



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

TERRORISM
RESEARCH
CENTER

ANNUAL PROSPECTUS 2024



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Terrorism Research Center (TRC) is celebrating its 20 year anniversary this year!

This year, we continue to build on the ground-breaking research of the TRC's founding Director Brent Smith by pursuing our mission of using tools of social science and data analytics to inform evidence-based policies, promote safer communities, and train the next generation of researchers and law enforcement professionals.

In particular, the TRC will:

- integrate domestic cyber extremism cases in the new PLOTS database as part of the NIJ-funded "Dot Coms" project,
- conduct cross-national analyses of RWE violent plots in the United States and across Western Europe, Canada, and Nordic countries, and
- incorporate University of Arkansas undergraduate students and other students into the NSF-funded research program of the TRC.



Jeff Gruenewald, PhD

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PROJECT PROFILE

TRAJECTORIES OF TARGETED VIOLENCE: MOBILIZATION TRENDS AND INTERDICTION OPPORTUNITIES

Synopsis

Project allows Homeland Security Enterprise partners to assess both contextual and longitudinal relationships between indicators of mobilization associated with types of targeted violence offenders and incident outcomes.

Key Research Questions

1. What are the risks, vulnerabilities, or protective characteristics of individuals radicalized to violence?
2. What characteristics are common among terrorism and targeted violence incidents in the United States?

FUNDING SOURCE



RESEARCH PARTNERS



Criminology and Criminal
College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PROJECT PROFILE

FROM DOT COMS TO PIPE BOMBS: ONLINE RADICALIZATION AND MOBILIZATION TO VIOLENCE

Synopsis

Project compares risk and protective factors across multiple forms of violent and non-violent, domestic and international terrorism, extremism, bias crime, and cybercrime.

Key Research Question

1. What combinations of offline and online preparatory and radicalization activities are most prevalent for extreme crime offenders?

FUNDING SOURCE



RESEARCH PARTNERS



PROJECT PROFILE

INVESTIGATING CONTESTED THEORIES ON EXTREME FAR-RIGHT TERRORISM

Synopsis

Project develops a new dataset measuring extreme far-right representation and repression in Western democracies since 1990. Data from two existing datasets – the Right-Wing Terrorism and Violence (RTV) dataset and the United States Extremist Crime Database (ECDB) - are combined to comparatively examine the evolution of extreme-right terrorism and violence in all Western democracies since 1990.

Key Research Question

1. What mechanisms of representation and repression lead to more or less extreme-right violence across different countries?

FUNDING SOURCE



RESEARCH PARTNERS



PROJECT PROFILE

REU SITE: CONNECTING RESEARCH TO PRACTICE IN CRIME ANALYTICS

Synopsis

Project is funded from the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites program in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE). The proposed REU site brings together an interdisciplinary research team at the University of Arkansas and criminology/criminal justice practitioners throughout the nation to provide students opportunities to learn innovative crime analysis approaches for studying some of today's most pressing social problems. The REU site is designed to provide an in-depth research experience for students who have an interest in crime analytics broadly, as well as for students who have more specific interests in issues of: 1) terrorism, violent extremism, and bias crime and 2) community and crime.

FUNDING SOURCE



RESEARCH PARTNERS



TERRORISM RESEARCH CENTER OVERVIEW

The Terrorism Research Center (TRC) is a non-partisan research organization located in Fulbright College's Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Arkansas.

The TRC mission is to 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.

Databases housed in TRC include the American Terrorism Study (ATS), a collection of federal terrorism and terrorism-related court records dating back to the 1980s. More than 1,600 court cases and nearly 3,000 offenders are included in the ATS. Variables include legal and demographic measures, as well as geospatial and temporal markers of terrorism incidents and preparatory activities. The TRC also houses the Bias Homicide Database (BHDB) and Human Trafficking Study (HTS) Database. The TRC collaborates with students and researchers at institutions across the country to study issues of terrorism, bias-motivated crimes, and human trafficking.

The TRC is currently funded by the National Institute of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and the National Science Foundation.

Hundreds of student internships and graduate assistantships have been housed in the TRC during this time. Data requests by justice officials and crime researchers on issues of terrorism, violent extremism, bias crime, and human trafficking are filled by the TRC on a regular basis.



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