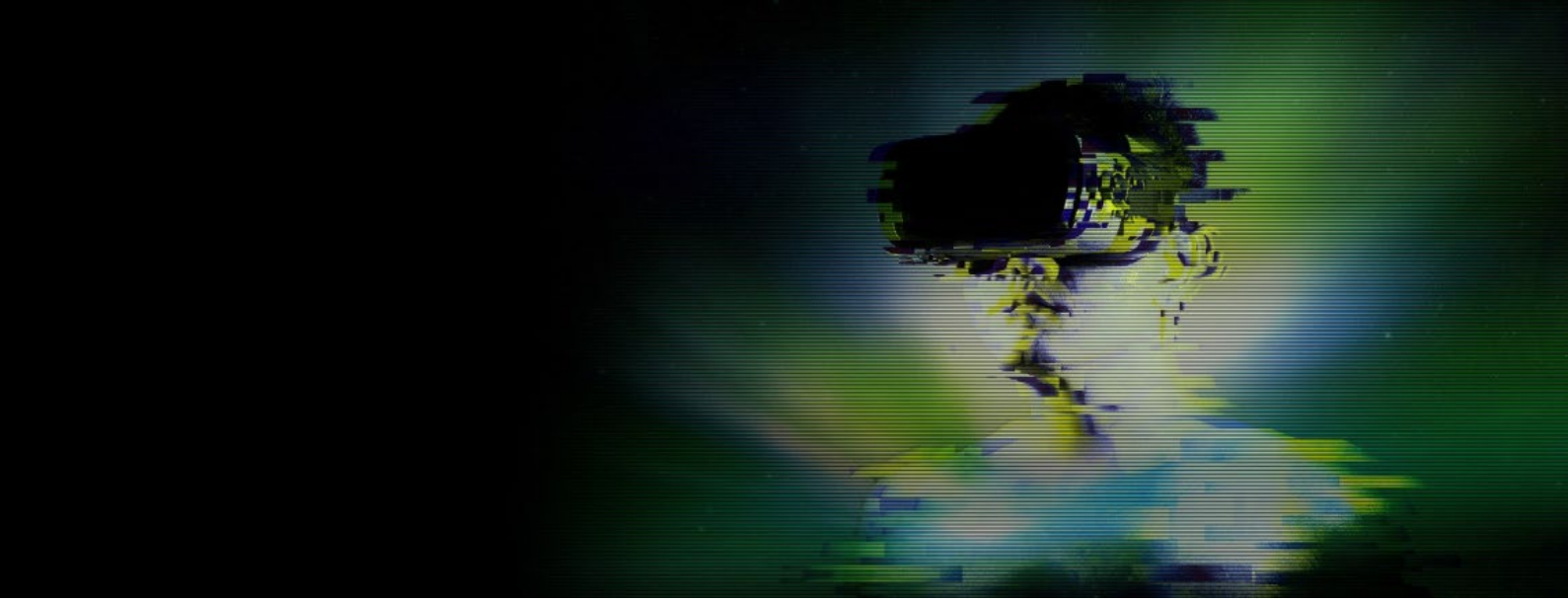




AVERT
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2025

SIGNAL OR NOISE? NAVIGATING THE CHANGING NATURE OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM ONLINE



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME.....	2
SYMPOSIUM VENUE.....	3
SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM.....	4
MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER.....	4
TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER.....	6
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER.....	8
PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS.....	10
MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER	
PLENARY SESSION: KEYNOTE.....	10
SESSION A: GAMING THE MANOSPHERE: MISOGYNY AND TECHNOLOGY IN DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS	10
SESSION B: LISTENING POSTS: IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE EXTREMIST SIGNALLING	11
ROUNDTABLE A: BUILDING DIGITAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: YOUTH-LED SOLUTIONS FOR SAFER ONLINE COMMUNITIES	12
ROUNDTABLE B: ONLINE MISOGYNY AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM: INSIGHTS FROM CATALYST.....	13
ROUNDTABLE A: UBIQUITOUS DETERMINISM: THE COMPLEXITY OF DIGITAL AND IRL INTERACTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTREMISM	13
SESSION B: OUTSMARTED? ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR AND AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM.....	13
SESSION A: DARK MODE: HOW EXTREMISM, NIHILISM AND GORE INTERSECT ONLINE	14
SESSION B: PANEL PRESENTATION: TECHNIQUES OF TRANSNATIONAL MOBILISATION.....	15
TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER	
PLENARY SESSION: SPOTLIGHT SESSION: NAVIGATING THE CHANGING ONLINE SAFETY LANDSCAPE WITH THE CHRISTCHURCH CALL FOUNDATION.....	17
SESSION A: THE YOUTHIVERSE: DIGITAL DYNAMICS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE RADICALISING TO EXTREMIST VIOLENCE.....	17
SESSION B: VOX-POL WORKSHOP: DETECTION, INTERVENTION AND DISRUPTION: OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE STRATEGIES FOR DISRUPTING ONLINE NETWORKS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL CONTENT DISTRIBUTION.....	18
SESSION A: UNPACKING EXTREMIST DIGITAL STRATEGIES IN SOUTH ASIA.....	19
SESSION B: IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO VIOLENT EXTREMIST HARMS ONLINE: INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE-BASED APPROACHES.....	20
ROUNDTABLE A: BEFORE 'YOUTH CULTURE': ONLINE CHILDHOODS, CHILD VULNERABILITIES AND THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE FOR EARLY YEARS TO PRE-TEENS INTERVENTIONS.....	21
ROUNDTABLE B: LESSONS LEARNED FROM ONLINE-OFFLINE REFERRALS AND SCALING FOR SUCCESS IN AUSTRALIA	22
SESSION A: NEW DIRECTIONS: DOCTORAL RESEARCH ON VIOLENT EXTREMISM ONLINE.....	22
SESSION B: POLICING THE BOUNDARIES: NEW THREATS AND CHALLENGES FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE RESPONSES TO DIGITAL VIOLENT EXTREMISM.....	24
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER	
SESSION A: BROMANCING THE EXTREME RIGHT: FANDOM AND RECRUITMENT IN FAR-RIGHT EXTREMIST ONLINE SPACES.....	26
SESSION B: PANEL PRESENTATION: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEURODIVERSITY AND THE ONLINE TERRORISM SPACE? A SYNTHESIS OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH, PRACTITIONER EXPERTISE AND CASE ANALYSIS.....	26
ROUNDTABLE A: FROM SIGNALS TO SOLUTIONS: SCALING EFFECTIVE ONLINE P/CVE PROGRAMS ACROSS COMPLEX DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS.....	28
ROUNDTABLE B: MISOGYNY, MACHINES AND MODERATION: AUTOMATING DETECTION OF MALE SUPREMACIST CONTENT.....	29
INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP A: AI, IDEOLOGY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE: NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY AND RISK.....	29
INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP B: SANDBOX: PRACTITIONER-LED DESIGN FOR EFFECTIVE ONLINE-OFFLINE REFERRALS....	30
SESSION A: PANEL PRESENTATION: THRESHOLDS AND TRIGGERS FOR MEASURING ONLINE HATE TO ANTICIPATE REAL-WORLD HARM.....	30
SESSION B: PANEL PRESENTATION: NARRATIVE TRAPS AND DIGITAL DETOX: DISRUPTING EXTREMIST STORYLINES IN ONLINE ENVIRONMENTS.....	31
SESSION A: FRAMES AND FUNNELS: RECRUITMENT, GENDER AND MEDIA REPORTING IN ONLINE EXTREMIST CONTEXTS.....	31
SESSION B: MOVEMENT AT THE STATION: ONLINE CONSPIRACY DISCOURSE AND MOBILISATION TO EXTREMIST VIOLENT ACTION	33
PRESENTER PROFILES.....	35
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	64

WELCOME

Welcome to the AVERT International Research Symposium 2025!

This year's Symposium theme is 'Signal or noise? Navigating the changing nature of violent extremism online.' Today, the interaction between violent extremists and the internet is becoming increasingly complex. The pace and scale of technological development is expanding the ways violent extremist propaganda is disseminated and the types of people who are vulnerable. At the same time, online violent extremist movements are becoming ever more cross-platform, transnational, and normalised. This means that the way practitioners, policymakers, and scholars conceptualise terrorism and violent extremism online is changing. These shifting dynamics make it harder to distinguish meaningful threats ('signal') from background activity ('noise') online. There is need for better methods for threat assessment, prevention, and the targeting of effective interventions.

This year, we are pleased to collaborate with the VOX-Pol Network of Excellence and the Terrorism and Social Media (TASM) conference to explore the changing nature of violent extremism online. We are looking forward to the insights this year's presentations and workshops will bring and what they mean for risk and threat analysis, successful interventions, and other forms of counter terrorism and countering violent extremism programming and response.

In keeping with AVERT's mission, we are committed to bringing together Australian and international academics, practitioners, policymakers, as well as representatives from industry and community, to generate knowledge and exchange understanding. We welcome critical dialogue and robust exchange on the latest findings, insights into learned best practices for engaging in online spaces, and discussions about what we still need to learn and improve. In pursuit of practical outcomes, this year's Symposium will include a series of practitioner-focussed roundtables and workshops, bringing practitioners, researchers, and industry together to exchange ideas and create solutions.

As part of this year's programme, we are delighted to welcome our keynote speaker, Professor Cynthia Miller-Idriss from the American University, Washington, DC. Professor Miller-Idriss is one of the most prominent researchers in the field, pioneering research into hate, extremism, and misogyny, and engaging extensively with government and practitioners. We look forward to an engaging discussion with her on the topic of New Misogyny and The Rise of Violent Extremism.

On behalf of the Symposium organising committee, we extend our warmest welcome 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!

Julian Droogan and Michele Grossman
Co-Convenors, 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:

Deakin Downtown is accessible via public transport, with Southern Cross Train Station just 350m from Collins Square. Tram stop D15: Batmans Hill Drive / Collins Square is also directly opposite the building entrance. To plan your journey, please visit the [Public Transport Victoria](#) website.

Parking:

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.



Day 1 - Monday 24 November 2025		(All dates and times AEDT)
8:30am – 9:00am	Arrival and Registration	
9:00am – 10:45am	Plenary Session <i>Chair: Julian Droogan, Macquarie University</i> <i>(AVERT Co-Convenor)</i>	
9:00am – 9:15am	Co-Convenor Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country <i>Michele Grossman AM, Deakin University</i>	
9:15am – 9:30am	Opening Remarks <i>Stuart Macdonald, Swansea University</i>	
9:30am – 10:45am	Keynote Presentation The New Misogyny and The Rise of Violent Extremism <i>Cynthia Miller-Idriss, American University</i>	
10:45am – 11:15am	Morning Tea	
11:15am – 12:30pm	Session A: Gaming The Manosphere: Misogyny and Technology in Digital Ecosystems	Session B: Listening Posts: Identifying and Responding to Online Extremist Signalling
	Chair: <i>Stuart Macdonald, Swansea University</i> Misogynistic Extremism at Scale: Gendered Violence in The Age Of AI <i>Florence Keen, Extrac</i> Sandbox Experiences and VR Games through the Lens of Misogyny <i>Emily Thompson, Christchurch Call Foundation</i> <i>Galen Lamphere-Englund, Christchurch Call Foundation</i> Deradicalising Misogyny: Countering Red Pill Violence and Extremism in the Manosphere <i>Kate Scott, University of Sydney</i>	Chair: <i>Alexandra Phelan, Monash University</i> The Taylor Swift Concert Plot: A Case Study on How Online and Offline Leaking Signals Can Indicate Planned Attacks With LATERAN-IT <i>Astrid Bastiaens, Maastricht University</i> Talking Their Way to Extremism: Using LLMs to Analyze the Speech of Violent and Non-Violent Users of Stormfront <i>Richard Frank, Simon Fraser University</i> <i>Aryan Rathee, University of Texas</i>
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30pm – 2:15pm	Roundtable A: Building Digital Community Resilience: Youth-Led Solutions for Safer Online Communities	Roundtable B: Online Misogyny and Violent Extremism: Insights from Catalyst
	Moderator: <i>Malcolm Haddon PSM, Multicultural NSW</i> <i>Thomas Waite, Multicultural NSW</i> <i>Derya Iner, Islamic Sciences & Research Academy</i> <i>Dan Donahoo, Project ROCKIT</i>	Moderator: <i>Andy George, Christchurch Call Foundation</i> <i>Cynthia Miller-Idriss, American University</i> <i>Anne Craanen, Institute for Strategic Dialogue and Swansea University</i> <i>Yasmin Chilmeran, Christchurch Call Foundation</i>

2:15pm – 3:00pm	Roundtable A: Ubiquitous Determinism: The Complexity of Digital and IRL Interactions in the Context of Extremism	Session B: Outsmarted? Artificial Intelligence for and Against Violent Extremism
	Chair: <i>Matteo Vergani, Deakin University</i> <i>Emily Corner, Australian National University</i> <i>Levi West, Australian National University</i> <i>Helen Taylor, Australian National University</i>	Chair: <i>Isel Ras, AVERT Research Network</i> Synthetic Hate: What AI Can Teach Us About the Future of Extremism <i>Lydia Channon, Swansea University</i> Gen-AI and Tehrik i Taliban Pakistan (TTP): Propaganda Strategies and Platforms engagement patterns <i>Saif ur Rehman Tahir, Victoria University of Wellington</i>
3:00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:30pm - 4:45pm	Session A: Dark Mode: How Extremism, Nihilism and Gore Intersect Online	Session B: Panel Presentation: Techniques of Transnational Mobilisation
	Chair: <i>Michele Grossman AM, Deakin University</i> Charting Extreme(-ist) Violence Online: An Analysis of Hard-Gore Platforms in The Context of Mixed, Unclear, And Unstable Ideologies. <i>Lewys Brace, University of Exeter</i> <i>Stephane J Baele, University of Louvain</i> Nihilist Violent Extremism (NVE): A New Form of Right-Wing Extremism? <i>Felix Neumann, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung</i> The Rising Threat of Nihilistic Violence: Examining Mobilization Pathways Of 764 Members <i>Bettina Rottweiler, NCITE</i> <i>Caitlin Clemmow, University College London</i>	Chair: <i>Malcolm Haddon PSM, Multicultural NSW</i> Online Mobilisation and the Turn to Terrorism <i>Andrew Zammit, Victoria University</i> Why Gender Matters in Violent Extremist Propaganda: From Empowerment to Transnational Mobilisation <i>Kiriloi Ingram, University of Queensland</i> Learning Through Infographics, Shitposts, And Memes: Online Ideological Propagation in the Extreme Right Online Ecosystem <i>Levi West, Australian National University</i>
4:45pm – 5:00pm	Closing Remarks - <i>Julian Droogan, Macquarie University</i>	
Day 1 - Closed		



Day 2 – Tuesday 25 November 2025		(All dates and times AEDT)
9:00am – 9:30am	Arrival and Registration	
9:30am – 10:30am	Plenary Session <i>Chair: Michele Grossman AM, Deakin University</i>	
9:30am – 10:30am	Spotlight Session: Navigating the Changing Online Safety Landscape with the Christchurch Call Foundation Moderator: <i>Lydia Khalil, Deakin University</i> <i>Andy George, Christchurch Call Foundation</i>	
10:30am – 11:00am	Morning Tea	
11:00am – 12:15pm	Session A: The Youthiverse: Digital Dynamics for Young People Radicalising to Extremist Violence Chair: <i>Emily Corner, Australian National University</i> Youth Radicalisation Pathways: A Systematic Review of Theoretical Processes and Online Dynamics <i>Lujia Pei, University College London</i> Online Youth Radicalisation from The Netherlands to Australia: Strategic Policy Recommendations for Prevention and Institutional Reform <i>Jade Hutchinson, Macquarie University</i> Users And Consumers of Extremism: An Awkward Typology of Youth Posing Policy and Practice Challenges <i>Steve Barracosa, Youth Justice NSW</i>	Session B: VOX-Pol Workshop: Opportunities to Enhance Strategies for Disrupting Online Networks Involved in Illegal Content Distribution Gore and Violent Extremism: An explorative analysis of the use of gore websites for hosting and sharing extremist and terrorist content Chair: <i>Stuart Macdonald, Swansea University</i> <i>Ali Fisher, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano and Human Cognition Ltd</i>
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch	
1:15pm – 2:30pm	Session A: Unpacking Extremist Digital Strategies in South Asia Chair: <i>Muhammad Iqbal, Victoria University</i> Tactical Shifts and Digital Strategy: The Balochistan Liberation Army's Use of Social Media and Messaging Platforms <i>Mariam Shah, National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan</i> Hindu nationalism and its transnational stochastic terror network <i>Zenith Khan, CSOH</i> Hybrid Terrorism: Magnifying the 'Theatre' of Extremism <i>Marriyam Siddique, Maritime Centre of Excellence, Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore</i>	Session B: Identifying And Responding to Violent Extremist Harms Online: International Practice-Based Approaches Chair: <i>Melanie Mitchell, Queensland Corrective Services</i> Future Threats and Digital Harm: A Delphi Study on Psychologically Relevant Mechanisms of Online Transgression <i>Sören Henrich, Manchester Metropolitan University</i> <i>Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University</i> Countering Extremism Online in Southeast Asia: Lessons from Research and Practice <i>Emma Allen, Hedayah</i> <i>Galen Lamphere-Englund, Extremism and Gaming Research Network</i> Australian Government and Non-Government Approaches to Tackling Violent Extremism in Videogaming <i>Helen Young, Deakin University</i> <i>Mario Peucker, Victoria University</i> <i>Lydia Khalil, Deakin University and Lowy Institute</i>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea	

