in less than 25% of cases, thereby clearly illustrating the need for alternative and widely available sources of specialist advice and support for women experiencing such abuse.

31 countries in Europe are reported to have implemented a National Action Plan (NAP) in relation to violence against women and girls, which should include specialist and women's centres, national helplines, shelters and prevention programmes. Whilst the extent and efficacy of some of these NAPs is debatable, there are cited pockets of good practice including, for example: Sweden's innovative recognition of the role of dental practitioners in spotting signs of domestic violence and the inclusion of gendered and intimate partner violence modules within dental education programmes; and Serbia's efforts to raise awareness of responsible reporting, implementing the media guidelines developed by the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) in order to improve coverage of gender-based violence and thereby minimising secondary trauma of victims through public exposure.

Spain's "State Strategy to Combat Violence against Women 2022 - 2025" [Estrategia estatal para combatir las violencias machistas 2022 - 2025] has been

implemented to prevent, detect and eliminate violence against women. Their approach, which is often cited as a leading exemplar for tackling these issues, has included legislative changes which make it mandatory to include murders of women and children by men within official statistics, making them the first country in Europe to record and publish femicide figures.

Dr Ismael Loinaz, a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist at the University of Barcelona, shares with us a brief history of the development of Spain's approach to this topic below and showcases a risk assessment and management tool project in the Basque country, from where he has conducted research into intimate partner violence.

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION IN GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SPAIN THE SPANISH CONTEXT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Dr Ismael Loinaz, University of Barcelona

Spain began its battle against gender-based violence with the Organic Law 1/2004, in use since 2005 and focusing exclusively on violence against women in the intimate partner context. The law named this violence as "gender violence", so the translation to the international context is not comparable (gender violence at the international level includes all forms of violence against women because they are women while in Spain it refers only to intimate partner violence). At present, the labelling of the different forms of violence has come to be called "violencia machista" (something similar in its translation to "sexist" violence). Despite the advances that these policies represent, it is also true that the variety of terms and the fact that they do not go hand in hand with international terminology often make academic work difficult.

That 1/2004 law, which will soon be 20 years old, promoted various measures aimed at the protection of victims, including the development of risk assessment and management systems that have been implemented nationwide:

- the VIOGEN system (González-Álvarez, 2019) that has a violence risk assessment tool, the VPR (see López-Ossorio et al., 2019), and versions for the reassessment of cases or the homicide risk (see López-Ossorio et al., 2021)
- the system of the Basque Country (the EPV-R in use by the Ertzaintza and local police [see Echeburúa et al., 2009]),
- the one from Catalonia (QPVR and its reassessment version).

The three police tools are actuarial and focus on risk management through victim protection.

Law 1/2004 also promoted the development of different services, including specific units for risk assessment in forensic medical contexts, the establishment of specific courts for these crimes and the structuring of different measures to support victims, including shelter services, financial assistance, and specialized care services, as well as offender rehabilitation programs in prison and in the community.

Another historic milestone was the case known as La Manada ("wolf pack", the name the sex offenders group used in their WhatsApp group), which occurred during the San Fermin festivity on July 7, 2016. That event marked a turning point in Spain's approach to sexual violence, coinciding with the international "Me Too" movement. From that social and judicial revolt derived the Law known as "Solo sí es Sí" (Only Yes is Yes) (L.O. 10/2022). This law, among other things, establishes the need for explicit consent to sexual relations and thus eliminates the possibility of qualifying the facts as abuse when there is no violence or intimidation to qualify all sexual violence as sexual assault. Despite the progress made, it has also generated controversy due to the possibility of reducing sentences in some cases (a possibility that has even become evident with the downward revision. These, along with other laws and politics, have positioned Spain as a benchmark in the fight against different forms of violence against women, especially intimate partner violence and different forms of sexual violence. Furthermore, these laws are accompanied by the creation of resources such as risk assessment and management systems, as well as treatments for offenders. of some sentences). It also includes regulation on sexual violence with chemical submission ('drug-facilitated sexual assault'), use of internet and social networks.

The procedures for assessing the risk of violence developed in Spain under this law were included, together with other initiatives in Europe, in the project "Risk assessment and management of intimate partner violence in the EU" (EIGE, 2019a,b). In one of the documents derived from the project, it was highlighted that systematic attention to the role of gender in intimate partner violence is evident in countries where risk assessment and risk management of intimate partner violence are embedded in a gendered policy and legal framework (Spain and Sweden) (EIGE, 2019b, p. 19). Today, we can confirm that this focus on gender and violence against women has been further increased by seeking to extend protection to the maximum number of women victims of different forms of violence.

The Ertzaintza project in the Basque Country

We will briefly consider the case of the Basque Country. The Ertzaintza, driven by new policies, asked university researchers to create a risk assessment and management tool that was first launched in 2007. In subsequent years, the tool was revised (reaching the current version -EPV-R- in 2009) and the levels of risk and protection were adjusted to the statistics of cases handled and the management objectives of the police itself (establishing four levels of risk and protection in 2013). In these steps even the opinion of the police officers who applied the tool was considered in order to improve the description of the risk factors. The opinion of the victims is also considered on a routine basis in order to improve police attention and protection. The tool is a risk assessment system linked to victim protection used by the Ertzaintza and local police forces in the Basque Country.

