



Terrorism

POL346

Course Guide

Semester 2, 2019

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Teaching staff and contact details

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Please email Dr Fabio Scarpello if you require an extension for your assignments. Email Sanjal Shastri for any other question.

Course overview

Concerns over terrorism have become a part of life throughout the world in the twenty-first century. In 2018, for example, eight countries in Western Europe recorded at least one death from terrorism, while Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, Syria, and Pakistan recorded hundreds of attacks and deaths. In 2019, terror arrived in New Zealand. As a consequence, and regardless of the real or perceived level of threat, it is not an exaggeration to say that we live in a terrorism-saturated world. Terrorism is one of the most-debated issues amongst politicians, policymakers, academics, the media and the general public. Yet, terrorism – what it is, who is involved, why, how, and how – remains poorly understood and discussions often fall prey to unfounded assumptions. This course aims to mediate this lack of knowledge.

This course is an introductory study of terrorism. The course is structured around a number of questions, which include: What terrorism and New Terrorism are? Who becomes a terrorist and why? What is the role of women in terrorism? Can states be terrorists? How are terrorist groups organized and funded? Which are the main terrorist movements and where they operate? Is the internet terrorists' best friend? Does terrorism work and is terrorism really a threat to "our [Western] way of life"? These questions are explored in a manner that incorporates insights and approaches from a variety of academic disciplines, including international relations, comparative politics, history, sociology, and psychology. Thus framed, the course provides students with the opportunity to develop specific knowledge of terrorism-related issues and the ability to critically engage with them.

More specifically the course has the below-outlined aims, objectives and learning outcomes.

Aims and objectives

By the end of the course students will gain:

- Broad knowledge of some of the main issue related to terrorism.
- An understanding of what terrorism is, who is involved, why, how and in what way.
- Broad knowledge of the role of women in terrorism.
- Broad knowledge of the main terrorist groups and movements and how they operate.
- An understanding of the threat posed to terrorism.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will have developed:

- The ability to critically discuss several issues related to terrorism.
- The ability to critically engage with the role of gender in terrorism studies.
- A critical understanding of the various source of terrorist financing.
- A critical understanding of the multilayered role of the internet for terrorists.
- The ability to apply the accrued knowledge in academic and industry-relevant settings.

How to study this course

The course comprises of twelve, two-hour lectures and twelve one-hour discussion time. The screen capture recordings of the lectures will be available via Canvas. During the lectures, Dr Fabio Scarpello will introduce concepts, information and context with students called to participate regularly. The discussion time will be student-centered and mediated by Dr Fabio Scarpello and Sanjal Shastri.

Students are required to prepare for the lectures and discussion time via independent research and reading.

The best way for students to prepare is by reading and researching in a manner that addresses the 'discussion questions' listed under each week. Students should *first* familiarise themselves with these questions and, *secondly*, seek to answer them by engaging with the resources listed under each week, as well as by independent research if needed. Students are expected to spend on average 10.5 hours per week for the total weeks of this teaching period working on this course.

Three types of resources are available for students to prepare for the lectures/discussion each week: 'Essential readings,' 'further readings' and 'non-peered review resources.'

Essential readings provide some of the answers for the discussion questions. Students must read these prior to the lecture and discussion hour to gain the most out of both. Essential readings are available online via the University of Auckland library and via Canvas. If students have difficulties in accessing the online reading material, they should contact Sanjal Shastri.

Further readings help students gaining deeper insights into the topic studied. Students are encouraged to engage with some of these readings, proactively seeking answers to the discussion questions. Further readings are extremely useful and must be consulted when students engage with a specific topic for the course assessments.

Non-peer reviewed resources comprise of media articles, policy reports, podcasts, videos and more. These have been selected to add to students' learning experience and because they provide useful insights into the discussion questions. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with some of this material.

Useful resources

There are several other useful resources available to students. These include:

- Course Guide, Canvas page and Coursework guide
- Relevant books
- Relevant academic journals
- Relevant online resources

Course Guide, Canvas page and Coursework Guide

This Course Guide is available on Canvas and can be downloaded as a PDF document. It contains essential information for this course.

Students can also access most of the information contained in the Course Guide directly from Canvas. As this is a topical course with daily reports and ongoing developments, Dr Fabio Scarpello may post links to relevant news articles or analysis on Canvas.

The Coursework Guide contains a wealth of information to navigate the administrative and academic aspects of studying at the University of Auckland, Department of Politics and International Relations. The Course Guide is also available for download on Canvas.

