

2022-2023  
PROSPECTUS





UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

To say the last few years have been a challenge for us all is an understatement. The ways in which we have been tested, however, make it all the more important to reflect on and recognize all that we have accomplished in the Terrorism Research Center.

In 2020, we adapted to and overcame obstacles presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. We successfully pivoted the entirety of our operations to a remote format as part of the University's effort to curb the spread of COVID-19 while still completing multi-year funded projects, securing additional new funding, and facilitating student research through our internship program and the completion of several honors and graduate theses. While the full impact of the pandemic and social and political turmoil of our time remains to be seen, the TRC team's resolve, sense of purpose, and commitment to our mission is stronger than ever before.

As we move into the 2022-2023 academic year, we have much to look forward to, including:

- Welcoming our interns, graduate assistants, and staff back to an improved, student-focused office and lab while following campus protocols to keep personnel healthy and safe.
- Focusing our research on two major projects, collectively worth more than \$2 million (learn more on Page 3).
- Seeking additional sources of funding and new opportunities for collaboration with public and private partners.
- Providing our student researchers and students across campus with opportunities to learn new skills and connect with members of the law enforcement and intelligence communities, as well as other scholars.

We invite you to learn more about the TRC and our projects here, as well as on our [website](#).

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**Dr. Jeff Gruenewald**  
TRC Director & Professor  
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## ABOUT THE TERRORISM RESEARCH CENTER

### Our Research

The Terrorism Research Center (TRC) was founded in 2003 at the University of Arkansas within the Department of Sociology and Criminology. We are a non-partisan, federally-funded organization and strive to be a premier hub for innovative, collaborative research on issues of terrorism, domestic extremism, hate crime, and other serious threats to public safety and homeland security. Our research portfolio maintains four primary databases:

- American Terrorism Study
- Extremist Crime Database
- Bias Homicide Database
- Human Trafficking Study

### Personnel

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## OUR MISSION

*We use the tools of social science and data analytics to promote safer communities, inform evidence-based policies, and train the next generation of researchers and law enforcement professionals.*



### What We Offer

The TRC actively fosters and facilitates engagement with public and private agencies, as well as research opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate-level students. Each semester, between 15-20 students work directly with TRC staff on funded and original research projects. In 2020, the [Crime and Security Data Analytics Lab](#) (CASDAL) was established in the TRC to meet the analytical needs of students, faculty, and external partners by providing dedicated technology and space for research projects relating to crime and security issues.

## GET IN TOUCH, SUPPORT, & LEARN MORE

✉ [trc@uark.edu](mailto:trc@uark.edu)  
🌐 [terrorismresearch.uark.edu](http://terrorismresearch.uark.edu)

Click [here](#) to donate directly to the TRC, or [visit our website](#).



LAST YEAR

# IN REVIEW

The TRC accomplished several research, educational, and outreach objectives while continuing to adapt to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic during the 2021-2022 academic year.

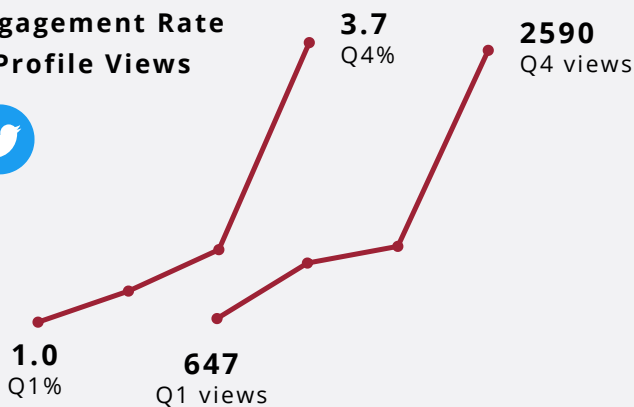
## RESEARCH OUTPUT & FUNDING

A significant achievement for the TRC over the last year included the completion of the American Terrorism Study Court Record Repository ([ATSCoRR](#)) project. This three-year, federally funded project produced a web-based tool for use by US Attorneys, intelligence analysts, and researchers to access TRC-housed data and documents. Publication highlights include a published study of [women in terrorism](#) and an [edited book volume](#). The TRC was also awarded a new three-year project from the National Institute of Justice (see Page 3). We also worked to make our research products more available by expanding our website and increasing our [social media](#) engagement.

## STUDENT RESEARCH & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Along with facilitating student research, the TRC provided several additional opportunities for student research, networking, and skill development. For instance, the Crime and Security Data Analytics Lab (CASDAL) hosted a student crime analysis training session, our graduate students traveled to and presented in Chicago, Illinois at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, and TRC interns attended a session with local representatives from the FBI Field Office. Past networking and informational events have also been held with representatives from the National Counter Terrorism Center and Central Intelligence Agency.

### Engagement Rate & Profile Views



### 2021-22 BY THE NUMBERS

**30+**  
undergraduate &  
graduate students

**~\$1M**  
in new funded  
research projects

**14,000**  
visits to the TRC  
website

## 2022-2023 ACTIVE FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Learn more about these funded research projects and associated products on our website [here](#).

### Project Title

From Dot Coms to Pipe Bombs: Online Radicalization and Mobilization to Violence

### Funding

\$893,721 from the National Institute of Justice

### Purpose

The "Dot Coms" project is focused on comparing risk and protective factors across forms of domestic and international terrorism, extremism and cybercrime. In other words, what factors - including the offender's background, online presence, and attitudes - influence whether someone escalates to violence?

### Project Title

Investigating Contested Theories on Extreme-Right Terrorism (INCONTEXT)

### Funding

\$1.64 million from the Research Council of Norway

### Purpose

This project is a cross-national research collaboration that endeavors to test the applicability of criminological theories for explaining various forms of violent extremism by collecting and analyzing data on violent plots.

## OUR PROJECT PARTNERS

These projects are funded by and in collaboration with partners at the following institutions:



Center for Research  
on Extremism (C-REX)



The Research Council  
of Norway



## CASDAL PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

Established in 2020 and housed in the TRC, the Crime and Security Data Analytics Lab (CASDAL) is designed to meet the analytical needs of students and faculty, and coordinate work on several different projects with both public and private partners. CASDAL has several ongoing active partnerships worth more than \$1.7million collectively, including:



### Using Community Schools as a Hub for Promoting Personal Resilience and Neighborhood Empowerment

Assisting students and families within the Stephens Elementary School Community, which experiences a disproportionate amount of violence, calls-for-service, and poor health indicators. Crime and risk mitigation is two-fold with targeted in-school resource alignment and community-driven involvement to create safer and healthier places, including two new community social workers.

### TRAIN Partnership - Assess and Act: A Children's Advocacy Centers Response to ALL Children Experiencing Trauma

Collaborative focus on child maltreatment incidents in Benton County to understand where incidents are occurring and better inform resource allocation.



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
OF BENTON COUNTY



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
CHATTANOOGA

### Chattanooga Police Department: Scenic City Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC)

This partnership between law enforcement and researchers centers on examining a multitude of gun-involved incidents along with CPD's implementation efforts related to the deployment of resources acquired through the award.

## DATA & CRIME ANALYSIS RESOURCES

CASDAL personnel work with students and faculty to produce publicly accessible resources on the topics of data analysis, including a set of Technical Guides, Academic Article Summaries, and a YouTube channel that demonstrates crime analysis and data management skills for a variety of platforms. Find these on the TRC website at [terrorismresearch.uark.edu/CASDAL](http://terrorismresearch.uark.edu/CASDAL), or scan the QR code.







**TERRORISM  
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