3:00pm - 3:45pm	Roundtable A: Before 'Youth Culture': Online Childhoods, Child Vulnerabilities and The Multidisciplinary Case for Early Years to Pre-Teens Interventions	Roundtable B: Lessons Learned from Online-Offline Referrals and Scaling for Success in Australia
	Moderator: <i>Sue Saltmarsh, University of New England</i> <i>Kyle Mulrooney, University of New England</i> <i>Deborah Youdell, Macquarie University</i> <i>Vicki Bitsika, University of New England</i>	Moderator: <i>Rebecca Visser, Violence Prevention Network</i> <i>Jodie Wrigley, Senate SHJ</i> <i>Tom Stewart, Department of Human Services, South Australia</i> <i>Henry Adams, Resolver</i>
3:45pm – 5:00pm	Session A: New Directions: Doctoral Research on Violent Extremism Online	Session B: Policing The Boundaries: New Threats and Challenges for Policy and Practice Responses to Digital Violent Extremism
	Chairs: <i>Julian Droogan and Jordon Borg, Macquarie University</i> Are Gender Essentialist Beliefs a Radicalising Force? A Study of Online Cis Gendered Women <i>Madeleine Tolhurst, Macquarie University</i> The Appeal of Neo-Nazi Far-Right Extremist Groups: An Analysis on The Presence of Social Identity in The National Socialist Network <i>Taylor Parnell, Macquarie University</i> From Berlin, to Washington, and Brasilia? Assessing QAnon as a Bridging Narrative for Anti-Government Extremism <i>Leoni Heyn, Institute for Security Policy Kiel</i> From Tweets to Threats: Modeling the Temporal and Thematic Links Between Online Antisemitism and Offline Incidents in Australia <i>Stephanie Zi Xin Ng, Deakin University</i> The Role of Women in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: A Decolonial Interrogation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda <i>Serena Said, Deakin University</i>	Chair: <i>Kelly Mischel, Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria</i> The Growth of Post-Ideological Threats in Aotearoa/New Zealand <i>Che Tibby, New Zealand Police</i> Outsourced Prevention and Hollowed Capacity: Interrogating New Zealand's State-Led Response to Digital Violent Extremism <i>Angus Lindsay, Department of Internal Affairs New Zealand</i> Criminal Liability for Online Behaviour: Distinguishing Lawful from Unlawful Content <i>Keiran Hardy, Griffith University</i>
5:00pm – 5:15pm	Closing Remarks <i>Michele Grossman AM, Deakin University</i>	
5:15pm – 7:00pm	Networking Reception <i>Proudly sponsored by the Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET)</i>	
Day 2- Closed		

Day 3 – Wednesday 26 November 2025		(All dates and times AEDT)
8:30am – 9:00am	Arrival and Registration	
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome <i>Chair: Stuart Macdonald, Swansea University</i>	
9:15am – 10:15am	Session A: Bromancing the Extreme Right: Fandom and Recruitment in Far-Right Extremist Online Spaces Chair: Lydia Khalil, Deakin University “Without Warriors, There is no England”: Active Clubs, Far-Right Fitness, and the Transnational Brotherhood of Violence <i>Maddie Cannon, Extrac</i> The Role of Online Spaces for Far-right Extremist Recruitment: An Australian Case Study <i>Mario Peucker, Victoria University</i> <i>Tom J. Fisher, Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities</i>	Session B: Panel Presentation: What Do We Know About the Relationship Between Neurodiversity and the Online Terrorism Space? A Synthesis of International Research, Practitioner Expertise and Case Analysis Chair: Jade Hutchinson, Macquarie University Neurodivergence and Online Extremism: Findings from Three International Studies <i>Nadine Salman, University College London</i> ADHD And Online Extremism: In What Ways Can ADHD Create Contextual Vulnerabilities and Risk in the Online Space? <i>Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University</i> How Does Autism Intersect with the Online Terrorism Space? Consensus Amongst Experts from 8 Countries <i>Zainab Al-Attar, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Victoria University</i>
10:15am – 11:00am	Roundtable A: From Signals to Solutions: Scaling Effective Online P/CVE Programs Across Complex Digital Ecosystems Moderator: Mark Duckworth PSM, Deakin University <i>Matteo Vergani, Deakin University</i> <i>Theresa Rajah, Moonshot</i> <i>David O'Brien, Yorktown Family Services, Canada</i> <i>Manisha Bhikha, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, NZ</i>	Roundtable B: Misogyny, Machines and Moderation: Automating Detection of Male Supremacist Content Moderator: Cynthia Miller-Idriss, American University <i>Kaitlyn Tierney, Diverting Hate</i> <i>Pasha Dashtgard, PERIL, American University</i>
11:00am – 11:30am	Morning Tea	
11:30am – 12:45pm	Interactive Workshop A: AI, Ideology and Incident Response: Navigating Complexity and Risk <i>Anna Grierson, Tech Against Terrorism</i> <i>Laura Cairns, Tech Against Terrorism</i>	Interactive Workshop B: Sandbox: Practitioner-Led Design for Effective Online-Offline Referrals <i>Julia Nowecki, Violence Prevention Network</i>
12:45pm – 1:45pm	Lunch	

1:45pm - 2:45pm	Session A: Panel Presentation: Thresholds And Triggers for Measuring Online Hate to Anticipate Real-World Harm Chair: <i>Haily Tran, Deakin University</i> Where Australian Communities Draw the Line: How Targeted Communities Define Online Hate <i>Matteo Vergani, Deakin University</i> Network Dynamics of Online Hate and Offline Harm in Post-7 October Australia <i>Andrea Giovannetti, Australian Catholic University</i> From Tweets to the Streets: Linking Online Attitudes to Offline Riots via Large Language Models and Statistical Analysis <i>Kewen Liao, Deakin University</i>	Session B: Panel Presentation: Narrative Traps and Digital Detox: Disrupting Extremist Storylines in Online Environments Chair: <i>Helen Young, Deakin University</i> <i>Omar Mohammed, George Washington University</i> <i>Elah Cohen, Heritage of War and Peace</i> <i>Margareta Wetchy, Heritage of War and Peace</i>
2:45pm - 3:15pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:15pm - 4:30pm	Session A: Frames And Funnels: Recruitment, Gender and Media Reporting in Online Extremist Contexts Chair: <i>Steve Barracosa, Youth Justice NSW</i> Agoge or Paideia? Comparing Gatekeeping Practices in Online Extremist Forums <i>Christopher David, University of Applied Sciences Neu-Ulm</i> Blurred Lines: Mixed Ideologies, Far-Right Mainstreaming and Best Practice Diversionary Approaches for Boys and Young Men <i>Ben Adams, University of Adelaide</i> <i>Garth Stahl, University of Queensland</i> When the News Becomes Noise: Examining Distortion in Online Media Framing on Perception of Terrorism in Australia <i>Emma Gerhardy, Government of South Australia</i>	Session B: Movement at the Station: Online Conspiracy Discourse and Mobilisation to Extremist Violent Action Chair: <i>Keiran Hardy, Griffith University</i> From Doubt to Danger: A Psycholinguistic and Discourse Analysis of Reddit Conspiracy Discourse for Early Detection of Extremism <i>Abigail O'Hara, University of Queensland</i> Conspiracy-Based Social Movements: From Belief to Reactionary Action <i>Cassandra Quarisa, Flinders University</i> Grievances, Conspiracies, and the Road to Political Violence: A Typological Lens on Digital Radicalization <i>Ance Martinsone, University College London</i>
4:30pm - 4:45pm	Closing Remarks <i>Stuart Macdonald, Swansea University</i>	
Day 3- Closed		

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

DAY 1 - MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2025

Chair: Professor Julian Droogan, Macquarie University (AVERT Co-Convenor)

9:00 AM - 10:45 AM - PLENARY SESSION

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The New Misogyny and The Rise of Violent Extremism

Professor Cynthia Miller-Idriss, American University

What two things do most mass shooters, terrorists, or violent extremists have in common? Most of us know the first: they are almost always men or boys. But the second? They are almost always virulent misogynists, homophobes, or transphobes—even if they are also motivated by racism, antisemitism, or xenophobia. In dozens of incidents from North America to Norway to New Zealand, an increasing number of misogynist incel and male supremacist attackers have explicitly targeted and killed women, blaming feminism or sexual frustration with women as motivation for their attacks.

Yet, despite all evidence, the bright red thread of misogyny running through these attacks is barely acknowledged by the media or even experts—and this failing leaves us powerless to stop the violence. Cynthia Miller-Idriss, a leading expert on extremism, will discuss this crucial oversight, revealing how an epidemic of misogyny—both online and off—and a patriarchal backlash are driving an exponential rise in mass and far-right violence. Miller-Idriss will also offer essential strategies that all of us can use to fight the rising tide of violence, beginning with recognizing the misogyny that pervades our everyday lives.

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM - MORNING TEA

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

SESSION A: GAMING THE MANOSPHERE: MISOGYNY AND TECHNOLOGY IN DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS

Misogynistic Extremism At Scale: Gendered Violence in The Age Of AI

Florence Keen, Extrac

This paper investigates the growing threat of misogynistic extremism within digital ecosystems shaped by AI and algorithmic amplification. It examines how online infrastructures not only host but also accelerate the spread of misogynistic ideologies, with a focus on Incel and broader Manosphere narratives. The study analyses posts across X, Incels.is, and TikTok, using quantitative methods, including Keyword Scraping, Topic Modelling, and Narrative Analysis. This approach enables a large-scale examination of how gendered extremist rhetoric is evolving, contributing to the normalisation of misogyny and gendered violence. By mapping narrative trends and user engagement patterns, the paper highlights how technology, and in particular AI systems and algorithms, have contributed to misogyny at scale. It offers insights into the intersection of technology, misogynistic worldviews, and the glorification of violence against women, putting forward responses that recognise digital misogyny as a significant and scalable threat within the extremism landscape.

Sandbox Experiences and VR Games through the Lens of Misogyny

Emily Thompson, Christchurch Call Foundation

Galen Lamphere-Englund, Christchurch Call Foundation

The exploitation of gaming spaces by extremist and terrorist actors is a well-documented but evolving phenomenon that has significantly impacted the digital landscape. The Extremist and Terrorist Games Database (ETGD), produced by the co-authors, currently catalogs 155 standalone games, modifications, and browser-based titles spanning over 30 years, and provides critical insights into this exploitation. These spaces offer emergent risks and opportunities for radicalization, connecting youth culture with extremist subcultures. In particular, the paper will provide an analysis of game narratives, character roles, and community-driven mod content, to assess how digital misogyny operates not only as an ideological companion to many forms of violent extremism but also as a socializing force within gaming subcultures. We will look at how misogyny is leveraged to groom and radicalize individuals to violence across gaming titles in the ETGD. This paper will also contribute to the expansion of the ETGD to include sandbox gaming experiences and virtual reality (VR) gaming titles. By integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches, this research aims to enhance scholarly understanding of gaming as a site of ideological contestation while informing policy and platform interventions to counter terrorist and violent exploitation of gaming. We will also share a short preview of the Christchurch Call Foundation's new interactive resource for parents, caregivers and educators to provide support in navigating online harms and video gaming, including misogyny.

Deradicalising Misogyny: Countering Red Pill Violence and Extremism in the Manosphere

Kate Scott, University of Sydney

Alongside the surge in social media and online communities in the past few decades, so too has grown online reactionary political groups, including those who seek to erode and actively impede contemporary feminism, sometimes with violence. Described as the “manosphere”, this confederacy of online men’s rights movements generally shares the opinion that feminism and current gender relations victimize and subordinate men, otherwise known as ‘Redpill Ideology’. This paper seeks to contribute to the broader discussion on reinforcing democratic processes against extremist ideologies that threaten gender equality and human security. Drawing from the lived experiences of former or actively disengaging members of the manosphere, this research seeks to understand how do individuals leave the manosphere? And how can understanding motivations for leaving better inform CVE approaches? Through interviews with former members and practitioners, as well as a netnography of the subreddit r/exredpill, this paper seeks to generate a grounded theory to explain deradicalization from the manosphere. In an era where digitalisation and radicalisation feeds into one another, understanding the motivations behind leaving the manosphere offers a vital avenue for reinforcing gender security, democratic values, and countering the threats posed by anti-feminist extremism.

SESSION B: LISTENING POSTS: IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE EXTREMIST SIGNALLING

The Taylor Swift Concert Plot: A Case Study on How Online and Offline Leaking Signals Can Indicate Planned Attacks With LATERAN-IT

Astrid Bastiaens, Maastricht University

In the summer of 2024, a planned terrorist plot at a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna was foiled by police intervention. A number of international security agencies had detected several warning signs of the suspect’s plan to commit a terrorist attack at the concert, leading to his arrest. These signs included leaking, that is, communications and behaviour pointing towards a potential offense. Some of these leaking signs occurred online, in various chats and forums, while other leaking signs were in the form of observations and behaviours. This case therefore illustrates how online and offline leaking can be used to intercept attack plans. The current paper explores the behavioural warning signs of this suspect and describes the scoring of the case on a novel threat assessment instrument, LATERAN-IT. LATERAN-IT is an instrument that uses leaking and further warning behaviours to detect those who want to commit an Islamist terrorist attack. First validation studies are promising, and the current case exemplifies its

strengths in assisting practitioners to detect planned attacks. The presentation will introduce the instrument, take a specific focus on how it includes online and offline signals, and conclude with an overview of our research line on further validation of LATERAN-IT.

Talking Their Way to Extremism: Using Llms to Analyze the Speech of Violent and Non-Violent Users of Stormfront

Dr Richard Frank, Simon Fraser University

Aryan Rathee, University of Texas

The extreme right, like other groups, has leveraged the internet to build connections and form online communities. These spaces often operate as echo chambers, reinforcing shared beliefs and facilitating radicalization among participants. Notably, several members of StormFront—the oldest online extreme-right forum—have committed racially motivated crimes, including murder. However, even in these communities, those who commit violence are the outliers. This project advances both knowledge and method by applying large language models (LLMs), such as GenAI and ChatGPT, to systematically analyze the posting patterns of 50 known violent, 50 non-violent, and 50 randomly selected users. This approach allows for a novel, data-driven examination of trajectories using radicalization, disengagement, and ideological alignment that has not been possible with traditional qualitative or quantitative methods alone. For practitioners and law enforcement, the findings aim to identify early warning indicators of users whose online behaviors mirror those of violent actors, enabling proactive detection, tailored intervention, and the design of more effective deradicalization strategies. The study also seeks to generate new insights into how extremist discourse evolves within online spaces and to demonstrate how advanced methods can show distinctions between violent and non-violent extremists.

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM - LUNCH

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

ROUNDTABLE A: BUILDING DIGITAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: YOUTH-LED SOLUTIONS FOR SAFER ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Building Digital Community Resilience: Youth-Led Solutions for Safer Online Communities

Dr Malcolm Haddon PSM, Multicultural NSW (Moderator)

Thomas Waite, Multicultural NSW

Dr Derya Iner, Islamic Sciences & Research Academy

Dan Donahoo, Project ROCKIT

As with Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) generally, addressing the threat of online hate and extremism requires more than individualised interventions – it requires community-level interventions led by networks of allies ('counter communities') who are as committed to the cause of countering online hate as extremists are to promoting it.

Now in its tenth year, the proven COMPACT Program has pioneered a whole-of-society resilience model of CVE. COMPACT supports a state-wide network of community partners and allies who are united against hate. COMPACT has inspired and empowered more than 80,000 young people. As a strengths-based program, COMPACT looks to young people as the solution: COMPACT believes that, like us, young people are concerned about increasing levels of hate and polarisation – especially online – and they want to do something constructive about it. COMPACT has been proven to equip young people with the skills and capacities to build community resilience. But what does community resilience look like in online environments?

The panel brings together four youth practitioners from the COMPACT Alliance to address the theme of 'digital community resilience': how to effectively engage and empower young people to build safer, more harmonious online communities?

ROUNDTABLE B: ONLINE MISOGYNY AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM: INSIGHTS FROM CATALYST

Andy George, Christchurch Call Foundation (Moderator)

Cynthia Miller-Idriss, American University

Anne Craanen, Institute for Strategic Dialogue and Swansea University

Yasmin Chilmeran, Christchurch Call Foundation

The rise of the manosphere has accelerated the spread of grievance-fueled narratives about masculinity that are impactful – particularly among youth. Manosphere content drives a spectrum of harmful activity that includes inciting violence against women and LGBTQIA+ communities. This trend is concerning given the breadth of research indicating that misogyny and support for violence against women correlates with support for violent extremism (Johnston and True, 2019; Rottweiler, Clemmow and Gill, 2025; Lamphere-Englund et al, 2022). This discussion panel will share insights from Catalyst, an innovative project led by the Christchurch Call Foundation and delivered in consortium with experts at PERIL and ISD. Through Catalyst, our aim is to reduce the effectiveness of misogyny as a pathway to radicalization. Combining digital ethnography, large-scale data analysis, and qualitative research, this project unpacks where misogynistic narratives emerge online, how they evolve from the fringes into mainstream platforms, how they are leveraged by violent extremists, and ultimately, how to positively intervene. Drawing on findings from diverse project contexts, including Canada, Kenya, and Jordan, panelists will focus on three points: lessons learned from applying innovative research methods; insights for designing positive interventions; and recommendations for disrupting online misogyny and weakening its role in radicalization to violence.

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

ROUNDTABLE A: UBIQUITOUS DETERMINISM: THE COMPLEXITY OF DIGITAL AND IRL INTERACTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTREMISM

Associate Professor Emily Corner, Australian National University

Dr Levi West, Australian National University

Dr Helen Taylor, Australian National University

The online environment and digital technologies play a near ubiquitous role in contemporary radicalisation to terrorism. This panel presents a discussion of a current Office of National Intelligence Discovery Project. This project focuses on the development of an empirically supported, dynamic model of radicalisation. In this panel, we will discuss how the elements of the model interact with the online environment. As such, the panel provides insights into how cognition, social identity, and behaviour are influenced by, and in turn, influence, the online environment as part of any technology-informed radicalisation processes. The discussion will highlight how the online environment and digital technologies play a reciprocal role in radicalisation by reinforcing cognitive, social identity and behavioural decision-making.