The EPV-R is an actuarial risk assessment and management system. In short, it is a risk assessment tool integrated into the Basque Country's police computer system for the attention of cases of intimate partner and domestic violence. The computer system collects different information on cases, complaints, reports, and there are 20 risk factors corresponding to the EPV-R that quantify the risk, offering the result in four levels linked to the protection of the victim: basic (0-9), moderate (10-17), high (18-23) and special (24-48). The 20 risk factors, if present, are translated into a weighted value (1, 2 or 3 points) derived from their relationship to injuries or attempted homicide (the higher the relationship, the higher the score).

Regarding risk levels, the highest level ('special') allows even 24-hour protection to be assigned to the victim (escort). From this level downwards, the intensity of management strategies is reduced and goes from the offer of a helpline or training in self-protection at the lowest levels ('basic') to accompaniment to court, routine surveillance and counter-surveillance in intermediate levels. The risk levels include the protection measures corresponding to the level as well as lower levels if any. It is worth mentioning a particularity of the system that allows its operation and good results. Police protection is independent of the judicial system and focuses on the victim, not on the offender. This allows cases that are not in court or are awaiting trial (in which a measure such as a restraining order, a GPS bracelet or a preventive or definitive imprisonment may be agreed) to be handled by the police by focusing on the victim and not violating any rights of the potential aggressor. Victims, therefore, are protected according to their level of risk regardless of whether the case

Some readings on the Spanish system (English):

Guide to the system of action and coordination in cases of gender violence in Spain.

Guide to the RIGHTS of women victims of gender violence.

Organic Law 1/2004 "Protection measures against gender violence".

Organic Law 10/2022 on the comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom (google translated).

is still awaiting trial or even if no control measures have been imposed on the perpetrator at the judicial level. In 2024, a project has been initiated for the next four years (2024-2027) in which the current assessment and protection system in cases of intimate partner violence will be reviewed and the prediction and management targets will be extended to cases of child/adolescent-to-parent violence, other domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and trafficking/sexual exploitation. With this, the Basque Government, through the Ertzaintza, seeks to adapt to the new objectives and challenges of the fight against violence against women in different contexts, following recent Spanish laws (these days the development of more protection and a project of new Law on trafficking/ sexual exploitation is being presented) and regulations as well as adhering to international guidelines such as the Istanbul Convention[1].

The challenge we have now is to update and improve the system, including also specific results for the killing of children in cases of intimate partner violence, the detection of multi-victim offenders and multi-offender victims, and to improve the support to the victims and their engagement with the police service. Risk management strategies will also be reviewed for new forms of violence with very special particularities such as

some forms of sexual violence where there is not the target violence equation (known perpetrators/victims) where management can also focus on the detection and control of perpetrators, not the protection of unknown potential victims. The training of police officers doing the assessment and management will be also updated. In this improvement project, collaboration will be sought with other police forces in Europe to learn about their experiences in the care, assessment, and protection of victims of the different forms of violence mentioned above. In this way, we will try to advance towards better protocols and at the same time promote international collaboration that will allow us to learn from successful experiences and also share our experiences. The Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals will undoubtedly be a connecting thread that will help us in this objective. Together we can better fight against violence against women.

Dr Ismael Loinaz, University of Barcelona

[1] As mentioned in their web page, The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as "the Istanbul Convention", requires parties to develop laws, policies and support services to end violence against women and domestic violence. See more info: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/about-the-convention>

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- López-Ossorio, J. J., González-Álvarez, J. L., Loinaz, I., Martínez-Martínez, A., & Pineda, D. (2021). Intimate partner homicide risk assessment by police in Spain: VPR5.0-H the dual protocol. *Psychosocial Intervention*, 30(1), 47-55.

AETAP Conference

We are dedicating Tuesday morning at the conference in Paris to further showcase examples of good practice and research into gender-based violence from across the continent. Dr Loinaz will be presenting on the research he has conducted in the Basque Country. We will also have inputs on: male spousal batterers from Martine Hergoz-Evans (France); the RISKSAM risk management tool from Professor Susanne Strand and Dr Joakim Peterson (Sweden); and observations from police interviews from ex-partner stalkers from Dr Renate Geurts (The Netherlands). The French speaking track will continue to explore models of threat assessment and management in domestic violence during Tuesday afternoon.

UPDATE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

THE GRIEVANCE PROJECT

GRIEVANCE was a six-year project (2018-2023) 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.

