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Annual Meeting 2016
Quick Fire 2: Terrorism and Radicalization

- A Typology of Terrorist Involvement presented by Neil Shortland
- Terrorist Ideology Project presented by Gary Ackerman
- One God for All? Religion and Group Radicalization presented by Jóhanna Birnir
- Organizational Determinants of Violence and Performance presented by Gina Ligon
- Patterns of U.S. Extremist Crime presented by Steven Chermak
- Unifying Approaches to Adversarial Modeling presented by Julia Smith
- Shadows of Violence: Empirical Assessments of Threats, Coercion, and Gray Zones presented by Barnett Koven
- Using Experimental Research to Study the Dynamics of Radicalization presented by Anthony Lemieux
- Cut from the Same Cloth? Comparing Domestic Extremists and Gang Members presented by David Pyrooz
- Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States-Foreign Fighters (PIRUS-FF) presented by Patrick James
- Recruitment and Radicalization Among U.S. Far-Right Terrorists presented by Pete Simi

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A Typology of Terrorist Involvement
John Horgan & Neil Shortland

Theoretical Principles

- Involvement in the Global Jihad Movement (GJM) is diverse, and theoretical and analytical frameworks need to accommodate this diversity

- There are socio-demographic and behavioral differences between individuals who act alone, and those who acted as part of a terrorist cell or a formalized terrorist group when operating in support of the GJM.

- The relationship between offence type or role type and subsequent sentencing of offenders remains unexplored and poorly understood.

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Neil Shortland

neil_shortland@uml.edu

617-505-7749

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Terrorist Ideology Project

Core Team: Gary Ackerman (PI) & Herbert Tinsley

Goal: Unpack "terrorist ideology" to investigate connections with violent behavior

1,415 artifacts across 19 orgs collected and archived

Open Source Ideologically Relevant Artifacts (Manuals and Supportive Elements)

Definition and Conceptualization of Ideology (Literature Review, Definitional and Conceptualization Scheme)

Extensive lit review and theoretical work (2 papers in prep)

Variables defined and codebook created

Legacy Database

Pilot coding of 4+ groups begun: ~80 variables coded yearly

Representative Sample of Groups and Movements (Geographical, Temporal, Ideological Variety)

Analytical Tools (Operationalized Variables, Codebook, Etc.)

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Gary Ackerman

gackerman@start.umd.edu

301-405-6656

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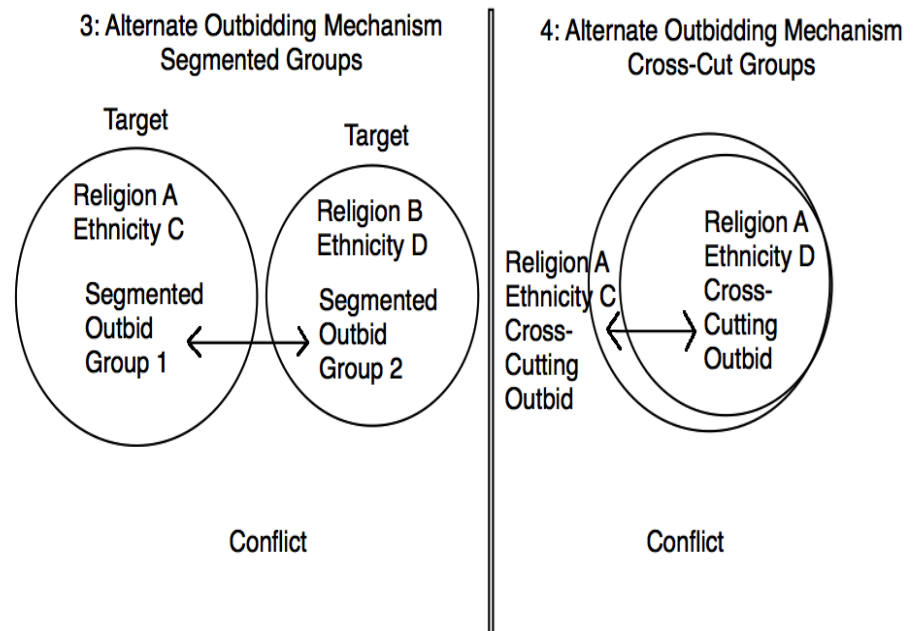
One God For All
Jóhanna K Birnir & Nil S. Satana

- 1202 ethnic majorities and minorities from the All Minorities at Risk data (AMAR) coded for religious family and sect

- Groups matched with a variety of databases on conflict including:
    - AMAR rebellion
    - **Global Terrorism Database 2013**
      All **incidents matched with group**, when sufficient information is available