SESSION B: OUTSMARTED? ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR AND AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Synthetic Hate: What AI Can Teach Us About the Future of Extremism

Lydia Channon, Swansea University

This project investigates how generative AI—specifically GPT-3—can be used to simulate and anticipate the evolution of extremist rhetoric online. As far-right actors increasingly embed hate speech within coded language, pop culture references, and global political discourse, identifying these narratives presents major challenges for content moderation and prevention. Using real-world social media data linked to far-right themes and global events, GPT-3 is prompted to generate synthetic extremist comments. These outputs are then compared with authentic material using semantic, thematic, and

sentiment analysis. The study introduces the Gradient of Hostility Model (GHM), a novel framework designed to trace rhetorical escalation and infer intent. A human perception study evaluates how convincingly GPT-3 mimics real extremist language and assesses the perceived threat of AI-generated content. Findings reveal that generative models can not only replicate existing rhetoric but also foreshadow emerging trends in hate speech. This research contributes to the development of ethical AI moderation, hybrid P/CVE approaches, and early-warning systems within increasingly complex digital ecosystems. By combining predictive modelling with human evaluation, the project demonstrates how AI can offer both a tool and a challenge in addressing the future threat landscape of online extremism.

Gen-AI and Tehrik i Taliban Pakistan (TTP): Propaganda Strategies and Platforms engagement patterns

Saif ur Rehman Tahir, Victoria University of Wellington

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is one of the most active and violent terrorist groups. It has claimed responsibility for over 1,300 attacks in the first half of 2025. Beyond violent actions, TTP has built a highly advanced online presence. It produces more than a dozen key propaganda products and sub products, including videos, digital magazines, podcasts, and nasheeds, running the largest and most adaptable jihadist propaganda campaign online. As per recent developments, there is an increasing use of Generative AI technologies to improve the scale, quality, and reach of its messaging. This research highlights the Gen-AI methods TTP has adopted to produce its propaganda and the approaches it can adopt in future. Utilizing digital ethnography and open-source intelligence, this research identifies specific patterns and tactics in TTP's engagement across different platforms (telegram, twitter, whatsapp and Signal), adjusting its messaging strategies against changes in content moderation policies and social media algorithms. By mapping evolving propaganda and engagement strategies, the findings provide an essential insight into how TTP maintains ideological outreach, recruitment, and psychological warfare in digital age. It also raises critical questions about the ethical, technical, and policy challenges posed by Gen-AI-enabled extremism, emphasizing need for platform accountability, interdisciplinary research, and regulations to address next generation of terrorist's propaganda.

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM – AFTERNOON TEA

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

SESSION A: DARK MODE: HOW EXTREMISM, NIHILISM AND GORE INTERSECT ONLINE

Charting Extreme(-ist) Violence Online: An Analysis of Hard-Gore Platforms in The Context of Mixed, Unclear, And Unstable Ideologies

Dr Lewys Brace, University of Exeter

Stephane J Baele, University of Louvain

Over the past few years, cases of violence anchored in "mixed, unclear, and unstable" extremist ideologies (also labelled "fluid", "composite", or "salad-bar", among others) have multiplied. Among the findings brought about by law-enforcement and scholarly investigations, one stands out: most of the individuals involved have a fascination for explicit violence as such (ideologically marked or not). These "violence-fixated individuals" spend sometimes considerable time online, reading about and discussing violent crime and watching gore videos (stabbing, rape, beheading, etc.) on dedicated platforms. This paper offers a systematic, data-driven mapping and analysis of the most important of these digital platforms offering violent content (and opportunities to discuss it). It seeks to answer two key questions: 1) what is the structure of this "Hard-Gore" ecosystem (connections, influence, participants, etc.)? and 2) what is the relationship between this structure and extremist ideologies (does it act as a gateway to ideological ecosystems; are some gore online spaces ideologically marked)?

Nihilist Violent Extremism (NVE): A New Form of Right-Wing Extremism?

Felix Neumann, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Maniacs Murder Cult (MMC), 764, Order of Nine Angles (ONA): Security authorities around the world are warning of a new form of violent extremist movements targeting minors online to join their cult-like communities. As their content is heavily based on child sexual exploitation material (CSAM) and depictions of murder, the limited available analyses often neglect their underlying political motivation. By analysing 23 archived online manifestos, this policy-oriented article argues to understand NVE as a new form of right-wing extremism. By specifically focusing on ideological cues and operational aspects of the current developments, I discuss differences and similarities to other forms of right-wing extremism. Results show that elements of right-wing extremism and militant accelerationism are a central component of groups in Maniacs Murder Cult (MMC) or 764. The works of Order of Nine Angles (ONA) have significantly influenced right-wing terrorist movements such as the Atomwaffen Division. The contribution concludes by offering results-driven recommendations to effectively counter this new threat.

The Rising Threat of Nihilistic Violence: Examining Mobilization Pathways Of 764 Members

Dr Bettina Rottweiler, NCITE

Caitlin Clemmow, University College London

The counterterrorism community is facing significant challenges in regard to the growing engagement of youth and young adults in terrorism-related activities. Increasingly, we are witnessing young people mobilizing to nihilistic violence targeting minors and vulnerable populations. Relatedly, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) has emphasized the extreme threat posed by these networked groups, introducing the new category of nihilistic violent extremism (NVE). Despite this growing trend, very little is known about the radicalization and mobilization pathways of these individuals.

The data for the analysis is based on several hundred US federal court records of people that have been either charged and/ or convicted of (violent) crimes and are affiliated with 764 or an adjacent group, such as Order of Nine Angles or Legion 8797. Our case study research applies content and thematic analyses in order to examine whether there are common or distinct mobilization pathways across perpetrators. This will help us to better understand the emerging threat of nihilistic online networks and the people who commit these crimes while providing important insights for prevention and intervention programs.

SESSION B: PANEL PRESENTATION: TECHNIQUES OF TRANSNATIONAL MOBILISATION

Dr Andrew Zammit, Victoria University

Dr Kiriloi M. Ingram, University of Queensland

Dr Levi West, Australian National University

Acts of terrorism in Australia and comparable countries are frequently inspired or instigated by transnational violent extremist movements. The online environment has proved crucial for modern forms of transnational mobilisation, shaping the means through which violent extremist propaganda can be spread, how participants can communicate, and how action can be undertaken. However, violent extremist mobilisation through online means can differ greatly depending on the movement; a person turning to terrorism through online engagement with Islamic State can represent a starkly different phenomenon to one turning to terrorism through online engagement with the Terrorgram Collective or the Maniacs Murder Cult. Even within the same movement, individuals can respond to online mobilisation efforts in highly different ways. This panel examines how features of the information environment influence the adoption of terrorist tactics in transnational mobilisations. It includes papers on what differentiates Islamic State supporters who turn to terrorism from those who mobilise in other ways, the gendered dynamics of online propaganda and efforts to mobilise violence across borders, and how global far-right violent extremist movements are able to promote ideologically coherent narratives through digitally decentralised methods.

Online Mobilisation and the Turn to Terrorism*Dr Andrew Zammit, Victoria University*

What explains whether someone who supports a violent extremist movement in a foreign war turns to plotting a terrorist attack in their country of residence? Movements like Islamic State frequently mobilise support across borders, and their transnational supporters can become involved in ways ranging from advocacy, funding, travelling to fight, or carrying out terrorist attacks at home. To help explain why some plot terrorist attacks while others adopt different tactics, this paper uses data on 129 alleged Australian supporters of Islamic State to examine the impact of contextual and dynamic factors relating to strategic logic, mobilising structures and security measures. It finds that the strategic priority Islamic State publicly placed on transnational terrorism at a given time was most important, followed by whether the supporter was subjected to travel restrictions and law enforcement interactions, only then followed by micro-level factors traditionally focused on in quantitative studies of individual involvement in terrorism. The paper also examines instances where terrorist plots in Australia were not simply inspired by Islamic State, but were directly instigated, to further help explain how transnational mobilisation through online means can shape the local threat environment.

Why Gender Matters in Violent Extremist Propaganda: From Empowerment to Transnational Mobilisation*Dr Kiriloi M. Ingram, University of Queensland*

The role of gender in the propaganda and politico-military strategies of violent extremists has been underestimated and misunderstood. In many ways, ISIS came to epitomise that trend. Crimes marking ISIS' genocide against the Yazidi community, for example, were often dictated by gender, while its propaganda, including messaging specifically written by and for women, endorsed and instructed audiences on how to carry out atrocities. If we are to learn anything from ISIS as we confront right-wing extremism, it is that we need to understand extremists' grasp of the gendered logics of terrorism and strategic communications. This paper draws on Salafi-Jihadist, White supremacist, and Incel case studies to demonstrate why gender is leveraged to mobilise transnational audiences. It argues that gender is used to construct 'gender representations' which are manipulated to maximise the effectiveness of propaganda, and to construct a gender and conjugal order strategically designed to advance extremists' own political objectives.

Learning through infographics, shitposts, and memes: online ideological propagation in the extreme right online ecosystem*Dr Levi West, Australian National University*

This paper will articulate the central role of the online environment in radicalising right-wing extremists to terrorist violence. Drawing on primary sources such as manifestos, online postings, and court documents, specifically in relation to those who have committed terrorist attacks, this paper will identify a coherent ideological narrative that informs post-Christchurch terrorist behaviour, while emphasising the increasingly diverse, cross-platform, decentralised mechanisms by which said content is propagated. In addition to revisiting the well established strategic doctrine that informs the extreme-right movement as a whole, this paper will discuss the appeal of memes and similar online content, and their advantages to the movement, as well as identifying key themes within that content. Lastly, it will emphasise how the underpinning business model of the relevant online platforms contribute to the ready accessibility of extremist content and the fundamental challenge this presents for prevention.

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM – CLOSING REMARKS

DAY 2 - TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Chair: Professor Michele Grossman AM, Deakin University (AVERT Co-Convenor)

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - PLENARY SESSION

Spotlight Session: Navigating the Changing Online Safety Landscape with the Christchurch Call Foundation

Lydia Khalil, Deakin University (Moderator)

Andy George, Christchurch Call Foundation

The online safety landscape is changing, at pace. Regulatory and other pressures are reshaping the nature of industry engagement. Major platforms have made changes to key policies, some rolling back measures to protect customers and communities. Governments are seeking urgent solutions to these challenges. New technologies, including generative AI, are rapidly affecting harm types and how they manifest. These changes bring new threats related to the production and dissemination of terrorist and violent extremist content (TVEC) online, and new opportunities for safety tooling and positive interventions.

Against this backdrop, the Christchurch Call Foundation continues to work on innovative approaches to addressing TVEC online, while upholding human rights and a free, open, and secure internet. The conversation will cover the Christchurch Call Foundation's work, including a growing focus on youth engagement with extremism, lessons learned from crisis response, and the critically important role of multistakeholder collaboration and dialogue. This session will also explore what the changing landscape means for researchers and civil society and how these groups can partner to amplify the impact of their work.

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM - MORNING TEA

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

SESSION A: THE YOUTHIVERSE: DIGITAL DYNAMICS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE RADICALISING TO EXTREMIST VIOLENCE

Youth Radicalisation Pathways: A Systematic Review of Theoretical Processes and Online Dynamics

Lujia Pei, University College London

Youth radicalisation to violent extremism remains a pressing concern, particularly as digital platforms increasingly shape identity, community, and ideological exposure. While previous research has identified key risk factors—such as socio-economic marginalisation and ideological vulnerability—there is a lack of synthesis on the theoretical processes through which young people become radicalised, especially in relation to online environments. This systematic review scopes and categorises the existing literature on youth radicalisation, focusing on how individual and social vulnerabilities interact with broader structural and ideological drivers. Particular attention is given to how these processes are influenced by online ecosystems, including social media, encrypted messaging apps, and platform algorithms. The review explores how online affordances facilitate ideological socialisation, reinforce peer dynamics, and intensify affective grievances. Although the study adopts a broad lens on youth radicalisation, it explicitly considers how digital interactions may amplify or accelerate pathways toward violent extremism. Findings contribute to current debates on the blurring boundaries between online and offline radicalisation environments, and highlight implications for threat detection, prevention, and intervention efforts. This research offers timely insights for policymakers and practitioners navigating the evolving challenges of radicalisation in the digital age.

Online Youth Radicalisation from The Netherlands to Australia: Strategic Policy Recommendations for Prevention and Institutional Reform

Dr Jade Hutchinson, Macquarie University

This presentation synthesises the assessments and reflections of 50 frontline practitioners, policy-makers, civil society leaders, academics, as well as intelligence and law enforcement personnel operating for The Netherlands to present an overview of and policy recommendations for understanding and addressing emerging trends in online youth radicalisation. This report identifies structural vulnerabilities in current academic and institutional responses, offering strategies to improve platform governance, education curricula, community-based interventions, as well as professional training. Key recommendations include advancing contextual digital media literacy, promoting youth-driven, peer-to-peer norm-setting initiatives, with particular attention to youth who are neurodivergent, socially isolated, or navigating identity challenges and strengthening institutional capacity for building non-securitised prevention practices. In light of growing policy interest in Australia regarding online youth radicalisation, this presentation considers how lessons from the Dutch model might be adapted to Australia's institutional and prevention landscape. Emphasis is placed on translating sociotechnical insights into scalable practices or program designs, and on rebalancing risk-driven frameworks with relational and developmental models of child and adolescent engagement with online extremism.

Users And Consumers of Extremism: An Awkward Typology of Youth Posing Policy And Practice Challenges

Steve Barracosa, Youth Justice NSW

Youth who use and consume extremist content and rhetoric in the absence of a specific ideological commitment pose challenges for policy and practice responses to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism. This presentation will explore the outcomes of a primary source study of at-risk and radicalised Australian youth. The study adopts a holistic developmental life-course lens to understand and explain youth engaged in extremism. This includes a cohort of youth characterised as users and consumers of extremism. This cohort exhibits extensive online engagement in extremist materials, platforms, subcultures, and in some cases interactions with extremist individuals. This is despite not being committed to a specific extremist ideology. This presentation will explore their profiles, pathways, and motivations for engaging in extremism. Qualitative case studies will be presented and comparisons drawn with a sample of radicalised youth including Australian minors convicted for terrorism offences. The findings of this study will be positioned in the context of youth radicalisation research, risk assessment, legislative changes, and challenges in the development and implementation of case management interventions for youth. Implications for preventing and countering violent extremism policy, including referral thresholds, will also be explored.

SESSION B: VOX-POL WORKSHOP: OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE STRATEGIES FOR DISRUPTING ONLINE NETWORKS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

Gore and Violent Extremism: An explorative analysis of the use of gore websites for hosting and sharing extremist and terrorist content

Stuart Macdonald, Swansea University

Ali Fisher, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano and Human Cognition Ltd

Gore websites are numerous, free to access, often provide little or no user and child safety features, and now attract millions of visits a month globally. The recent VOX-Pol report demonstrated that Gore-related websites enable the hosting and sharing of illegal videos, including those produced by proscribed terrorist entities. These sites are easily finable due to an information ecosystem that has emerged around the sites. For example, search engines that deliver thousands of results, while the sites themselves allow users share videos via social media platforms.

Gore is often be thought of as a niche area in online harms, but research shows it sits as a nexus point between Terrorism, Violent Extremism, Child Sexual abuse and illegal pornographic content.

This session will focus on the opportunities to enhance strategies for disrupting online networks involved in illegal content distribution across these areas of online harms. It will draw on insights from the VOX-Pol report and personal experience gathered over the last 15 years of working on detection, intervention, and disruption efforts across numerous online harms from Gore sites and Salafi-Jihadi terrorists, to child sexual exploitation and the emerging role of AI in both non-consensual sexual content and child abuse material.

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM - LUNCH

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

SESSION A: UNPACKING EXTREMIST DIGITAL STRATEGIES IN SOUTH ASIA

Tactical Shifts and Digital Strategy: The Balochistan Liberation Army's Use of Social Media and Messaging Platforms

Mariam Shah, National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has changed from a small guerrilla group into a digital ethno-nationalist militant organization with more lethal methods. In the first six months of 2025, Balochistan experienced at least 11 major terrorist attacks, resulting in over 75 fatalities, including security personnel and civilians. Moreover, in recent years, there has been a strategic shift, especially highlighted by the 2025 hijacking of the Jaffer Express in Bolan. This incident marked a move away from targeted bombings toward urban terrorism, hostage-taking, and psychological warfare. This paper looks at the BLA's hybrid warfare model, combining physical violence with a digital propaganda campaign. The group uses encrypted messaging apps like Telegram and Twitter and alternative video platforms such as Rumble; media outlets like Hakkal Media and Sagaar Media help spread its ideological content. It glorifies its Fidayeen (suicide bombers) and radicalizes youth with emotionally charged martyr narratives in English, Balochi, Brahui, and Urdu. By using digital ethnography and discourse analysis, the study examines how the BLA builds its media ecosystem, takes advantage of platform features, and maintains international connections. It ends by suggesting tech-driven, multi-faceted responses to prevent and counter violent extremism that tackle both online and offline aspects of terrorist threats in the area.

Hindu Nationalism and Its Transnational Stochastic Terror Network

Zenith Khan, Centre for Study of Organized Hate, Washington, D.C.

