

Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

Volume 1 Issue 4 Fall 2011

WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Intelligence*.

Intelligence will keep you up to date with the recent advances in threat assessment from around the globe.

World-leading threat assessment figures have agreed to share their knowledge and experiences and serve on the *Intelligence* [editorial board](#).

We also encourage you to [contribute](#) and [provide feedback](#).

Our Latest Research summary, [Assessing Risk for Terrorism: Problems and Solutions](#), can be found in this issue, along with other research news and views.

We hope *Intelligence* will continue to provide a forum for you to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Hart, PhD

Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University
Director, Proactive ReSolutions Inc.

Latest Research

[TOP](#)

Assessing Risk for Terrorism: Problems and Solutions

Monahan, J. (in press). The individual risk assessment of terrorism. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*.

In a previous issue of *Intelligence* ([Volume 1, Issue 1](#)), we summarized Elaine Pressman's work on the development of structured professional judgment (SPJ) guidelines for extremist risk assessment - one of the first tools designed to systematically assess the risks of terrorism posed by individuals, rather than groups.

Anyone who was interested in Pressman's work will want to take a look at this forthcoming paper by Professor John Monahan of the University of Virginia. This new paper is the outcome of research supported by the Department of Defense in the wake of the Forth Hood shootings in November 2009. In it, Monahan discusses the primary contexts in which an individual's risk of terrorism should be assessed, provides an overview of approaches to individual risk assessment, and reviews evidence for

individual risk factors for terrorism. Based on his review, he identified four



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individual risk factors for terrorism. Based on his review, he identified four major issues that must be addressed before further progress can be made in the field. First, we must clarify the nature of the risks being assessed. Are we interested in the risk of, for example, becoming a terrorist, perpetrating specific types of terrorism, or engaging in specific roles supporting terrorism? Second, we must determine the specific approach we will use to structure individual risk assessment. Monahan argues that the existing evidence base may be sufficient to support the development of SPJ guidelines, but not actuarial instruments. Third, we must identify risk factors that have a strong, clear, or direct association with terrorism, rather than those associated with violence more generally. Monahan identifies some "hot leads," including ideologies, affiliations, grievances, and "moral" emotions. Fourth, we must develop rigorous and relevant research methods for validating research on individual risk for terrorism.

This paper is classic Monahan: A cogent integration of up-to-the-minute developments in diverse fields that will provide a firm foundation for improving theory and practice. Look for it soon as an "Online First Publication" available through the journal's [website](#), or download the working paper free of charge on the [Social Sciences Research Network](#).

Practice Update

[TOP](#)

Understanding and Assessing Risk for Honour-Based Violence: The PATRIARCH

Belfrage, H., Strand, S., Ekman, L., & Hasselborg, A. K. (in press). Assessing risk of patriarchal violence with honour as a motive: Six years experience using the PATRIARCH checklist. *International Journal of Police Science and Management*.

Those who attended presentations by Professor Belfrage of Mid Sweden University and his colleagues at the 2010 or 2011 annual meetings of the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals are familiar with the challenges that honour-based violence (HBV) presents to law enforcement. In a forthcoming paper, Belfrage and colleagues describe the PATRIARCH, a structured professional judgment risk assessment instrument that was developed in Sweden, and summarize the findings of validation research they have been conducting since 2005.

HBV is usually defined as violent acts towards family members--most often adult or adolescent females--due to the belief of the perpetrators that the victims have brought dishonour upon the family. Few other crimes are as complicated to investigate and understand as HBV. Typically, the planning and execution involves multiple family members, usually without personality disorders or major mental disorders, and can include mothers, sisters, brothers, cousins, uncles, and grandfathers who consider their actions as good or necessary. Existing risk assessment tools do not seem to capture many of the important factors that are commonly associated with HBV.

Contemporary law enforcement puts a heavy burden on police to be aware of and sensitive to cultural diversity and its role in crime. The authors' experiences with the PATRIARCH demonstrate it is possible to develop simple tools to help police to deal with complex problems.

This paper will be available free of charge through the journal's [website](#) in the near future. Also, details regarding the PATRIARCH tool are available to members of CATAP or attendees of the 2011 CATAP annual meetings

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through the association's [website](#).

Book Review

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Risk Assessment for Domestically Violent Men

Hilton, N. Z., Harris, G. T., & Rice, M. (2009). *Risk assessment for domestically violent men: Tools for criminal justice, offender intervention, and victim services*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. [ISBN: 978-1-4338-0466-3]

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious international problem and continues to be one of the most pervasive forms of violence worldwide. To help address this problem, professionals have been working on developing and validating instruments for the purpose of assessing and managing IPV for many years (for example, the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide or SARA; Kropp, Hart, Webster, & Eaves, 1994, 1995).

This book, written by Zoe Hilton and her colleagues at the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene in Ontario, summarizes their work on the development of actuarial approaches to IPV risk assessment: the Ontario Domestic Violence Risk Assessment or ODARA, and Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Guide or DVRAG.

The first four chapters of the book outline the rationale and evidence support for developing actuarial tools for IPV risk assessment. The next two chapters discuss how the ODARA and DVRAG should be applied in practice, focusing on the topics of risk communication and policy development. The last chapter focuses on frequently asked questions about the ODARA and DVRAG. The appendices contain very practical information about the scoring criteria for the instruments and normative data required to use them, as well as sample reports, practice cases, and graphical aids.