- Our theory:
  Alternatives in Outbidding. Ethnicity, Religion and Conflict

3: Alternate Outbidding Mechanism Segmented Groups

Target — Religion A Ethnicity C — Segmented Outbid Group 1

Target — Religion B Ethnicity D — Segmented Outbid Group 2

Conflict

4: Alternate Outbidding Mechanism Cross-Cut Groups

Religion A Ethnicity C Cross-Cutting Outbid

Religion A Ethnicity D Cross-Cutting Outbid

Conflict

Jóhanna K. Birnir

Jkbirnir@umd.edu

Nil S. Satana

nsatana@umd.edu

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Organizational Determinants of Violence and Performance
The L.E.A.D.I.R Dataset: Leaders and Online Influence
Gina Ligon, Douglas Derrick, Michael Logan & Julia Fuller

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham: Snapshot

لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله
جبهة فتح الشام

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham Leader
(2012 – Present)

Leadership and Organization
➢ Pragmatic leadership decision making
➢ Hierarchical structure, formalized training
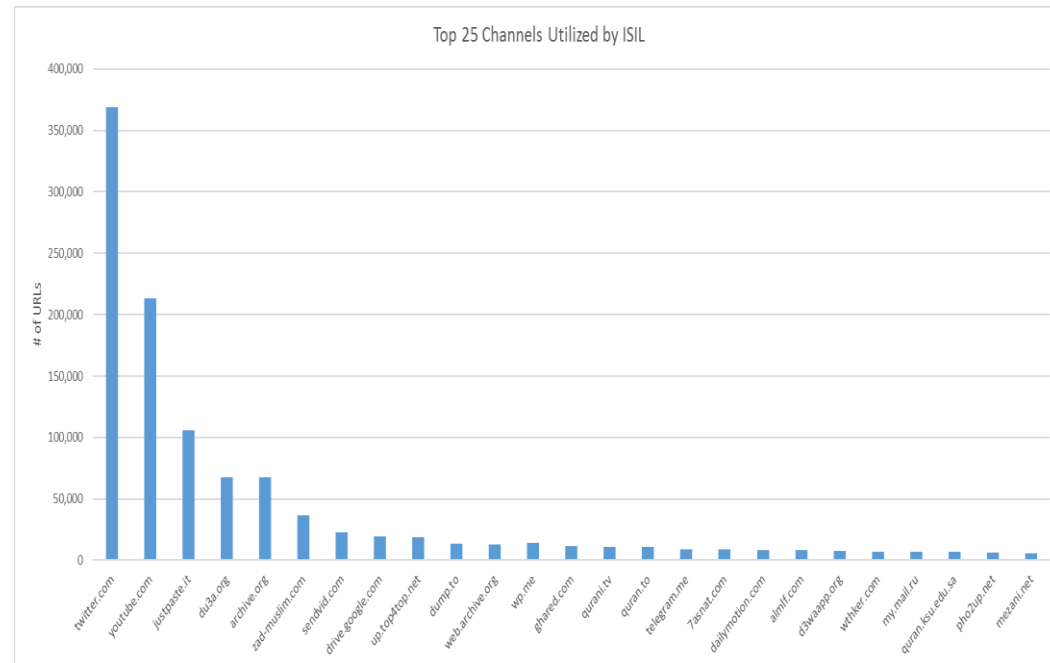
Branding & Online Influence
➢ Counter-ISIL messaging
➢ 2nd to ISIL in terms of presence and diversity

Attack-Level Performance
➢ Attacks often require moderate degree of coordination and expertise.
➢ More likely to attack non-symbolic target and/or victims.

Organizational-Level Performance
➢ Highly effective in recruitment.
➢ Very effective short-term fundraising, but only somewhat effective long-term fundraising.

Top 25 Channels Utilized by ISIL

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Gina Ligon, Ph.D.

gligon@unomaha.edu

Douglas C. Derrick, Ph.D.

Michael Logan, M.A.

Julia Fuller

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Patterns of U.S. Extremist Crime

Joshua Freilich, Steven Chermak, Jeffrey Gruenewald & William Parkin

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	II. ECDB DELIVERABLES
A. Violence (incidents//perps) • 195 //385 FR • 44//88 AQAM • 179//261 ELF/ALF **B.** Financial (schemes//perps) • 659//1379 FR • 177//331 AQAM **C.** Extremist Groups • 375 hate-affiliated groups **D.** Failed/Foiled Plots • AQAM failed/foiled plots against 294 specific/general targets//723 perps • FR failed/foiled plots against 391 specific/general targets//1016 far right perpetrators (in progress)	A. 25 invited research presentations B. DHS (3) & NIJ (2) supplemental funding C. 4 PhD dissertations & 2 others in progress D. 10 book chapters; 10 technical reports, 15 research briefs E. 30+ journal articles including: • JQC (2); CPP; CD • TPV (4); SCT (6); DAC (3); • HS (2); PQ; JIV; JOFV; FC