Stochastic terror has received some critical and much needed attention in recent years, it particularly attempts to explain how ideologically motivated violence can take place without coordination. The concept mainly deals with the idea that an influential group in an attempt to target a group or individual may inspire an unknown actor to perform terroristic violence against the target. Hindu nationalist violence has also been in the headlines recently, in a number of countries with large Indian-Hindu diasporas as intelligence has flagged growing radicalization of Hindu nationalists. Examples include Sydney Gurdwara Attacks between 2021–2023, and the 2022 Leicester riots. Increasingly we also find evidence of collaboration between Hindu nationalists and white supremacist or far-right groups in these countries.

The paper proposes to study the digital environment of Hindu nationalists groups and their role in facilitating transnational stochastic terror networks. By analyzing circulation of content globally it will also attempt to understand the role of online platforms in a closer alignment between Hindu nationalism and far right white supremacist groups.

Hybrid Terrorism: Magnifying the 'Theatre' of Extremism

Marriyam Siddique, Maritime Centre of Excellence, Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore

Non-state actors, such as the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have adapted their operational strategies to the ever-changing digital world, which poses sombre threats to Pakistan's internal security. The BLA carried out more than 300 terrorist attacks in 21 districts between

2024 and 2025, killing over 580 people, while the TTP ramped up cross-border terrorism, exploiting the internet for propaganda and recruitment. Both terrorist organisations use crowdfunding platforms, decentralised servers, and encrypted closed groups. Crucially, they have expanded their digital footprint and outreach by adopting deep fake and generative AI technologies to generate attractive propaganda, radicalise vulnerable masses, and normalise violent extremism. These groups are taking advantage of digital affordances to strengthen their 'collective identity', mobilise resources, and construct hate dogmas, all while expanding their reach and resilience, according to Social Movement Theory. Pakistan is facing multifaceted terrorism threat in 2025, and India's covert backing for BLA and TTP has only made security matters worse. The integration of AI-driven monitoring, the disruption of online radicalisation pipelines, and the promotion of community resilience are essential components of effective PCVE initiatives. To combat this hybrid terrorism, bring about peace, and protect national security in a war environment that is becoming more and more digital, Pakistan must adopt a holistic, tech-savvy strategy that integrates cyber and kinetic tactics.

SESSION B: IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO VIOLENT EXTREMIST HARMS ONLINE: INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE-BASED APPROACHES

Future Threats and Digital Harm: A Delphi Study on Psychologically Relevant Mechanisms of Online Transgression

Dr Sören Henrich, Manchester Metropolitan University

Dr Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University

Intelligence analysts play a central role in understanding how emerging online harms and cybersecurity-related threats such as extremism and hate are addressed. However, their vast knowledge and practice in the field may not always be captured. It is proposed that technology-supported solutions cannot be the only option but that behavioural assessment procedures and the psychological mechanisms that underpin this behaviour could be understood more clearly. This presentation outlines findings from a Delphi study conducted in collaboration with Resolver, a global Trust and Safety organisation. Through three iterative rounds, we engaged behavioural intelligence analysts to forecast emerging psychological and cybersecurity challenges in the domains of child sexual exploitation, hate speech, adult harm, and violent extremism. Findings from this study will explore how behavioural and intelligence analysts conceptualise and measure online hate, the mechanisms that underpin this behaviour and the limitations of existing frameworks for identifying early warning signs of offline escalation. This work highlights the need for integrative models that consider psychological, social, and platform-level dynamics. The practical implications of this research will be presented including understanding clients' patterns of radicalisation, warning signs/ influences and how this could inform projects tracking indicators of radicalisation. Recommendations for future research will be made.

Countering Extremism Online in Southeast Asia: Lessons from Research and Practice

Emma Allen, Hedayah

Galen Lamphere-Englund, Extremism and Gaming Research Network

Today's world has seen rapid developments in technology and increased connectedness and engagement online, but while this has grown economies and enabled new connections, learning, and innovation, this accessibility, engagement and reach is also exploited by malicious actors. Indonesia and Malaysia are both home to diverse and active online communities, and as such, benefit from online engagement but face challenges in increased exposure to harmful online content. To support future online counter extremism activities in Indonesia, this project sought to identify existing good practices and models for responses as well as present and emerging trends and challenges. Research conducted included secondary review of recent literature on the online media and information landscape, its exploitation by terrorist or extremism organizations, and documented response efforts, as well as primary research conducted with undertook qualitative research with 'frontline practitioners' of countering and preventing extremism, violent extremism and terrorism online and other relevant key stakeholders. The subsequent reporting outlines key findings across three main areas - the online information landscape, discussing trends in online spaces, narratives utilized by extremist, violent extremist and terrorist groups and the impacts of mis- and disinformation; emerging threats online and their local dimensions, ranging

from the use of different platforms to major emerging technologies and niche (yet relevant) issue areas that warrant continued attention, and finally, existing responses in countering extremism and violent extremism online, ranging from strategic communications efforts to education, research and coordination, and discussion key challenges, needs and lessons learned. This presentation will highlight key lessons and trends from both Indonesia and Malaysia-focused research.

Australian Government and Non-Government Approaches to Tackling Violent Extremism in Videogaming

Dr Helen Young, Deakin University

Dr Mario Peucker, Victoria University

Lydia Khalil, Deakin University

This paper examines how civil society led interventions and governmental regulatory approaches can intersect to tackle violent extremism in videogaming as part of a broader set of challenges to do with young people's online safety, and exposure to hate and discrimination. It will outline the rationale, design, and outcomes of a 2024 project "Game Changers" created and delivered by the non-government organisation All Together Now. In the project, young gamers aged 14-21 co-designed, created and published a series of interventions (videos, podcasts, a guide for parents and young gamers) aimed at combatting toxic aspects of videogaming, including exposure to rightwing extremism. It will then detail ways Australian government has also embarked on a suite of regulatory and legislative efforts aimed at addressing violent extremism alongside other online harms impacting young people, including a social media law, and the strengthening of the Online Safety Act. Finally, the paper will explore the complementary and divergent efforts of civil society led interventions and government regulation while also identifying what gaps remain and how each may address those left by the other.

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM - AFTERNOON TEA

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

ROUNDTABLE A: BEFORE 'YOUTH CULTURE': ONLINE CHILDHOODS, CHILD VULNERABILITIES AND THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE FOR EARLY YEARS TO PRE-TEENS INTERVENTIONS

Professor Sue Saltmarsh, University of New England (Moderator)

Dr Kyle Mulrooney, University of New England

Professor Deborah Youdell, Macquarie University

Professor Vicki Bitsika, University of New England

This roundtable considers how vulnerabilities to online radicalisation and violent extremism amongst Australian young people may be developed long before children meet common definitions of 'youth'. The extent of Australian children's online engagement in screen-based activities (81% of parents of children aged 2-5, and 90% of children between ages 5-14 report regular internet use) underscores the internet's everyday familiarity as a site in which even very young children must learn to respond to online content, navigate norms of interaction with peers and other internet users, assess and respond to potential risks, and engage with peers and other networks. These online activities, and their role in developing children's sense of self in relation to others and the broader world, have strong resonances with children's development of social identities in educational contexts. Together, these have become critical dimensions of everyday life in which cultures of childhood, pre-teens and youth are formed. Our panel draws on perspectives from sociology of education, early childhood education, criminology, biological and neurosciences to argue that effective interventions to prevent youth online radicalisation and extremist subcultures must first address contemporary cultures of childhood, with particular focus on reducing child vulnerabilities in early years education and primary schooling.

ROUNDTABLE B: LESSONS LEARNED FROM ONLINE-OFFLINE REFERRALS AND SCALING FOR SUCCESS IN AUSTRALIA

Rebecca Visser, Violence Prevention Network (Moderator)

Jodie Wrigley, Senate SHJ

Tom Stewart, Department of Human Services, South Australia

Henry Adams, Resolver

This roundtable would focus on the scope for user-based online prevention and resilience-building programs, and how these programs can interface with offline initiatives. Specifically, it would draw on police, tech, and practitioner voices that are currently engaged in piloting Diversions: VPN's online-offline referral pathway. In this pilot, Violence Prevention Network has developed a partnership with a tech platform and several Australian state CVE programs. This identifies individuals based on their on-platform behaviours indicating propensity to violence, and connects them to effective, offline support. This project equips tech platforms with a trusted referral mechanism and give Australian CVE programs a reliable stream of triaged referrals from CVE professionals. The roundtable would invite its partners to present their own experience within this pilot, and to reflect on their needs for onwards phases to iterate this program and scale it. They would discuss how such a pathway could best be expanded to multiple online platforms, scaled to operate nationwide, and be adjusted to meet the evolving nature of the threat landscape. They may also consider on how AI could be effectively applied within this P/CVE effort. All would consider emerging evidence on what works in proactive P/CVE interventions in online environments.

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

SESSION A: NEW DIRECTIONS: DOCTORAL RESEARCH ON VIOLENT EXTREMISM ONLINE

Are Gender Essentialist Beliefs a Radicalising Force? A Study of Online Cis Gendered Women

Madeleine Tolhurst, Macquarie University

In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on the radicalism being spread by the manosphere, in the form of misogyny, right wing politics and patriarchal values. This can be seen in the news articles about Andrew Tate and the new hit show on Netflix, Adolescence. However, few people are discussing the 'femosphere' which is the same misogyny rebranded as female empowerment. This research looks at three different women's groups, that may be considered part of the 'femosphere': Gender Critical Feminists, Female Dating Strategy and Trad Wives. These three groups, though different they may appear to be, share a common link: gender essentialism. By attempting to understand how these groups participate in online discourse, this research hopes to discover the way they are successfully radicalising women towards more patriarchal beliefs. This paper also considers that these women's groups are taken less seriously than their male counterparts due to the way we classify radicalisation, and that we need to change this to be able to better understand women's roles in these movements. This talk examines what consequence the shift towards patriarchal values may have on society.

The Appeal of Neo-Nazi Far-Right Extremist Groups: An Analysis on The Presence of Social Identity in The National Socialist Network

Taylor Parnell, Macquarie University

Social identity Theory has been a main topic in psychology research over the past few decades, explaining intergroup dynamics and relationships and its effects on prejudices and discrimination. As Social Identity Theory developed, other theories like Self-Categorisation Theory, and Uncertainty Identity Theory grew to further explain individual relations within groups and what drives an individual to join one group over another. The recent leak of an activist manual from the Australian Neo-Nazi group, the National Socialist Network, gives opportunity for a close analysis of a primary source regarding how this

organisation structures their identity. This study aims to answer two questions on how the manual structures identity among far-right groups and why it appeals to individuals. It was found that the manual utilises aspects of personal and social uncertainty to engage members in the group and their activist activities. Drawing on intra-group relations and in depth guidelines, the manual provides immense structure for its members which creates an exclusive and isolated atmosphere within the group as well as focussing on inflating the member's self esteem through pride and camaraderie. These conclusions can be explored further through analysis of growing online domains and the effects of identity on individual anonymity, group appeal, and structure.

From Berlin, to Washington, and Brasília? Assessing QAnon as a Bridging Narrative for Anti-Government Extremism

Leoni Heyn, Insitute for Security Policy Kiel, Germany

Berlin 2020, Washington 2021, Brasilia 2023: Since the pandemic, both research and security authorities observed surges of anti-government violence. Eschewing established categories of extremism, the incidents brought together heterogenous sets of actors who heavily rely on conspiracy theories and social media. Even though the incidents gained significant scholarly attention, comparative analyses have so far been limited. This paper investigates the transnational dimensions of anti-government extremism (AGE) through the lens of conspiracy narratives, focusing particularly on the QAnon movement's role as a unifying force across polities and extremist milieus. Empirically, the paper explores the relationship between the storming of the Reichstag (Berlin, 2020), the Capitol (Washington, 2021), and Congress (Brasília, 2022) by conducting comparative network analyses of QAnon-related Telegram channels in the run up of the events. The paper builds on the hypothesis that superconspiracy theories with Manichean and anti-elitist epistemologies like QAnon operate as powerful bridging narratives, connecting diverse actors and movements across regional and political contexts.

From Tweets to Threats: Modeling the Temporal and Thematic Links Between Online Antisemitism and Offline Incidents in Australia

Stephanie Zi Xin Ng, Deakin University

This study presents a computational approach to examining the relationship between online antisemitic discourse and offline incidents in Australia. Using over 900,000 Israel-related tweets collected between October 2021 and April 2025, we investigate whether shifts in the volume and nature of antisemitic language online correspond with the frequency, severity, and character of real-world incidents, particularly in the context of the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks and the escalation that followed. We apply antisemitism classifiers trained on community-annotated data to identify and score antisemitic content at scale. To capture patterns in language and narrative structure, we use topic models enriched with discourse typology, target attribution, and summarised cluster descriptions. These outputs are integrated with a dataset of offline incidents, including details on timing, location, behavioural characteristics, and perpetrator profiles.

Temporal linkages between online discourse and offline events are modelled using a multivariate Hawkes process, and thematic relationships are further explored through inter-topic network analysis. By combining these perspectives, this study aims to deepen our understanding of how antisemitism manifests and evolves across digital and physical contexts, and how different forms of online expression may relate to different types of real-world harm, with potential applications in early warning systems and policy interventions.

The Role of Women in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: A Decolonial Interrogation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Serena Said, Deakin University

Radicalisation to violent extremism often occurs within the intimate spheres of family, friendships, and romantic relationships. This has been evidenced in the literature on the roles of "social intimates" and "intimate bystanders" in P/CVE (see, for example Grossman and Gerrand, 2018; Eisenman, Weine and Shah et al. 2022; Thomas and Grossman, 2024). Complimentary to this body of knowledge, literature on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda affirm that female "social intimates" (Thomas and

Grossman, 2024), such as mothers and wives, are best positioned to identify the first signs of radicalisation, discourage radicalisation (Global Counterterrorism Forum, 2015), and prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism (United States Institute for Peace, 2015) within their homes and communities. This knowledge has informed WPS programming, founded on UNSCR 1325 (2000), which sees women in the Global South encouraged to act as agents of P/CVE through the funding and facilitation of international organisations, such as UN Women. Drawing on case studies of WPS initiatives, I apply a decolonial lens to critically examine the implications of WPS programming on women in the Global South, interrogating whether the mobilisation of women as agents of P/CVE comes at a cost to their autonomy, safety, or wellbeing.

SESSION B: POLICING THE BOUNDARIES: NEW THREATS AND CHALLENGES FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE RESPONSES TO DIGITAL VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Growth of Post-Ideological Threats in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Che Tibby, New Zealand Police

As Western democracies grapple with militant accelerationism and the growth of extremist communities gamifying nihilistic, misogynistic, and misanthropic extremist material online, New Zealand Police are working with other agencies to pose the question, “How is violent extremism moving post-ideology?” This study unpacks the extremism motivating or informing a cohort of persons of interest categorised by our system as of “Mixed, Uncertain, or Unclear” ideology, and discovers that idiosyncratic, non-ideological stochastic influence over these individuals is high, and that clear patterns in behaviour are present.

Outsourced Prevention and Hollowed Capacity: Interrogating New Zealand’s State-Led Response to Digital Violent Extremism

Angus Lindsay, Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand

The 2019 terror attacks in Christchurch exposed the profound role of the digital environment in enabling, amplifying, and memorialising acts of violent extremism. In the following years, New Zealand introduced a range of prevention and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) efforts, including regulatory reform, international partnerships, and new funding mechanisms. Yet reporting from the Department of Internal Affairs shows a 59% rise in referrals for terrorist and violent extremist content since 2021. Christchurch-linked material remains prolific, and white-identity extremism accounts for over half of ideologically-coded referrals. Emerging threats, including nihilistic accelerationist groups and subcultures operating on encrypted and fringe platforms further stretch traditional enforcement models.

Drawing on 28 in-depth interviews with public servants, platform insiders, and anti-fascist organisers, this presentation examines the paradoxes and structural incapacities of the NZ state’s digital extremism response. While the post-Christchurch vision promised transformation, austerity politics, institutional drift, and political disinterest have hollowed national capacity. As the state recedes, P/CVE functions are increasingly outsourced to NGOs, platforms, and communities—despite their limited mandate, protection, or resourcing. This research argues that prevention is now governed through technocratic, austerity-aligned rationalities, raising urgent questions about what effective, accountable, and equitable P/CVE looks like in a platformised world.

Criminal Liability for Online Behaviour: Distinguishing Lawful from Unlawful Content

Associate Professor Keiran Hardy, Griffith University

With infinite volumes of extreme, hateful and conspiracy-driven content online, distinguishing criminal from non-criminal content presents significant challenges. An individual who posts extreme content online can be liable for various offences under Australian law, including for advocating terrorism, collecting or making terrorist documents, urging violence against groups, religious vilification and more. In this presentation, I will survey the types of criminal offences that can be triggered by extreme online content. I will identify and explain the elements of these offences, and assess whether they adequately target harmful content whilst protecting freedom of speech and opinion. This will involve statutory interpretation, case law analysis, and consideration of Australia’s human rights obligations under

international law. Beyond criminal offences, I will consider the wider regulatory environment, including powers held by the eSafety Commissioner and laws targeting abhorrent violent material (AVM). An overarching aim is to map the regulatory environment as it relates to extreme, hateful and conspiracy-driven content posted on online platforms.

5:00 PM – 5:15 PM – CLOSING REMARKS

5:15 PM - 7:00 PM: NETWORKING RECEPTION



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About GNET

The Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET) is the academic research arm of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). GNET's mission is to publish actionable research to better understand and prevent terrorist and violent extremist exploitation of digital platforms. GNET is convened by the Centre for Statecraft and National Security (CSNS), based within the Department of War Studies at King's College London.



