AVERT International Research Symposium 2024

People, Places, and Spaces: New Dynamics and Shifting Responses to Violent Extremism

29 - 31 October 2024
Deakin Downtown
Melbourne, Australia

www.avert.net.au

AVERT
RESEARCH NETWORK

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WELCOME

Welcome to the AVERT International Research Symposium 2024!

This year's symposium theme is 'People, Places, and Spaces: new dynamics and shifting responses to violent extremism.' In recent years we have witnessed demographic shifts in the people drawn to or participating in violent extremism, the places they come from and the spaces where they participate in and mobilise to violence. These shifting dynamics present new challenges for P/CVE analysis, policy and practice, including how we identify, prevent and address emerging threats and challenges.

The AVERT International Research Symposium 2024 will explore these dimensions, and many more, of the shifting dynamics around people, places and spaces. We are looking forward to the insights this year's presentations will bring and what they mean for violent extremism risk and threat analysis, as well as their implications for policy and practitioner responses.

In keeping with AVERT's mission, we are pleased to bring together Australian and international academics, practitioners and policymakers at the forefront of their field to generate knowledge and exchange understanding. We welcome critical dialogue and robust exchange on the latest evidence and insights.

As part of this year's program, we are delighted to welcome our keynote speaker, Professor Noémie Bouhana from the University College London. Professor Bouhana is one of the most prominent researchers in the field, pioneering research in the social ecology of violent extremism and engaging extensively with government and practitioners. We are also pleased to feature a special virtual address from Dr Ghayda Hassan, a clinical psychologist, professor of clinical psychology and director of the Canadian Practioner Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (RPC-PREV.) As the UNESCO co-chair in Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (UNESCO-PREV), Dr Hassan is recognised as a leader practitioner who has successfully integrated research and practice.

The AVERT International Research Symposium 2024 is convened by the AVERT (Addressing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation to Terrorism) Research Network, with generous sponsorship funding from the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs.

On behalf of the Symposium organising committee, I extend our warmest thanks to all the symposium presenters and participants for joining us. Whether you are joining us locally, from inter-state or overseas, we thank you for coming together for a dynamic intellectual exchange and practical inquiry!

Lydia Khalil
Co-Convenor, AVERT Research Network

SYMPOSIUM VENUE

Deakin Downtown
Level 12, Tower 2, Collins Square
727 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3008
03 9918 9120
Visit the website

Accessing the Venue:

1. Enter Collins Square via the Collins Street entrance underneath the yellow geometric sculpture

2. Make your way across the lobby floor towards the escalators on the right-hand side

3. Ascend the escalators and turn left, following signage to the elevators

4. Select Level 12 on the touch screen and wait to be allocated an elevator letter and then make your way to the corresponding elevator door

5. Upon arrival to level 12, turn right and proceed through the glass sliding doors where you will find our reception desk.

Public Transport:

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There are several Secure and Wilson parking structures within walking distance to Deakin Downtown. Please visit the relevant websites for further information and ensure you check closure times and early bird rates.

AVERT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2024
People, Places and Spaces: New Dynamics and Shifting Responses to Violent Extremism

29 - 31 October 2024
Deakin Downtown, Melbourne Australia

DAY 1 - Tuesday, 29 October 2024		(All dates and times AEDT)
8:30am – 9:00am	Arrival and Registration	
9:00am - 10:45am	**Plenary Session**	
9:00am – 9:30am	**Convener Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country** *Lydia Khalil, AVERT Co-convener*	
9:30am – 9:45am	**Opening Remarks** *Nathan Smyth, Deputy Secretary National Security and Resilience, Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator*	
9:45am – 10:45am	**Keynote Address - Fragmented Social Ecologies: Understanding the Emergence of Fluid Extremism** *Professor Noémie Bouhana, University College London*	
10:45am – 11:15am	Morning Tea	
11:15am – 12:30pm	**Session A: Changes and Challenges: Shifting Demographics of Violent Extremism and CVE**	**Session B: Undefined: Changing Conceptualisations of Terrorism and Public Violence**
	Panel Chair: Assoc Prof Matteo Vergani, Deakin University Understanding Australian Rural-Regional CVE Capacity: Protections, Vulnerabilities, Needs and Resources *Prof Michele Grossman, Deakin University* A New Wave of Violent Extremists? Using PIRUS to Analyse Shifts in Terrorists' Demography, Ideology, Oslaperations, and Victims *Aaron Thomas Calbert and Dr Djordje (George) Stefanovic, The University of Adelaide*	**Panel Chair:** Prof Ramon Spaaij, Victoria University Ideology as a Marker for Motivation: A Flawed Notion? *Assoc Prof Emily Corner, Australian National University* Defining Terrorism: The Centrality of Ideology *Dr Levi West, Australian National University* Operational Implications for the Conceptualisation of Terrorism *Andrew McDowell, Praxis Advisory Pty Ltd*

	Examining Change in Conspiracy Beliefs and Violent Extremism over Time *Dr Bettina Rottweiler, University College London*	
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30pm – 2:30pm	**Discussion/ Workshop**	
	People, Places and Spaces: Exploring Future Violent Extremism Threat Landscapes and P/CVE Responses *Facilitator: Prof Michele Grossman, Deakin University*	
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:00pm – 4:15pm	**Session A: Disengagement and Diversion**	**Session B: How does the online environment influence people's vulnerability to radicalisation? New evidence from a national survey on online Australians**
	Panel Chair: Isel Ras, Impact Pathways The Disidentification from Extremist Groups as the Prerequisite Step in the Process of Disengagement from Extremism *Muhammad Syafiq, Universitas Negeri Surabaya and University of Queensland* Facilitating Disengagement from Violent Extremism: An Evidence-in-formed Theory of Change for the Community Integration Support Program *Professor Ramón Spaaij, Victoria University and Utrecht University and Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Victoria University* Inoculation Against Online Extremism: An Agent-based Simulation and Cost-benefit Analysis *Dr Andrea Giovannetti, Australian Catholic University*	**Panel Chair:** Assoc Prof Emily Corner, Australian National University Exposure to and Sharing of Fringe or Radical Content Online *Dr Timothy Cubitt, Australian Institute of Criminology* Is Exposure to Fringe and Radical Content Online Associated with Increased Support for Violence? *Anthony Morgan, Australian Institute of Criminology* Relationship Between Media Literacy, Conspiratorial Beliefs, Anti-government Sentiment and Support for Violence *Dr Siobhan Lawler, Australian Institute of Criminology*
4:15pm – 4:30pm	**Closing Remarks**	
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DAY 2 - Wednesday, 30 October 2024	(All dates and times AEDT)
8:30am – 9:00am	Arrival and Registration
9:00am – 10:15am	**Plenary Session**
9:00am – 9:15am	**Welcome/Housekeeping**
9:15am – 10:15am	**I Know it Works But Not Sure Why: Practitioners Success and Challenges in PVE** *Dr Ghayda Hassan, Director, Canadian Practioner Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (RPC-PREV)*
10:15am – 10:45am	Morning Tea

10:45am – 12:00pm	**Session A: Rethinking Risk: New Issues and Dilemmas in Risk Assessment**	**Session B: Neurodiversity and Violent Extremism: An International Update**	**Phd and Early Career Researcher Workshop by Invitation**
	Panel Chair: Prof Michele Grossman, Deakin University Beyond Extremism, Radicalization, and Risk Factors: A Review on the Use of Risk Assessment Instruments for Terrorism and a Proposed Focus on Behavioural Indicators *Astrid Bastiaens, Maastricht University* From Discrimination to Grievance-fuelled Violence: When and For Whom Do Perceived Threats Increase Risk Toward Engagement in Anti-Muslim Behaviours and Violence? *Dr Bettina Rottweiler, University College London*	**Panel Chair:** Dr Zainab al Attar, University of Central Lanchashire The Relationship Between Neurodiversity and Violent Extremism: The Literature *Dr Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University and UClan and Dr Nadine Salman, University of St Andrews* "30 seconds and 3 clicks...into the rabbit hole": A Dual Study Investigating the Risk and Vulnerability Factors for Radicalisation for Autistic Individuals Referred to Prevent *Dr Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University and UClan*	**Workshop Chairs:** Haily Tran, AVERT HDR Coordinator and Dr Jared Dmello, The University of Adelaide Skills Building and Networking Workshop for Doctoral Candidates and Early Career Researcher by invitation only

	Trends in Demographic, Psychological, Criminological, and Societal Factors: Using Deep Learning Neural Networks to Gauge Risk for Violent and Nonviolent Extremist Behaviors *Asst Prof Kurt Braddock, American University* Linking Conspiracy Beliefs with Violence: A Scoping Review of the Empirical Literature *Dr Emma Belton, Griffith University*	Practitioner Perspectives on Violent Extremism and Neurodiversity *Dr Nadine Salman, University of St Andrews* Violent Extremism and Autism: Findings From 18 International Case Studies *Dr Nadine Salman, University of St Andrews*	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch		
1:00pm – 2:00pm	**Discussion/ Workshop**		
	Identifying Common Challenges of P/CVE Practitioners and Discussing Possible Solutions *Facilitator: Dr Kelly Mischel, Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria*		
2:00pm – 3:00pm	**Session A: Men at Arms: The Intersection of Violent Extremism and Masculinities**	**Session B: Connectivity and Evolution in Far-right Movements**	
	Panel Chair: Dr Timothy Cubbit, Australian Institute Criminology Mapping the Neo-Manosphere(s): New Directions for Research *Dr Vivian Gerrand, Deakin University* The Role of Precarious Masculinity and Male Victimhood in Shaping Far-right Online Engagement Among Australian Men *Haily Tran, Deakin University*	**Panel Chair:** Dr Helen Young, Deakin University Political Parties and Online Radicalisation in the Australian Far-Right Landscape *Callum Jones, Deakin University* Profiles of Far-Right Hate in the US: Beyond Myths of Disadvantage and Marginalisation *Assoc Prof Matteo Vergani, Deakin University*	
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Tea		

3:30pm – 4:45pm	Session A: Climate Security as a Driver for Emerging Peoples, Spaces, and Places within the Violent Extremism Landscape	Session B: Responding to youth radicalisation: Trans-Tasman developments in policy and practice
	Panel Chair: Lydia Khalil, AVERT Research Network Framing Climate Change as a Security Threat: Implications for Activism and Policy *Dr Saira Ali, The University of Adelaide* 'Darkening White Countries': Mainstreaming Climate Disinformation in the 'Global North' *Dr Eszter Szenes, The University of Adelaide* Exploring the Spatial Relationship between Climate Change and Terrorist Activity: An Empirical Framework for Policymakers and Practitioners *Dr Jared Dmello, The University of Adelaide*	**Panel Chair:** Mark Duckworth, Deakin University "I'm not super familiar with children's ecosystems online": Expert Assessments on the Effects of Early Childhood Exposure to Extremism Online *Jade Hutchinson, Macquarie University* Statutory Social Work for Radicalising and Extremist Youth – An Emerging Practice Issue for Aotearoa New Zealand *Dr Tony Stanley and Carol Kitson, Oranga Tamariki*
4:45pm – 5:00pm	**Closing Remarks**	
5:00pm – 6:30pm	**Networking Reception**	
DAY 2 Close		

DAY 3 - Thursday, 31 October 2024	(All dates and times AEDT)	
8:30am – 9:00am	Arrival and Registration	
9:00am - 9:15am	**Welcome/Housekeeping**	
9:15am – 10:30am	**Session A: Virtual Spaces and Violent Extremism**	**Session B: Culture, Conspiracy and Representation on the Extreme Right**
	Panel Chair: Dr Vivian Gerrand, Deakin University Extremism in Games: The Emerging Landscape *Dr Rachel Kowert, Take This* The Gamification of Mass Violence: Social Factors, Video Game Influence, and Attack Presentation in the Christchurch Mass Shooting and Its Copycats *Prof Adam Lankford,* *The University of Alabama* Mapping Virtual Hate in Real World Spaces *Assoc Prof Matteo Vergani, Deakin University and Sophie Murray Farrell, NSW Government*	**Panel Chair:** John Young, South Australia Government Australian Neo-nazi Strategies of Violence *Dr Kaz Ross, independent researcher* Places of Violence: Prose Fiction, Cultural Imaginaries, and the Making of Far-right Subjectivities *Assoc Prof Bernhard Forchtner, University of Leicester* Far-Right Narratives in Literature for Young People *Dr Helen Young and Assoc Prof Kristine Moruzi, Deakin University*
10:30am – 11:00am	Morning Tea	
11:00am – 12:15pm	**Session A: International Perspectives on Radicalisation: Gender, Trauma and Youth**	**Session B: Contextual Influences on Radicalisation and Violent Extremism Pathways**
	Panel Chair: Dr Jared Dmello, The University of Adelaide Exploring How Gender and Traumatic Events Influence Individual's Decision to Take on Supporter or Fighter Roles: The Case of Ambon, Indonesia *Nungky Hodijah, Deakin University* Trauma-informed Responses are Crucial for Preventing Violent Extremism in Africa *Isel Ras, Impact Pathways*	**Panel Chair:** Assoc Prof Joshua Roose, Deakin University Salafi-Jihadist Mobilisation: A Thematic Analysis of Narratives of Citizenship Revocation and Statelessness *Dr Stephanie Scott-Smith, Macquarie University*