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A Center of Excellence of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Joshua Freilich

Jfreilich@jjay.cuny.edu

Steven Chermak

Chermak@msu.edu

Jeffrey Gruenewald

Jgruenew@iupui.edu

William Parkin

Parkinw@seattleu.edu

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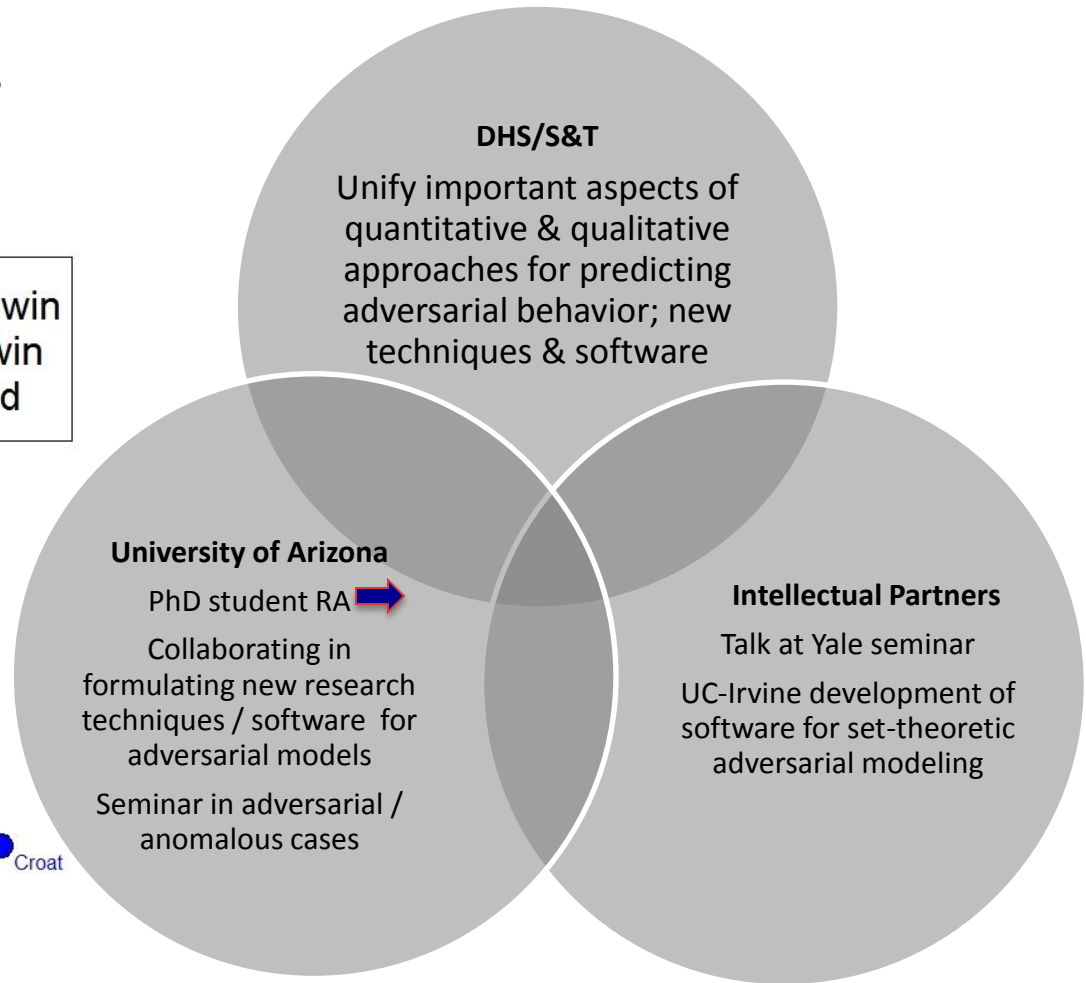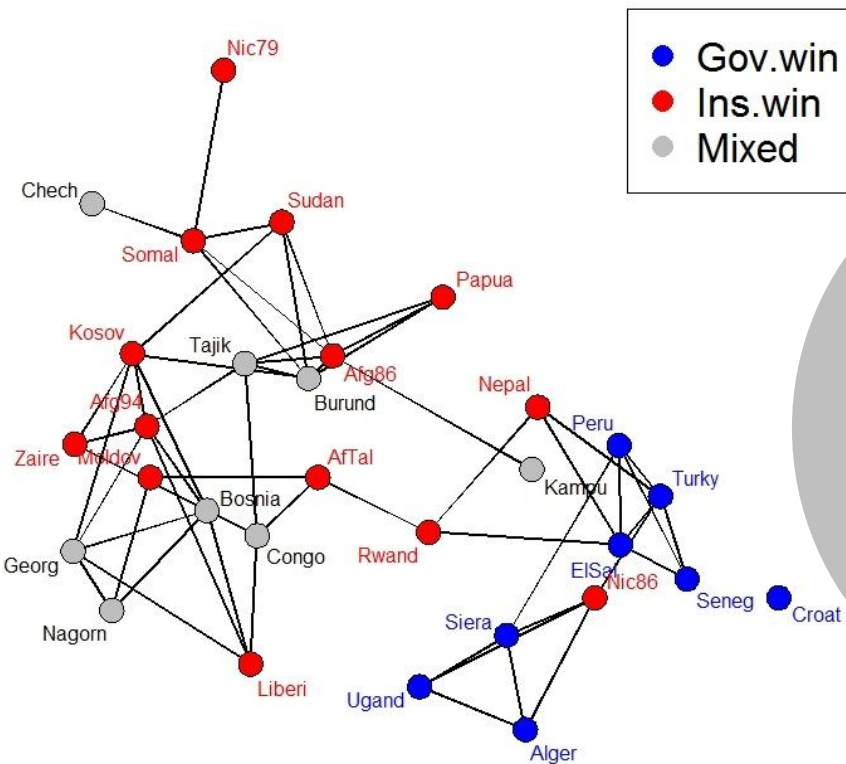*A Center of Excellence of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security*