Relevant books

Aside from the weekly recommended readings, there is a large and ever-expanding selection of books that have informed the content of the lectures and that are useful for the topics covered in this course. These include those listed below:

- Ahmed, Nafeez Mosaddeq. 2005. *The War on Truth: 9/11, Disinformation, and the Anatomy of Terrorism*. Northampton: Olive Branch Press.
- Ali, Tariq. 2003. *The Clash of Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity*. London and New York: Verso.
- Byman, David. 2015. *Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Campos, Joseph H. 2013. *The State and Terrorism: National Security and the Mobilization of Power*. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing.
- Cronin, Audrey K. 2009. *How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of Terrorist Campaigns*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Desai, Meghnad. 2007. *Rethinking Islamism: The Ideology of the New Terror*. London and New York: I. B. Tauris.
- Hanhimäki, Jussi, and Bernhard Dahm, eds. 2013. *An International History of Terrorism: Western and Non-Western Experiences*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Hawley, George. 2017. *Making Sense of the Al-Right*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Hoffman, Bruce. 2017. *Inside Terrorism*. Third Edition. Columbia Studies in Terrorism and Irregular Warfare. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Jackson, R., ed. 2016. *Routledge Handbook of Critical Terrorism Studies*. London and New York: Routledge.

- Jackson, Richard, Eamon Murphy, and Scott Poynting, eds. 2009. *Contemporary State Terrorism: Theory and Practice*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Krueger, Alan B. 2018. *What Makes a Terrorist: Economics and the Roots of Terrorism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Lutz, James, and Brenda Lutz. 2008. *Global Terrorism*. Second Edition. London and New York: Routledge.
- Maher, Shiraz. 2017. *Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea*. London: Penguin Books Limited.
- McCants, William. 2015. *The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Moghaddam, Fathali M. 2008. *How Globalization Spurs Terrorism: The Lopsided Benefits of "One World" and Why That Fuels Violence*. Westport: Praeger Security International.
- Nacos, Brigitte L. 2016. *Mass-Mediated Terrorism: The Central Role of the Media in Terrorism and Counterterrorism*. Second Edition. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Rydgren, Jens, ed. 2018. *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stampnitzky, Lisa. 2013. *Disciplining Terror: How Experts Invented "Terrorism."* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Stern, Jessica, and J.M. Berger. 2015. *ISIS: The State of Terror*. London: HarperCollins.
- Taylor, Max, P.M. Currie, and Holbrook, Donald, eds. 2013. *Extreme Right Wing Political Violence and Terrorism*. London and New York: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Relevant peer-reviewed journals

There are several journals specifically focusing on terrorism or terrorism-related issues. The main ones are listed below:

- *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rirt20>
- *Critical Studies on Terrorism*,
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rter20>
- *International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism*
<https://www.igi-global.com/journal/international-journal-cyber-warfare-terrorism>
- *International Journal of Terrorism and Political Hot Spots*
https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=4705
- *Journal for the Study of Radicalism*
<http://msupress.org/journals/jsr>
- *Journal of Applied Security Research: Prevention and Response in Asset Protection, Terrorism and Violence*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wasr20>
- *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rpic20/current>
- *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*,
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uter20/current>
- *Perspectives on Terrorism*
<http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/>
- *Terrorism and Political Violence*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ftpv20/current>

The topicality of ‘terrorism’, the many facets it comprises, and the different disciplinary approaches useful to study it mean that many journals across the social science publish relevant articles. The following list includes some of the most useful:

- *African Security*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/uafs2>
- *Contemporary Security Policy*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/fcsp20>
- *Conflict Management and Peace Science*
<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/cmp>
- *Critical Studies on Security*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rcss20>
- *Democracy and Security*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/fdas20>
- *European Journal of International Security*
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-journal-of-international-security>
- *Global Change, Peace and Security*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cpar20>
- *Global Crime*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/fglc20>
- *Intelligence and National Security*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/fint20>
- *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*
<https://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/journals/view-Journal,id=144>
- *International Security*
<https://www.mitpressjournals.org/loi/isec>
- *Journal of Peace Research*
<https://journals.sagepub.com/loi/jpr>
- *Journal of Conflict Resolution*
<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/jcr>
- *Journal of Conflict Studies*
<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/JCS>
- *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jhsem>
- *Journal of Religion and Violence*
<https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/Journal-of-Religion-and-Violence>
- *Media, War & Conflict*
<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/mwc>
- *Middle East Policy*
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14754967>
- *Politics, Religion & Ideology*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ftmp21>
- *Security Dialogue*
<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/sdi>
- *Security Studies*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/fsst20>
- *Small Wars & Insurgencies*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/fswi20>