	The Role of Young People in Countering Violent Extremism Online: The Case of the Bangsamoro in the Philippines *Dr Primitivo III Cabanes Ragandang, Mindanao State University*	The Changing Dynamics of CALD Community Engagement: CVE, Social Cohesion and Practitioner Views on the Skill Sets and Strategies Needed *Paul Schmidt, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Queensland Government and Dr Serge Loode, Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA)*
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch	
1:15pm – 2:30pm	**Session A: Support for Democracy, Violence and Violent Extremism: Understanding Trajectories Across Time**	**Session B: Differently Abled Actors and Violent Extremism: Emerging Challenges**
	Panel Chair: Prof Winnifred Louis, University of Queensland Cross-sectional and Longitudinal Analysis of Social, Political, and Temporal Predictors of Support for Democracy and Political Violence in Queenslanders *Charlie Pittaway, University of Queensland* Spatial Dynamics of Radical Action in Queensland: A Postcode-level Analysis of Support for Different Causes and Willingness to Act Radically on Behalf of the Cause *Dr Susilo Wibisono, University of Queensland* Decision-making as Foundations for Extremist Action: When Do Interactions Between Authorities and Protesters Drive (Latent and Overt) Radicalism? Using Agent-Based Models to Simulate Trajectories of Engagement and Extremism *Prof Emma F. Thomas, Flinders University*	**Panel Chair:** Sophie Murray Farrell, NSW Government Understanding Vulnerability to Radicalisation Among Individuals with Impaired Functional Capacity: Insights from Allied Health Professionals *Dr John Young, Department of Human Services SA* Blind Faith: Exploring the Ways in which Violent Extremists Exploit Disabled Operatives *Prof Mia M Bloom, Georgia State University and Dr Jared Dmello, The University of Adelaide* The Incel Paradox: Does Collective Self-Loathing Facilitate Radicalisation or Belonging? *Bo Min Keum, University of Cambridge*
2:30pm – 3:00pm	**Plenary Reflection and Discussion Session**	
3:00pm – 3:15pm	**Closing Remarks** *Lydia Khalil, AVERT Research Network*	
3:15pm – 3:45pm	Afternoon Tea (optional)	
DAY 3 Close		

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS
DAY 1 - TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2024

9:00AM - 10:45AM PLENARY SESSION

Fragmented Social Ecologies: Understanding the Emergence of Fluid Extremism
Prof Noémie Bouhana, University College London

Ours is a contested and volatile world, where rapid, unexpected global shocks affect citizens' daily lives. Like many other domains of modern activity, the extremism problem space is vast, diffuse, unstable, and growing more so. Threats characterised by ideological fluidity, fractional groups, incompatible beliefs and idiosyncratic grievances fall increasingly outside of established taxonomies. Radicalisation, once a term reserved for violent political extremists, now describes the process by which people come to adopt deeply misogynistic, wildly conspirationist or dystopian moral frames, to name but some. In this ultra fragmented moral ecology – a 'smorgasbord' of alternative influences and influencers – the line between fringe and mainstream can blur. To wit: the conspiritual Wellness movement, in which a radical fringe rubs shoulders with the broader population, contributing to a startling number of 'Anti-Vaxxers' during the recent COVID pandemic.
How can we account for the emergence of these increasingly fluid forms of extremism? Basic human needs haven't changed in any essential way. Human social ecologies, however, have evolved radically. Reliance on social media, apps, AI and Mixed Reality has grown astonishingly fast. Challenges to traditional authoritative sources prompt fundamental concerns about decreasing levels of social cohesion and trust associated with polarisation and tribalism, the retreat of democratic mores, and a correspondingly lower collective resilience to systemic shocks and greater vulnerability to malevolent exploitation. Socialisation is blended, occurring through a mix of online and offline (onlife), global and local, voluntary and involuntary exposure for many individuals, with population-level consequences we are only beginning to apprehend. In a mirror of processes happening in the natural world, real and virtual human habitats are splittinginto ever smaller, discontinuous and isolated segments. Out of this self-sustaining ecological fragmentation emerges fluid social ecologies giving rise to fluid vulnerabilities and, in turn, fluid forms of extremism. No one group of stakeholders – public or private – can deal with this challenge. Responding to fluid forms of extremism requires asking different questions, adopting different research methods, fostering different partnerships and designing different strategies and programmes than we have to this point, splitting the onus more evenly between people and places. In this address, I do not claim to provide all or even some of the solutions to these challenges but hope to stimulate discussion during this important symposium.

11:15AM - 12:30PM
SESSION A: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES: SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND CVE

Understanding Australian Rural-Regional CVE Capacity: Protections, Vulnerabilities, Needs and Resources
Prof Michele Grossman, Deakin University

CVE policy and programming over the last two decades has largely focused on the risks and threats of terrorist actors and attacks in urban environments. Urban-based paradigms of violent extremism – who was involved, the threats it posed to community wellbeing and safety, and how best to deal with these challenges – were often able to draw on pre-existing resourcing, infrastructure and networks within metropolitan communities, including services, community leadership and metropolitan-based state and NGO resources. Yet while we have a reasonably strong grasp of how metropolitan communities are resourced and enabled in preventing violent extremism, we know far less about CVE protective factors and vulnerabilities for regional and rural communities. This includes how the communities around people who may be at risk of radicalising to violence in rural and regional areas understand the early warning signs of radicalisation to violence; the boundary line between legitimate dissent and illegitimate violent action; what resources local communities can leverage for support and intervention in local contexts. This paper presents some preliminary findings from a cross-jurisdictional study on how Australian rural-regional communities understand and relate to issues around radicalisation to violence and its prevention. Our findings highlight the importance of nuanced and highly localised assessments of CVE capacity that build on existing community assets while addressing gaps in resourcing and needs.

A New Wave of Violent Extremists? Using PIRUS to Analyse Shifts in Terrorists' Demography, Ideology, Operations, and Victims
Aaron Thomas Calbert and Dr Djordje (George) Stefanovic, University of Adelaide

Although a vast body of scholarship has been dedicated to the identification of radicalization risk factors for violent extremists in general, less attention has been given to the differences between specific ideological groups. Our research aims to address this gap by using the Profiles of Individual Radicalization (PIRUS) dataset to systematically compare jihadist, white supremacist and sovereign citizen violent extremists in terms of their demographic and socioeconomic makeup, radicalisation history and modus operandi. While preliminary analysis shows similarities with respect to gender, education and employment prior to radicalisation, significant differences are also revealed. In contrast to jihadists and white supremacists, sovereign citizens are more likely to have a military experience, to live above the poverty line and to be radicalised by family members. Furthermore, jihadists are more likely to target armed forces, white supremacists prefer to attack minorities and private property, and sovereign citizens specialise in attacks on law enforcement institutions and officers. White supremacists are the most likely to succeed in executing their plots despite having the least amount of covert preparation. Following on the methodological approach of Jasko et al. (2022), we use multiple imputations and

multivariate analysis and test the generalisability of the preliminary findings on the wider population. Finally, we discuss the implications of the findings for Australian P/CVE practitioners, especially for the rising threat from sovereign citizens.

Examining Change in Conspiracy Beliefs and Violent Extremism over Time
Dr Bettina Rottweiler, University College London

The spread of conspiracy theories and violent extremist ideologies threaten to undermine our democratic foundations and create fundamental issues of trust on which our democracy lies. The COVID-19 pandemic, the growth of anti-government/anti-establishment movements as well as political elites and mainstream media figures increasingly propagating extreme rhetoric and conspiracy beliefs, have led to increasing polarization between social and political groups. To address these growing issues, we conduct prospective-longitudinal online surveys among the U.S. population (5 waves, 1500 each) throughout the U.S. 2024 presidential election year. We apply latent growth curve modelling to examine potential temporal changes and growth trajectories in conspiracy theories propagated and to monitor changes in extremist attitudes, intentions and behaviours among the general population. By conducting these first-of-a-kind longitudinal surveys on the trajectories of different violent extremist outcomes, conspiracy theories as well as their a sociated risk and protective factors prior and leading up to the U.S. general election, we provide unique insights into the developmental trajectories and causal mechanisms.

SESSION B: UNDEFINED: CHANGING CONCEPTUALISATIONS OF TERRORISM AND PUBLIC VIOLENCE

Ideology as a Marker for Motivation: A Flawed Notion?
Assoc Prof Emily Corner, Australian National University

Acts of extreme violence perpetrated by lone offenders have become increasingly common in liberal democracies over the past 20 years. Some describe these acts as ideologically motivated, while others attribute them to mental disorder or criminal intent. This has led to the development of distinct areas of research and practice. However, despite the enduring tendency to silo these actions, there is an increasingly shared view that the distinction between political ideology, criminal intent and personal motivation is in fact blurred. There is an increasing number of instances in which assigning an offender to a particular category has proven problematic, and this has led to an emerging consensus that the use of ideology as a sole marker for motivation may be flawed. This paper argues that the motivation for some instances of extreme violence defined as either terrorism, mass murder, fixation, stalking or familial and intimate partner homicide may be better understood through an application of the broader concept of grievance-fuelled violence.

Defining Terrorism: The Centrality of Ideology
Dr Levi West, Australian National University

Defining terrorism has proven an elusive and ephemeral project within terrorism studies, and universal agreement on the definition of an inherently contentious activity remains as unlikely as it did when the field first coalesced in the early 1970s. This paper provides an expanded consideration of the centrality of ideological motivation as a necessary characteristic of actions that can be conceptualised as terrorism. In doing so it revisits the historical evolution of terrorism as a phenomenon, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between ideology and violence, and the communicative dynamics of terrorism. Recentering and reconceptualising ideology in the understanding of terrorism can provide valuable parameters that can minimise the misuse and misapplication of an overwhelmingly powerful rhetorical tool, policy enabler, and political delegitimization device.

Operational Implications for the Conceptualisation of Terrorism
Andrew McDowell, Praxis Advisory Pty Ltd

The definition and conceptualisation of terrorism has significant implications for the operational aspects of counterterrorism. In addition to underpinning the significant authorities and mandates of both domestic and international counter terrorism operations, clarity regarding how to respond, and what agencies and departments have jurisdiction is fundamentally linked to how governments conceive of, and define, terrorism, and the delineations they make between the complex, multifactorial motivations of individual acts of violence. The determination of an incident as a terrorist act, or a perpetrator as a terrorist, has immense implications for counter terrorism practice, for potential P/CVE interventions, and for those alleged to be terrorists. At the intersection of youth engagement with extreme ideology, individual mental health challenges, and ideological engagement is a complex interplay of various policy frameworks, political considerations, and long-term community and individual consequences. Recognising that not all incidents that are designated as terrorist in nature are necessarily so, and that many incidents that meet the elements of terrorism are not publicly declared as such, is an important understanding for improving our responses to increasingly complex public violence.

3:00PM - 4:15PM
SESSION A: DISENGAGEMENT AND DIVERSION

The Disidentification from Extremist Groups as the Prerequisite Step in the Process of Disengagement from Extremism
Muhammad Syafiq, Universitas Negeri Surabaya and University of Queensland

The existing literature indicates that the process of disengagement from extremism involves building an alternative social identity. However, only a few studies have examined the initial process of disengagement from extremist groups. This paper will explore the social psychological mechanism of dis-identification and how it represents the initial first steps of the disengagement process. This paper draws on interview data from 38 ex-terrorist convicts from an Islamist ideology in Indonesia. The paper will cover the emotional experiences related to involvement, capture, and imprisonment, that led

participants to reevaluate their participation in extremist activities. This process involves redefining a sense of self in light of one's past involvement (e.g. contesting the extremist identity in favour of a family-based role identity) and dealing with negative evaluations of one's in-group members (e.g. questioning the true meaning of "jihad", disputing the character of other members). This re-evaluation requires cognitive, emotional, and physical detachment from extremist group members and can be facilitated by the actions of third parties e.g., family members and prison officers. This paper will inform insights into the social and psychological needs of terrorist convicts when it comes to their disengagement and community reintegration.

Facilitating Disengagement from Violent Extremism: An Evidence-informed Theory of Change for the Community Integration Support Program
Prof Ramón Spaaij, Victoria University and Utrecht University
Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Victoria University

A consistent critique in the literature on CVE intervention programs is the lack of robust program theory and an accepted analytical framework for measuring results. The absence of a robust, empirically grounded theory of change in CVE programming may obstruct conceptual clarity and practical understanding concerning the intervention logic and weaken the basis for intended outcomes. This paper discusses the development of an evidence-informed theory of change for the Community Integration Support Program (CISP), a countering violent extremism (CVE) intervention program established in Victoria in 2010. The design of a theory of change was a vital aspect of a wider research project conducted by the Applied Security Science Partnership (ASSP) at Victoria University. Adopting a mixed methods approach, the project aimed to identify relevant factors that affect meaningful engagement with the CISP and enhance the likelihood of successful disengagement from violent extremism. In this paper, we focus specifically on developing the CISP theory of change and the assumptions and evidence underpinning it. A unique feature of the theory of change designed specifically for the CISP is that it has been constructed from rich empirical evidence, drawing on unique primary data including in-depth interviews with 24 CISP clients and highly detailed (de-identified) client data. This unique feature allows the CISP and comparable CVE interventions to move beyond a generic theory of change to one that is evidence-based, context-related, and responsive to changing conditions.