Unifying Approaches to Adversarial Modeling
Ronald Breiger, H. Brinton Milward & Charles Ragin

Comparative Advantages:
- ◎ Methods for analyzing insurgencies as networks of sequences events
- ◎ Statistical inference for models

DHS/S&T

Unify important aspects of quantitative & qualitative approaches for predicting adversarial behavior; new techniques & software

University of Arizona

PhD student RA ➡

Collaborating in formulating new research techniques / software for adversarial models

Seminar in adversarial / anomalous cases

Intellectual Partners

Talk at Yale seminar

UC-Irvine development of software for set-theoretic adversarial modeling

Ronald Breiger

Breiger@Arizona.edu

(520) 621-3524

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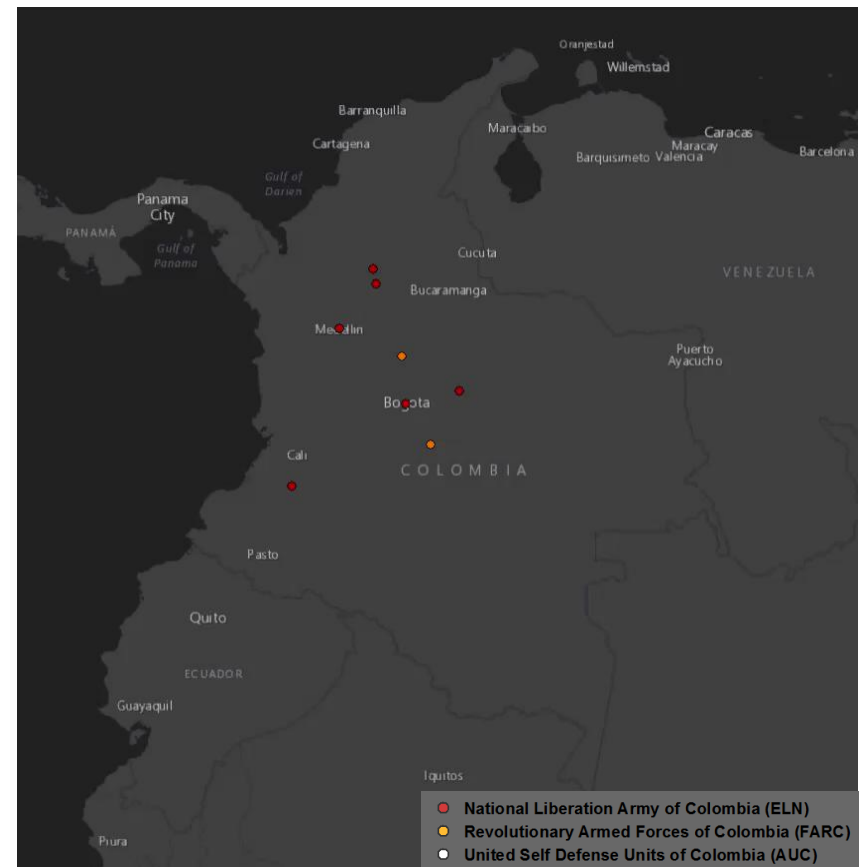*A Center of Excellence of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security*