- Survival
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tsur20>
- *Third World Quarterly*
<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ctwq20>

Relevant online resources

Useful non-peer-reviewed sources include the following:

- Anti-Defamation League
<http://www.adl.org/>
- Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Counter-Terrorism Policy Centre
<https://www.aspi.org.au/program/counter-terrorism-policy-centre>
- Combatting Terrorism Centre at West Point
<https://ctc.usma.edu/>
- Daesh Daily: An Update on Daesh Activities
<http://www.daeshdaily.com/>
- Foreign Affairs
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/>
- Foreign Policy
<https://foreignpolicy.com/>
- Global Terrorism Database
<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>
- Heritage Foundation. Terrorism Issues
<https://www.heritage.org/terrorism>
- Human Right Watch. Terrorism and Counterterrorism
<https://www.hrw.org/topic/terrorism-counterterrorism>
- Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict
<http://www.understandingconflict.org/en.html>
- International Crisis Group
<https://www.crisisgroup.org/>
- International Institute for Counter-Terrorism. Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group
<https://www.ict.org.il/ContentWorld.aspx?ID=21#gsc.tab=0>
- International Institute for Strategic Studies
<https://www.iiss.org/>
- International Terrorism: Attributes of Terrorist Events
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/07947>
- Jamestown Foundation. Terrorism Monitor
<https://jamestown.org/programs/tm/>
- Jihadology
<https://jihadology.net/>
- Middle East Media Research Institute. Jihad and Terrorism Threat Monitor
<https://www.memri.org/jttm>
- Nanyang Technological University. International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research
<http://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/icpvtr/>
- RAND. Database of Worldwide Terrorist Incidents
<http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents.html>

- RAND. National Security and Terrorism
<https://www.rand.org/topics/national-security-and-terrorism.html>
- Radicalisation Research
<https://www.radicalisationresearch.org/>
- Research Guide to Cases and Materials on Terrorism. (GlobalLex Bibliography)
<http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Terrorism1.html>
- Stanford University. Mapping Militant Organizations
<http://web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin>
- Southern Poverty Law Centre
<https://www.splcenter.org/>
- Talking about Terrorism
<https://www.talkingaboutterrorism.com/>
- Terrorism Expertise Portal
http://powerbase.info/index.php/Terrorism_Expertise_Portal
- Terrorist Organization Profiles
http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data_collections/tops/
- The Political Terror Scale
<http://www.politicalterrorscale.org/>
- US Department of State. Country Reports on Terrorism
<https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/>
- US Department of State. Registry of Foreign Terrorist Organizations,
<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>
- United States Institute of Peace. Violent Extremism
<https://www.usip.org/issue-areas/violent-extremism>
- University of Oslo. Jihadi Document Repository
<https://www.hf.uio.no/ikos/english/research/jihadi-document-repository/index.html>
- VOX-Pol Network of Excellence
<https://www.voxpol.eu/>

Assessments

Assessments are aimed at evaluating students' progress towards achieving the aim and objectives and the learning outcomes of this course. This course includes three forms of assessment, weighing differently towards students' final grade as detailed below:

Assessments value and deadlines

Assignment	Description	Value	Due Dates
Assessment 1	Position papers (3) – 600 words each	40%	August 30 midnight
Assignment 2	Quiz to be held in class	10 %	17 September
Assignment 3	Quiz to be held in class	10%	22 October
Assignment 4	Exam	40 %	Exam period. Exact date TBC

Position papers

Students are required to write three (3) position papers. A position paper is a short essay that presents an arguable opinion about an issue and is aimed at convincing an audience that the opinion presented is valid. The papers will be graded together as one, and the mark counts toward 40% of students overall grade. Position papers should be of 600 words each and properly referenced. The bibliography does not tally toward the word count.

Position papers should begin with a brief introduction that provides an overview and context for the topic. Students must then state their primary argument, either for or against the proposition assigned, and follow on with supporting arguments and evidence. Alternative arguments should be explored and refuted using evidence. A brief conclusion should summarise the student's position on the issue.

In developing their argument, students must engage with the relevant literature, refer to relevant theories and concepts and use case studies. Each position paper should refer to at least four peer-reviewed sources, and several non-peer reviewed sources.

Students must follow the APA 6: Author/Date reference style. Guidelines are available [here](#), while tutorials are available [here](#). The reference section must include all sources cited within the text and nothing more.