As there are no official test manuals for either the ODARA or DVRAG, this book is essential reading for anyone who uses the tests. It contains critical information not available in other sources.

Kropp, P. R., Hart, S. D., Webster, C. D., & Eaves, D. (1994). *Manual for the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide*. Vancouver, Canada: British Columbia Institute on Family Violence.

Kropp, P. R., Hart, S. D., Webster, C. D., & Eaves, D. (1995). *Manual for the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide*, 2nd ed. Vancouver, Canada: British Columbia Institute on Family Violence.

Industry Association News

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Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

Message from President Keith Dormond

Since its inception in 2004, the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP) has grown from about 50 members to 200 members. Two major initiatives have been responsible for this growth. First, the CATAP Board has planned and hosted conferences with strong

curriculums that facilitate timely educational and networking opportunities for our members. Second, CATAP has fostered international relations with the Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals (AETAP) and the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) that has led to increased attendance by presidents and board members at all of the events hosted by the Associations. Furthermore, all three Associations now contribute to the Intelligence newsletter that disseminates information about these Associations to more than a thousand professionals worldwide.

These two major CATAP initiatives have done more than help CATAP grow in size as an organization. They also increased the diversity of presenters and participants who attend our conferences, which has enhanced learning experiences and information sharing opportunities for our members. In 2009, for example, when CATAP held its first conference in Vancouver, only one presenter and one attendee were from outside of Canada. In 2010 and 2011, the CATAP conferences in Banff had participants from six countries in addition to Canada, including the United States, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ethiopia.

Of special note, the participation of a police commander and university official from Ethiopia in our 2001 annual meeting was the result of training I delivered in Africa on domestic violence risk assessment and management that was supported by CATAP. In addition to increasing the size of our Association and the diversity of our members, we hope to continue to support other countries around the world to develop threat assessment skills and even to establish allied organizations. For example, at the 2011 AETAP conference in Estonia, AETAP and CATAP were asked and agreed to support colleagues from Australia to develop a threat assessment association for professionals in the Asia-Pacific region

Although my term as CATAP President will be up in February 2012, I will continue to support CATAP and the growth of our organization as a Director. I have enjoyed my last 3½ years serving as President tremendously and I have learned a great deal from many of you. I would like to thank the CATAP Board, CATAP members, as well as the Presidents and Board Members of AETAP and ATAP, for helping CATAP to grow as an organization.

Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

Conference Recap by President Rachel Solov

ATAP's 21st Annual Threat Management Conference (TMC) was an enormous success with more than 470 attendees and a strong conference program consisting of dozens of educational sessions designed to educate attendees on significant issues and emerging research surrounding stalking and other threatening behavior.

TMC was held August 16-19 at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim once again, which is in the process of a major remodel set to be completed in 2012. Far above the construction zone, attendees enjoyed networking at evening receptions held in the new Pirates of the Caribbean-themed penthouse suite on the 11th floor of the Dreams Tower, complete with a spyglass and a doorbell that plays, "Yo Ho, Yo Ho, a Pirate's Life for Me."

Educational sessions provided attendees with a mix of preventative threat assessment strategies, case studies and emerging research, and practical tactics to respond to threats. Introductory day workshops were well attended

and included introductory and advanced tracks as in past years, which have proven popular with attendees. Program highlights included a session on

proven popular with attendees. Program highlights included a session on the evolution of stalking laws co-presented by U.S. Congressman Ed Royce and Kathleen Baty, a stalking victim and longtime advocate for the advancement of stalking laws. Terrance Gainer, the Sergeant-at-Arms for the U.S. Senate, presented a timely session on the role of social media in threat assessment.

ATAP's Facebook page was used for the first time this year to share TMC registration and session information with members and attendees. If you haven't already, be sure to "like" the ATAP Facebook page to stay up-to-date with information about educational offerings and pertinent issues in the threat assessment field.

Thank you to all who played a role in the success of this year's TMC, including presenters, exhibitors and sponsors, volunteer leaders, LAPD volunteers, and staff. Your support is vital to the success of the ATAP conference!

Upcoming Events

[TOP](#)

Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Threat Management Conference

August 14-17, 2012
Anaheim, California

[Learn more](#)

Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Conference

April 24-26, 2012
Krakow, Poland

Program note: Dr. Reid Meloy will be giving a 1-day post-conference workshop on April 27.

[Learn more](#)

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) 2011 Conference

November 2-5, 2011
Toronto, Ontario

[Learn more](#)

2nd Bergen Conference on the Treatment of Psychopathy (BCTP)

November 15-17, 2011
Bergen, Norway

[Learn more](#)

Black Swan Forensics PCL-R Workshop

January 23-25, 2012
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

[Learn more](#)

Northern Networking Events Ltd. Violence Risk Training Workshops

March 27-30, 2012
Edinburgh, Scotland

[Learn more](#)

ProActive ReSolutions Inc. Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop for Post-Secondary Institutions

December 5-9, 2011
St. Catharines, Ontario

[Learn more](#)

STATIC-2002R Training

November 25, 2011
Ottawa, Ontario

For more information contact Shelley Brown (phone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1505, email: Shelley_brown@carleton.ca)

Contribute

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We welcome ideas for contributions from all readers.

E-mail your suggestions to the editor (shart@proactive-resolutions.com) or associate editor (kwatt@proactive-resolutions.com)

Provide Feedback

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Let us know what you like, what you want to read more about, or what you hope to see in the future.

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