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025

Chair: Professor Stuart Macdonald, Swansea University

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

SESSION A: BROMANCING THE EXTREME RIGHT: FANDOM AND RECRUITMENT IN FAR-RIGHT EXTREMIST ONLINE SPACES

“Without Warriors, There is no England”: Active Clubs, Far-Right Fitness, and the Transnational Brotherhood of Violence

Maddie Cannon, Extrac

This paper examines the rise of Active Clubs in the UK following the August 2024 Southport riots, situating their growth within a broader transnational trend of violent far-right extremism. Drawing on quantitative data, it offers an original contribution to emerging research on the convergence of extremist fitness culture, online radicalisation, and offline mobilization forums. Regarding these spaces as fandoms has profound impacts on academic and practitioner understanding of online radicalisation and provides a more useful lens for interpreting acts of violence driven by mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies.

The Role of Online Spaces for Far-right Extremist Recruitment: An Australian Case Study

Dr Mario Peucker, Victoria University

Tom J. Fisher, Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities

Online spaces, and in particular various social media platforms, play a key role for far-right extremist groups not only in disseminating their ideological narratives but also in their efforts to recruit new members. In 2024-25, we conducted a multi-method case study on the recruitment tactics and activities of two central far-right extremist groups in Australia. In this presentation we will present our findings illustrating the highly strategic and opportunistic use of different social media platforms, both in less or non-moderated spaces such as Telegram and Gab and video-sharing platforms as well as mainstream social media. Online communication is performed in a highly coordinated way by different actors linked to these far-right extremist groups. This includes targeted communication with their ideologically susceptible audience and a deliberate combination of ideologically explicit messaging with more covert ‘slow-red-pilling’ messaging tactics. Various online spaces are also used to promote the group’s offline actions, which are usually only witnessed by very few people, as well as mainstream media’s coverage of these public stunts, amplifying the group’s messages.

SESSION B: PANEL PRESENTATION: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEURODIVERSITY AND THE ONLINE TERRORISM SPACE?

Professor Zainab Al-Attar, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Victoria University

Dr Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University

Dr Nadine Salman, University College London

In spite of neurodiversity being identified as prevalent in some extremism cohorts, particularly those whose extremism risk unfolds in the online space, it is not known if neurodivergent individuals have unique

vulnerabilities in the online space. This panel will bring together academic and practitioner experts in neurodiversity, who will present the findings of 5 studies that investigated how neurodiversity intersects with the online extremism and terrorism spaces. Specific features of neurodiverse conditions such as autism and ADHD that intersect with particular characteristics of the online terrorism space will be explored, with consideration of the role of adolescence, social adversity, and mental illness in such intersections. The impact of neurodiversity and online space intersections on the development of mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies as well as fixations on extreme violence, gore and hybrid harms will be discussed. The aim of this panel will be firstly to synthesise theory and research with insights from counter-terrorism practice, and secondly to integrate international findings in order to identify common universal themes and challenges. The implications of the five studies, which include international expert insights, case studies and research evidence synthesis, for practice will be reflected on. Directions for future research will be suggested.

Neurodivergence and online extremism: Findings from three international studies

Dr Nadine Salman, University College London

While extremism activity is taking on increasingly online dimensions, there is also increased awareness of neurodivergence within extremist cohorts. Yet, the intersections between neurodivergence and extremist online spaces remain under-researched. Drawing on a systematic review, case studies, and practitioner insights, this research explores how neurodivergent features and experiences – particularly those associated with autism and ADHD – contextualise vulnerability, engagement, and resilience to extremism engagement, especially in online environments. Online extremism engagement can be understood through both pull factors – such as the structure, stimulation, and anonymity of online platforms – and push factors – such as social isolation, a lack of structure, and sensory overload in the offline space. For some, extreme content, including violence and gore, can be stimulating, visually compelling, or emotionally regulating.

These dynamics can shape pathways into extremist spaces, but also present opportunities for detection and intervention. By examining online extremism engagement through the lens of neurodiversity, this research contributes to a more nuanced understanding of how online environments intersect with neurocognitive features in shaping both risk and resilience, and highlights the need for tailored, neurodivergence-aware approaches to countering online violent extremism.

ADHD and Online Extremism: In what ways can ADHD create contextual vulnerabilities and risk in the online space?

Dr Rachel Worthington, Manchester Metropolitan University

Background: ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, or impulsivity. Most people with ADHD do not commit offences, however, research has shown that ADHD is prevalent in offender groups and can be associated with cyber-deviance. The role of ADHD in online terrorism, however, remains under-researched.

Methods: A Systematic Review was performed using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA). 46 papers were deemed as meeting the final inclusion criteria. The findings were synthesised with clinical forensic expertise in terrorism and ADHD, to develop hypotheses on the many ways in which ADHD may intersect with pathways to online terrorism offending.

Conclusion: The role played by ADHD in contextualising risk in online terrorist offenders is an under-researched area that has increasing clinical and operational relevance as terrorism becomes increasingly digital. The existent research evidence on ADHD, problematic online behaviour and offending is synthesised with clinical knowledge of ADHD and forensic knowledge of terrorism pathways, to develop hypotheses on the complex intersections between ADHD and online terrorism. A theoretical clinical model of ADHD-online terrorism intersections is proposed. Implications of the literature and this theoretical-clinical model for risk assessment and reduction will be explored, with suggestions for further research.

How Does Autism Intersect with the Online Terrorism Space? Consensus Amongst Experts from 8 Countries

Professor Zainab Al-Attar, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Victoria University

Research has indicated that autism is one of the most prevalent clinical conditions amongst terrorism cohorts, particularly when offence pathways unfold in the online space. It is important to develop a better understanding of the intersections between autism and the online terrorism space. An international Delphi study was conducted, involving 64 counter-terrorism experts from 8 countries, who have between them worked directly with 382 autistic individuals convicted of terrorism offences. The first round of the Delphi study collated qualitative data, capturing experts' indepth insights into how different features of autism may intersect with numerous characteristics of the online terrorism space, to shape offence pathways. The second and third rounds of the Delphi study sought to develop international expert consensus about the role of the online space in terrorism offence pathways. A thematic analysis of results of the first round of the study indicated highly complex, nuanced and multi-faceted intersections between different features of autism and numerous characteristics of the online space. Expert consensus about the intersections between autism and the online terrorism space was very high and reached in the second round of the study. The results have important implications for terrorism risk assessments, interventions, support and monitoring.

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM

ROUNDTABLE A: FROM SIGNALS TO SOLUTIONS: SCALING EFFECTIVE ONLINE P/CVE PROGRAMS ACROSS COMPLEX DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS

Mark Duckworth PSM, Deakin University (Moderator)

Associate Professor Matteo Vergani, Deakin University

Theresa Rajah, Moonshot

David O'Brien, Yorktown Family Services, Canada

Manisha Bhikha, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, NZ

As online violent extremism becomes increasingly cross-platform and transnational, traditional prevention approaches struggle to keep pace with evolving digital threats. This panel brings together multi-sector speakers to examine evidence-based online interventions that effectively operate within complex, interconnected digital ecosystems. Drawing on Moonshot's extensive experience delivering online violence prevention programs across Five Eyes countries, panellists will explore how to distinguish meaningful threats from background noise, while implementing scalable interventions. The discussion will address critical questions around the boundaries between violent extremist threats and broader social harms. It will also examine how prevention programs can effectively manage online harms, as well as reach out to users within multi-platform environments where users migrate seamlessly between spaces. The panel will present evidence of successful online interventions, including targeted advertising campaigns and resilience building programs. Particular attention will be given to how online initiatives can interface with offline prevention efforts to create comprehensive intervention pathways. By examining real-world case studies from diverse online environments, this session will provide practical insights into developing effective P/CVE programs that can adapt to rapidly changing digital landscapes while maintaining measurable impact. The discussion will offer actionable frameworks and learnings for practitioners, policymakers, and researchers working to enhance online violence prevention capabilities.

ROUNDTABLE B: MISOGYNY, MACHINES AND MODERATION: AUTOMATING DETECTION OF MALE SUPREMACIST CONTENT

Professor Cynthia Miller-Idriss, American University (Moderator)

Kaitlyn Tierney, Diverting Hate

Pasha Dashtgard, PERIL, American University

Online ecosystems thrive on outrage, turning everyday grievances into extremist worldviews -- and gendered hate is one of the most pervasive, profitable pipelines. This roundtable explores an experiment at that critical fork in the road: can AI help us detect and disrupt male supremacist narratives before they harden into harm?

We're building on the Male Supremacy Scale — a rigorously developed tool created by Dr. Pasha Dashtgard that measures beliefs like anti-feminism, female dishonesty, and the glorification of “alpha” dominance. Our team is testing whether we can train large language models to score online content the way trained human coders do. We manually analyze content from YouTube and compare those scores to early outputs from AI models learning to apply the scale's indicators.

Together with partners from the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL), we'll share early lessons on where human judgment and AI align -- and where they don't. We'll also surface the practical and ethical questions: How do we avoid new biases? How do we translate this into real interventions that actually reach men in moments of opportunity?

Join us for a candid conversation on what it takes to build digital tools that spot harmful narratives early and how better detection can become real prevention.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM – MORNING TEA

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP A: AI, IDEOLOGY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE: NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY AND RISK

Anna Grierson, Tech Against Terrorism

Laura Cairns, Tech Against Terrorism

This workshop will explore how artificial intelligence (AI) and large language models (LLMs) can improve early detection and moderation of TVE content online, including improved efficiency and accuracy; the risks of automation and the role of human oversight; how AI-driven strategic applications can help anticipate emerging threats and inform proactive responses, and how AI tools and their users might usefully and responsibly approach cases involving mixed, unstable, or unclear ideologies to ensure nuanced and informed responses.



INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP B: SANDBOX: PRACTITIONER-LED DESIGN FOR EFFECTIVE ONLINE-OFFLINE REFERRALS

Julia Nowecki, Violence Prevention Network

This workshop will help equip AVERT symposium participants to deal with adversarial shift, technological developments, and evolving social dynamics that contribute to an ever more complex ecosystem, and to consider their implications for effective online-offline referrals and programming. The workshop will have a strong focus on integrating practitioner considerations into the design and implementation of P/CVE that have both online and offline components. It will draw on collaborative thinking on how to integrate online P/CVE interventions with existing state CVE systems.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM – LUNCH

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

SESSION A: PANEL PRESENTATION: THRESHOLDS AND TRIGGERS FOR MEASURING ONLINE HATE TO ANTICIPATE REAL-WORLD HARM

Associate Professor Matteo Vergani, Deakin University

Assistant Professor Andrea Giovannetti, Australian Catholic University

Associate Professor Kewen Liao, Deakin University

This panel brings together three studies from the Tackling Hate Lab, a multidisciplinary research initiative combining data science, economics, and social-psychological methods to understand and counter online hate and its offline consequences. The panel addresses the following questions: How does online hate relate to real-world behaviours? What thresholds, mechanisms, and signals can help anticipate harm? The first paper, *Where Australian Communities Draw the Line*, examines how members of five Australian communities affected by hate—First Nations, Muslim, Jewish, diverse genders, and diverse sexualities—define what counts as hate speech. The paper identifies both shared and divergent understandings of where thresholds of hate lie, to inform moderation, research, and policy. The second paper, *Network Dynamics of Online Hate and Offline Harm in Post-7 October Australia*, uses social network analysis to map polarisation among online communities spreading antisemitic and Islamophobic hate. It links online activity to real-world incidents and identifies key actors and risks. The third paper, *From Tweets to the Streets*, applies large language models and statistical methods to the UK's Southport riots to test whether surges in online hate can help predict unrest. Together, the papers offer evidence-based tools for practitioners and policy makers working on crime targeting Australian communities.

Where Australian Communities Draw the Line: How Targeted Communities Define Online Hate

Associate Professor Matteo Vergani, Deakin University

This paper reflects on how members of targeted communities define and operationalise the threshold for hate in online content. It draws on a data science project aimed at creating training data for machine learning classifiers, labelled by members of five Australian communities affected by hate: First Nations, Muslim, Jewish, diverse genders, and diverse sexualities. All participants took part in a standardised training session using the same working definition of hate, then individually annotated 100 social media posts as containing hate or not. Weekly discussions were held to review discrepancies in annotations,

encouraging critical reflection and shared calibration. Despite working from a shared definition, communities placed the threshold for hate differently, with clear patterns emerging both within and across groups. In some cases, there was strong internal agreement on what constituted hate, along with well-articulated reasons. In other cases, perspectives diverged, reflecting different lived experiences and sensitivities to tone, language, and context. The paper explores these convergences and divergences, offering insight into how hate is understood and experienced across communities in Australia. These findings can support more inclusive and grounded policy, moderation, and research practices that take seriously the perspectives of those most affected by hate.

Network Dynamics of Online Hate and Offline Harm in Post-7 October Australia

Assistant Professor Andrea Giovannetti, Australian Catholic University

In this work, we use a network analysis approach to study whether online polarisation between Australian Jewish and Muslim communities following the 7 October 2023 attacks by Hamas on Israel and the subsequent invasion has fuelled real-world behaviours—in particular, politically motivated crime in Australia. First, we integrate a large-scale social media dataset harvested alongside an open-source database of antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents compiled from civil society organisations (specifically, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the Islamophobia Register Report) and national and local news reports. Leveraging this data, we create a map of online hate speech communities—that is, communities of users spreading hate targeting Jewish and Muslim identities—using classifiers trained on communities’ understanding of what constitutes online hate. Second, using dynamic social network analysis, we track the rise, fall, and alliances of influential actors embedded within these adversarial communities. Third, we test whether shifts in online network structure can help predict offline attacks, and explore how offline shocks may affect or reshape online ecosystems. This data aims to support targeted and timely policy responses to hate by identifying emerging risks and the key actors driving them.

From Tweets to the Streets: Linking Online Attitudes to Offline Riots via Large Language Models and Statistical Analysis

Associate Professor Kewen Liao, Deakin University

A central idea in social psychology is that attitudes often precede and influence behaviour. In the digital age, online discourse provides a valuable lens for examining public sentiment that may anticipate real-world events. This study investigates the Southport stabbing incident in the UK on 29 July 2024, which was followed by riots, to explore the relationship between online attitudes and offline unrest. Our work includes two parts: (1) using artificial intelligence, specifically large language models (LLMs), to classify online hate such as anti-foreigner and anti-political sentiment; and (2) analysing temporal correlations and possible causal links between these attitudes and the ensuing riots. For the first part, we annotate 500 UK posts to assess the predictive potential of LLMs, evaluate both generative and encoder-based models using prompting and fine-tuning methods, and classify about 230,000 tweets to track the development of attitudes in the UK and Australia, where Australia serves as a control group. For the second, we compute metrics such as tweet volume, variability, and reposting activity, and apply statistical tools for correlation and causal analysis. Our findings provide insight into how online attitudinal surges may correlate with or precede offline unrest.



SESSION B: PANEL PRESENTATION: NARRATIVE TRAPS AND DIGITAL DETOX: DISRUPTING EXTREMIST STORYLINES IN ONLINE ENVIRONMENTS

Omar Mohammed, George Washington University
Elah Cohen, Heritage of War and Peace
Margareta Wetchy, Heritage of War and Peace

This presentation explores how violent extremist groups craft persuasive digital narratives and how practitioners, researchers, and policymakers can disrupt them. Grounded in real-world case studies from Iraq, Syria, as well as from Europe, the session will equip participants with tools to identify and dismantle online radicalization techniques—particularly those that rely on emotionally charged storytelling, identity manipulation, and selective historical framing.

The presentation will be structured around three core elements: (1) the analysis of narrative construction in jihadist messaging and emerging antisemitic digital subcultures, (2) the analysis of potential functions of specific extremist messages and (3) a brief Q&A session and discussion of experiences with different intervention mechanisms.

Participants will leave with a framework for analyzing extremist content, a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of extremist messages, and strategies for deploying storytelling in prevention programs. The session will be relevant to those working on P/CVE, online regulation, media analysis, and cultural heritage preservation as a counter-extremism tool. It aligns with AVERT's goals by offering a model for cross-platform, interdisciplinary intervention grounded in both digital literacy and local knowledge.

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM – AFTERNOON TEA

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

SESSION A: FRAMES AND FUNNELS: RECRUITMENT, GENDER AND MEDIA REPORTING IN ONLINE EXTREMIST CONTEXTS

Agoge or Paideia? Comparing Gatekeeping Practices in Online Extremist Forums

Christopher David, University of Applied Sciences Neu-Ulm

Understanding how exactly individuals are socialized into extremist communities is of vital importance for designing effective P/CVE strategies. This paper examines the hidden curriculum of becoming an insider through a comparative analysis of the two extremist online forums, incels.is and Stormfront. Based on ethnographic fieldwork, this study finds that both forums show strong but distinct gatekeeping practices to defend against infiltration and select suitable members. On incels.is, newcomers (referred to as “GrAYcels”) face an almost constant hostility and verbal aggression, undergoing a prolonged “trial by fire”. We refer to this as Agoge (representing the ancient Spartan education through hardship), as in this exclusionary environment belonging is tested through endurance and conformity. In contrast, Stormfront relies on the introductory post of a newcomer to determine suitability for membership. Newcomers that can demonstrate their commitment are received warmly in what we refer to as Paideia (representing the virtue focused Athenian counterpart to Agoge). Belonging here is emphasized by shared values of white nationalism. Rather than forming a strict dichotomy, we use Agoge/Paideia to highlight differing mechanics of trust building and boundary enforcement that have potential implications for understanding recruitment strategies within extremist online communities and suggest the need for platform-specific intervention strategies.