Shadows of Violence: Empirical Assessments of Threats, Coercion, and Gray Zones

Amy Pate & Barnett S. Koven

- The Gray Zone:
  - Between peace and war
  - Multiple instruments of power
  - Ambiguity/clouded attribution
- Strategy: Develop typology of NSAs to decrease ambiguity
- Approach:
  - Conceptual Mapping
  - Qualitative deep dive on 3 cases
  - Quantitative analysis of event-level data for all 3 cases
  - Bayesian network analysis on Libyan case
  - 3 Simulations

Legend:
- National Liberation Army of Colombia (ELN)
- Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
- United Self Defense Units of Colombia (AUC)

Barnett S. Koven

bkoven@start.umd.edu

(301) 405-9351

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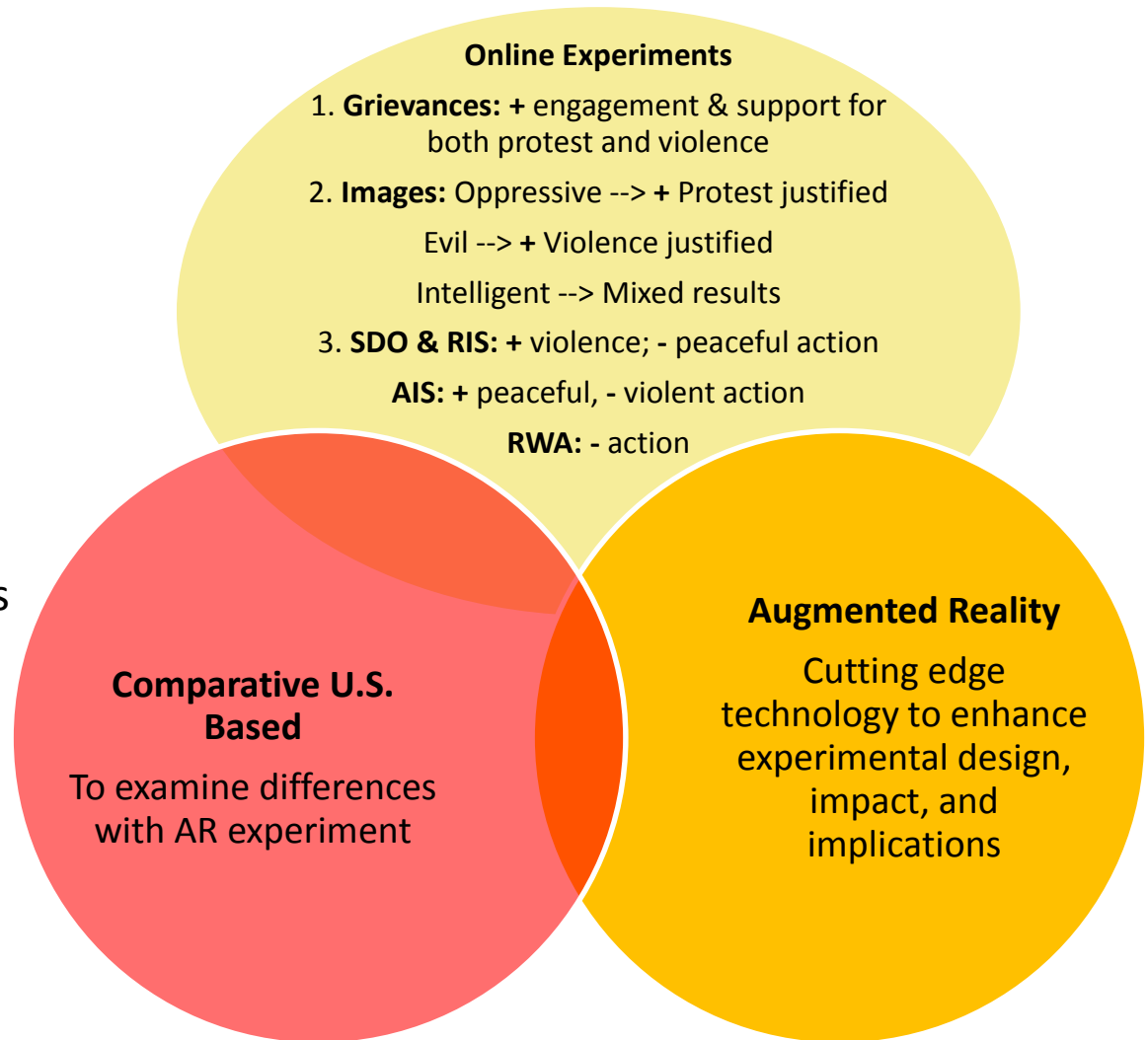*A Center of Excellence of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security*