Inoculation Against Online Extremism: An Agent-based Simulation and Cost Benefit Analysis
Andrea Giovannetti, Australian Catholic University

This research seeks to assess for the first time the synergies between two different approaches to the mitigation of online extremism, namely inoculation and deplatforming of extremist users. We develop an agent-based model of diffusion and control of online extremism informed by inoculation theory and calibrated using data from systematic reviews and empirical studies conducted in the field of terrorism research. We find that adding inoculation reduces the need for monitoring and deplatforming to control the spread of online extremism. Importantly, the study reveals that inoculation enhances societal resilience to contagion and improves the predictability and effectiveness of moderation strategies. The paper further develops a cost-benefit analysis, demonstrating the feasibility of assigning a monetary value to inoculation strategies and showing that

inoculation can be an economically sustainable approach to the reduction of online extremism, providing insights into the potential subsidisation of inoculation policies or their sustainability through fines. This paper has important implications for policy, as it highlights the effectiveness of shifting funds from repressive measures like monitoring and online surveillance to preventative inoculation strategies. Repressive tactics can trigger backlash and infringe on individual freedoms, potentially undermining trust in democratic institutions. In contrast, preventative methods led by civil society organisations promote democratic values by fostering community engagement, empowerment, and resilience. The research provides the first data-driven basis for policymakers to reallocate resources towards more democratic and sustainable counter-extremism approaches.

SESSION B: HOW DOES THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT INFLUENCE PEOPLE'S VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION? NEW EVIDENCE FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY OF ONLINE AUSTRALIANS

Exposure to and Sharing of Fringe or Radical Content Online
Dr Timothy Cubitt, Australian Institute of Criminology

In this study we measured unintentional and intentional exposure to fringe or radical content and groups online. Two in five respondents reported being exposed to material they described as fringe, unorthodox or radical. One quarter of these respondents accessed the content intentionally, and one third said the content depicted violence. Mainstream social media and messaging platforms were the platforms most frequently used to share fringe or radical content, while being a member of a group promoting fringe or radical content was associated with increased sharing of that content with other internet users. This research has implications for efforts to restrict access to radical content and groups online, especially on mainstream platforms, to help reduce intentional and unintentional exposure to and sharing of that content.

Is Exposure to Fringe and Radical Content Online Associated with Increased Support for Violence?
Anthony Morgan, Australian Institute of Criminology

This study explores the relationship between various measures of exposure to fringe and radical content online and support for violence. Results show that, after controlling for the presence of other risk and protective factors for cognitive and behavioural radicalisation, respondents who intentionally accessed fringe or radical content, particularly violent content, or who were members of online groups promoting fringe and radical content, were more likely to justify the use of violence to support ideological goals. Importantly, the effect varied according to the presence of other risk factors for radicalisation. While these findings do not demonstrate a causal relationship or mean that exposure will lead to extremist violence, they nevertheless illustrate the importance of measures that can prevent, reduce or counteract the attraction and effects of fringe or radical content online to people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Relationship Between Media Literacy, Conspiratorial Beliefs, Anti-government Sentiment and Support for Violence
Dr Siobhan Lawler, Australian Institute of Criminology

This exploratory study examines the relationship between the ways people consume and critically analyse media content, their attitudes towards government and endorsement of conspiratorial beliefs, and the extent to which they justify violence in support of political, religious or ideological goals. It highlights the complex relationship between people's online behaviour, their political and ideological beliefs and vulnerability to radicalisation. In doing so, this study provides valuable evidence to help inform counter narrative and strategic communication strategies that are intended to reduce the influence of extremist material online.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS
DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2024

9:00AM - 10:15AM SPECIAL PRACTITIONER ADDRESS

I Know it Works But Not Sure Why: Practitioners Success and Challenges in PVE
Dr Ghayda Hassan, Canadian Practitioner Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence (RPC-PREV)

In this special address, Dr Ghayda Hassan will explore some of the common and rising phenomena in relation to violent extremism, hate and nihilistic violence, sharing the experiences of her colleagues, Canadian practitioners, in terms of the approaches, successes and challenges faced on ground and in programming and policy. Dr Hassan will also explore the risks associated with a fragmented and securitized approach to P/CVE.

10:45AM - 12:00PM
SESSION A: RETHINKING RISK: NEW
ISSUES AND DILEMMAS IN RISK ASSESSMENT

Beyond Extremism, Radicalisation, and Risk Factors: A Review on the Use of Risk Assessment Instruments for Terrorism and a Proposed Focus on Behavioural Indicators
Astrid Bastiaens, Maastricht University

Risk assessment instruments for the prevention of terrorist attacks remain rooted in attempts to detect and measure radicalisation, assuming detecting radicalisation will help in preventing violent extremist violence. However, cases show us that some perpetrators start to plan a violent attack before their attitudes and opinions have been radicalised. Moreover, most individuals with radical opinions would not support violence as a way of enforcing these opinions. In addition to this increasingly acknowledged finding

that the extent of radicalisation might not tell us all that much about the risk of someone committing terrorist violence. This approach is vulnerable to the dynamic and changing demographic and motivational characteristics of recent terrorist attackers. In this light, we will discuss current risk assessment methods and their limitations and outline that the prediction of terrorist acts needs to adopt a focus on behavioural indicators of terrorist violence. These behavioural indicators are called leaking signals, and a newly developed threat assessment instrument, called LATERAN-IT, reveals they can be employed to accurately distinguish between those planning an attack and those not planning an attack but who do show leaking signals and/or signs of radicalisation. With a larger focus on behavioral signs and indicators, it appears prevention efforts might also become more robust against a changing perpetrator population.

From Discrimination to Grievance-fuelled Violence: When and For Whom Do Perceived Threats Increase Risk toward Engagement in Anti-Muslim Behaviours and Violence?
Dr Bettina Rottweiler, University College London

Rising immigration and demographic changes in Western countries have resulted in increased anti-immigrant sentiments and political polarization but also in hateful behaviours and violent attacks against Muslims and other immigrants. We utilise a large nationally representative survey of the US population and employ a newly developed psychometric instrument, the Hate Behavior Scale (HBS), to measure individuals' intentions to engage in anti-Muslim discrimination and anti-Muslim violence. We examine the interaction of risk (and protective) factors at different levels of analysis and establish their impact upon vulnerability to engage in hateful violent and non-violent behaviours toward Muslims. The findings highlight that threat perceptions are associated with increased intentions to engage in discriminatory behaviours, belligerent violence and defensive violence toward Muslims. The effects of intentions to engage in both anti-Muslim violent outcomes are amplified for individuals with (1) higher levels of legal cynicism and (2) social alienation, (3) less self-control, (4) those with criminal and violent propensities, (5) those who are exposed to violent extremist settings and (6) among those who experience a proximal crisis. Interestingly, no moderating effects are found regarding non-violent hateful behaviours towards Muslims. Vulnerability to grievance-fuelled behaviours and violence targeting Muslims emerges from the interaction of processes at different levels of analysis. The relevance of a perceived grievance highly context dependent which highlights the need to consider the functional relevance of grievances and individual dispositions, situational as well as exposure-related factors relevant to risk assessment. Collectively, these findings bring us one step closer to understanding who is more 'at-risk' to engage in violent and/or hateful behaviours toward Muslims.

Trends in Demographic, Psychological, Criminological, and Societal Factors: Using Deep Learning Neural Networks to Gauge Risk for Violent and Nonviolent Extremist Behaviors
Asst Prof Kurt Braddock, American University

Recent analyses of radicalization processes have shown that the development of extremist attitudes and violent behavior may be related in some cases, but is rarely a linear relationship. It therefore benefits analysts of political violence to leverage tools that assist in the distinction of characteristics that might move an individual towards violence

(vs. nonviolence) in support of their beliefs. To this end, the current study explores the efficacy of deep learning neural networks for classifying extremists as potentially violent or nonviolent based on dozens of common predictors derived from various perspectives on radicalization. Specifically, this study uses 337 predictors from the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the U.S. dataset to populate a neural network with two hidden layers composed of four processing nodes. The model correctly predicted whether an individual engaged in violence (or not) in 94.2% of cases, on average. Analyses further identified several predictors that were most important in classifying violent and nonviolent cases. These analyses demonstrate neural networks may be effective tools in the study of radicalization and extremism, particularly regarding the disaggregation of salient outcomes.

Linking Conspiracy Beliefs with Violence: A Scoping Review of the Empirical Literature
Dr Emma Belton, Griffith University

Since the global COVID-19 pandemic, there has been rapid growth in the study of conspiracy beliefs and their potential link with violence. This paper provides a preliminary assessment of the extent, scope, and nature of the current state of the evidence-base of studies that employ quantitative research methods only. To summarise the existing knowledge base that measures the association between conspiracy beliefs and violence, this scoping review analyses publications within peer-reviewed sources between 2000 and 2023. Following guidelines proposed by Arksey and O'Malley (2005), three electronic databases were systemically searched for any publications that measures the relationship between belief in conspiracy theories and violence (attitudes, justification, intentions and behaviour), and charted using the PRISMA flow diagram. After exclusion of ineligible documents, 25 publications remained for synthesis. Results show diverse epistemological approaches and conceptualisation that generally employ robust analytic techniques. As the current quantitative evidence stands, there exists a significant but weak association between conspiracy beliefs and violence. Researchers primarily employ cross-sectional survey data with promising results, but very few studies measure how conspiracy beliefs motivate actual involvement in violence. Further research is needed to determine if violence directly stems from conspiracy beliefs, and if this relationship in conditional on other risk factors. This review further illuminates potential avenues for future research to identify and delineate the mechanisms to confirm that stronger conspiracy beliefs lead to increased violence. These results have important implications for future risk assessment and management of political, ideological, and extremist violence.

SESSION B: NEURODIVERSITY AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM: AN INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The Relationship Between Neurodiversity and Violent Extremism: The Literature
Dr Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University and UClan
Dr Nadine Salman, University of St Andrews

The multiple serious adverse sequalae of violent extremism have prompted efforts to identify factors that may influence individuals to engage in such behaviour. Previous publications in research and media have postulated a link between autism and terrorism. This presentation will present findings from two studies: A Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA), and a Systematic Review (SR) examining if any such link exists, and if so in what ways autism and other neurodiverse conditions such as ADHD may influence people to engage or disengage in terrorism. Together, these studies, undertaken by practitioner psychologists and academics with specialist knowledge of both autism and terrorism collate the best available evidence to help to inform practice and future research in the field. The presentation will discuss the findings of the studies including: 1) the functional role of ASD and ADHD in the context of vulnerability and/or resilience to radicalisation, terrorism, and mass violence; 2) the risk management of individuals in these contexts; 3) recommendations for professional training, skill, and effectiveness in these contexts; and 4) the quality, extent, and gaps of the existing research in this field. The findings highlight common themes in the existing literature, as well as recommendations for future avenues of research.

"30 seconds and 3 clicks…into the rabbit hole": A Dual Study Investigating the Risk and Vulnerability Factors for Radicalisation for Autistic Individuals Referred to Prevent
Dr Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University and UClan

This study adopted a dual methodology approach to establish what are the vulnerability factors for radicalisation for autistic individuals referred to Prevent. In study 1 qualitative interviews were conducted with 10 members of staff working in one region of Counter Terrorism Policing who had received referrals into Prevent for people with autism. Study 2 comprised of 87 anonymised case file summary reports which were analysed using content analysis adopting the 5 P's functional behavioural analysis and the Framework for the Assessment of Risk and Protection in Offenders on the Autistic Spectrum (FARAS) (Al-Attar, 2018) as coding units. Quantitative data analysis was used to compare referrals to Prevent for people with autism in comparison to those without. The presentation will discuss the findings in terms of the people, places and spaces which may contribute towards vulnerability factors for radicalisation in some autistic individuals and how these can guide future strategies and intervention approaches.

Practitioner Perspectives on Violent Extremism and Neurodiversity
Dr Nadine Salman, University of Lancaster and University College London

Existing research does not indicate that neurodivergence (e.g., autism or ADHD) is a causal factor for extremism engagement in the general population. Nevertheless, a proportion of individuals within extremist populations is neurodivergent. These individuals

may follow a different pathway to engagement and may have different needs than their neurotypical counterparts. It is therefore important to understand vulnerability, risk, and resilience among neurodivergent individuals, as well as how best to support them to mitigate risk and encourage disengagement. Practitioners working within the CVE space develop unique, in-depth insights into the nuanced and complex pathways to violent extremism. This rarely accessed expertise formed the focus of the current study, which used a focus group approach to elicit the insights of an international cohort of 38 CVE practitioners who had specific experience of working with neurodivergent individuals in the CVE space. This research examined 1) how neurodivergence can contextualise violent extremism vulnerability, risk, and resilience; 2) other factors that can increase or decrease risk; 3) approaches and strategies to mitigate risk amongst neurodivergent extremist populations; and 4) training needs to support practitioners working with these populations. This talk highlights important considerations for practice, training, and future areas for research.

Violent Extremism and Autism: Findings from 18 International Case Studies
Dr Nadine Salman, University of Lancaster and University College London

Existing research does not indicate that autism is a causal factor for extremism engagement in the general population. Nevertheless, a proportion of individuals within extremist populations have autism. These individuals may follow a different pathway to engagement and may have different needs than their neurotypical counterparts. It is therefore important to understand vulnerability, risk, and resilience among individuals with autism, as well as how best to support them to mitigate risk and encourage disengagement. In-depth case information from closed files is rarely accessible to researchers, limiting the depth and detail of knowledge informing our existent knowledge base. The current study addressed this gap by analysing detailed case information from the closed files of 18 international cases of individuals with autism and extremism concerns. This research applied the Framework for the Assessment of Risk and Protection in Offenders on the Autistic Spectrum (FARAS) to examine how facets of autism may contextualise and relate to extremism vulnerability, risk, resilience, and opportunities for risk management. These findings provide specific contextual considerations for risk assessment and disengagement, as well as evidence-based practice and guidance for practitioners working with autistic individuals with extremism concerns.