Blurred Lines: Mixed Ideologies, Far-Right Mainstreaming and Best Practice Diversionary Approaches for Boys and Young Men

Dr Ben Adams, University of Adelaide

Dr Garth Stahl, University of Queensland

Many of the ideological frameworks driving contemporary online extremism remain familiar – including misogyny, white supremacy, various forms of anti-establishment rhetoric, cultural traditionalism, or political nationalism. However, evolving techniques of communication by far-right, manosphere and/or conspiracist influencers mean that often, no clear demarcation exists between extreme and non-extremist material, reflecting a ‘mainstreaming’ of far-right concerns (Schmid et al., 2024), especially for male youth. Preliminary mapping of extremist content shared on popular Australian youth-favoured platforms shows that extremism often flies ‘under the radar’ of moderation or monitoring processes, posing policy challenges in terms of how (and whether) to regulate or remove content and, more importantly, how policymakers and practitioners can respond to socially complex needs while resisting over-securitisation by building wider-level critical and media literacy amongst young people, emphasizing youth co-design, practitioner discretion, and adaptive, place-based delivery of services to help curb the influence “of far-right discourses in the public domain” (Zhang and Davis, 2022, p. 2966). We draw on thematic analysis of Australian social media content, a recent review of best practice diversionary programs targeting boys and young men, along with theoretical insights regarding emergent forms of extremism, to discuss the dynamics of these developing trends and some potentially productive responses.

When the News Becomes Noise: Examining Distortion in Online Media Framing on Perception of Terrorism in Australia

Emma Gerhardy, Government of South Australia

In an era where people are constantly saturated with information, mainstream media coverage plays a powerful, and often overlooked, role in shaping how the public understands terrorism and violent extremism. When considering extremism in the online space tends to focus on the perpetrators, this project investigates how Australian news outlets frame terrorism online and how those representations influence public perception, institutional urgency, and ultimately policy responses. Much attention is given to extremist propaganda and fringe online communities, yet far less scrutiny is applied to the role of ‘legitimate’ digital media in producing and amplifying national security narratives.

Using a decade of online media articles (n = 197), this project incorporates an open thematic framework, guided by feminist and securitisation theories. This paper examines how news stories frame threat, urgency, and legitimacy, and whose voices are prioritised or erased in the process. Preliminary findings suggest that media platforms not only reflect, but actively construct, our sense of what counts as terrorism – risking the marginalisation of more pervasive but less visible harms.

By positioning mainstream media as a site of radicalisation-adjacent influence, this study contributes to emerging academic and practitioner debates on how the boundaries between violent extremism, online noise, and public discourse are blurring – and what this means for digital resilience and future policy design.

SESSION B: MOVEMENT AT THE STATION: ONLINE CONSPIRACY DISCOURSE AND MOBILISATION TO EXTREMIST VIOLENT ACTION

From Doubt to Danger: A Psycholinguistic and Discourse Analysis of Reddit Conspiracy Discourse for Early Detection of Extremism

Dr Abigail O'Hara, University of Queensland

This study examines whether COVID-19 and 6 January Capitol Riots posts in a mainstream online conspiracy community incubate violent extremism. Using the Grievance Dictionary and discourse analysis, we analysed over 1.02 million comments (2019-2020) and individual COVID-19 and 6 January Capitol Riots posts (2021-2024) from Reddit's r/conspiracy community. “Surveillance” emerged as the

most prominent Grievance Dictionary category, reflecting perceptions of state overreach and deep-state conspiracy theories. COVID-19 conspiracy theories were largely embedded within broader “deep state” narratives attributing the pandemic to elite control, reframing protective measures as authoritarian tools while minimising the public health crisis. For COVID-19 posts, “fighting” was primarily framed as metaphorical resistance against perceived elite oppression. Overall, threat amplification, speculation, doubt-sowing, and group identity reinforcement (Levels 1-2) dominated over direct violence advocacy. 6 January posts featured higher discursive radicalisation levels (Levels 3-4). Factoring in coded, metaphorical, and humour-laden language, we propose an Integrated Typology of Noise and Threat Signals to distinguish background noise from actionable threats. The framework offers practical utility for determining which posts warrant surveillance, supporting proportionate and ethical digital monitoring.

Conspiracy-Based Social Movements: From Belief to Reactionary Action

Cassandra Quarisa, Flinders University

Conspiracy beliefs can become the basis of an organised social movement inspired by their messages. Said movements often seek to subvert or oppose progressive changes. While there are numerous studies exploring what shapes conspiracy beliefs, relatively few have examined their outcomes. We draw on both collective action and conspiracy literature to offer a conceptualisation of politically relevant, ‘conspiracy-based’ social movements. We suggest that conspiracy beliefs become collectivised, facilitating the formation of an opinion-based identity structured around a shared opinion, prompting negotiation of norms for action to advance the cause of the opinion-based group. We provide a test of these ideas in the context of tweets (N=764,908) about QAnon, which has often been associated with intentions for radical action and, specifically, support for and participation in the January 6th capitol insurrection. We employ natural language processing as a means of mapping the psychological concepts of collectivisation, identity, and norm negotiation to gain insight as to how conspiracy theories contribute to inciting hostile, reactionary action. We conclude that conspiracy theories can become the foundation of attempts at effecting broader social and political change.

Grievances, Conspiracies, and the Road to Political Violence: A Typological Lens on Digital Radicalization

Ance Martinsone, University College London

This research investigates how digital radicalization transforms online conspiracy beliefs and grievances into politically motivated extremism and violence. Analyzing January 6th Capitol riot participants - a clear case of conspiracy-fueled political violence - this study mapped how online ecosystems facilitate the journey from passive conspiracy consumption to violent mobilization.

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM – CLOSING REMARKS



PRESENTER PROFILES



Dr Ben Adams

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Ben's skills and experience span across the academic social sciences, critical humanities and creative fields. In recent years his work has emphasized research into the conceptual frameworks and practical implementation of preventing and countering violent extremism strategies for youth and, especially, young men, along with broader, related issues regarding radicalization, masculinities and social inequality. He is currently employed as a postdoctoral researcher in the University of Adelaide's

Department of Sociology, Criminology and Gender Studies, as part of a team exploring the intelligence imperatives and implications of digital pathways to violent extremism in young Australians. Previously, as a research assistant in the Schools of Education at University of South Australia, the University of Adelaide, and the University of Queensland, Ben has contributed to scholarly work focused on the sociology of schooling in a neoliberal context, gendered learner identities and subjectivities, educational inequalities, restorative practices in schools and higher degree research cultures.



Henry Adams

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Henry Adams is Director, Trust & Safety, at Resolver. He has spent the past decade mitigating risk in diverse, high-harm settings. Henry is a former Head of Intelligence with a background in global counter terrorism, national policing operations and crisis negotiation. At Resolver, he initially led global intelligence operations before overseeing the development of extremist and predator network disruption tools. Today, Henry is a member of Resolver's Trust & Safety Division leadership and their primary interface

with industry, academia, governments and regulators. He is a passionate advocate for the protection of children; and a proponent of the power in taking proactive intelligence-led approaches to safety.



Professor Zainab Al-Attar

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Prof Al-Attar specialises in Counter-Terrorism as an academic and practitioner. She has worked in Forensic Psychology for 25 years and academia for 27 years, with much of her career focussed on counter-terrorism. Following post-doctoral research at Oxford University, Zainab taught post-graduates at Oxford University and University of Central Lancashire and guest lectured at other universities. She delivered teaching on extremism and neurodiversity in Australia, Europe, and US. Zainab has led and supervised research projects on neurodiversity and extremism for

Avert, CREST, Prevent and Oxford University. She's the author of the RAN Handbook and eLearning on Radicalisation and Mental Health and several papers and chapters in the same field, is co-author of the BPS Ethical Guidelines for psychologists working with extremists and the author of the FARAS and FARAH frameworks for risk assessment with neurodivergent offenders. Zainab is a Forensic Psychologist and honorary and adjunct professor of counter-terrorism and mental health.


Emma Allen

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Emma Allen is the Program Manager for Research at Hedayah. In this role, Emma manages the Department's resources and programs and leads research and analysis efforts, including recent publications on rehabilitation and reintegration, and preventing extremism and violent extremism through education and online. Before Hedayah, Emma worked as a researcher in the international development and humanitarian field, conducting and managing field research across Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Her work has often focused on gendered challenges faced by children and youth in these contexts, including the gendered nature and impacts of extremism and violent extremism.


Stéphane J Baele

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Stéphane Baele is Professor at the University of Louvain (Belgium). His work focuses on extremist and violent political actors' communications, from a multidisciplinary perspective.


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Dr Steve Barracosa is the Senior Manager of the Youth Justice NSW Specialist Support/Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Unit. His PhD research through the University of Queensland focused on youth radicalisation and violent extremism risk assessment in an Australian context. Steve is the inaugural chair for the Commonwealth youth-extremism advisory group. He is a psychologist, published author on the topic of preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism with youth, is a court appointment expert for extremism proceedings in the NSW Children's Court, and has experience in the development and implementation of CVE services for both youth and adults. Steve has an academic and practice-based interest in understanding and preventing targeted violence towards school settings.


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Astrid Bastiaens is a PhD Researcher at the Faculty of Law at Maastricht University. Her doctoral research is on the threat assessment of terrorist attacks. She has a background in legal and forensic psychology.


Manisha Bhikha

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Manisha Bhikha is Deputy Counter Terrorism Strategic Coordinator at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, where she has worked for six years and leads system coordination and policy advice across countering terrorism and violent extremism. She leads NZ government participation in several international working groups for preventing violent extremism. Manisha is an experienced practitioner in prevention and countering violent extremism of all kinds, and for eight years programme managed coordination of multi-agency case support for individuals at risk

of radicalisation, community-based initiatives to build resilience to hate and extremism, and local responses to incidents of terrorism in high-risk inner London.

Manisha has worked in policy and strategy roles across community safety, social cohesion and emergency management in local and central government in the United Kingdom. She previously worked in policy and advisory roles in race relations, human rights and civil liberties at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and issues for migrant and refugee children and young people and youth participation at the New Zealand Office of the Children's Commissioner.

Manisha holds an MA (Hons) in Political Studies and BA (Hons) in Political Studies from the University of Auckland. She has completed a post-graduate Preventing Violent Radicalisation Professional and Executive Development short course from Kings College London, University of London.


Professor Vicki Bitsika

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Professor Vicki Bitsika has specialised in the assessment and treatment of people with neurodevelopmental conditions, mental ill-health, and behavioural disorder for over 35 years. She was Founder and Director of the Centre for Autism Spectrum Disorder, at Bond University from 2010 to 2019. She is Professor and Discipline Convenor of Neuroscience at the University of New England where she conducts research into diagnostic and mental health issues in autism.

Professor Bitsika received a Winston Churchill Fellowship in 2010 to investigate specialised intervention technologies for autistic children and adolescents in the USA and UK. In 2016, she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "significant service to tertiary education in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders, as an academic, and as a supporter of people with disabilities". She was admitted, as a Fellow, into the Royal Society in 2023.



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Lewys Brace is Senior Lecturer in Computational Social Science at the University of Exeter (UK), where he is the Co-Director of the Centre for Computational Social Science (C2S2). He specializes in data science, extremism, terrorism, cybercrime, and Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT). His current research focuses on online extremist radicalization (far-right, incel) and the development of computational research methods for the social sciences. His work has appeared in journals such as *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, or *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*.



Maddie Cannon
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Maddie Cannon is a domestic threat analyst at ExTrac. Previously, she was Commissioning Editor and Project Manager of the Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET) at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR). Maddie specialises in the domestic far-right landscape in the UK.



Laura Cairns
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Laura is a Threat Intelligence Analyst at Tech Against Terrorism, where she brings extensive open-source intelligence experience to support ongoing projects and work streams such as the Terrorist Content Analytics Platform (TCAP) and the 24/7 incident response capability. Laura brings expertise in OSINT collections across multiple terrorist and violent extremist online ecosystems, with a particular focus on the Far-Right and on the Australasian region. Laura was formerly an Intelligence Analyst for New Zealand Police, and she holds a MSc in Conflict and Terrorism Studies from

the University of Auckland, where she focused on the intersection between misogyny and Far Right Violent Extremism.




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Lydia Channon is a PhD researcher at Swansea University and a member of CYTREC. Her interdisciplinary research spans computer science, social science, gender dynamics, and the study of the far-right, focusing on the detection and prediction of online extremism. She explores coded hate speech, policy-evasive language, and the use of generative AI to simulate emerging extremist narratives. Lydia developed the Gradient of Hostility Model, a framework for mapping rhetorical escalation, and applies tools such as DistilBERT and GPT-3 to large-scale social media datasets. Her work contributes to ethical AI moderation strategies and hybrid approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), with a particular emphasis on gendered and intersectional harms. Lydia has presented her research at leading conferences including TASM (Terrorism and Social Media) and BISA (British International Studies Association), and brings a background in data science, public policy, and risk to her work on digital threats and interventions.


Yasmin Chilmeran

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Dr Yasmin Chilmeran is the Consortium Coordinator for Project Catalyst at the Christchurch Call Foundation, a consortium-based initiative focused on violent misogyny and violent extremism prevention. She is also an Associate with the Swedish Institute of International Affairs' MENA Programme. Yasmin's research and practitioner work have focused on gender-inclusive approaches to peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremism, as well as the implementation and localisation of UN frameworks to advance these aims, especially in conflict-affected settings in the MENA region. From 2022 to 2025, she led coordination between the United Nations, the Government of Iraq, and humanitarian actors on the return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of Iraqi nationals returning from northeast Syria, including Al-Hol. She has also undertaken research and advisory work supporting organisations on PVE, displacement, and gender-sensitive approaches to security, including UN Women, Chemonics, and IOM. She holds a PhD from Monash University's Centre for Gender, Peace and Security, and her work has been published in International Affairs and the International Political Science Review.


Caitlin Clemmow

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Caitlin Clemmow manages the Jill Dando Institute Research Lab at University College London, where she is a senior member of UCL's Counterterrorism Research Group. Her current projects include research continuing to understand the overlap between intimate partner abuse and violent extremism, the role of mental health and complex needs in violent extremism, youth vulnerability and mobilisation to violent extremism and targeted violence, and hybrid and fluid threats such as Nihilistic Violent Extremism and The Com network, funded by the US Department of Homeland Security, the UK Home Office, Counterterrorism Police, and the Youth Endowment Fund. Caitlin prioritises research-to-practice knowledge exchange, working closely with practitioner teams across the UK and internationally, including the Counter Terrorism Clinical Consultancy Service, the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre, Theseus Risk Management, and Counterterrorism Police Headquarters. She is committed to bridging research and practice, aiming to deliver evidence-based solutions to prevent a range of harms, including violence.



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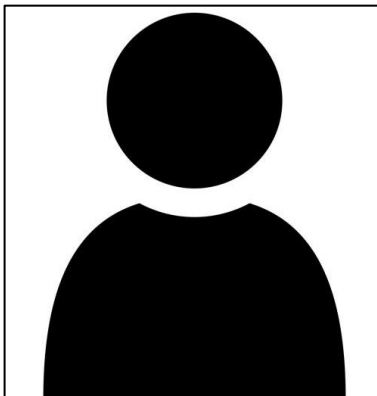
Elah Cohen is a current medical student at the University of Aberdeen, having formerly studied Arabic and International Relations at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. Living in Haifa sparked a lifelong love for history and its intersection with memory. She is a contributor to the project Heritage of War and Peace.



Dr Emily Corner
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Associate Professor Emily Corner conducts seminal quantitative and qualitative work in the areas of terrorism, radicalisation, grievance-fuelled violence, fixated threat, and risk assessment. She has extensive experience in the design and implementation of large-scale quantitative and qualitative data analyses and interpretation, systematic reviews, and evaluation methodologies. She works with threat and risk assessment professionals across numerous state and commonwealth agencies across Australia and New Zealand, including police, corrections, and probation,

and has been awarded grants funded by a broad range of national and international agencies, and outcomes from her research underpin multiple terrorism prevention initiatives across the world.



Anne Craanen
Institute for Strategic Dialogue

Anne Craanen is a Senior Research and Policy Manager, Extremism, specialising in gender and extremism, regulatory approaches to online terrorist and extremist content, and countering extremism and terrorism. Anne has presented her work to various stakeholders, including supranational institutions such as the European Internet Forum and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, as well as national governments, tech companies and civil society organisations. Anne is currently pursuing a part-time PhD at Swansea University, researching online misogyny and offline violence, with a focus on extremism and

violence against women and girls. Previously, she worked as a Research Manager at Tech Against Terrorism, where she led the Terrorist Content Analytics Platform (TCAP), a tool designed to alert tech companies to terrorist content. Anne has also held positions at Artis International, Dataminr, and the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR).




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Pasha Dashtgard is the Director of Research for the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL). He has a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the Department of Psychological Science at the University of California, Irvine, and was formerly a postdoctoral Fellow at Loyola Marymount University's Psychology Applied Research Center (PARC). He attended Columbia University, Teacher's College for his MA in Mental Health Counseling and Ed.M in Education. Dr. Dashtgard leads PERIL's research and evaluation team, overseeing national testing of all prevention and intervention tools alongside primary research in the form of nationally-representative surveys, focus groups, and digital ethnography. Pasha's research interests include masculinities, online radicalization, PTSD, and large-scale mental health policy/service delivery. Research projects include analysis using his Male Supremacy Scale (MSS) and its intersections with online behavior, PTSD in solitary confinement, and various projects intervening with populations beset by misinformation, conspiratorial thinking, and political polarization.


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Christopher David is a PhD candidate and researcher at the Institute for Digital Innovation at the University of Applied Sciences Neu-Ulm, Germany, where his work focuses on understanding and countering online extremism. Holding an M.Sc. in Psychology and an M.A. in Peace and Security Studies, and now pursuing a PhD in Information Systems, he examines online extremism through an interdisciplinary socio-technical lens. His current research explores collective learning processes in incel and white supremacist online communities from a comparative perspective. Drawing on his experience with political foundations in Berlin and Brussels, his work seeks to bridge the gap between academic research and policy practice.