Using Experimental Research to Study the Dynamics of Radicalization
Anthony Lemieux & Victor Asal

Overall Summary:

• 7 studies, 6 countries, 5,995 participants
• Impact of Grievance
• Impact of Images
• SDO & RWA
• Activism & Radicalism Intentions
• Analyses and Papers in Development (with Erin Kearns - Post-Doctoral Fellow; James Walsh)

Online Experiments

1. **Grievances: +** engagement & support for both protest and violence

2. **Images:** Oppressive --> **+** Protest justified

   Evil --> **+** Violence justified

   Intelligent --> Mixed results

3. **SDO & RIS: +** violence; **-** peaceful action

   AIS: + peaceful, **-** violent action

   RWA: - action

Comparative U.S. Based

To examine differences with AR experiment

Augmented Reality

Cutting edge technology to enhance experimental design, impact, and implications

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Anthony F. Lemieux
alemieux@gsu.edu
860-490-5983

http://gsi.gsu.edu

Georgia State University | GLOBAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

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Cut from the Same Cloth?
Comparing Domestic Extremists and Gang Members

David Pyrooz, Gary LaFree, Scott Decker & Patrick James

Comparisons (N measures):
1. Group involvement (2)
2. Demographics (9)
3. Family (2)
4. Religion (7)
5. Socioeconomic (7)
Total=27 comparisons

Similar in
• *SES*

Gang Extremists
PIRUS
N=82

19%

Adult Gang
Members
NLSY
N=134

60%

Similar in
• *Demographics*
• *Religion*

19%

Non-Gang
Extremists
PIRUS
N=1,391

Inconsistent across domains

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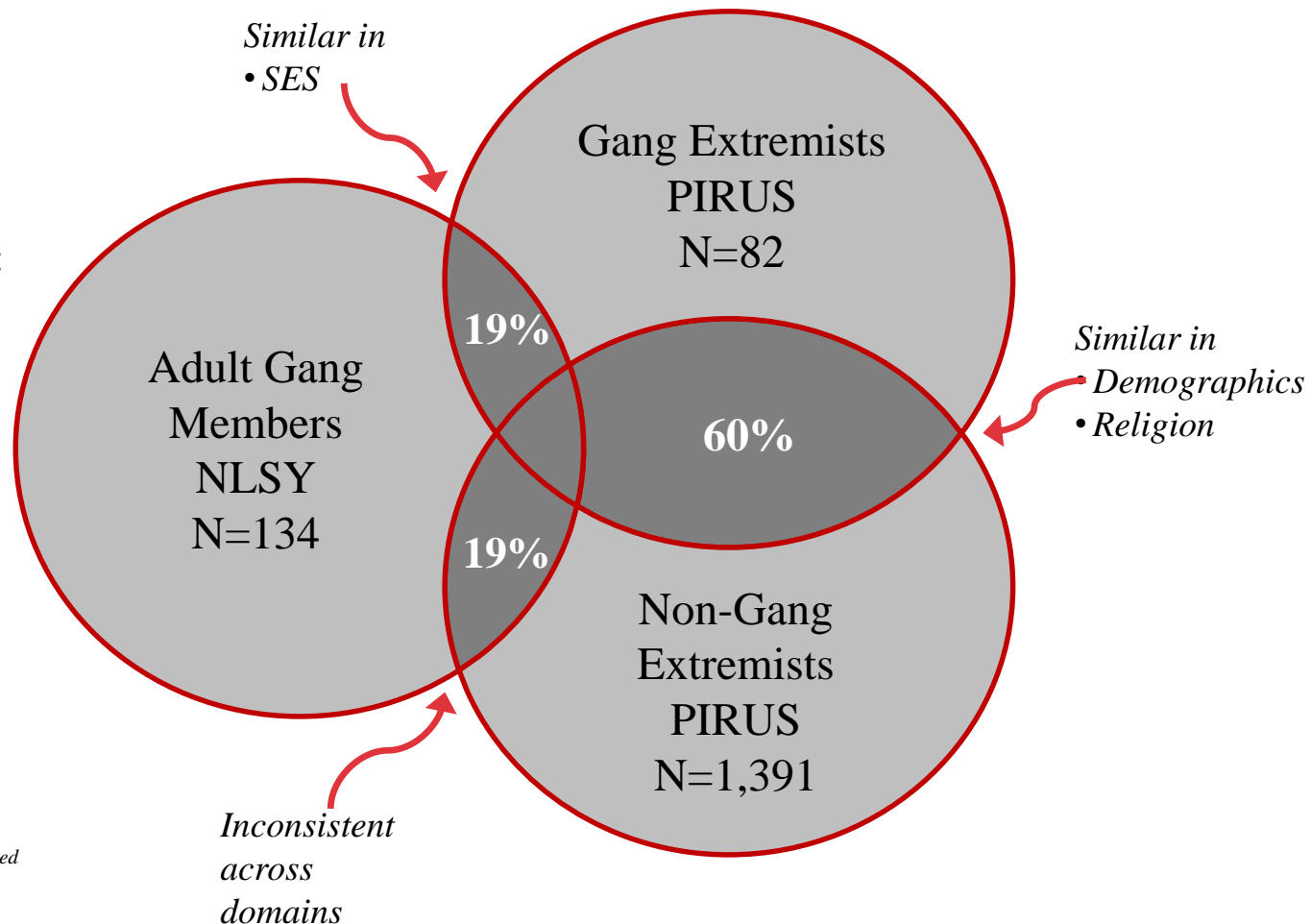
David Pyrooz