PHD AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER WORKSHOP BY INVITATION

Skills Building and Networking Workshop for Doctoral Candidates and Early Career Researcher Participants by invitation only
Haily Tran, AVERT HDR Coordinator
Dr Jared Dmello, Senior Lecturer, The University of Adelaide

The AVERT Research Network is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of interdisciplinary researchers in the fields of terrorism and violent extremism. This

higher degree research session aims to enhance skill development and knowledge sharing through networking opportunities and practical skills development. Participants will engage in discussions on navigating academic careers, networking, and researcher safety. The session will include insights from experienced academics and interactive group discussions, offering valuable guidance for doctorial candidates and early career researchers.

2:00PM - 3:15PM
SESSION A: MEN AT ARMS: THE INTERSECTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND MASCULINITIES

Mapping the Neo-Manosphere(s): New Directions for Research
Dr Vivian Gerrand, Deakin University

In a digital ecology that is increasingly conducive to social harms (Morales 2023), misogynist ideology operates across a spectrum of primarily online actors known colloquially as 'the Manosphere'. The manosphere and its associated red pill philosophy has now been around for over a decade. Numerous important contributions have been made in this time, many drawing upon the early work of Ging in particular (2017), who was amongst the first to theorise these anti-feminist masculinities. By framing contemporary gender politics as a 'war against men', the manosphere subverts the genealogy of violence, often inciting followers to sexual and terrorist violence against women and in some cases, men (Roose 2020). The online psychological and emotional abuse of women and the coercive behaviours that take place without the use of physical force are terrifying, controlling and injurious (Flood 2019). Yet the manosphere, particularly in the context of Covid-19, influencer culture and the affordances of new social media sites, has evolved rapidly in this time, and scholarship has yet to adequately capture and theorise these developments. This paper begins with a stocktake of contemporary literature on the manosphere and its core themes produced since 2019, building upon the work of Ging (2017; 2018; 2019), before evaluating the evolving status of this online ecosystem of anti-women actors. It advances our theoretical comprehension of the neo-manospheres and hypothesises about their future directions.

The Role of Precarious Masculinity and Male Victimhood in Shaping Far-right Online Engagement Among Australian Men
Haily Tran, Deakin University

Recent literature highlights the growing concern of online radicalisation within the 'manosphere,' making it a space conducive to far-right extremism. However, there is a lack of research empirically testing this relationship. This research paper aims to quantitatively study the relationship between precarious masculinity, perceived male victimhood, and online engagement with far-right content. This study makes several key methodological contributions to online radicalisation research. Firstly, it experimentally tests whether a sense of personal masculinity threat leads to negative online behaviours, thereby exploring the mechanisms driving users from the manosphere to the far-right. Secondly, drawing on social-psychological theories such as relative deprivation and ambivalent sexism,

we developed and validated the Perceived Male Victimhood (PMV-8) scale to measure aggrieved-masculinity beliefs, such as the perception of men being collectively victimised or disadvantaged in contemporary society. Thirdly, we employed innovative methods to measure far-right online engagement by assessing the likelihood of Australian men aged 18 to 40 years watching realistic representations of far-right videos on YouTube. This presentation will discuss the use of these methodological approaches and tools. Furthermore, the implications of our research findings will examine how personal factors, such as feelings of threat to one's masculinity and beliefs of collective male victimhood, influence far-right mobilisation. This study contributes to our understanding of the mechanisms behind gender-based radicalisation, informing targeted interventions addressing gender inequities and the resulting perceived feelings of deprivation, injustice, and victimhood in Australian men.

SESSION B: CONNECTIVITY AND EVOLUTION IN FAR-RIGHT MOVEMENTS

Political Parties and Online Radicalisation in the Australian Far-Right Landscape
Callum Jones, Deakin University

Far-right political parties play a significant role within the Australian far-right landscape, yet their influence on other organisational forms like subcultures and social movement organisations is less understood. This research aims to bridge this gap by combining social network analysis with qualitative analysis of three datasets from different far-right organisational forms, exploring how Australian far-right political parties impact the discourse of other far-right elements. To examine the broader role of these parties, data from various far-right manifestations were analysed. Drawing on Mudde's (2019) theorisation of far-right politics, the study focused on subcultures, political organisations, and media organisations. The QAnon conspiracy theory, an online far-right subculture and militarised social movement, was investigated using data from Twitter and 8kun. Australian far-right political organisations examined included several neo-Nazi groups, which have become more prevalent recently. The study also explored two prominent far-right alternative news media outlets. Combining all datasets, a total of 307,381 data points were analysed. In this presentation, we elaborate on the findings from this mixed methods analysis to outline insights into the influence of Australian far-right political parties on the broader far-right landscape.

Profiles of Far-Right Hate in the US: Beyond Myths of Disadvantage and Marginalisation
Assoc Prof Matteo Vergani, Deakin University

Within the US, there is growing concerns over the potential for violence in the far-right. There is a popularised, if simplistic, notion that those exhibiting violent intentions against outgroups are disadvantaged and marginalised young men from a white underclass. But research on this issue has produced contradictory findings. This is primarily due to a failure to distinguish between individuals with violent and non-violent intentions who otherwise come from similar ideological groups. This study seeks to build understanding of far-right radicalisation by, for the first time, comparing individuals with violent and

non-violent far-right intentions within a national sample of 1,600 American adults. We employ Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) to identify distinct profiles based on their intentions to engage in a range of violent and non-violent hateful behaviours towards ideological adversaries (i.e., left-wing people). Multinomial logistic regression was used to investigate the association between profile membership and personal characteristics. The results suggest that demographic factors, such as being male and engaging in regular religious practices, increase the likelihood of being a hater compared to non-haters. However, a number of other distinct characteristics appear to predict membership in different profiles. For example, having a lower educational attainment is associated with a greater likelihood of being a non-violent hater rather than a violent hater. Indicators of disadvantage and marginalisation, such as substance abuse, mental illness, and financial hardship did not increase the likelihood of being classified as a hater compared to non-haters, suggesting that disadvantage and marginalisation may not be distinctive characteristics of far-right haters compared to non-haters. Consistent with previous research, having a criminal history increased the likelihood of belonging to a violent profile. Theoretical and policy implications of the findings are discussed.

3:45PM - 5:15PM
SESSION A: CLIMATE SECURITY AS A DRIVER FOR EMERGING PEOPLES, SPACES, AND PLACES WITHIN THE VIOLENT EXTREMISM LANDSCAPE

Framing Climate Change as a Security Threat: Implications for Activism and Policy
Saira Ali, The University of Adelaide

The notion of climate change as a 'threat multiplier' has gained traction in policy-making circles, influencing the way countries frame their long-term security planning. This paper investigates how the UK, Australia, and the US, integrate climate change within their national security frameworks, and considers the implications of this trend for the securitization of climate activism. Drawing on a comparative analysis of key policy documents, such as the UK's Strategic Defence and Security Review, Australia's Defence White Paper, and the US's National Security Strategy, the study examines the framing of climate change within national security paradigms of the three countries. The UK views climate change as a driver of global instability requiring collaboration, Australia emphasizes regional impacts and adaptation, while the US views it as an omnipresent threat influencing military readiness. The securitization discourse has profound implications for climate activism, potentially aiding in prioritizing climate policy but also risking the constriction of activism under national security pretexts. This signifies a critical juncture for climate activism, redefining both opportunities and challenges within the evolving security landscape.

'Darkening White Countries': Mainstreaming Climate Disinformation in the 'Global North'
Dr Eszter Szenes, The University of Adelaide

This presentation illustrates how the transnational far-right in the global North weaponizes climate change. The links between climate change, environmental degradation and violent extremism in the developing countries of the global South have been well documented, however, in the global North this nexus has started receiving significant media and scholarly attention since the 2019 and 2022 terrorist attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, El Paso, Texas, and Buffalo, New York. Where governments have failed to address issues of climate anxiety, extremist groups stepped in to fill the vacuum and exploit environmental grievances as tools of ecofascist radicalization and recruitment. Based on computer-assisted digital text analyses of online right-wing extremist materials, this paper will show that ecofascist rhetoric centres on narratives where the developing world is blamed for overpopulation and pollution, immigration is constructed as one of the biggest threats to the environment, and environmentalism and 'green politics' are claimed to be largely 'white concerns'. As ecofascist propaganda has the potential to significantly undermine the climate justice movement, this paper concludes with practical recommendations for preventing ecofascist radicalization.

Exploring the Spatial Relationship between Climate Change and Terrorist Activity: An Empirical Framework for Policymakers and Practitioners
Dr Jared Dmello, The University of Adelaide

Climate change is a global phenomenon that has been associated with a growing list of concerns in society today, often leaving more questions than answers. Thus, it is no surprise that questions are forming regarding the effects of climate change on global security, and more specifically, terrorism. Using daily temperature, precipitation, elevation, and distance to the equator data from the National Climatic Data Center and terrorist incidents from the Global Terrorism Data base (GTD), this study assesses the spatial relationship between these factors through geospatial analyses, using the Republic of India as a case study. Suitability analyses indicate that all the climatological variables tested—temperature, precipitation, and elevation—relate to shifting patterns of terrorist activity. We also found that beyond intensity, seasons result in a shifting of patterns in terrorist behaviour to other locales. We situate these findings within the broader practitioner and policymaking discourse to discuss the implications of these findings for P/CVE communities in Australia and beyond.

SESSION B: RESPONDING TO YOUTH RADICALISATION: TRANS-TASMAN DEVELOPMENTS IN POLICY AND PRACTICE

"I'm not super familiar with children's ecosystems online": Expert Assessments on the Effects of Early Childhood Exposure to Extremism Online
Jade Hutchinson, Macquarie University

There is little research on children and adolescents aged between seven and fourteen years exposed to extremist material. This presentation aims to deliver an overview of expert assessments concerning the nature of the relationship between children and

extremism in technological social spaces and the European Union's policy landscape concerning radicalisation among online minors. Our approach comprised of two parts: (1) an interdisciplinary literature and policy review consisting of research and policy content on childhood and adolescent exposure to extremist content while online, and current state of Europe's policy landscape related to understanding and mitigating "online youth radicalisation"; and (2) 16 semi-structured online interviews involving academics, practitioners, and policy-makers and offer their own professional assessment and where possible, their policy recommendations to complement the European Union's research, policies, programs, and practices to understand and mitigate harms of "online youth radicalisation." The findings emphasise the evolving sociotechnical contexts in which adolescents and children are being exposed to extremist content, especially the rapid development in online gaming communities and allied innovations in online gaming companies. Developmental or neuropsychological characteristics in children and adolescents are of immense importance to understand pathways and mechanisms of "online youth radicalisation," and topics for progressive P/CVE interventions in the future. Policy recommendations are centred on prioritising digital media literacy in schools, promoting youth community engagement, practitioner and researcher training, commitment to an long-term funding scheme to assemble the necessary interdisciplinary evidence base and provide targeted provisions that directly provide for the needs of adolescents and children at risk of radicalisation.

Statutory Social Work for Radicalising and Extremist Youth – An Emerging Practice Issue for Aotearoa New Zealand

Dr Tony Stanley, Oranga Tamariki
Carol Kitson, Oranga Tamariki

An emerging practice issue for statutory social work in Aotearoa New Zealand is the rise of young people engaged in extremist and radicalised groups and behaviours. Aotearoa New Zealand has a cross governmental approach to this area, He Aranga Ake, and a social work response model where statutory children's services (Oranga Tamariki) and security services cooperate without co-option. At the heart of our practice response is the place of family at the interagency table. This is unique as most jurisdictions tend to be individualised ('youth-at-risk') orientated. This paper explains this and presents our practical practice methods and models to effect family-centred risk assessments and multidisciplinary case management. The Oranga Tamariki Practice Framework supports a range of practice models, tools, and resources to guide and support this practice. Oranga Tamariki also offers practice advisers and practice guidance. A practice partnership that nurtures consultation avenues and support between Oranga Tamariki and Youth Justice NSW is now in place to ensure that shared practice knowledge and expertise promotes effective identification and intervention outcomes for young people engaged in extremism. A key message is for practitioners to 'pick up the phone' and use the supports, frameworks, tools, and models on offer. We illustrate our Aotearoa family focused response model through a case study.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS
DAY 3 - THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2024

9:15AM - 10:30AM
SESSION A: VIRTUAL SPACES AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Extremism in Games: The Emerging Landscape
Dr Rachel Kowert, Take This

Games are spaces for radicalisation and recruitment. This talk will discuss the emerging field of games and extremism from three experts in the field. It will begin with an overview of what makes games unique in this space, drawing from social and psychological research about the power of games to foster strong, long-lasting social bonds. This will be followed by a presentation of real-world data, showing evidence of extremist groups communicating and mobilising within gaming platforms. The discussion will conclude with an overview of efforts from the games industry itself to address this growing problem, including policy and practice-based guidance on how to further mitigate risk in the field of games and extremism.

The Gamification of Mass Violence: Social Factors, Video Game Influence, and Attack Presentation in the Christchurch Mass Shooting and Its Copycats
Prof Adam Lankford, The University of Alabama

For this study, we closely analyzed the Christchurch shooter and seven copycats to learn how gamification can lead vulnerable individuals to commit mass violence. Findings suggest BT and the copycats were similar in demographics and ideology, their social isolation in the physical world, the video game influences on their radicalization and attacks, and the specific ways they engaged in gamification. However, there were substantial differences between these attackers and typical video game players. Overall, perpetrators' social needs appeared to be a major driving factor, but their attacks did not occur until after gaming and online extremism failed to satiate them.