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Dan (he/him) is the Head of Projects. He works in deeply relational ways, with a focus on supporting young people to play a central role in designing and shaping their world. He believes in the power of stories and reflective practice to generate authentic and relevant ideas to life. Daniel's work is built on more than 20 years of practice-based research, innovative projects and youth-centered approaches. He works at the intersection of play, technology and learning and has designed alternate reality games, worked with top educational app designers and supported education and learning teams at LEGO, Disney and Apple. In his spare time Daniel can be found growing fruit and vegetables, or rolling a d20 hoping for a critical hit.


Professor Julian Droogan

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Dr Julian Droogan is a Professor and Head of Department, Security Studies and Criminology, at Macquarie University, Sydney. His research focusses on the confluence between extremist narratives and digital media, right- and left-wing extremism, and religions. Julian has led or co-led numerous funded research projects examining online disinformation in Australia's region, countering violent extremism in Australia, audiences of online extremism, and right-wing extremism online. His research and consultancy

were instrumental in the creation of the \$12 million NSW COMPACT countering violent extremism program, operating since 2015. Julian's funded team research into online extremism brings together socio-cultural expertise and computer science to combine quantitative and qualitative empirical data to address complex interactions in the online space. He maintains a number of international agreements and partnerships with academic and practitioner CT and CVE organisations in Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia. Julian is editor of the Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism (Routledge), and interdisciplinary journal publishing high-quality scholarship on the intersection of policing, intelligence, and terrorism, and providing a space for both academics and practitioners working in the field.


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Mark Duckworth PSM is a Senior Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University working in the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS). Before taking up this appointment in 2019 he had more than 30 years' experience in the Victorian and New South Wales public sectors. He held many senior executive roles including as Executive Director of Governance, Security and Intergovernmental Relations, and as Chief Resilience Officer in the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. In the 2007 Australia Day Honours he was awarded the Public Service Medal for his work in "the development of the national counter-terrorism and policy arrangements". He was member of the Australia and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee for thirteen years, and the inaugural co-chair of the ANZCTC Countering Violent Extremism sub-committee.

and Intergovernmental Relations, and as Chief Resilience Officer in the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. In the 2007 Australia Day Honours he was awarded the Public Service Medal for his work in "the development of the national counter-terrorism and policy arrangements". He was member of the Australia and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee for thirteen years, and the inaugural co-chair of the ANZCTC Countering Violent Extremism sub-committee.


Dr Ali Fisher

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Dr Ali Fisher is Explorer of Extreme Realms at Human Cognition, Fellow at ITSTIME research centre, and Lecturer at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan.

He is an advisor, strategist, and author who delivers strategic insight into complex information ecosystems, often containing extreme or illegal content. With a dual specialism in Strategic Communication and Data Science, he has worked on Strategic Communication projects for European and US Government Departments specifically focused on achieving and measuring influence.'

Using large-scale social network analysis, he has identified factors that help organisations build or disrupt networks of influence and impact the flow of information through a community. In addition to publishing the largest known network graph of the Dark Web, these techniques have been used across a diverse range of fields, including Strategic Communication, Counter Terrorism, and Child Protection.


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Tom J Fisher has been researching the far-right since 2017. After completing an Honours thesis on the role of masculinity and gender in Australian-based, far-right online ecosystems, he has worked as a researcher and research coordinator at Victoria University and Deakin University on various projects focused on extremism, racism, and countering violent extremism (CVE), including several studies within the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS). Tom has co-authored several commissioned research reports as well as a peer-reviewed journal article in Media, Culture and Society. Tom is currently completing his PhD at Victoria University. His work focuses on the role of meaning in online far-right discourse and processes of radicalization.


Richard Frank

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Richard Frank is a Professor in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University (SFU), Canada and Director of the International CyberCrime Research Centre (ICCRC). Richard completed a PhD in Computing Science (2010) and another PhD in Criminology (2013) at SFU. His main research interest is Cybercrime. Specifically, he's interested in researching hackers and security issues, the dark web, online terrorism and warfare, eLaundering and cryptocurrencies, and online child exploitation. He is the creator of The Dark Crawler, a tool for collecting and analyzing data from the open Internet, dark web, and online discussion forums. Through this tool the ICCRC has collected ~150 million posts from various right-wing, left-wing, gender-based and religiously-motivated extremist communities, leading to a number of projects and publications.


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Andy is the Deputy Chief Executive at the Christchurch Call Foundation. Prior to joining the Christchurch Call Foundation, he was the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Coordinator with the NZ Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), leading New Zealand's national system on all elements of the risk of terrorism and violent extremism. Andy's prior roles have also included serving as the Head of the Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG), an inter-agency group responsible for assessing the terrorism threats to New Zealand and New Zealand's interests. Andy has 20 years' experience working within the New Zealand and UK governments on national security issues. During his career he has carried out a wide variety of leadership, operational and liaison roles, undertaken several overseas deployments, and led significant organisational change programmes. Andy holds an MA (Oxon) and BA (Hons) in Biological Science from Oxford University, UK.


Emma Gerhardy

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Emma Gerhardy is the Lead Program Officer within the Inclusion Support Program (ISP), South Australia's statewide community-based Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) service. ISP provides interventions for people aged 10 and over, alongside training, community engagement, and awareness-building initiatives aimed at preventing harmful behaviours and strengthening social cohesion. A former police officer, Emma is completing an Honours degree in Criminology at the University of Adelaide, where her thesis compares how Australian media frames domestic violence and terrorism to explore why some forms of violence are securitised while others are not. Her writing has been published by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and the Australian Institute of International Affairs, where she advocates for gender-informed, human-centred approaches to security. Emma's work bridges research and practice whilst challenging traditional security paradigms.


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Dr Andrea Giovannetti, a former Marie-Curie fellow at the Institute of Criminology of Cambridge University, is an Assistant Professor in Economics at the Australian Catholic University, and he specializes on the quantitative study of organized crime and extremism through the lenses of econometrics and network science. As principal investigator in projects supported by leading counter-terrorism divisions and police forces worldwide, dr. Giovannetti adopts an evidence-based approach to investigate the drivers of social threats that stem from complex multi-agent dynamics and to identify policies that work in practice. Andrea is also Co-Director of the Tackling Hate Lab at Deakin University, where he designs and coordinates large-scale experiments and computational simulations to unveil the mechanisms underpinning the propagation and containment of hate and extremism. His work bridges rigorous quantitative analysis with real-world applications, providing actionable insights for security agencies, policymakers, and communities confronting contemporary security challenges.


Anna Grierson

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Anna is a Threat Intelligence Analyst at Tech Against Terrorism, where she leverages her extensive open-source intelligence expertise to support a range of key initiatives, including threat intelligence reporting, the Terrorist Content Analytics Platform (TCAP) and the organisation's 24/7 incident response capability. With a strong background in OSINT collection and analysis across diverse terrorist and violent extremist online ecosystems, Anna contributes to strengthening global counterterrorism efforts. Her work also focuses on building understanding around youth radicalisation and the influence of technology in the radicalisation process. Prior to joining Tech Against Terrorism, Anna was a Senior Intelligence Analyst with the New Zealand Police. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Criminology from Victoria University of Wellington.



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Professor Michele Grossman AM is Research Chair in Diversity and Community Resilience at the Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, where she is also Director of the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies, a research consortium funded by the CVE Branch of the Victorian Dept. of Justice and Community Safety. She is the founder of the AVERT (Addressing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation to Terrorism) Research Network and serves as its Co-Convenor. Michele's research focuses on how best to engage

communities and build resilience at different levels in countering violent extremist recruitment, action and ideology through support from a wide range of government and academic funding schemes, including the UK's Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST), Australia's Department of Home Affairs and ANZCTC, the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation program, Public Safety Canada and the USA's National Institute of Justice. Her groundbreaking work between 2015-2023 on community reporting on violent extremism concerns by social intimates has led to significant government policy and program impacts, including Step Together in Australia and the National Counter-Terrorism Police's Act Early in the UK. Michele's current research includes an Australian Research Council Discovery Program grant on grievance-fuelled violence; an investigation of Australian rural-regional community capacity for countering violent extremism, and a study on the role of religious mentoring across religions for disengaging violent extremists. Her most recent book (co-edited with Hisham Hellyer) is *Rethinking Religion and Radicalization: Terrorism and Violence Twenty Years After 9/11* (Bloomsbury, 2025). Michele is Co-Editor of the scholarly journal *Terrorism and Political Violence* and was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List for significant service to tertiary education through her research, and for social welfare initiatives.



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Dr Malcolm Haddon PSM is Associate Director, Community Resilience, at Multicultural NSW. Dr Haddon has worked in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) policy and program development at both state and national levels in Australia for nearly 15 years. Through the flagship COMPACT program, he pioneered a whole-of-society resilience approach to CVE that has been showcased as good practice in a range international CVE reports and forums, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the United Nations. Dr Haddon has a research background in the anthropology of

religion. He is an Adjunct Fellow at the School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University and a member of the AVERT Research Network. Dr Haddon was awarded the Public Service Medal as part of the 2024 King's Birthday Honours for outstanding public service in the promotion of multiculturalism, social cohesion and community harmony.



Dr Keiran Hardy
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Dr Keiran Hardy is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University and a member of the Griffith Criminology Institute. He is a recognised expert in counter-terrorism and national security law and contributes regularly to parliamentary inquiries. His research focuses on counter-terrorism law, countering violent extremism, and radicalisation. He is the author of *'Law in Australian Society: An Introduction to Principles and Process'* (Routledge, 2024) and is currently undertaking a 3-year ARC Discovery Project on conspiracy-fuelled extremism.


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Dr Sören Henrich holds a PhD in Forensic Psychology, with a specific focus on exploring radicalization in forensic psychiatric populations. His research informs risk and threat assessment practice, guiding assessors to understand the function of behavioural components linked to extremist violence and explores the intersection of self- and group identity to explore online behaviour, digital safety, and group-based violence. He also

contributes to the Institute of Children's Future, focusing on young people's engagement with online risk. He has over a decade of clinical experience working in secure psychiatric settings in Germany and the UK, specialising in risk and threat assessment of high-risk forensic populations, and has trained clinical staff, security personnel, and police apprentices and served as a Hostage and Crisis Negotiator within the NHS. He is a published scholar with his work on the Eco-System of Extremist Violence model impacting the conclusion of the European Commission.


Leoni Heyn

Department for Research on Terrorism and Radicalisation, Institute for Security Policy Kiel

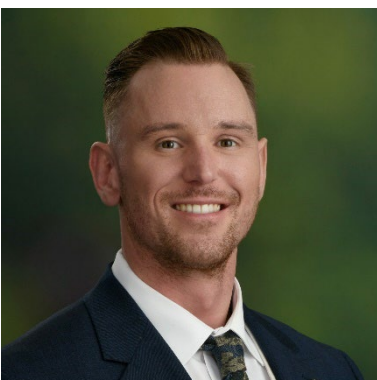
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Leoni Heyn is a PhD Candidate and Researcher at both the Institute for Security Policy (ISPK) and the Department of Political Science at Kiel University. At the ISPK, she works in the Department for Research on Terrorism and Radicalization with a specific focus on the impact of social media and disinformation on radicalization. In her dissertation, she

explores the formation and interconnectedness of German anti-government extremist networks (namely Reichsbürger, Querdenken and QAnon) across different social media platforms.

She is also a member of the Working Group of Terrorism and Domestic Security of the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Women in International Security (WIIS) and the European Expert Network on Terrorism Issues (EENeT).


Dr Jade Hutchinson

Charles University and Macquarie University

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Dr Jade Hutchinson is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Security Studies at Charles University in the Czech Republic and an internationally recognised expert on far-right extremism and online youth radicalisation serving as a grant researcher at Macquarie University. Dr Hutchinson's research focuses on the intersections of online extremism, sociotechnical systems, and socioemotional harm. His work examines how digital media

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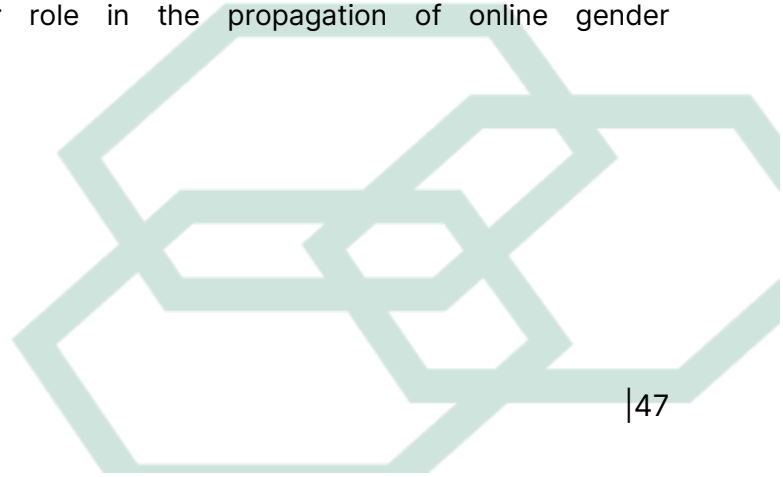
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Florence Keen, Head of ExTrac's Programme on Domestic Threats and Programme Manager, leads a team of Analysts focusing on domestic threats to the UK, including extremism, terrorism, and mis/disinformation. Her PhD focused on online misogynistic communities, in particular Incel extremists, and their role in the propagation of online gender disinformation.





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Galen Lamphere-Englund is a senior international security advisor working at the intersection of terrorism, violence prevention, and technology. He specializes in applied research, strategic communications, and program leadership to strengthen societal resilience and combat online exploitation by extremist, terrorist, and malign influence actors. Galen has delivered projects in more than 30 countries for UN agencies, governments, think tanks, humanitarian NGOs, and major tech platforms. He co-founded and convenes the Extremism and Gaming Research Network (EGRN), of which RUSI is a founding member, alongside 170+ members working to protect gaming communities against online harms. Galen serves as a Team Leader at the Christchurch Call Foundation leading a large-scale consortium focused on violent misogyny, gender-based violence, and terrorism. He also serves as a long-term advisor to various UN agencies. Galen's guiding mission is to build a more inclusive, peaceful, and joyful world both online and IRL.



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Associate Professor Kewen Liao is an accomplished algorithms researcher with a PhD in Computer Science. His expertise spans data science, machine learning, and theoretical computer science, with a focus on algorithm design and analysis, clustering and graph mining, time series and streaming analytics, and image and text data analysis. He is currently a Chief Investigator on an Australian Research Council Discovery Project and has previously led a Defence Next Generation Technologies Fund project. He also serves as Co-Director of the Tackling Hate Lab, where he leads the development of AI-based algorithms and models for detecting hate and extremism. Kewen is dedicated to cross-disciplinary research, leveraging data science and AI to drive meaningful societal and economic impact. In addition, he holds key leadership and professional roles in major national and international data science and AI conferences.



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Dr Angus Lindsay is a critical criminologist specialising in online harms, digital subcultures, and violent extremism. He completed his PhD and Master's at the Institute of Criminology at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, where his research examined how digital capitalism structures far-right extremism and threat ecosystems online. He currently serves as Lead Violent Extremism Advisor at the Department of Internal Affairs, where he works across government, industry, and civil society to develop strategic responses to violent extremism. Angus has published peer-reviewed work on incels, New Zealand policing, and the convergence of extremism with other online harms. His approach bridges academic insight and frontline prevention, grounded in a commitment to evidence-based policy, cross-sector collaboration, and digital rights. Angus is especially interested in how state and platform governance intersect, and how prevention frameworks can be strengthened to support tamariki, whānau, and educators in complex digital environments.



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Ance is PhD researcher in Counterterrorism at University College London, where she explores how online spaces currently shape radicalisation, political extremism and violence, supervised by Prof. Paul Gill and Dr Caitlin Clemmow. Ance's work focuses on the intersection of personal grievance, conspiracy narratives, and the evolving digital environments that enable extremist mobilisation. She brings a multidisciplinary approach - blending qualitative methods with technical skills - to better understand emerging threats in the online sphere and how they translate into real-world harm.

Her broader academic background includes an MPhil in Criminology from Cambridge and a First-Class BSc in Security and Crime Science from UCL. Alongside her doctoral research, Ance has contributed to EU and US-based initiatives aimed at improving strategies for preventing violent extremism. Ance is especially interested in making research practically useful, thus supporting policymakers and practitioners in navigating the complex, fast-changing dynamics of digital radicalisation.



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Dr Omar Mohammed is a historian from Mosul, best known as the anonymous blogger behind Mosul Eye, which documented life under the Islamic State. He leads the Antisemitism Research Initiative at the Program on Extremism, George Washington University, and teaches Middle East History, Cultural Heritage Diplomacy, and Counterterrorism at Sciences Po. He hosts the podcast series Mosul and the Islamic State and 36 Minutes on Antisemitism, featuring global voices on extremism and hate. His research includes oral histories of the Jewish community of Mosul and heritage preservation across Iraq and the Middle East. A former senior UNESCO consultant, Omar has led several post-conflict heritage projects and launched the Green Mosul initiative. He holds a PhD from EHESS in Paris and was named Iraq's Researcher of the Year (2013). In 2020, The Algemeiner listed him among the Top 100 People Positively Influencing Jewish Life. He currently lives in exile in Europe.



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Moonshot is a social impact business with a mission to end online harms, applying evidence, ethics and human rights. Moonshot supports the governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States with efforts to improve risk assessment, prevention, and interventions in the online environment. Our work is rooted in the fundamental belief that people can change. We specialise in delivering programs that connect people at-risk of violence with content and services that reduce their vulnerability to, and support their disengagement from, violent extremism. This work is delivered to the highest data privacy standards, and always protects individual rights and freedoms.