The position papers have to be submitted via Canvas.

The titles of the position papers are as follow:

1. The largest majority of terrorist are mentally ill. Discuss
2. Women have only a supportive role in terrorist organisations. Discuss

3. The label 'New Terrorism' is useful to describe the type of terrorism we have experienced in the last decades. Discuss

The position papers are meant to support students gaining understanding of specific terrorism-related issue and their ability to debating these.

Position papers are due by Friday 30 August midnight.

Quiz

Students are required to take two quizzes, each consisting of twenty multiple-choice questions. Each correct answer counts for half a point. Each quiz is worth up to 10% of the overall grade for students. The content of the quiz will be based largely on the PowerPoint presentations of the lectures.

Quizzes will be available online via Canvas. Students are encouraged to bring a laptop or another electronic device to access the quiz. Some print copies will be made available for students unable to do so.

Questions will be shuffled. No two students will have the same set of questions. Students can have up to 3 attempts per question.

Quizzes will be administered during the first ten minutes of the lecture in weeks seven (7) and twelve (12). To access the quiz students need a code that will be provided by Dr Scarpello on the day of the quiz. Students therefore need to attend the lecture on the day of the two quizzes. Students unable to do so must contact Dr Fabio Scarpello in advance to arrange alternative provisions. Students that fail to do so and do not attend the lecture will be unable to take the quiz and will be awarded a zero grade for the quiz.

The date of the quiz are:

Quiz one, week 7 – 17 September

Quiz two, week 12 – 22 October

Exam

There will be a two hour written exam during the exam period. The date will be announced during the course of the semester.

In the exam, students must answer two questions from a list of five. Students should allocate approximately 50-55 minutes per question. The response to the question should be structured, coherent and written clearly in an essay format. Essay planning notes written on the exam paper are not assessed. Exam questions will be thematic, and provide students with the opportunity to critically engage with the topic.

Exam papers do not need to be referenced, though students are encouraged to refer to some scholars in their explanations. More details will be provided in lectures closer to the exam.

Penalties for late coursework

- Coursework submitted up to two days late will receive a 5-mark penalty.
- Coursework submitted three to five days late will receive a 10-mark penalty.
- Coursework submitted six to ten days late will receive a 25-mark penalty.
- Coursework submitted more than ten days past the due submission date will not be accepted and the student will be given a 0 mark.

These regulations do not include approved extensions. Such extensions are limited to documented special consideration cases or those with medical certificates. Students that require an extension should contact the course coordinator well in advance of the deadline. No extension can be granted retroactively.

Academic Integrity/Referencing

The University of Auckland encourages its students and staff to pursue the highest standards of integrity in all academic activity. Academic integrity involves behaving ethically and honestly in scholarship and relies on respect for others' ideas through proper acknowledgement and referencing of publications. Students are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the University of Auckland Academic Integrity Guidelines for Students, available [here](#). More information about academic integrity for students is available [here](#).

Referencing is crucial for students' academic integrity.

As a general referencing rule, if students use someone else's words verbatim, they must put the words within quotation marks and cite the source. If they use someone else's idea or concept, they must also acknowledge the source. If students are paraphrasing information obtained from various sources, they must cite these sources at the end of the paragraph.

A wealth of information on how to reference and avoid plagiarism is available [here](#).

Grades and percentage range

A+	90-100	C+	60-64	Failing grades
A	85-89%	C	55-59	
A-	80-84	C-	50-54	
B+	75-79	D+	45-49	
B	70-74	D	40-44	
B-	65-69	D-	0-39	

Study schedule and key dates

Lectures are held on Tuesdays 9:00 – 11:00 AM room ALR1/421W-201

Discussion hours are held on Thursdays 9:00 – 10:00 AM room ALR1/421W-201

Session	Dates Lecture Discussion	Key question addressed	Key dates
1.	23 Jul 25 Jul	What is terrorism?	Introduction
2.	30 Jul 01 Aug	What is 'New Terrorism'?	
3.	06 Aug 08 Aug	Who joins terrorist groups?	
4.	13 Aug 15 Aug	Are female terrorists different from male terrorists?	
5.	20 Aug 22 Aug	How are terrorist groups organized?	
6.	27 Aug 29 Aug	Lonewolf and homegrown terrorists: What is there to know?	Position papers due by Friday 30 August midnight
7.	17 Sep 19 Sep	The Global Salafi-jihadist movement What is there to know?	Quiz
8.	24 Sep 26 Sep	The Global Far-Right movement: What is there to know?	
9.	01 Oct 03 Oct	How terrorist groups raise their money?	
10.	08 Oct 10 Oct	Is the Web terrorists' best friend?	
11.	15 Oct 17 Oct	Can states be terrorist?	
12.	22 Oct 24 Oct	Does terrorism work?	Quiz

Learning Guide

Question 1: What is terrorism?