Mapping Virtual Hate in Real World Spaces
Assoc Prof Matteo Vergani, Deakin University
Sophie Murray Farrell, NSW Government

While the online space is increasingly active as a forum for extremist expression, policy makers are grappling with a lack of consistent data on the prevalence and level of online hate. The Australian Dashboard of Online Hate project seeks to better understand the relationship between online hate and real-world violence and extremism. The Dashboard will be an interactive mechanism by which online hate data can be collected, mapped and analysed in an Australian context in near real time. The pilot will consider a variety of online platforms as it seeks to understand the prevalence and patterns of online hate directed at a range of identities. Based on the development of this multijurisdictional pilot, this presentation will discuss the challenges of surveying, mapping and analysing virtual spaces to inform our understanding of hate and how it plays out in the

'real world'.

SESSION B: CULTURE, CONSPIRACY AND REPRESENTATION ON THE EXTREME RIGHT

Australian neo-Nazi Strategies of Violence
Dr Kaz Ross, independent researcher

Racists are not only motivated by grievances and perceived attacks against the 'white race' but are also energised by an enjoyment of racism. In Australian neo-Nazi 3.0 movement has moved on from delivering coded racist and anti-Semitic messages through 'weaponised' and 'plausible deniable' irony online to forms of open racism on the streets. And one way of making overt racism more palatable to 'normies', according to one of Australia's neo-Nazi leaders, is to make racism enjoyable and fun. We can see this being put into action in the rise in street harassment directed against gay, queer and Asian people by neo-Nazis over the last two years with video of the incidents shared for enjoyment and inspiration across the neo-Nazi community and beyond. In this paper I show how the current Australian neo-Nazi "Make racism fun again" strategy of hostile street harassment is a continuation of Jack van Tongeren's 1990s firebombing of Chinese restaurants campaign. My paper also aims to challenge two common distinctions (violence/not violence and academic/practitioner) to argue for the importance of community responses (as set out in the Christchurch Call) if this form of violent extremism is to be effectively countered.

Places of Violence: Prose Fiction, Cultural Imaginaries, and the Making of Far-right Subjectivities
Assoc Prof Bernhard Forchtner, University of Leicester

While research on the far-right has increased significantly over recent decades, not least because of violent extremism, the potential for radicalisation through prose fiction (novels/novellas/short stories) remains largely neglected even though such works, like the infamous The Turner Diaries have directly inspired multiple terrorist attacks. In response, I take prose fiction as serious as the far-right does, analysing how it can act as an 'enjoyable' vehicle for ideological seduction, one able to offer visions of alternative worlds to attract/radicalise followers. I do so by conceptualising four different (but overlapping/interacting) narrative environments via which far-right actions, subjectivities and worlds are dreamt before they are embodied, imagined before they become politics. In this presentation, I focus on how place is both normatively ('good' versus 'bad' places) and functionally (e.g., the violence they afford) crucial in the working of these imaginaries. My analysis draws on 35 books published by the two most influential Western far-right publishers (Arktos Media, Counter-Currents Publishing) and seven semi-structured interviews with their authors. I show how readers are positioned differently through imagining place via the four different imaginaries, resulting in dreaming different actions, selves, and alternative worlds: from 'safe spaces' in which warriors gather strength to continue their (racial) struggle (primordialist imaginary); to sites of anti-modern, blissful domesticity and high culture, such as 'the library' (nostalgic imaginary); to place as boundless horizon to be explored and transcended (promethean imaginary); and to non-places of claustrophobic confinement in which subjects are 'stuck' (nihilist imaginary). While these four environments imagine place differently, they all ultimately

result in the creation violent subjectivities of diverging kinds.

Far-Right Narratives in Literature for Young People
Dr Helen Young, Deakin University
Assoc Prof Kristine Moruzi, Deakin University

Far-Right presses are increasingly publishing books aimed at children and young people. The presses themselves see these books as an important facet of their radicalisation of young people, with the Western Australian far-right Imperium Press reportedly posting on its Telegram channel that folktales are a 'red pill' for young people. Examining the kinds of far-right books available to young people, which range from the seemingly benign Alice's Adventures in Wonderland to the more explicitly extremist texts authored by members of the community, allows us to interrogate the ways that these books convey far-right ideological views to younger audiences. While books in general are increasingly recognised as a key means of dissemination of far-right (including extremist) ideologies (e.g. Ravndal 2021), and mainstream children's narratives can be open to exploitation by the far-Right (Nilan 2021), there has been very little research to date into contemporary far-right production and uses of children's literature. This paper reports on a pilot study identifying and analysing books published by far-right presses for children and young adults, including those aimed at the homeschooling market. It is crucial to expand our understanding of how these texts can contribute to the radicalisation of young people, especially in relation to depictions of gender and violence, so that we can develop a proactive response to the ideologies operating within them. Without a thorough understanding of this form of literature, we may miss an early opportunity to intervene into young people's adoption of far-right perspectives. Drawing on an innovative interdisciplinary approach that brings together P/CVE studies and studies of Children's Literature, this paper analyses representations of gender, justifications of violence, and stereotypes of marginalised groups.

11:00AM - 12:15PM
SESSION A: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON RADICALISATION: GENDER, TRAUMA AND YOUTH

Exploring How Gender and Traumatic Events Influence Individual's Decision to Take on Supporter or Fighter Roles: The Case of Ambon, Indonesia
Nungky Hodijah, Deakin University

The Quest Significance Theory (QST) and the 3N model of radicalization (Need, Narrative, and Network) propose that personal loss of significance, often triggered by traumatic events, can lead to political violence and terrorism. Despite the increased focus on gender in terrorism studies, its impact on responses to trauma remains underexplored. This study investigates the Ambon conflict (1999-2003), characterized by severe intergroup violence driven by political and religious narratives, using an ethnographic and grounded theory approach. It examines how gender and traumatic experiences influence individuals' choices between violent and nonviolent actions in conflict settings. Interviews with 10 men and women from Ambon's Christian and Muslim communities reveal that men typically take on the role of fighters, while women

lean towards supporting roles, influenced by cultural norms. Initial involvement in political violence often stems from traumatic events such as the loss of loved ones or property, which often motivate such actions. Extremist groups exploit religious narratives, such as the destruction of mosques and churches, and historical traumas related to social injustices and religious tension dating back to Dutch colonization and the Islamification of the Ambon community, to incite violence. Additionally, networks play a crucial role in influencing both men and women to participate as fighters or supporters to defend their religious communities.

Trauma-informed Responses Crucial for Preventing Violent Extremism in Africa
Isel Ras, Impact Pathways

The Global Terrorism Index reveals that 60% of global deaths from violent extremist groups occur in Sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting critical recruitment issues in the region. Despite numerous prevention efforts, the threat of violent extremism persists, prompting a reassessment of terrorism prevention strategies in Africa. Decades of insecurity have left African communities with continuous trauma from insurgencies, terrorist activities, political violence, and marginalization. This trauma often becomes intergenerational and is inadequately addressed in development and humanitarian interventions. Experts recommend integrating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into existing development programs to address deep-rooted trauma and grievances, which could help prevent violent extremism (PVE). The UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) defines MHPSS as multi-layered support addressing both psychological issues (e.g., grief, severe mental disorders, PTSD) and social problems (e.g., extreme poverty, political oppression). According to the UNDP, MHPSS aims to provide trauma counseling, resolve intercommunal hostilities, and promote post-traumatic recovery and resilience. Addressing these mental health needs is essential for preventing violent extremism and fostering long-term stability in Sub-Saharan Africa. On 28 May 2024, the World Health Organization released a draft resolution on strengthening MHPSS before, during, and after armed conflicts, natural and human-caused disasters, and health emergencies. This underscores the international community's emphasis on integrating MHPSS activities into PVE programming.

The Role of Young People in Countering Violent Extremism Online: The Case of the Bangsamoro in the Philippines
Dr Primitivo III Cabanes Ragandang, Mindanao State University

This research explores the role of young people in challenging violent extremism through online platforms, emphasizing their agency and contributions. The study investigates how youth utilize the internet to promote peace and counter extremist narratives, highlighting the dual nature of the internet as a tool for both positive engagement and potential radicalization. By employing a netnographic approach, the research examines youth-led initiatives from diverse regions, analyzing Facebook posts to understand the content, reach, and impact of these efforts. Findings reveal that young people are leveraging digital platforms to create and disseminate counter-narratives, promote tolerance, and educate peers about radicalization risks. The study underscores the importance of supporting youth-led initiatives and recognizing young people as active agents in peace processes, capable of fostering sustainable peace through innovative and inclusive approaches. This research contributes to the broader understanding of youth engagement in peacebuilding and offers insights into effective strategies

for enhancing their impact in the digital age.

SESSION B: CONTEXTUAL INFLUENCES ON RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST PATHWAYS

A Thematic Analysis of Narratives of Citizenship Revocation and Statelessness
Dr Stephanie Scott-Smith, Macquarie University

The expansion of citizenship revocation powers as a counterterrorism (CT) strategy has led to significant scholarly debate on how to balance national security and citizenship rights. This debate has centred on how best to prevent domestic terrorism, the risk management of returning foreign fighters, issues of international law, and associated concerns that the revocation process may render people stateless. Whilst the arguments of governments, legal and human rights experts are readily available, there has been a paucity of research exploring these themes from the perspective of those they target: Salafi-Jihadist groups/individuals. This study fills this gap by providing a nuanced understanding of how citizenship revocation and statelessness have been used in Salafi-Jihadist narratives to mobilise ideological and physical support. This is achieved through the presentation of a series of case studies that analyse the speeches and writings of key Salafi-Jihadist idealogues spanning the 1970s to the current day. A thematic analysis using grounded theory principles was used to examine how narratives of revocation of citizenship and statelessness were used by these key influencers to mobilise ideological support. This novel exploration has been further refined by developing a thematic framework for each case study, and using social mobilisation theory (SMT) as a tool to better understand how these themes function to affect action. Thematic analysis demonstrates that these themes function to effect action in two key ways: 1. building a transnational Muslim identity, and 2. Highlighting that Islam is under attack by non-believers. Implications for preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) policy and practice are discussed, and key recommendations to enhance P/CVE approaches are made.

The Changing Dynamics of CALD Community Engagement: CVE, Social Cohesion and Practitioner Views on Skill Sets and Strategies
Paul Schmidt, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Queensland Government
Dr Serge Loode, Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA)

Community engagement practitioners increasingly encounter social cohesion and potential CVE matters in their work. Community issues are increasingly complex, inter-connected and the skill set needed to manage risks and achieve positive outcomes is expanding. This interactive presentation draws on close to 20 years of community engagement practise by agencies in Queensland on responding to social cohesion and CVE needs in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Practitioners will share experiences of change in recent years and key challenges that have emerged such as stakeholder polarisation, risk of conflict escalation, strains on community-government relationships and the need for coordination across larger numbers of participating stakeholders. Insights from academic literature and practitioner experimentation will be used to discuss emerging opportunities for integrating skill sets into engagement practise and multi-stakeholder strategies - including diverse fields such as conflict resolution, public governance and trauma informed practice. Participants will have opportunity to interact and investigate practical opportunities for CVE and strengthening social cohesion outcomes from community engagement in

multi-stakeholder settings.

1:15PM - 2:30PM
SESSION A: SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY, VIOLENCE, AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM:UNDERSTANDING TRAJECTORIES ACROSS TIME

Cross-sectional and Longitudinal Analysis of Social, Political, and Temporal Predictors of Support for Democracy and Political Violence in Queenslanders.
Charlie Pittaway, University of Queensland

Australia is widely considered to have a strong, healthy democracy. However, alarm bells sounded in 2019 when satisfaction with democracy and trust in government reached record lows. The present research explores the interrelationship of social and temporal factors as well as their associations with support for democracy and political violence. An earlier study reported data from 2022 (N = 966) showing that among Queenslanders, cross-sectional findings and latent profile analysis revealed that lower age, conservative political views, lower future orientation, and higher present orientation were associated with lower support for democracy, higher support for undemocratic ideals, and higher support for all forms of political violence measured in our research. We now continue this line of work longitudinally using our 2022 and 2023 data (N = 953). The same key cross-sectional relationships held in the second sample. Longitudinal analyses with participants sampled at both timepoints (N = 268) further revealed that increases in present orientation over time were associated with decreases in support for some pro-democracy attitudes. Unexpectedly, changes to demographic characteristics like employment and rurality were also associated with changes in support for democracy, and we explore this in relation to the localisation of democratic attitudes in Queensland.

Spatial Dynamics of Radical Action in Queensland: A Postcode-level Analysis of Support for Different Causes and Willingness to Act Radically on Behalf of the Cause
Susilo Wibisono, University of Queensland

This research explores the spatial dynamics of support for various causes in Australia (e.g., climate change mitigation, women's rights, etc.) and the prevalence of radical actions across Queensland. We employed simple geospatial techniques to create two maps: one depicting the distribution of support for specific causes, and another illustrating intentions to engage with radical actions to support the causes. By overlaying these maps, we identify hotspots where high levels of support coincide with frequent radical activities. Further, we also analyse these patterns using local conditions, considering factors such as economic deprivation, and social cohesion. Our findings test the hypotheses that the areas with higher levels of economic inequality and lower social cohesion are more associated with more radical actions. The data speak to the impact of the localised social contexts, and how the economic and social factors play roles in groups' and individuals' engagement with radical actions to support particular causes.