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Felix Neumann has been part of the International Politics and Security department at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) in Berlin since June 2022. In this role, he analyses extremist movements of all kinds in Germany and around the world. He studied War and Conflict Studies at the University of Potsdam and worked in the German Bundestag and at the Institute for Parliamentary Research.


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Stephanie is a PhD candidate in Engineering at the Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation (IISRI), Deakin University. Her research focuses on advancing computational methods that leverage Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Large Language Models (LLMs) to address pressing social challenges. Her work spans a variety of topics, including the policy framing of contemporary social issues, stance detection in parliamentary debates, and agent-based modelling of inoculation strategies against online extremism. Her recent work

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Julia Nowecki is a senior VPN practitioner, working with violent and radicalised individuals and those vulnerable to extremism. Julia specialises in religiously-motivated extremism. She has over 10 years of expertise in youth work, training and counselling teachers, social workers, law enforcement and security agencies, prison and probation services. Since 2023, Julia has been the director of the VPN Academy, a learning and training platform powered by Violence Prevention Network, whose mission

is to empower professionals throughout society to better cope with the constantly evolving extremist and terrorist landscape. She transfers methods, materials and approaches developed by Violence Prevention Network, such as Social Diagnostics and tertiary prevention work methods, into various contexts internationally. In 2024-2025, she trained several cohorts of practitioners in Australia and New Zealand on creating sustainable systems for prevention and disengagement in P/CVE, and on applying best practices in the context of online-offline referral pathway says.



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David O'Brien is the Director of Mental Health at Yorktown Family Services. He has spent over 25 years working in the field of mental health within various settings, including hospitals, shelters, and residential treatment centres. David has held different frontline and managerial positions along with co-developing several system access networks and services for people seeking mental and social health supports, including; What's up walk-in, Canada's first 6-day-a-week mental health walk-in clinic, HIPS (Human, Trafficking Prevention Strategy), youth wellness hubs, and recently Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) a program that uses an interdisciplinary behavioral health approach to redirect people away from hate groups and acts of terrorism. David is also a media resource for some of Canada's major media networks, including CBC, CTV, Global News, amongst others.



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Dr Abigail O'Hara is a research psychologist and criminologist. Her research interrogates digital harms, online extremism, conspiracy discourse, family violence, youth recidivism, and community resilience. She recently completed her PhD at the University of Queensland, analysing Reddit conspiracy narratives during COVID-19 to understand how they fuel moral panic, anomie, and extremism. Dr O'Hara led the first crime script analysis on image-based abuse in New Zealand, in collaboration with law enforcement and an online safety NGO, contributing significantly to scholarly knowledge and evidence-based policy on technology-facilitated violence. She has served as an Executive Member of the Australian Crime Prevention Council and has worked across government and NGO sectors large-scale and small-scale evaluation research projects. Her current research focuses on developing early-warning systems and ethical interventions to address emerging, rapidly evolving socio-digital threats.



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Taylor completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Texas Christian University in 2022 before relocating to Sydney, Australia to pursue a PhD in Criminology at Macquarie University. Taylor just completed her Master of Research where her thesis focused on the formation of social identity in a leaked activist guide from the National Socialist Network, a Melbourne-born Neo-Nazi extremist group. Not only is the formation of social identity looked at, but she also analyzed the way this group appeals to current and future members. Taylor's future research goals are to further examine other primary sources from similar Neo-Nazi far-right groups with both criminology and social psychology approaches.



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Lujia is a PhD student and research assistant at the Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London. Her research focuses on youth radicalisation and violent extremism, with particular interest in the psychological, behavioural, and social factors that contribute to pathways of mobilisation. Lujia is currently working on a project examining grievance-fuelled targeted violence in the United States, where she analyses case data to understand radicalisation and mobilisation processes. Lujia holds degrees in criminology, psychology, and international crime and justice,

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Mario Peucker is an Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities at Victoria University (Melbourne). He is an executive member of the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS), as well as a member of the Addressing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation to Terrorism (AVERT) Research Network, where he sits on the steering committee. Mario has undertaken qualitative and quantitative research on dissent and citizenship, hate crime and racism as well as radical political movements,

in particular on the far-right fringes, since 2003, both in Europe and in Australia (since 2011). His latest book is "Democracy Strikes Back: Understanding and Countering the Rise of the Far-right" (2024, Palgrave Macmillan).



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Cassandra is a PhD candidate (Social Psychology) at Flinders University in South Australia supervised by Professors Emma Thomas, Associate Professor Ryan Balzan and Dr Christina Stothard. Cassandra began her PhD in 2023 and is investigating the interaction between cognition and social influence to examine their combined effects on conspiracy beliefs. She is also interested in examining the relationship between conspiracy theories and support for or engagement in hostile and reactionary forms of collective action. She is currently collaborating with Professor Emma

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Isel is the Coordinator of the AVERT Research Network and has over eight years of experience specialising in violent and hateful extremism, conflict resolution, and community-based approaches in Africa. Her work focuses on understanding how local practitioners and community-based organizations identify the drivers of violent extremism and design prevention programs. Isel's research promotes the integration of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into the prevention of violent

extremism (PVE) as well as trauma-informed approaches to the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants. Before moving to Australia in March 2024, Isel worked as a researcher and project manager for the Institute for Security Studies (Pretoria, South Africa) and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue's Strong Cities Network (UK).


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Aryan Rathee is a Computer Science major at The University of Texas at San Antonio with a minor in Cybersecurity. In his Criminology research, he applies NLP and machine learning to study online radicalization, using GPT-based models to detect emotional and behavioral markers in extremist content. His work helps improve risk detection and refine predictive models. Aryan is passionate about leveraging AI and data-driven approaches to tackle real-world security and social challenges.


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Dr Bettina Rottweiler is an Associate Research Professor at NCITE where she is leading a project on understanding indicators of, and pathways to, youth recruitment and mobilization. Rottweiler was the PI of the recently concluded NCITE-funded 'Conspiracy theories and Violent Extremist Ideologies' project. Rottweiler is also a research fellow for the 'Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood', where she is examining developmental factors among children and adolescents that are associated with support for violent extremism. She has extensive

experience in developing scientific evidence to directly inform risk assessment tools and she is working closely with international violent extremism practitioner teams. She has over 30 peer-reviewed publications on relevant topics in top-tier journals. Her work has further been funded by the European Union, The UK Home Office, CREST, the United Nations Office of Counter-terrorism (UNOCT), the UK Counterterrorism Police, the National Crime Agency, the UK Research Council and Public Safety Canada.


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Dr Nadine Salman's research focuses on violent extremism risk assessment, risk and protective factors for extremism engagement, and practitioner decision-making. Her recent CREST-funded projects have focused specifically on neurodivergence in the context of extremism engagement, and the relationship between protest and political violence. Nadine is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at University College London, having previously worked as a Research Fellow at the University of St Andrews and Lancaster University.


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Sue Saltmarsh is Associate Dean Research in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education at the University of New England. She is an interdisciplinary researcher with a background in sociological and cultural studies of education, childhood and family violence, utilising qualitative methodologies including ethnography, social semiotics and discourse analysis. Her work explores ways that everyday practices and discursive norms are implicated in reproducing interpersonal, social and systemic violence, and ways to address these through improved educational practice and cultural change. Her research is informed by theories of everyday life, violence and cultural practices, drawing in particular on the work of Michel de Certeau. She has secured ~\$3.5 million in funding in Australia and Hong Kong for research concerning childhood vulnerability, family violence and social cohesion in the context of contemporary global challenges. Her work spans educational contexts including early childhood education, primary and secondary schools, and universities nationally and internationally.



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Kate Scott is a PhD candidate in Social and Political Sciences at the University of Sydney. Their current research focuses on deradicalisation within the manosphere, specifically examining the processes that enable or hinder individuals in disengaging from extreme Red Pill Communities. They are interested in the intersection of violent extremism, radicalisation, and gender within digital spaces.



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Saif Tahir is a policy researcher with expertise in analyzing jihadi propaganda narratives, currently a PhD student at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. His research focuses on analyzing jihadi propaganda, online recruitment patterns, tactical and operational narratives, and the militant landscape across Pakistan and Afghanistan.




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Dr Taylor is a lecturer in Criminology at POLIS: The Centre for Social Policy and Research. Helen has undertaken research on radicalisation towards violent extremism, including conducting evaluations of government risk assessment tools. Helen also has extensive experience conducting large-scale systematic reviews relating to radicalisation and terrorism. She is a co-recipient of a highly prestigious ARC National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grant examining the interplay between cognition, social identity and behaviour in radicalisation toward violent extremism. Helen has a particular interest in right-wing extremism and hate crimes and has published on this topic, as well as on the topics of resilience among terrorist offenders, grievance fuelled violence, and personality disorders and violent extremism. Helen also has expertise in recidivism and criminal justice reform and was previously the research manager of the Reducing Recidivism Research Collaboration, an initiative between the ANU and the ACT Government.


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Emily Thompson is an international expert in the fields of far-right extremism, terrorism and prevention. Her work investigates how extremists utilize the internet, social media and video games to spread hateful and harmful content and ideologies. Emily is an experienced researcher, gathering intelligence on extremist groups, providing critical insights for law enforcement, educators, and policymakers, and educating about the threats posed by hate groups and radical ideologies. Emily was the program director for an interactive student program designed to introduce media literacy skills and provide tools for young people to deal with hate online, that has served over 60,000 students in the USA. She provides consultancy services to organizations, offering subject matter expertise and building innovative curricula and programming to counter extremism.


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Kaitlyn Tierney is the President and Co-Founder of Diverting Hate, a nonprofit disrupting online misogyny and radicalization through tech-driven interventions and empathetic outreach. She holds a B.A. in Marketing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.A. in International Policy and Development from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, where she specialized in countering violent extremism. With over a decade of experience in marketing and strategic communications across both private and public sectors, Kaitlyn merges creative strategy with applied research to redirect young men from harmful narratives toward pro-social communities. Her work has reached millions online and informed national policy conversations. A speaker at global forums like the United Nations and the Eradicate Hate Global Summit, Kaitlyn champions digital safety, gender equity, and democracy. She lives in California and believes we must build technology that heals, not harms.


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After obtaining his PhD from Melbourne University, Che Tibby has worked in New Zealand public service as a researcher since 2006, including being on the ground-breaking first build team for the Integrated Data Infrastructure in 2012. He has been employed by New Zealand Police since 2017 and worked on topics including adult gangs and financial intelligence, in 2018 winning the national award for innovation in intelligence analysis for his use of large integrated datasets to understand familial links in adult gangs.

In June 2019, he was redeployed to national security, where he became Chair of the Terrorism Designation Working Group. When not preoccupied with drafting designations such as The Base and the Proud Boys, Che led NZ Police's expansion of expertise into unconventional security concerns, including sovereign citizens, domestic intercommunal conflict, and transnational idiosyncratic ideologies.


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Madeleine Tolhurst is a full-time Master of Research student with a focus in Anthropology. Her interests lay in internet subcultures, radical political movements (specifically right-wing affiliations) and feminism.


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Matteo is an internationally recognised applied researcher who takes a multidisciplinary approach to examining the causes of prejudice, discrimination, hate crime, and extremist violence, as well as strategies to address them. His research combines social science, psychology, and data science to develop innovative methodologies, reliable measurement tools, and cumulative knowledge to address complex societal challenges. Matteo has secured and completed numerous large grants, collaborating with government agencies and civil society organisations. Matteo is an

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Rebecca Visser is a Project Manager in the International Department of Violence Prevention Network. Focused on prevention of extremist/terrorist behaviour in online spaces, Rebecca is delivering the Australian pilot of Diversions, VPN's world-leading online-offline referral pathway. She also manages VPN's work within the European Observatory of Online Hate, coordinating capacity-building trainings on new tech tooling for government and civil society stakeholders that supports responses to harmful content. More broadly, she works alongside her team to consolidate best practices and explore new proactive approaches to combat terrorist use of the internet.


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Thomas Waite is the Manager, Community Resilience (Programs and Partnerships) with Multicultural NSW supporting the delivery of the flagship COMPACT Program, which aims to inspire communities and young people to stand up and stand united against hate, fear, extremism, and division, as champions for community harmony. Tom is also the convenor of the COMPACT Alliance, a community of practice and a robust, responsive network that can mobilise as a force for community harmony in times of need. Previously, Tom worked with Save the Children Australia, including as Regional Manager for 54 Reasons and as Global Programs Manager. In these roles, Tom oversaw the delivery of child and youth rights-based programs in both domestic and international humanitarian and development contexts. Tom brings over a decade of leadership experience in program management and community resilience.


Dr Levi West

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Dr Levi West is an internationally recognised authority on terrorism and counter terrorism. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Research School of Social Science at the Australian National University, working on an Office of National Intelligence funded grant, researching radicalisation. From 2013 to 2022, Dr West was previously the Director of Terrorism Studies at the Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security at Charles Sturt University in Canberra, Australia (CSU) for over a decade. Additionally, Dr West is the Director of Praxis Advisory, a bespoke consultancy service providing a diversity of strategic advisory services to a broad range of government stakeholders, particularly within the national security domain. Dr West is also an Adjunct Fellow with the Irregular Warfare and Special Operations program at UNSW Canberra; an Adjunct Research Fellow with the Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities at Victoria University; an expert with The Cipher Brief; and a Director of Leviathan Analysis 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.



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Margareta is the Academic Affairs director at Heritage of War and Peace. She has studied Anthropology, English, and Oriental Studies at the University of Vienna, Austria. For her doctoral thesis, she analyzed religious-theological references in Arabic text documents by the "Islamic State". Before joining Heritage of War and Peace in 2025, she worked at a German NGO active in the field of extremism prevention. Her academic work mostly focuses on online narratives and activities by extremist groups.



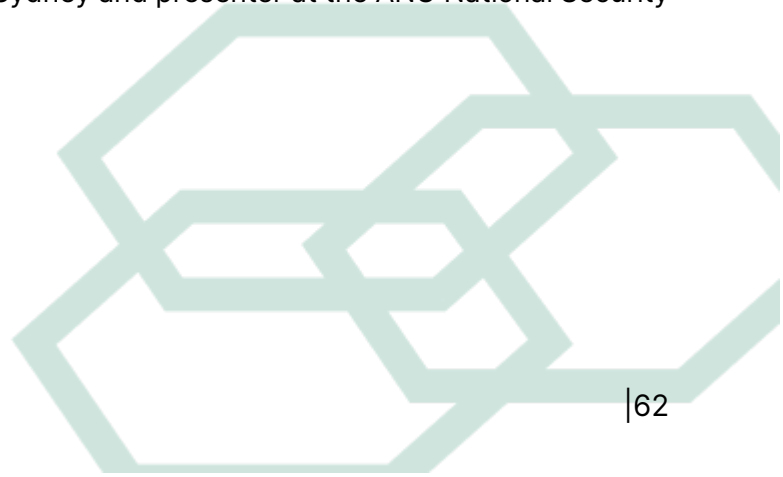
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Dr Rachel Worthington is a HCPC Registered Forensic Psychologist and a full member of the Division of Forensic Psychology. She qualified as a Forensic Psychologist in 2004 and has worked in prisons, secure forensic psychiatric hospitals and in the community undertaking diagnostic assessments and interventions for adult and adolescent clients with neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism and ADHD. Dr Worthington has also completed a PG Cert in ADHD and is a Certified ADHD Clinical Services Provider trained in managing ADHD across the lifespan.



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Jodie Wrigley is Head of Social Change at strategic communication and engagement agency SenateSHJ and for the past six years a Senior Communication Advisor to the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism Global Programme on PCVE. In 2023, she was a Visiting Fellow at the International Centre for Counter Terrorism in The Hague exploring the links between climate events, violent extremism and the public sphere. Jodie has worked with Governments and civil society organizations in over 20 countries providing strategic communication training and support in the areas of mis/disinformation, preventing and countering violent extremism, social cohesion and community resilience. Jodie is also a lecturer at the University of Sydney and presenter at the ANU National Security College.





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Deborah Youdell is a sociologist of education internationally renowned for her research in learner identities and educational equity. Her field-leading research demonstrates how intersecting points of identification and recognition – including ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexuality, disability, social class – are produced through and folded into education policy, school systems and practices, school experience, learning relationships and educational outcomes. She has been at the forefront of the new field of biosocial research in education, bringing molecular biology, analytical chemistry and neuroscience together with educational studies to develop new transdisciplinary approaches to understanding learning and inequity. Deborah is listed as a Stanford University Top 2% researcher, has published 5 books and many leading refereed papers, and as Principal or Co-Investigator has secured ~\$10 million in competitive research grants and ~\$10 in government and philanthropic education funding. She is Dean of the Macquarie School of Education and is Co-Director of the Learning and Equity Incubator.



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Dr Helen Young is a Senior Research Fellow (Australian Research Council Future Fellowship) in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University. Helen's research interests including race, racism and popular culture, and have a particular current focus on rightwing extremist cultures including videogaming, books and mythologisation of the past.

Helen has recently published in The Journal of Popular Culture and for the Global Network on Extremism and Terrorism.



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Dr Andrew Zammit is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Victoria University, focusing on terrorism and security studies, including violent extremism in Australia and the relationship between terrorism and transnational dimensions of armed conflict. Since 2010, he has been employed on terrorism and security related research projects at Monash University and Victoria University with government partners including Victoria Police, the Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria, the Defence Science and Technology Group, the Australian

Federal Police and the NSW Premier's Department. He is on the editorial board of the Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism, and is a member of the Victorian Government's Expert Advisory Committee on Countering Violent Extremism. He was recently awarded a National Intelligence Postdoctoral Grant for the project "How events abroad shape threats at home: grounded approaches for forecasting violent extremism".