Terrorism is a contested term with hundreds of definitions from academia, law enforcement agencies and international organisations, among others. Even non-specialists have an idea of what terrorism is, though they lack a more precise, concrete, and truly explanatory description of the word. This lecture identifies the key elements that distinguish a terrorist act from other forms of political violence and analyse what factors affect how and when the term is used.

Discussion questions

1. What elements do you believe are necessary to define an act of political violence as ‘terrorism’?
2. Why do certain acts of violence get labelled as ‘terrorism’ whilst others do not?
3. What factors influence the use of the term ‘terrorism’ or ‘terrorists’?

Essential readings

- Brinson, Mary E., and Michael Stohl. 2012. “Media Framing of Terrorism: Implications for Public Opinion, Civil Liberties, and Counterterrorism Policies.” *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication* 5 (4): 270–90.
- Richards, Anthony. 2014. “Conceptualizing Terrorism.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 37 (3): 213–36.

Further readings

- Antúnez, Juan Carlos, and Ioannis Tellidis. 2013. “The Power of Words: The Deficient Terminology Surrounding Islam-Related Terrorism.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 6 (1): 118–39.
- Appleby, Nicholas. 2010. “Labelling the Innocent: How Government Counter-Terrorism Advice Creates Labels That Contribute to the Problem.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 3 (3): 421–36.
- Baele, Stephane J., Olivier C. Sterck, Thibaut Slingeneuer, and Gregoire P. Lits. 2017. “What Does the ‘Terrorist’ Label Really Do? Measuring and Explaining the Effects of the ‘Terrorist’ and ‘Islamist’ Categories.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, October, 1–21.
- Erlenbusch, Verena. 2015. “Terrorism and Revolutionary Violence: The Emergence of Terrorism in the French Revolution.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 8 (2): 193–210.
- Ganor, Boaz. 2002. “Defining Terrorism: Is One Man’s Terrorist another Man’s Freedom Fighter?” *Police Practice and Research* 3 (4): 287–304.
- Karaffa, C.A. 2015. “The Social Construction of Terrorism.” *Sociology of Crime Law and Deviance* 20: 67–87.
- Ramsay, Gilbert. 2015. “Why Terrorism Can, but Should Not Be Defined.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 8 (2): 211–28.
- Shanahan, Timothy. 2010. “Betraying a Certain Corruption of Mind: How (and How Not) to Define ‘Terrorism.’” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 3 (2): 173–90.
- Weinberg, Leonard, Pedahzur, Edahzur, and Hirst-Hoefler, Sivan. 2004. “The Challenges of Conceptualizing Terrorism.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 16 (4): 777–94.

Non-peer reviewed resources

- Crenshaw, Martha. "Understanding Terrorism: What is Terrorism?" *Stanford CISAC - Security Matters*, March 6, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHo15RLTTJc&t=0s&list=PLQuFFWGIjJmPCjCJuHemcQH7Ic5exSwEH&index=14>.
- Aaronson, Trevor. 2019. "Terrorism's Double Standard: Violent Far-Right Extremists Are Rarely Prosecuted as Terrorists." *The Intercept*, March 24, 2019. <https://theintercept.com/2019/03/23/domestic-terrorism-fbi-prosecutions/>.
- "CrossTalk: Labelling Terrorists." *RT*, April 24, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC1gesfMrq4&t=0s&index=23&list=PLpaIbbnmwJfGBwiHLDFNmVF3rPyUI8wM4>.
- "Defining Terrorism: A Conversation with Martha Crenshaw". *Terrorism 360. A podcast with Gary Lafree*, <https://soundcloud.com/user-823068075/martha-crenshaw>.
- "[Inside Story - Who defines 'terrorism'?](#)" *Al Jazeera English*, June 14, 2016.
- Terrorism Waves: A Conversation with David Rapoport." *Terrorism 360. A podcast with Gary Lafree*, <https://soundcloud.com/user-823068075/epi-8-terrorism-waves-a-conversation-with-david-rapoport>.
- Wolfendale, Jessica. 2017. "The Moral Questions in the Debate on What Constitutes Terrorism." *The Conversation*, December 12, 2017. <https://theconversation.com/the-moral-questions-in-the-debate-on-what-constitutes-terrorism-86990>.