Decision-making as Foundations for Extremist Action. When Do Interactions Between Authorities and Protesters Drive (Latent and Overt) Radicalism? Using Agent-Based Models to Simulate Trajectories of Engagement and Extremism
Prof Emma F. Thomas, Flinders University

We are living in an age of protest. Within 21st Century protest, there is huge variability in the conditions under which the movements emerge, the degree to which the movement is sustained (versus fleeting), and the balance of conventional versus radical tactics adopted. This paper uses agent-based models to explain this variability. We propose that answering questions about the conditions for emergence, continuity and radicalism involve modelling the complex interactions between the social psychological attributes of the protestor, on the one hand, and the authority/government to whom the protests are targeted, on the other, as well as the environment that allows protestors to coordinate with one another. We developed a theoretically informed, empirically evidenced agent-based model (DIMESim) to simulate effects of these interactions over time and at scale. The simulation revealed two emergent states: where an authority is responsive, a visible but peaceful movement emerged and endured with a small radical flank. Conversely, where the authority consistently, repeatedly fails the movement, the population largely disengaged from action but evidenced an ongoing commitment to radicalism (latent radicalism). The models provide fundamental insights of movements but can also be employed by analysts to understand how authorities and the information environment shape outcomes.

SESSION B: DIFFERENTLY ABLED ACTORS AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM: EMERGING CHALLENGES

Understanding Vulnerability to Radicalisation Among Individuals with Impaired Functional Capacity: Insights from Allied Health Professionals
John Young, Department of Human Services South Australia

This presentation highlights the often-overlooked intersection between impaired functional capacity and susceptibility to radicalisation to violent extremism. We highlight the unique vulnerabilities faced by individuals lacking in the skills to perform instrumental activities of daily living by drawing on observations and assessments by occupational therapists. Our practitioners have noted an emerging pattern among the CVE cohort, characterised by deficits in social skills and complex problem-solving abilities. These deficits manifest in difficulty and reduced capacity to perform everyday tasks, indicative of these underlying challenges in adapting to and managing the demands of daily life. Factors contributing to vulnerability to radicalisation to violent extremism include rigid thinking styles and susceptibility to grooming by charismatic and manipulative recruiters. Importantly, individuals often harbor a sense of shame stemming from their functional impairments, and resulting feelings of being unsuccessful, which can motivate their search for simplistic solutions to complex emotional and existential questions. By reframing discussions around radicalisation, we emphasise that susceptibility is not solely rooted in ideological beliefs, but rather can result from difficulties with cognitive processing and inability to meaningfully perform daily tasks. These vulnerabilities shape the spaces

individuals inhabit, where they move from online forums that provide social scaffolding and connection, to physical spaces where they are groomed into extremist groups by charismatic recruiters or seductive narratives. Understanding the nuanced experiences of individuals with impaired functional capacity is crucial for developing targeted interventions aimed at disrupting the radicalisation process. By addressing underlying needs through various therapeutic supports and providing intentional and actionable coping skills, we can empower individuals to resist and disengage from extremist influences.

Blind Faith: Exploring the Ways in which Violent Extremists Exploit Disabled Operatives
Prof Mia M Bloom, Georgia State University
Dr Jared Dmello, The University of Adelaide

Like Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, the Islamic State (IS) featured disabled fighters in its propaganda, encouraging people with disabilities to wage war against their enemies. At some level this might be considered a push for inclusivity. Starting in 2016, footage of seriously injured or maimed fighters executing prisoners or returning to the battlefield was a recurring theme in ISIS propaganda. Although this could be interpreted as signalling a shortage of able-bodied fighters after IS' territorial losses, the messages conveyed by such fighters, like Taymullah al Somali centered on goading and shaming able bodies men to join the fight. Using disabled fighters might have also signalled that injury would not stop the group and communicated the group's "commitment to a 'long war' in which it would ultimately prevail." The goading and symbols of long-term steadfastness (called sumud) to the cause, are a consistent feature of wartime propaganda and not one exclusively used by jihadi militants. This paper will explore the ways in which propaganda disseminated by Jihadi groups re-constructs and represents disability. The paper will apply theoretical frames from disability studies, as well as frame the concepts theoretically and embedded within communications and psychology. The paper explores differences between disabled operatives vs. disabled victims (Leon Klinghoffer). It will also interrogate the intersection between physical disability and toxic masculinity contrasting male and female militants, able bodied versus other bodied for example the cases of Wafa Samir Ibrahim al-Biss with Abu Hamza Al Masri or Sheikh Yassin.

The Incel Paradox: Does Collective Self-Loathing Facilitate Radicalisation or Belonging?
Bo Min Keum, University of Cambridge

Research often emphasises inceldom as an extremist threat. However, the dominating narratives of suicidal ideation and self-derogation in incel communities appear to deviate from the "us vs. them" dynamic that emphasises in-group positivity and out-group negativity commonly seen in extremist worldviews. This raises questions about how the incel dynamic operates compared to other crisis narratives constructed by extremist groups, and whether these communities primarily facilitate mutual support and mitigate radicalisation or function as platforms for facilitating radicalisation. Drawing on Van Dijk's (1995) collective identity framework, this study investigates the evolution of self- and other-directed collective identity frames and associated topics in the Cambridge Cybercrime Centre' Incelis and Incelsnet forum data in May 2019 and 2020 through qualitative thematic analysis. These two periods capture the peak of COVID-19

lockdowns and the preceding year, which also corresponds with the start and peak of the overall incline in incel posting activity. Then, social network analysis explores how these frames and topics change and interact before and throughout the COVID-19 lockdowns. The findings reveal that self-directed frames of helplessness and victimisation remain relatively stable over time. However, an increasing dominance of mockery-driven framing over blame-driven framing is observed in the other-directed collective identity frames, with assigning blame seeming less relevant. Through Cohen's (1955) reaction-formation theory, the research proposes that using mockery may help incels claim moral high ground by positioning themselves as resistant to the status quo, unlike the perceived complacent "foolish normies." By recognising their unattainable goal of sexual intimacy with women, incels appear to secure a sense of pride and liberation from rejecting societal norms before being rejected themselves. The broader implications of whether inceldom incites hate or provides community support that potentially mitigates radicalisation will also be discussed.

PRESENTER PROFILES

Dr Saira Ali
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Dr. Saira Ali, a Senior Lecturer in Media at the University of Adelaide, is a multidisciplinary researcher investigating the complex interplay between mediatisation of risk and the construction of security narratives across diverse cultural contexts. Drawing from media studies, social sciences, and cultural studies, her research explores the impact of media on risk perception and examines the intersections of East-West security policies and practices. She regularly publishes in leading international journals and is the author of two books: Public Relations and Strategic Communication Contemporary Perspectives (Oxford University Press, co-authored) and Mediatised Terrorism: East-West Narratives of Risk (Routledge).

Astrid Bastiaens
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Astrid Bastiaens is a PhD Candidate at Maastricht University. Throughout her studies, she showed a deep interest for and great affiliation with research. After excelling at her Master program in forensic psychology, she completed a research internship at Ashworth High-Secure Hospital in Liverpool and a clinical internship at Forensic Care Radix in the Netherlands. Here, she gained clinical experience in the psychological care and the risk assessment of patients with violent extremist attitudes. After continuing to work for Radix shortly, she returned to academia and started her PhD program at Maastricht University. In this research project, she aims to validate a newly developed threat assessment instrument for terrorist attacks. Trained as a clinical forensic psychologist and employed at a law faculty, she has a multidisciplinary background and skill-set allowing her a unique perspective on terrorism prevention.

Dr Emma Belton
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Dr Emma Belton is a Research Fellow at the Griffith Criminology Institute at Griffith University and is part of an ARC funded grant that aims to understand the emerging threat of grievance-fuelled extremism. Prior to joining Griffith University, she worked on several projects that focused on countering violent extremism (CVE) and has conducted evaluations of custody and community-based CVE programs. She has acted as project manager for an ARC funded project responsible for the development and building of the Profiles of Individual Radicalisation in Australia (PIRA) dataset, which collects data on individuals who have radicalised to extremism and terrorist offenders.

She holds a PhD in Criminology from the University of Queensland. Her research focuses on characteristics of individual radicalisation and violent extremism in Australia and aims to improve understanding of risk factors associated with violent compared to non-violent extremists. Dr Belton has received training in the use of the VERA-2R tool by the Dept of Home Affairs and has undertaken a validation study of the VERA using the PIRA database.

Professor Mia M Bloom
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Mia Bloom is an International Security Fellow at the New America and Professor at Georgia State University. Bloom conducts research in Europe, the Middle East and South Asia and speaks eight languages. She's the author of six books and 80 articles on violent extremism including Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror (Columbia 2005), Living Together After Ethnic Killing (Routledge 2007) Bombshell: Women and Terror (UPenn 2011) and Small Arms: Children and Terror (Cornell 2019) and Pastels and Pedophiles: Inside the Mind of QAnon with Sophia Moskalenko (Stanford 2021). Her next book, Veiled Threats: Women and Jihad is scheduled for publication by Cornell University Press in 2024. Bloom is a former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has held appointments at Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, and McGill Universities. She serves on the Counter-Radicalization boards of the Anti-Defamation League, the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), Women Without Borders and several working groups for the Global Internet Forum for Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). Bloom has a PhD in political science from Columbia University, Masters in Arab Studies from Georgetown University and Bachelors in Russian, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies from McGill, and her Pre-Doctorate from Harvard's Center for International Studies and a Post-Doctorate from Princeton.

Professor Noémie Bouhana
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Noémie Bouhana is Professor of Crime Science and Counter Extremism at University College London, where she co-leads the Counter-Terrorism Research Group. Her work is concerned with the processes involved in the emergence of extremist social ecologies in complex social systems and the mechanisms which underpin individual vulnerability to extremism. She has directed the €2.9M EU FP7 PRIME project, an international consortium of six European universities working on the prevention and mitigation of lone actor radicalisation and attack behaviour, and the $1M project "The Social Ecology of Radicalisation", sponsored by the US DoD Minerva Initiative. Most recently, she has been funded by the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST) to develop an environmental extremism risk analysis framework for use by Prevent practitioners. Other work has been supported by DStl, OSCT, the MoD Counter-Terrorism Science and Technology Centre, EPSRC, and the US National Institute of Justice.

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Dr. Kurt Braddock is an Assistant Professor of Public Communication at American University. His research focuses on the persuasive tactics used by extremists to draw individuals to their cause, as well as how those tactics might be undermined. Dr. Braddock's specific area of interest relates to the connection between communication and psychology, and how the nexus between the two can contribute to radicalization to violence. His work has been published in Terrorism and Political Violence, Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict, and other key security-related outlets. His first book, Weaponized Words: The Strategic Role of Persuasion in Violent Radicalization and Counter-Radicalization was published by Cambridge University Press in 2020. Dr. Braddock is publishing a second book with Cambridge University Press, titled Crying Havoc: How Violent Subtext Triggers Far-Right Extremism, Fear, and Terror; it is due out in 2025.

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Primitivo III Cabanes Ragandang currently serves as the Director of the Office of Research Dissemination at Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology in the Philippines. He holds a PhD in International Relations from The Australian National University and a doctorate in Sustainable Development Studies from MSU-IIT. He writes on peacebuilding, youth, and memory. His papers are published in Conflict Studies Quarterly, Peacebuilding journal, Journal of Peacebuilding and Development, Peace Review, and Conflict, Security, and Development journal, among others. In 2021, he co-edited a book on youth, peacebuilding, and sustainability, published through the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Program of the United States Mission to ASEAN. His forthcoming book chapter titled "Through the ballads: peace formation as remembering the past," is published by Edinburgh University Press. His first book, "Duladula ug Pakigsandurot" (Games and Interaction), has been implemented in several public schools in Northern Mindanao.
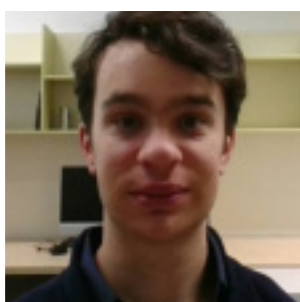
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Aaron Thomas Calbert is a PhD student at The University of Adelaide and an Affiliate Member of the AVERT Research Network. His current research interests lie in examining the typological aspects of Far-Right extremists. In addition, Aaron is also looking into the relationship between criminal and terrorist networks.

Associate Professor Emily Corner
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Dr Emily is an Associate Professor at POLIS: The Centre for Social Policy Research at the Australian National University. She conducts seminal research in the areas of terrorist behaviour, radicalisation, grievance-fuelled violence, fixated threat, and risk assessment.

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Dr Timothy Cubitt is the acting Research Manager of the Australian Institute of Criminology's Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Research Program. Tim's research focuses on radicalisation and violent extremism, the online sexual exploitation of children, law enforcement responses to outlaw motorcycle gangs, and police misconduct. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from the University of New South Wales, a Master of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism from Macquarie University, and a PhD in Criminology from Western Sydney University. His research has appeared in journals such as Crime Science, Journal of Criminal Justice, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, and Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice.

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Dr Jared Dmello is Senior Lecturer of Criminology at the University of Adelaide, a Research Associate at the Rutgers University Center on Public Security, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Addressing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation to Terrorism (AVERT) Research Network. He is an internationally recognized expert on illicit networks. Beyond academia, Dr. Dmello spent a year as an Analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office, where he worked on studies related to inter-agency optimization as well as defense spending and acquisition.
Dr. Dmello has secured over $1.5 million in external funding from a variety of sources, has provided expert testimony to governmental panels in multiple countries, and is regularly quoted by media outlets, including Rolling Stone Magazine, ABC, the LA Times, The Weather Channel, and more.

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Elaiza May Flores is an independent researcher based in Mindanao, Philippines. She has been actively involved in various research projects focused on peacebuilding and the roles of youth and women in combating violence within communities. Her work as a research assistant has deepened her interest in the politics of silence from the voices often left unheard.