David.Pyrooz@Colorado.edu

303-492-3241

@dpyrooz

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Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States – Foreign Fighters

Michael Jensen & Patrick James

- Mixed-methods research to investigate the behavioral patterns of individuals that left, or aspired to leave, the U.S. for the purposes of participating in foreign conflicts
- Cross-sectional database of 260+ U.S.-based foreign fighters from 1980-2016
- Contains 171 variables covering pre-travel, travel, post-travel, and plot-related behaviors
- Funding partners: Office of University Programs, S&T Directorate, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
- Project end date: December 2016
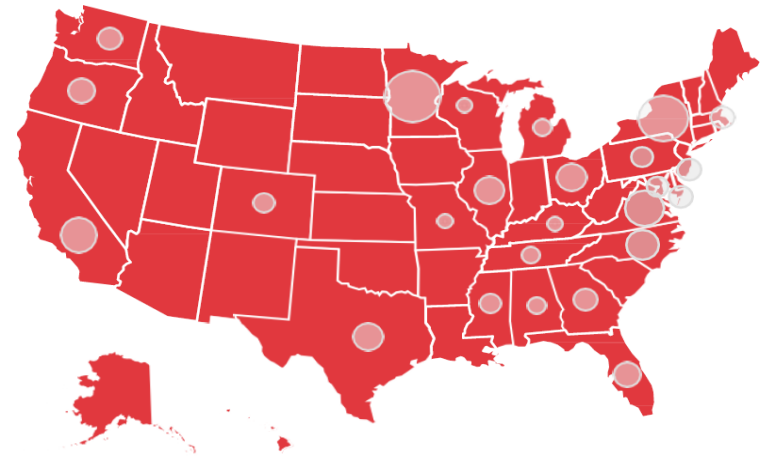
Key findings:
- Reduction in radicalization duration 16.3 mo. in 2002 → 9.8 mo. in 2015
- Observable pre-travel radical behaviors in 95% of cases
- Involvement in domestic plots predominantly from those who express an interest in traveling but do not do so

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Michael Jensen, PhD – Principal Investigator

majensen@start.umd.edu

Patrick James – Project Manager

pajames@start.umd.edu

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Recruitment and Radicalization among U.S. Far-Right Terrorists