As part of the project, Dr. Sandy Schumann examined the effects of exposure to radicalising content on violent extremism intentions. Drawing on a representative U.K. general population sample (N = 1509), they found, for example, the following descriptive statistics:

- 11.3% had searched for books, magazines, or other types of text which support the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals
- 28.0% had discussions in person with people who support the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals
- 7.6% had used the internet to chat online with people who support the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals
- 14.2% had searched for content online like websites, memes, or videos that support the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals
- 7.0% had searched for places where people who support the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals spend time
- 11.4% had searched online for groups or people who support the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals
- 17.5% had used the internet to observe online chat between other people who support the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals
- 16.1% had searched for images or videos of violence to achieve political, religious, or social goals

Those who had actively sought out radicalizing material were associated with stronger violent extremist attitudes and a higher willingness to use violence to attain collective goals than those who hadn't been exposed to any such materials, and those who had passively been sent the materials.

In another study, Paul Gill, Zoe Marchment and colleagues looked at the impact of public holidays on insurgent attacks using Thailand as a case study. Using 12 years of data, the results showed that Islamic holidays witness increased violence while Buddhist and public holidays see reductions.

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM THE WIDER SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

The early part of 2024 has witnessed a number of key papers being released; here Professor Paul Gill summarises some of the highlights:

Michael Jensen and Sheehan Kane have published an examination of **QANON-inspired violence in the United States** by examining 100 QAnon sympathizers who committed crimes in the United States through August 2021: "QAnon adherents have been primarily motivated to commit acts of interpersonal violence, often targeting those around them, including their own children. Moreover, while QAnon offenders come from diverse backgrounds, we find that many share characteristics that distinguish them from other U.S. extremists. QAnon crimes have been committed by a significant number of women, as well as individuals struggling with mental health concerns, substance use disorders, and family disruptions.

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19434472.2021.2013292?casa_token=GvKr9Jep5KAAAAAA%3ARGCSUQrkvSIMBhQ6UH1Dheuz-hJhy4p3zjD0h56N5jmKQ_OzwwF18vvCvRMoFecO1bYjRay48nJ9HA

The Routledge International Handbook of Juvenile Homicide has been published and includes a chapter by **Dewey G. Cornell** on school shootings and threat assessment. As the abstract suggests: “Students who have carried out lethal attacks at their schools have attracted worldwide attention. However, the backgrounds and motives of these youth often do not match typical portrayals. Some fit the common characterization that they are depressed youth who act in retaliation for grievances such as bullying, but many others are delinquent youth with predatory intentions, and a few have serious mental illness with delusional motives. Although there is no psychological profile of a juvenile who commits a school attack, often there are warning signs that make prevention possible. School threat assessment is a promising violence prevention strategy that focuses on identifying angry, distressed, or mentally ill youth at the point where they engage in threatening statements or behavior in order to take supportive and protective actions. Threat assessment also helps school authorities to avoid overreacting to student misbehavior that does not pose a serious threat.”

The 3rd edition of the School Services Sourcebook has been published and includes 35 new and completely reworked chapters. It includes crucial inputs into school-based threat assessment.

https://books.google.ie/books?id=rb30EAAAQBAJ&dq=threat+assessment+&lr=&source=gbs_navlinks_s

Alzaabi and colleagues have published “**A Review of Recent Advances, Challenges, and Opportunities in Malicious Insider Threat Detection Using Machine Learning Methods**”. They conclude that advanced techniques demonstrate notable efficacy in identifying suspicious activities and anomalous behaviors associated with insider threats within organizational systems.

<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/10445123>

GOOD PRACTICE AND INSTRUMENTS

Dr Reid Meloy has announced further validation of the TRAP-18 risk assessment tool, this time including extremism groups and not just lone-actor terrorists. Two new papers – one looking at the Christchurch Mosque Shooter and one at the German Reichsbürger movement - applied TRAP-18 in retrospective case studies and found that it performed reliably. The Christchurch Mosque Shooter study by Allely et al (2023) recommended TRAP-18 for the assessment of individuals of concern, along with the Path to Intended Violence (PTIV) model (Calhoun and Weston, 2003). AETAP board member Karoline Roshdi studied the German Reichsbürger movement along with Hannah Deuse and will be presenting on this topic at our conference in Paris.

Allely, C.S., Wicks, S.J., & McLaren, S.A. (2023) The Application of the Path to Intended Violence Model and the TRAP-18 in the Case of the Christchurch Mosque Shooter. JTAM. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tam000211>

Roshdi, K. & Deuse, H. (2024). (Vereitelte) Taten durch sog. Reichsbürger – Warnsignale anhand der TRAP-18 und Erkenntnisse für die Prävention. Polizei & Wissenschaft

The UK’s Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST) has been publishing a series of papers looking into the links between neurodivergence, specifically Autism, and extremism. In one of the papers, subtitled “The questions that operational practitioners should be asking”, the authors highlight that whilst research currently does not indicate that autism is a causal factor in extremism, a proportion of extremist population nevertheless do have autism. They therefore argue the importance of practitioners involved in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) having a better understanding of the needs, vulnerabilities, and risks of these individuals. In particular, they advocate the utility of the FARAS model – a Framework to Aid Risk Assessments with Offenders on the Autism Spectrum.

<https://crestresearch.ac.uk/resources/practitioner-perspectives-on-counterterrorism-and-neurodiversity>