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Bernhard Forchtner is associate professor at the School of Arts, Media and Communication, University of Leicester (United Kingdom). Currently, he works on far-right activism and their environmental communication as well as their literary works. His recent publications include the edited volume Visualising Far-Right Environments: Communication and the Politics of Nature (Manchester University Press, 2023). His monograph Imagining Alternative Worlds: Far-right Fiction and the Power of Cultural Imaginaries (with C. Kølvraa) will be published later this year with Routledge, while The Bloomsbury Handbook on Far-Right Fiction (with M. Feldman) will be published in 2026.
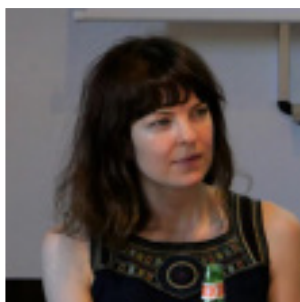
Dr Vivian Gerrand
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Dr Vivian Gerrand is a Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute where she is an associate investigator on the ARC Project: 'Anti-Women online Movements; Pathways and Patterns of Participation'. She was a Chief Investigator on the Horizon 2020 Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism and Polarisation (BRaVE) Project (2019-21). She is a member of the AVERT Executive Committee. Vivian is the author of Possible Spaces of Somali Belonging (MUP, 2016) and co-editor of The Black Mediterranean: Bodies, Borders and Citizenship (Palgrave McMillan 2021).

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Andrea is a Principal Investigator at HILSTLab and Assistant Professor in Economics and Quantitative Methods at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney. Before joining ACU, he was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow at the Institute of Criminology of the University of Cambridge, UK, where he retains a visiting position as an active member of its Violence Research Centre. Andrea specializes in quantitative methods and statistical analysis of big data applied to criminology, with a focus on measuring, understanding, and predicting phenomena that originate and circulate through human networks, spanning from violence dynamics of organized crime groups to radicalization in online communities. Andrea has an active research and operative collaboration with the largest police force of Europe, London Metropolitan Police, and several U.K. organizations, including Merseyside and Cambridgeshire police forces.

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Professor Michele Grossman AM is Research Chair in Diversity and Community Resilience at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, where she is also Director of the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies. The founder and past Convenor of the AVERT Research Network, Michele's research focuses on how best to engage communities in preventing and countering violent extremism. Her research on community reporting thresholds on violent extremism for 'social intimates' in Australia, the UK, USA and Canada has led to national and international policy and program uptakes. Her current projects include an Australian Research Council grant with Prof Stephane Shepherd (lead) and Prof Paul Gill on grievance-fuelled violence, a Dept. of Homeland Security synthesis of community reporting research and practice, and linked studies on countering violent extremism in rural-regional communities funded by Dept. of Home Affairs and CVESC. Michele was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2023.

Dr Ghayda Hassan
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Dr Ghayda Hassan is a clinical psychologist and professor of clinical psychology at UQAM university in Montreal. She is the director of the Canadian Practioner Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence. She is also a UNESCO co-chair in Prevention of Radicalization and Extremist Violence. She currently sits as the Chair of the Independent Advisory Committee of the Global Internet Forum for

Countering Terrorism. She is a member of the RCMP Management Advisory Board and was a member of the expert advisory group on online safety at the ministry of Canadian Heritage. She is a researcher and senior clinical consultant at the SHERPA substeam RAPS for Research and Action on Radicalisation and Social Suffering at the CIUSSS Center-West of the island of Montreal.

Her systematic reviews, research and clinical activities are centred around four main areas of clinical cultural psychology: social suffering, intercommunity relations, hate, racism and extremist violence; Intervention in family violence and cultural diversity; identity, belonging and mental health of children and adolescents from ethnic/religious minorities; working with vulnerable immigrants and refugees.

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Nungky Hodijah, an Indonesian PhD Candidate at Deakin University's School of Humanity and Social Science, Faculty of Art, and Education, is supervised by Matteo Vergani, Greg Barton, and Maree Pardy. Her research explores the intersection of gender and trauma within radicalization processes, focusing specifically on the Ambon Religious Conflict in Indonesia from 1999 to 2001. She also serves as a casual research assistant at Deakin University. Drawing from over a decade of experience at the Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women, she specializes in Indonesian culture and has conducted extensive research on violence against women, particularly in post-conflict areas, addressing issues related to terrorism and extremism.

Jade Hutchinson
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Jade Hutchinson is a Cotutelle Doctoral Candidate in the Faculty of Art's Department of Security Studies and Criminology at Macquarie University (Australia) and the Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture's Research Centre for Media and Journalism Studies at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). Jade's research is focused on countering far- right extremism and violence emerging from digital media ecosystems, examining the interrelationship between ideological and conspiratorial beliefs, sociotechnical systems and structures, as well as other problems pertaining to the harms caused by the networked technologies in online extremist communities.

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Muhammad Iqbal co-leads the Applied Security Science Partnership (ASSP), a multi-disciplinary applied team including researchers and practitioners from Victoria University, Victoria Police, Defence Science Technology and community groups. His research focuses on engagement with and disengagement from terrorism and violent extremism.

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Callum Jones is a researcher and PhD candidate at Deakin University whose research focuses on political extremism, particularly the networks and discursive strategies of radicalised groups and the violence they produce. His wider research focus extends to other ideological groups, including religious extremists and members of the Manosphere, as well as different forms of organised cybercrime.

Bo Min Keum
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Bo Min Keum is a master's student at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Criminology, researching how online subcultures normalise hate. Her research involves both qualitative and quantitative methods, utilising Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), thematic content analysis and network analysis techniques.
Her previous research includes analysing extremist online presence for the Canadian Centre for Identity-Based Conflict, examining COVID-19's impact on intimate partner violence to inform law enforcement, and applying machine learning to disinformation warfare detection. Her past and current research is part of her ongoing aim to uncover emerging trends in extremist violence and to empower resilience against hateful ideologies, while probing the broader question: does outgroup "othering" require assertions of ingroup superiority, or do alternative subculture dynamics exist?

Lydia Khalil
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Lydia Khalil serves as co-Convenor of the Addressing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation to Terrorism (AVERT) Network. Lydia has a broad range of policy, research and private sector experience, and has a professional background in international relations and national security - focusing on counterterrorism, countering violent extremism, transnational digital challenges, democratic safeguarding and strategic intelligence analysis. She is a Senior Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute at Deakin University and a Program Director at the Lowy Institute. In her capacity at Deakin University, in addition to her research focus and convener of AVERT, she serves as liaison to the Research and Evaluation Working Group (REWG) of CVESC. At the Lowy Institute she is the Program Director of the Transnational Challenges Program she currently manages a number of projects examining new forms of violent extremism, digital threats to democracy and the mapping of democratic erosion and points of intervention. She also holds other affiliate and non resident appointments. Lydia is a research affiliate of the National Security College at Australia National University (ANU) and is research member of the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS) where she leads the Crisis Points Project on the intersection of disasters, extremism and disinformation. Lydia also serves as an editorial board member of the academic journal Studies in Conflict and Terrorism and an advisory expert to the Toda Institute. She holds a BA in International Relations from Boston College and a Masters in International Security from Georgetown University. Lydia has held previous appointments as an international affairs fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and Macquarie University. She has previously served as an adviser with the US Department of Defense and as a senior policy and intelligence adviser to the Boston Police Department. She has also worked as a senior counter-terrorism and intelligence analyst for the New York Police Department. Lydia is a frequent media commentator and has published widely in both popular and academic publications on her areas of expertise. She is the author of the book Rise of the Extreme Right: The New Global Extremism and the Threat to Democracy (Penguin, 2022).

Carol Kitson
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Carol Kitson is the Manager Youth Intelligence for Oranga Tamariki, Carol is also the OT Lead for two significant NZ Government Multi-Agency projects being He Aranga Ake (HAA) which is a multi-agency response to the 'Radicalisation to Extreme Violence' with a focus on young people and the Mass Arrival Review Plan (MARP) which is responding to Mass Arrivals within NZ borders where young people and children are involved. Carol joined Oranga Tamariki in 2017 as a Youth Justice Manager. Carol has had extensive Intelligence careers including within the Anti & Countering Terrorism spectrums across the NZ Military, United Nations and NZ Police.

Dr Rachel Kowert
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Rachel Kowert, Ph.D is a research psychologist and the Research Director of Take This. She is a world-renowned researcher on the uses and effects of digital games, including their impact on physical, social, and psychological well-being. An award-winning author, she has published a variety of books and scientific articles relating to the psychology of games. She also serves as the editor of the Debates in Media Studies series and Psychology of Pop Culture series of books. In 2020 she founded her YouTube channel Psychgeist, which serves to bridge the gap between moral panic and scientific knowledge on a variety of psychology and game-related topics. In 2021, Dr. Kowert was chosen as a member of The Game Awards Future Class, representing the best and brightest of the future of video games. To learn more about Rachel and her work, visit www.rkowert.com

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Adam Lankford is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at The University of Alabama. He is the author of two books and many peer-reviewed studies on criminal behavior. His findings have been published in a variety of scientific journals and cited by The White House, by every major media outlet in the United States, and by international media from more than 40 countries.

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Dr Siobhan Lawler is a Principal Research Analyst in the Serious and Organised Crime, Cybercrime and Radicalisation Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC). Siobhan holds a PhD in Medicine from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Psychological Science and Criminology (Honours) from the University of New South Wales. Prior to joining the AIC, Siobhan held research positions at the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use (University of Sydney) and the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (UNSW). Her research areas of interest include violence prevention, radicalisation, sentencing and restorative justice.

Dr Serge Loode
Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA)
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Dr Serge Loode has worked for more than 20 years in community mediation, including significant experience with First Nations Peoples and also with people from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds. He has an undergraduate law degree and practicing certificate from his home country of Germany, a Masters Degree in Dispute Management Law and a Phd in Social Sciences focusing on complexity science, racism and social change. Serge is a trained facilitator and mediator, a casual academic at the University of Queensland and a mediator and trainer at the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General. He is a founding director of Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA).

Andrew McDowell
Praxis Advisory Pty Ltd
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Andrew the Managing Director of Praxis Advisory, a national security consulting firm specialising in counter terrorism and P/CVE related services. He is an experienced counter terrorism practitioner, with 17 years' service with the Commonwealth Government in the national security sector. Andrew works closely with clients in the national security, law enforcement and justice sectors to improve analytic, operational and leadership capabilities. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Macquarie University, and a Master of Terrorism and Security Studies (with postgraduate University Medal) from Charles Sturt University.
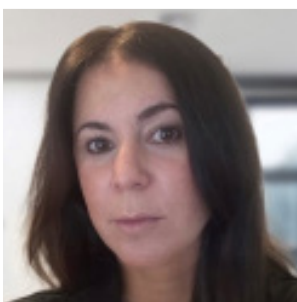
Dr Kelly Mischel
Department of Justice and Community Safety (Victoria)
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Dr Mischel is a Forensic Psychologist with over 17 years experience in prison and probationary settings. During her time as the Principal Clinician for Countering Violent Extremism for Corrections Victoria she had a lead role in the clinical service delivery including assessment, treatment planning, intervention, case management and transition of high risk and violent extremist offenders. Dr Mischel is a specialised assessor in violent extremism assessments including the Violent Extremist Risk Assessment (VERA-2R), Terrorist Radicalization Assessment Protocol (TRAP-18) and Radar/PIM. Dr Mischel is currently the Director, Countering Violent Extremism and is responsible for Whole of Government coordination of CVE policy and Crowded Places Safety strategy implementation in Victoria. She further oversees the implementation of legislated early intervention case management schemes to support individuals at risk of radicalising towards violent extremism.

Anthony Morgan
Australian Institute of Criminology
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Anthony Morgan is the Research Manager for the Australian Institute of Criminology's Serious and Organised crime, Cybercrime and Radicalisation Research Program. Committed to promoting evidence-based policy, Anthony has spent nearly two decades working closely with law enforcement and policy makers to conduct rigorous, applied and policy relevant empirical criminological research. He developed the Serious and Organised Crime Research Laboratory to be a leading centre in Australian applied organised crime research with partnerships with law enforcement and world-leading academics, a national and international footprint, and several Australian-first studies. More recently his research has focused on the online environment, overseeing the development of the Australian Cybercrime Survey and Survey of Social and Political Beliefs in Australia and leading research into cybercrime victimisation and factors that influence people's vulnerability to radicalisation.

Associate Professor Kristine Moruzi
Deakin University
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Dr Kristine Moruzi is an Associate Professor in Children's Literature in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University. She researches and writes in the areas of historical and cotemporary children's and young adult literature. Her current research interests include gender and sexuality, children's print culture, and social activism. Her recent publications include The Edinburgh History of Children's Periodicals (Edinburgh University Press, 2024) and Literary Cultures and Nineteenth-Century Childhoods (Routledge, 2023).

