



Expert Workshop ‘Design and Performance: Developing Canadian Partnerships for Countering Violent Extremism’

Host: Ryerson University / Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society (TSAS)

March 9th 2pm to 4:30pm

111 Sussex Drive, Bytown Room

This workshop would bring together international subject matter experts to learn from recent experiences in design, testing and application of various approaches to measurement and evaluation for CVE programs. The focus will be on lessons learned about what worked and did not, as well as results from recently completed projects. The workshop ultimately aims to support development of greater international collaboration on rigorous program evaluation frameworks in general, and to inform a new study to examine the operation and evaluate the performance of several Canadian mechanisms for intervening in cases where there is potential for/suspected risk of radicalization to violence.

Agenda

- A) Overview: Ryerson/TSAS – There has been significant recent growth in Canada of multi-sector, multi-disciplinary approaches to assessment and intervention for CVE. A number of these involve central roles for law enforcement (e.g. helping identify and assess risk, referral to interventions, participation in intervention/prevention/education/training). This involvement presents both opportunities and challenges (e.g. information sharing, prevention vs. enforcement, trust). We need to better understand what works and why, and what does not work and why, including more effort to develop and apply quality research/evaluation, including the tools to do it well.
- B) Policy, program and funding support: Public Safety Canada – At the national level, priorities include investing in research and measurement & effectiveness, in support of helping develop Canadian approaches to prevention and intervention, including in support of law enforcement partners, as well as civil society and relevant sectors. This effort includes partnership with international counterparts, with ongoing consideration of how to better structure and gain from such collaboration.
- C) Recent context, and highlights of key findings: University of Alberta/TSAS – Recent, ongoing, and in-development research being conducted with law enforcement and community groups is starting to produce some comparative lessons from work conducted in multiple cities across Canada.
- D) Highlights of recent lessons: Visiting speakers – Some of the international subject matter experts will be asked to review 2 or 3 key lessons from their recent work to try to evaluate or at least set up evaluation frameworks in cities outside Canada.
- E) Roundtable: TSAS – This guided discussion will aim to explore questions about what to measure, and how to measure it, in areas such as: 1. law enforcement relationships with communities; 2. Relationships within and across law enforcement agencies; and 3. law enforcement relationships with other sectors

Expanding international collaboration on evidence-based tools for prevention and intervention

Host: SHERPA-RAPS / Strong Cities Network / Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society (TSAS)

March 10: 9am to 11:30am

269 Laurier Avenue West, 19th floor main boardroom

This event would highlight current ongoing work designed to assess scientific knowledge, and develop shared resources for the prevention of violent radicalization, through creating links across locally-based practitioners and researchers involved in prevention and intervention in Canada and internationally, including through exploring greater participation

for Canada in initiatives like the Strong Cities Network, which is a global collaboration of mayors, policymakers and practitioners united in building social cohesion and resilience to counter violent extremism.

This event would focus in particular on early activities of systematically reviewing available evidence internationally about youth trajectories in and out of violent radicalization; the outcomes, effectiveness and balance of benefits/harms of screening or assessment tools, as well as of prevention/intervention initiatives (including but not limited to CVE).

Agenda

- A) Overview: SHERPA-RAPS – There has been significant recent growth in Canada of involvement of professional practitioners and civil society actors in assessment, prevention and intervention. This presents challenges and opportunities (e.g. privacy/standards/professional practice; trust; fear; information sharing; credibility). We need a better sense of who is doing what, as well as better understanding of what works and why, as well as what does not work and why not. In short, we need better ways to connect, leverage and complement the various domestic and international efforts to answer these questions.
- B) Partnerships: Public Safety Canada & TSAS – Government and academic partners are exploring ways to expand their roles in supporting and getting involved in areas such as systematic reviews, testing of tools, and development of stronger connections between academic research and practitioner needs, including through efforts to better connect with international counterparts.
- C) Recent context, and highlights of key findings: SHERPA-RAPS: Recent, ongoing and in-development work is helping build the evidence base for practice through systematic reviews, training development and testing, and intervention initiatives
- D) Guest presentation on research about practice – “What the Prevent duty means for schools and further education colleges in England”: **Joel Busher (Coventry University) and Tufyal Choudhury (Durham University)** will discuss some recent findings about how school/college staff in England are interpreting and experiencing the Prevent duty, how (if at all) it has affected their working practices, how (if at all) school/college staff think they could be better supported in this area, and the implications (if any) for the relationship of staff with students, parents, governors and the wider community.
- E) Working session: SHERPA-RAPS – This guided discussion will aim to cover questions such as: 1. What are the opportunities and obstacles for achieving synergy between research, training and intervention? 2. What do you want to see derived from the Systematic reviews and mapping? What examples should be included, of evidence based programs? 3. How best to evaluate and disseminate evidence about training programs? 4. How can we establish national and international practitioner partnerships?