Question 2: What is ‘New Terrorism’?

Many scholars, government analysts and politicians point out that since the mid-1990s ‘terrorism’ has changed into an inherently new form, so-called ‘New Terrorism’. This, allegedly involves different actors, motivations, aims, tactics and actions, compared to the ‘old’ concept of terrorism used in the mid-twentieth century. This lecture places New Terrorism within the historical waves of terror experienced in the past, analyses the key claims of the New Terrorism thesis and queries whether it really is fundamentally different to the terrorism experiences in the past.

Discussion questions

1. Do you agree with the New Terrorism thesis? Why?
2. What does Rapoport’s Four Waves theory tell us about terrorism?
3. What are the policy implications of the New Terrorism thesis?

Essential readings

- Kurtulus, Ersun N. 2011. “The ‘New Terrorism’ and Its Critics.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 34 (6): 476–500.
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- "New Terrorism Threats and Counterterrorism Strategies," New York University, June 23, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n26fxZkbF7c>.
- "New" vs. "Old" Terrorism," [Woodrow Wilson Center](http://www.woodrowwilsoncenter.org), August 16, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO36E03o5VE&t=58s>
- "Terrorism Waves: A Conversation with David Rapoport." *Terrorism 360*. A podcast with Gary Lafree, <https://soundcloud.com/user-823068075/epi-8-terrorism-waves-a-conversation-with-david-raoport>.
- Wright, Robin. 2017. "How Different—and Dangerous—Is Terrorism Today?" *The New Yorker*, July 5, 2017. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-different-and-dangerous-is-terrorism-today>.

Question 3: Who joins terrorist groups?

Security forces, counterterrorism experts and academics have spent a great deal of effort in trying to determine what are the conditions that lead to terrorism and who is likely to become a terrorist. Findings remain contradictory and contested. This lecture takes a multidisciplinary approach and critically analyses some of the often-cited root-causes and risk-factors.

Discussion questions

1. Is there a reliable psychological profile for individual that join terrorist groups?
2. Are poverty and exclusion sufficient to cause terrorism?
3. How relevant is the role played by family and peers for individual that join terrorist groups? Discuss referring to data and examples.

Essential readings

Crenshaw, Martha. 1981. "The Causes of Terrorism." *Comparative Politics* 13 (4): 379–99.
Harris-Hogan, Shandon, and Kate Barrelle. 2018. "Young Blood: Understanding the Emergence of a New Cohort of Australian Jihadists." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, June, 1–22.

Further readings

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Fahey, Susan, and Pete Simi. 2018. "Pathways to Violent Extremism: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of the US Far-Right." *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, December, 1–25.
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- "Thinking Like an Insurgent: Terrorism and Insurgency: Causes." *Stanford CISAC - Security Matters*, March 6, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZBYD0iQoHI>.
- "Why Do People Become Islamic Extremists?" *PragerU*, June 15, 2015 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IchGuL501U&t=0s&index=20&list=PLpaIbbnmwJfGBwiHLDFNmVF3rPyUI8wM4>

Question 4: Are female terrorists ‘different’ from male terrorists?

Women have long been involved in political violence and terrorism. Yet, discussions on specific differences in how women and men partake in terrorism have never subsided. To critically engage with this question, this lecture takes a gender lens and analyses why women join terrorist organisations and what their roles have been historically and in the contemporary landscape.

Discussion questions

1. Do women join terrorist organization for different reasons than men?
2. Are there specific tactical and strategical advantages for terrorist groups that recruit females?
3. How ‘gender’ affects woman role in terrorism worldwide?

Essential readings

Bloom, Mia. 2011. “Bombshells: Women and Terror.” *Gender Issues* 28 (1/2): 1–21.
Lahoud, Nelly. 2017. “Can Women Be Soldiers of the Islamic State?” *Survival* 59 (1): 61–78.

Further readings

Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. 2018. “Femme Fatale: The Lethality of Female Suicide Bombers.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, September, 1–19.
Del Villar, Erika Lorenzana. 2019. “Women in Modern Terrorism: From Liberation to Global Jihad in the Islamic State.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 31 (2): 410–16.
Gan, Ruth, Loo Seng Neo, Jeffery Chin, and Majeed Khader. 2019. “Change Is the Only Constant: The Evolving Role of Women in the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).” *Women & Criminal Justice*, May, 1–17.
Martini, Alice. 2018. “Making Women Terrorists into ‘Jihadi Brides’: An Analysis of Media Narratives on Women Joining ISIS.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 11 (3): 458–77.
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Weinberg, Leonard, and William Eubank. 2011. “Women’s Involvement in Terrorism.” *Gender Issues* 28 (1): 22–49.