Sophie Murray Farrell
NSW Government
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Sophie Murray-Farrell oversees the NSW Government Countering Violent Extremism Program from within the NSW Premier's Department. In addition to coordinating this program, Sophie leads whole of government coordination of social cohesion policy and programs, working closely with interjurisdictional and Commonwealth government counterparts to drive positive reform to strengthen social cohesion and overcome hate and extremism. Sophie has driven system reform in a range of complex social policy portfolios, including the prevention of domestic and family violence, access to justice and homelessness prevention.
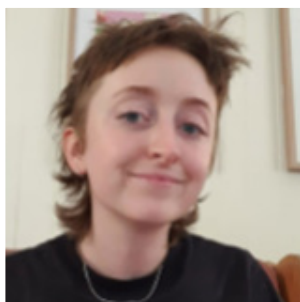
Charlie Pittaway
University of Queensland
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Charlie Pittaway is a PhD Candidate (Social Psychology) at The University of Queensland supervised by Professors Winnifred Louis and Kelly Fielding. Charlie began their PhD in 2022 and is investigating the relationships between future-oriented thinking and climate change attitudes and actions. They have a particular interest in understanding the social context of living during the 'climate crisis,' and the impacts this may have on values, behaviour, and hope for the future. They are also interested in the relationship between temporal orientation and social attitudes more broadly. They are currently collaborating with Professor Winnifred Louis and the Social Change Lab on a range of research projects revolving around attitudes towards peace, human rights, and democracy.

Isel Ras
Impact Pathways
isel.ras@impactpathways.com.au

Isel is a researcher and project coordinator with over 7 years of experience addressing violent extremism and conflict in Africa. She specializes in promoting understanding and capacity building to prevent and counter violent extremism, focusing on how local practitioners identify its drivers and design community-based prevention programs. Her work includes trauma healing and the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants. Isel has worked for the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria and served as the Africa Programme Lead for the Institute for Strategic Dialogue's Strong Cities Network. She emigrated to Melbourne in March 2024.

Dr Kaz Ross
Independent researcher

Dr Kaz Ross holds a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Melbourne. For the last decade, her research focus has been hate speech, online trolling, conspiracies, and extremism in Australia. A major element in her work is straddling the academic/practitioner divide through a strong commitment to resourcing journalists (Australian and international), state and international agencies and institutions, social media platforms, as well as local communities and everyday people on these topics. A recent two-part radio documentary Dr Ross was heavily involved in won a Walkley award: Joey Watson, Earshot, Radio National, ABC, "Everyone wants to be Fuhrer"

Dr Bettina Rottweiler
University College London
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Dr Bettina Rottweiler is a research fellow at University College London. Her research examines the underlying risk and protective factors for different violent extremist outcomes for use in research and practice, with a specific focus on the effects of conspiracy beliefs and violent misogyny. She was co-Principal Investigator of the "Conspiracy Theories and Violent Extremism" project funded by the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST). She is currently co-leading a project funded by the US Department of Homeland Security and NCITE focusing on the functional relationship between conspiracy beliefs and violent extremism.
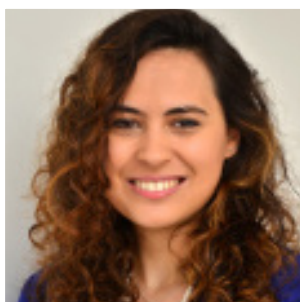
Dr Nadine Salman
University of St Andrews
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Dr Nadine Salman, PhD, has recently completed her PhD at University College London's Department of Security and Crime Science, as well as CREST-funded research at Lancaster University's Psychology Department. Her research focuses on violent extremism risk assessment and management, risk and protective factors, and practitioner decision-making. Her academic research has also focused on human trafficking, the relationship between terrorism and organised crime, and deception detection in police interviews. Nadine has also previously conducted research on terrorism, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and cybercrime with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Royal United Services Institute, and the UK's National Crime Agency. Nadine is a current graduate member of the British Psychological Society, its Division of Forensic Psychology, and its Defence and Security Psychology Section.

Paul Schmidt
Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Queensland Government
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Paul Schmidt is the Manager of Community Engagement at Multicultural Affairs Queensland, in the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services in the Queensland Government. He has a background in adaptive governance and disaster governance research and practice. His role is focused on leading engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse communities across Queensland including those who are experiencing social cohesion pressures related to geo-political conflicts and other domestic pressures. Paul's presentation will be delivered in conversation with Dr Serge Loode from the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA) to discuss emerging skills sets needed to manage the increasing complexity for community engagement.

![AVERT RESEARCH NETWORK]

Dr Steph Scott-Smith
Macquarie University
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Dr Steph Scott-Smith is an experienced forensic psychologist and team leader with expertise in the prison sector. Specialising in the assessment, intervention, and reintegration of high-risk offenders with complex presentations, including adults and young people, violent extremist risk and disengagement, and personality and behaviour disorders. Steph has over a decade of experience working in and leading multidisciplinary teams and is co-founder of the Pax Caledonia Network which brings together researchers, practitioners and policymakers working in security, terrorism, and extremism in Scotland. Steph's research experience spans the fields of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), forensic psychology, criminology, and public health. Steph has worked in leadership roles in both custody- and community-based Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) services, including the PRISM service and the Engagement and Support Service with the Department of Communities and Justice (NSW). Prior to her work in CVE, Steph specialised in working with complex offenders with multiple and competing clinical, forensic and management needs; and with young people in the out of-home care system who had backgrounds of significant trauma and neglect.

Nathan Smyth
Deputy Secretary National Security and Resilience, Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator

Nathan Smyth was appointed as Deputy Secretary National Security and Resilience on 17 July 2023. Nathan leads the Group responsible for domestic and international engagement on national security, while broadening our approach to countering terrorism and foreign interference, and strengthening our democratic and national resilience. Concurrently, Nathan was appointed as the Commonwealth's Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator. Nathan is focused on developing a more secure and resilient nation. Before taking up his current position, Nathan served as Deputy Secretary Employment and National Workforce within the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. In that role, Nathan was responsible for the transformative change to the delivery of employment services, including the delivery and implementation of the new employment services model and the Seasonal Worker Program, which provides access to Australian work opportunities by nine Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste.
Nathan has held a range of senior positions across government, including at the Department of Health, where he was responsible for the implementation and oversight of Tobacco Plain Packaging; the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development; the Department of Finance; and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Nathan holds a Bachelor Degree (Political Science) from the University of New South Wales and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales.
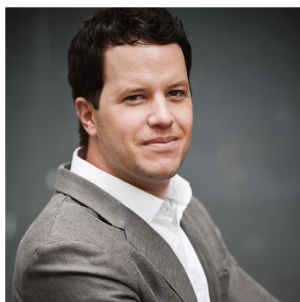
Professor Ramón Spaaij
Victoria University and Utrecht University
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Ramón Spaaij investigates complex social problems, identifying solutions that create and sustain thriving communities as Professor of Sociology at Victoria University. He explores how conflicts and inequities that threaten social cohesion can be transformed toward more harmonious community relationships. Ramón co-leads the Applied Security Science Partnership (ASSP), a multi-disciplinary applied team including researchers and practitioners from Victoria University, Victoria Police, Defence Science Technology and community groups. He holds secondary academic appointments at Utrecht University and Stellenbosch University.

Dr Tony Stanley
Oranga Tamariki
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Dr Tony Stanley is a national practice design advisor for Oranga Tamariki in Aotearoa New Zealand. Previously, he was the Chief Social Worker for Birmingham City Council. He was their professional lead for quality social work and improving practice, and chair of the West Midlands Teaching Partnership. Recent publications include statutory responses for suspected radicalisation and terrorism risk, and organisational cultures shaping practice and social workers' constructions of 'family' in radicalisation risk cases.

Dr Djordje (George) Stefanovic
University of Adelaide
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Dr. Djordje (George) Stefanovic is a political sociologist at The University of Adelaide. His work draws upon historical and quantitative methods to study ethnic conflict. His current work focusses on the far-right and the drivers of anti-minority sentiments. His research has featured in various outlets, including Ethnic and Racial Studies, International Migration, Journal of Refugee Studies, Human Rights Quarterly, Political Psychology, Australian Journal of Social Issues, Ethnopolitics, European History Quarterly, and Conflict Management and Peace Science. His research has been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; the European Institutes for Advanced Study; Nuffield College, the University of Oxford; and the European Commission.

Muhammad Syafiq
Universitas Negeri Surabaya/ University of Queensland
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Muhammad Syafiq is a PhD candidate at the School of Social Science, University of Queensland, supervised by Prof. Adrian Cherney (School of Social Science, University of Queensland) and Prof. Winnifred Louis (School of Psychology, University of Queensland). His PhD project focuses on identity transformation and stigma management in the process of disengagement from extremism and community reintegration. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Airlangga University, Indonesia, and a master's degree in social psychology from the University of Surrey, United Kingdom. His master's thesis involved projects based on qualitative interviews with former terrorist prisoners in Indonesia. He is now also listed as a lecturer at the Department of Psychology, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia. His work on deradicalisation and disengagement among terrorist and ex-terrorist prisoners in Indonesia has been published in several peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Eszter Szenes
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Dr. Eszter Szenes is a Lecturer at the School of Education, the University of Adelaide, Australia, and a Senior Fellow at the Peace and War Center and Center for Global Resilience and Security, Norwich University, USA. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Sydney (USYD), Australia. Her research focuses on the role of language and multimodal resources in emerging complex and interrelated societal threats, for example, information disorder and the links between climate change, radicalisation and (violent) extremism. Eszter is currently working on a book titled The Language of Ecofascist Propaganda: Greenwashing White Supremacy, to be published by Routledge. She is especially interested in preventing and countering the effect of disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining democracies from the perspective of computer-mediated communication and critical digital and media literacies.

Professor Emma Thomas
Flinders University
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Emma Thomas is Matthew Flinders Professor of Psychology at Flinders University and head of the Flinders Social Influence and Social Change Lab. Her work sits at the nexus of social and political psychology and focuses on the antecedents of political engagement and political extremism. Her research addresses the role of social identities, norms and social interaction in promoting commitment to violent and non-violent social changes. She has been funded via multiple grants from the Australian Research Council (including as an ARC DECRA awardee) and Defence Science & Technology. She was a formerly an Associate Editor at the British Journal of Social Psychology and a 2018 South Australian Tall Poppy Scientist.

Haily Tran
Deakin University
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Haily Tran is a researcher in the final year of her PhD at Deakin University. Her PhD investigates the link between masculinities and the far-right with a focus on social psychological theories. Her research areas include violent extremism and hate prevention.

Associate Professor Matteo Vergani
Deakin University
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Matteo is an Associate Professor in Sociology at Deakin University. His research focuses on investigating the relationships between on- and offline discrimination, micro-aggressions, hate speech, hate crime, and politically motivated violence.

Matteo uses mixed methods and interdisciplinary collaborations with data scientists and other STEM colleagues to look at the factors that cause and accelerate hate behaviours, as well as the factors that contribute to preventing and mitigating hate behaviours, such as social cohesion and the inclusion of diverse communities in multicultural societies. Matteo has completed numerous systematic reviews, developed validated measurement tools, and impact evaluations in Australia and South East Asia.

Dr Levi West
Australian National University
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Dr Levi West is a lecturer in Terrorism Studies at the Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security, Charles Sturt University; an Adjunct Fellow with the Irregular Warfare & Special Operations program at UNSW Canberra; an Adjunct Research Fellow at Victoria University; an expert with The Cipher Brief; and a Director with Praxis Advisory. He is also a 2024 Fellow with the Irregular Warfare Initiative, a joint project of Princeton University's Empirical Studies of Conflict program and West Point Military Academy's Modern War Institute
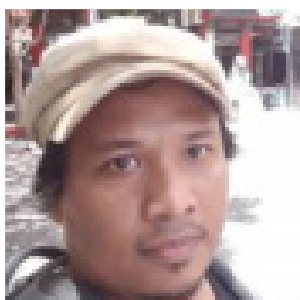
Susilo Wibisono
University of Queensland
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Susilo Wibisono (PhD University of Queensland, 2022) is a post-doctoral research fellow in the Social Change Lab. He is working with Prof. Winnifred Louis on democracy and gridlock, as well as leading a project on religious identities and environmental action in Indonesia.

Dr Rachel Worthington
Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Central Lancashire
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Dr Rachel Worthington, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Central Lancashire. She is a Chartered Scientist, holds European Psychologist status and is a UK HCPC registered Practitioner Forensic Psychologist. Dr Worthington has a Masters Degree in Autism and PG Cert in ADHD, and undertakes diagnostic and risk assessments with individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders. She has authored several book chapters on supporting autistic people in the Criminal Justice System and challenging bias in the assessment and treatment for people with ADHD. In her clinical career, Dr Worthington has developed and headed services for forensic patients with complex needs, has trained in and delivered a range of therapies, and has extensive expertise in carrying out forensic risk assessments. She has undertaken research on neurodiversity within Prevent, was commissioned by AVERT to conduct a Rapid Evidence Assessment of neurodiversity and extremism and has presented and published on extremism and ADHD.

Dr Helen Young
Deakin University
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Dr Helen Young holds a PhD from the University of Sydney (2007) and is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University. Helen is currently leading the Australian Research Council Future Fellowship project "The Politics of Medievalism: Persuasive Narratives," and is a member of the AVERT Executive Committee. Helen's current research interests include: medievalism and identities, far-right extremist fiction; white supremacy and racism; and popular culture. Their recent publications have appeared in Textual Practice and Continuum.

John Young
Department of Human Services SA; University of Queensland
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John is the Manager of the Inclusion Support Program, Department of Human Services and the South Australian Countering Violent Extremism Intervention Coordinator. He is also a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, studying the intersection of right-wing extremism and masculinity. John has experience as a masculinity researcher; a teacher in remote indigenous communities; and working as a clinician and program designer with terrorist offenders - a position he has contributed to for the past 7 years. After trying his hand at a number of pursuits, such as a scuba instructor, pizza chef, academic and crossfit coach, John has unfortunately found his calling as a bureaucrat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Please note: This draft program is accurate at time of publication and is subject to change prior to the event