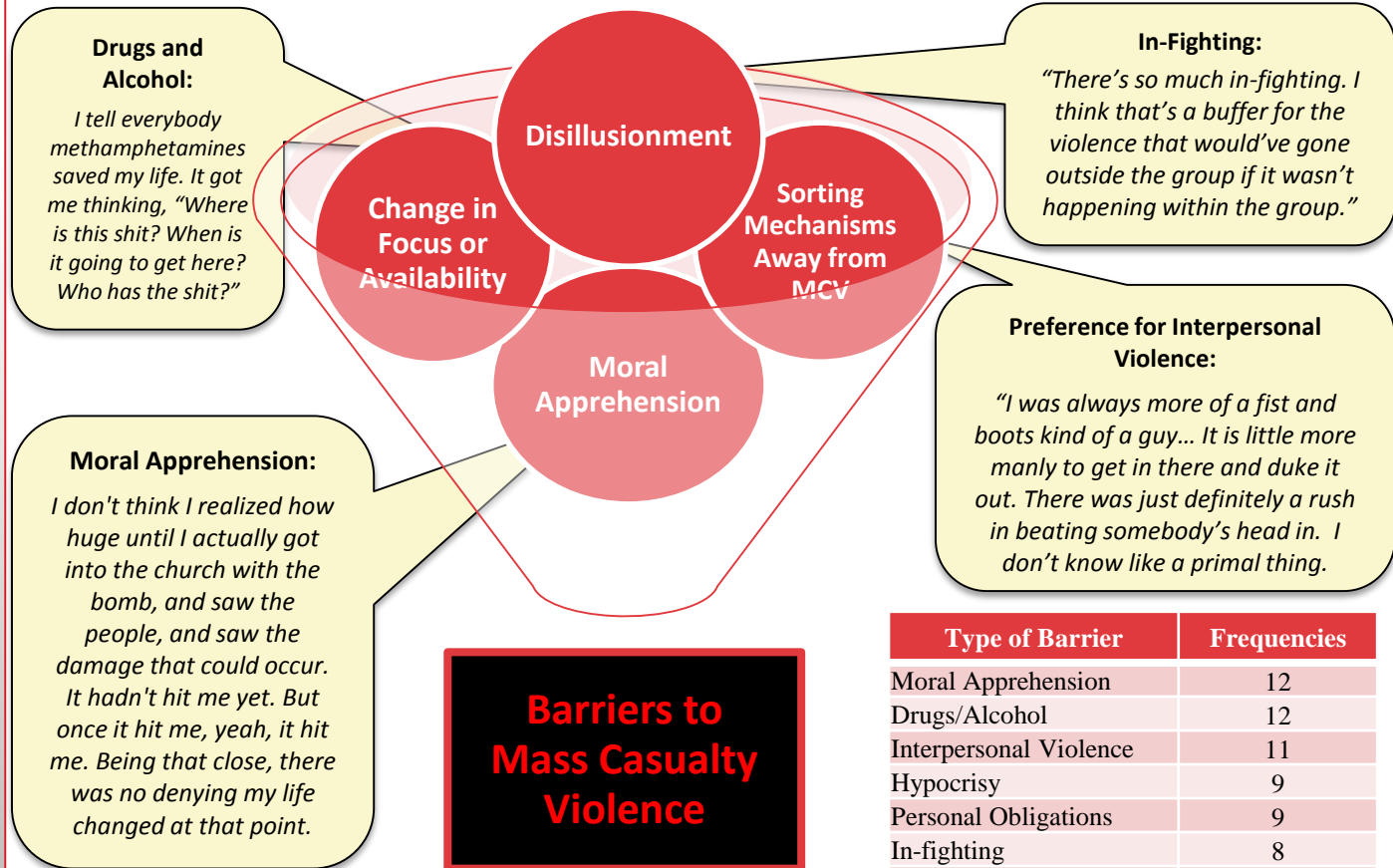## Pete Simi & Steven Windisch

METHODOLOGY

Research Question
- What are the most prominent barriers to preventing violent extremists from committing acts of MCV?

Data Collection and Analysis
- Sample included 34 former white supremacists
  - Participants were recruited through multiple snowball samples
- Data were gathered through life-history interviews
  - Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed into text files
  - Interviews included questions about the subjects' lives prior to involvement, entry into the movement and exit from the movement
- Ethnographic themes related to factors hindering MCV were extracted as part of the analysis

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Counter-message strategies could promote the extent of double standards and "backstabbing" among extremist groups

- Counter-messages could also highlight moral issues by emphasizing the "innocence" of potential victims. These messages could promote individual and organizational preferences toward non-violent political tactics by highlighting the efficacy and righteousness of political activism over MCV

Drugs and Alcohol:

I tell everybody methamphetamines saved my life. It got me thinking, "Where is this shit? When is it going to get here? Who has the shit?"

In-Fighting:

"There's so much in-fighting. I think that's a buffer for the violence that would've gone outside the group if it wasn't happening within the group."

Disillusionment

Change in Focus or Availability

Sorting Mechanisms Away from MCV

Moral Apprehension

Preference for Interpersonal Violence:

"I was always more of a fist and boots kind of a guy… It is little more manly to get in there and duke it out. There was just definitely a rush in beating somebody's head in. I don't know like a primal thing.

Moral Apprehension:

I don't think I realized how huge until I actually got into the church with the bomb, and saw the people, and saw the damage that could occur. It hadn't hit me yet. But once it hit me, yeah, it hit me. Being that close, there was no denying my life changed at that point.

Barriers to Mass Casualty Violence

Type of Barrier	Frequencies
Moral Apprehension	12
Drugs/Alcohol	12
Interpersonal Violence	11
Hypocrisy	9
Personal Obligations	9
In-fighting	8
Counter-productive	6

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Pete Simi
simi@chapman.edu
(402) 594-4817

Steven Windisch
swindisch@unomaha.edu
(573) 462-6399