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- Gordon, Glenda. 2018. "American Women of the Far Right." *New York Review of Books*, December 13, 2018. <https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2018/12/13/american-women-of-the-far-right/>.
- "The other women's movement: The attraction of the far right," *France 24 English*, 14 April 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioMhwfltTas>.
- "Why are women joining the 'alt-right'?" *PBS NewsHour*, 19 August 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnhnjsJ3zFg>.
- "Women of Terror," *BBC*, 9 September 2015. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b063zx13>.

Question 5 – How are terrorist groups organized?

Processes linked to globalisation and the information revolution have affected the organisational structure of terrorist groups. In the past, most terrorist groups were organized along hierarchical lines, while contemporary terrorist groups and movements often operate through looser, cell-based and network-type organisations. This lecture analyses the main organisational structure of terrorist organisation, how they relate to each other and what are the policy implications.

Discussion questions

1. Is there a predominant organisational structure for contemporary terrorist groups?
2. Which organisational structure presents the highest level of threat?
3. How would you describe Al-Qaeda's organisational structure?

Essential readings

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- Kilberg, Joshua. 2012. "A Basic Model Explaining Terrorist Group Organizational Structure." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 35 (11): 810–30.
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- “Piecing Together the Complex Structure of ISIS,” *NPR*, 7 August 2016.
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- “The Military Structure of ISIS Explained,” *NowThisWorld*, 15 July 2015.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIzGG1B7afo>.

Question 6: Lone wolf and home-grown terrorists: What is there to know?

In the last decade the threat of the so-called lonewolf and homegrown terrorists has increased in Western societies with perpetrators emerging both from the Salafi-Jihadi and the Far-Right extremist milieus. This lecture explains what the difference between the two terms is, whether there are specific risk factors for each category, and whether there is a 'linear' path for these individuals to be radicalised.

Discussion questions

1. What is the difference between lonewolf and homegrown terrorists?
2. What root-cause or risk factors best explain who is more likely to become a lonewolf or a homegrown terrorist?
3. Mosque and the internet are the key places where individuals are radicalised. Discuss using examples

Essential readings

- Feldman, Matthew. 2013. "Comparative Lone Wolf Terrorism: Toward a Heuristic Definition." *Democracy and Security* 9 (3): 270–86.
- Mullins, Sam. 2010. "Home-Grown Terrorism: Issues and Implications." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 1 (3): 1-10.

Further readings

- Bouhana, Noémie, Emily Corner, Paul Gill, and Bart Schuurman. 2018. "Background and Preparatory Behaviours of Right-Wing Extremist Lone Actors: A Comparative Study." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 12 (6): 150–63.
- Danzell, Orlandrew E., and Lisandra M. Maisonet Montañez. 2016. "Understanding the Lone Wolf Terror Phenomena: Assessing Current Profiles." *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression* 8 (2): 135–59.
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- "Terror In Brussels", *SkyNews*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijiw7NwusMw&t=29s>, March 29, 2016.

Question 7: The Global Salafi-jihadist movement: What is there to know?

An often repeated refrain by policymakers and commentators is that the global Salafi-Jihadi movement poses an existential threat to Western, liberal democracies. This perception grew exponentially after Al-Qaeda's 9-11 attacks and the spite of cell-based attacks in Europe in the last few years. Yet, confusion persists on what this 'movement' consists of, what it wants, how it has emerged and whether it really poses an existential threat to Western liberal democracies. This lecture tackles some of these issues.

Discussion questions

1. Is Salafism a 'terrorist' religious ideology?
2. What international events have contributed to the rise of the global Salafi-Jihadist movement?
3. The global Salafi-Jihadist movement is at war with the West. Discuss

Essential readings

- Sageman, Marc. 2008. "The Rise of Leaderless Jihad." In *Leaderless Jihad. Terror Networks in the Twenty-First Century*, 125–46. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Turner, John. 2015. "Strategic Differences: Al Qaeda's Split with the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham." *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 26 (2): 208–25.

Further readings

- Bérubé, Maxime, and Benoit Dupont. 2019. "Mujahideen Mobilization: Examining the Evolution of the Global Jihadist Movement's Communicative Action Repertoire." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 42 (1–2): 5–24.
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- Schillinger, Thomas. 2016. "Group Dynamics and Religious Terrorism." *Journal of Applied Security Research* 11 (3): 334–48.
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- Zimmerman, Katherine. 2018. "Terrorism, Tactics, and Transformation: The West and vs the Salafi-Jihadi Movement." Washington: American Enterprise Institute. <https://www.aei.org/publication/terrorism-tactics-and-transformation-the-west-vs-the-salafi-jihadi-movement>.

Question 8: The Far-Right Global movement: What is there to know?

The threat posed by the Global Far-Right movement has grown exponentially in the last decade. This threat has been particularly pronounced in Europe and the United States, but is also significant elsewhere, such as in Australia, Israel, Japan, India and New Zealand, as the 15 March 2019's Christchurch attack underlined. Yet the Far-Right movement remains nebulous and poorly understood. This lecture examines the key characteristics of this movement, its main manifestations and queries what structural changes have contributed to its recent reinvigoration.

Discussion questions

1. What are the main differences between the Salafi-Jihadist and the Far-Right movements?
2. What is the driving ideology of the Far-Right movement?
3. Is the Far-Right movement a vital threat to the Western way of life?

Essential readings

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Weinberg, Leonard, and Eliot Assoudeh. 2018. "Political Violence and the Radical Right." In *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*, edited by Jens Rydgren, 1st ed. Oxford University Press.

Further readings

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Brubaker, Rogers. 2017. "Between Nationalism and Civilizationism: The European Populist Moment in Comparative Perspective." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40 (8): 1191–1226.

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- George, Michael. 2016. “Twentieth-Century White Supremacist Groups,” *C-SPAN* <https://www.c-span.org/video/?408462-1/twentieth-century-white-supremacist-groups>.
- Friedman, Uri. 2017. “What Is a Nativist? And Is Donald Trump One?” *The Atlantic*, April 11, 2017. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/04/what-is-nativist-trump/521355/>.
- “Inside the United Patriots Front, Australia's growing far-right anti-Islam movement.” *ABC News*, October 12, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUhDHu1NdTg>.
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Question 9: How terrorist groups raise their money?

For the most part, terrorist attacks are relatively inexpensive. But, like any organization, terrorist groups have operating costs and require funds for general costs and support of their members. The challenge for terrorists is to ensure a regular flow of income. Without this flow, terrorist groups are limited in size, scope and efficacy. This lecture examines some of the techniques and methods used by terrorist groups to raise money and find funding sources.

Discussion questions

1. Most terrorist attacks are cheap to carry out. Terrorist groups do not need much money. Discuss.
2. What are the main 'legal' sources of revenue for terrorist groups?
3. What is the Crime-Terror Nexus? Provide some examples

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Question 10: Is the Web terrorists' best friend?

Past technological innovations, such as telephones or fax machines, have quickly been exploited by terrorists. But the information revolution is proving particularly useful to them. Indeed, many experts claim that the Web is terrorists' best friend. This lecture analyses how the Web and social platform have been woven into the fabric of terrorist enterprises and what the implications for us all are.

Discussion questions

1. How do terrorists use the Web? Discuss three examples and their implications.
2. What is the Dark Web and why is it relevant to terrorists?
3. How serious is the cyberterrorism threat?

Essential readings

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Question 11: Can states be terrorists?

Policymakers broadly contend that terrorism is a form of political violence limited to non-state actors. Scholars are divided on the matter with some arguing that states can also be guilty of terrorism. This lecture analyses the main objections to the use of the term 'state terrorism' and assess the various methods and strategy through which states may be involved in terrorism.

Discussion questions

1. States have the monopoly over the legitimate use of coercive force. Discuss
2. The United State, and other western democracies, are guilty of state terrorism. Discuss
3. The US list of 'State Sponsors of Terrorism' is the result of objective analysis of the issue. Discuss, providing examples

Essential readings

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Question 12: Does terrorism work?

There is no consensus on whether terrorism works. Many believe that terrorism leads to governments making concessions. Others argue that terrorists rarely win and that terrorist acts may even be counterproductive for the perpetrators. This lecture analyses what terrorists want and assesses the different layers of what may constitute 'success' for terrorist groups.

Discussion questions

1. What does success mean in regards to terrorism? Discuss.
2. Is suicide terrorism more effective than other terrorist methods? Discuss.
3. If terrorism does not work, why are there so many terrorists and terrorist groups?

Essential readings

- Abrahms, Max. 2006. "Why Terrorism Does Not Work." *International Security* 31 (2): 42–78.
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