



Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

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Upcoming Events

2018 Annual CATAP Workshop & Conference
Fairmont Chateau Whistler,
Whistler, BC, Canada
13 - 14 October 2018

PATRIARCH Workshop
Hamilton, ON, Canada
5 - 6 November 2018

SARA-V3 Train-the-Trainer Certificate Programme
London, UK
Registration Deadline:
16 November 2018

Foundational Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop
Waterloo, ON, Canada
26 - 30 November 2018

Editor's Note



threats, attempts, and acts in emergency psychiatry units in Bergen Norway, which has implications for emergency and inpatient psychiatry around the globe. Dr. Stephen Hart will also provide a legal update about *Ewert v. Canada*, which is a critical case related to the intersection of diversity issues and violence risk with implications for cultural bias and human rights.

In addition, we have special announcements about the brand-new HCR-20 V3 app, the upcoming Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Conference (CATAP), and important steps that higher education has been taking related to assessing and managing risk for sexual violence.

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

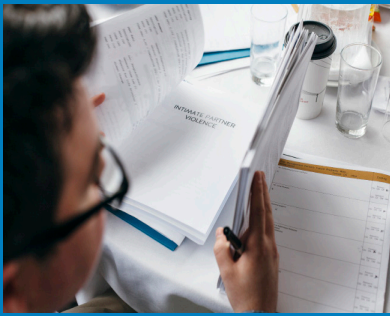
Sincerely,

Kelly A. Watt, PhD
Director and Threat Assessment Specialist at Protect International Risk and Safety Services

As always, *Intelligence* will keep you up to date with recent advances in threat assessment from around the globe through knowledge and experiences shared by world-leading experts.

I am very happy to introduce you to Dr. Brianne Layden, who has recently joined our team as a Threat Assessment Specialist and will serve as an associate editor of *Intelligence*. Her research and practice involve assessing and managing risk of violence towards the self and others. For those who have not had the pleasure of meeting Brianne, she will be attending the upcoming Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP) Conference!

In this issue, we hear from Mr. Knut Rypdal who provides an important research update related to violent ideation,



Sexual Violence in Higher Education Conference and Workshop

Calgary, AB, Canada
21 – 23 January 2019

APATAP 2019 Conference

Disneyland, Hong Kong
25 - 27 February 2019

Foundational Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop

Vancouver, BC, Canada
29 April – 30 May 2018

Upcoming Webinars

ConCEpt and Protect International “Wednesday Webinar” Series

Workplace Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs: **Policies**
17 October 2018

Workplace Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs: **Teams**
14 November 2018

Workplace Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs: **Emergency Protocols**
12 December 2018

[Learn more...](#)

Violent Behaviour in Emergency Psychiatry

Update by Mr. Knut Rypdal

As part of my dissertation, I am examining the prevalence and nature of violent behaviour among patients admitted to an emergency psychiatric unit in Bergen, Norway. To my knowledge, this is one of the first studies to investigate violent behaviour in emergency psychiatry by directly asking patients about violent ideation, threats, attempts, and acts. Although this study focused on emergency psychiatry units in Bergen, Norway, the findings are consistent with similar studies in other countries (e.g., Canada). Therefore, the findings have implications for emergency and inpatient psychiatry around the globe.

This study gathered information about the history of violent behavior for 1197 patients admitted over a period of 18 months. In addition to reviewing the hospital records and collateral information as part of the standard admittance procedure, clinicians systematically asked patients about violent ideation, threats, attempts and acts during their intake interview. Surprisingly, almost half of the total sample had a lifetime history of any violent behavior and, of those, one half reported violent behavior in the last year.

Further, one third of the total sample reported a lifetime history of any violent ideation, and more than half of those reported violent ideation in the last year. The violent ideation was diverse, including thoughts, fantasies, and plans. It was more common for patients to have

experienced violent ideation in the last year, and more common for patients to have experienced threats, attempts and acts more than a year ago.

Importantly, directly asking patients about violent ideation contributed to a 33% increase in the detection of lifetime violent behaviour (from 33% to 44%), and a 72% increase in the detection of recent violent behaviour (from 14% to 24%). As such, one major implication of this study is that all patients should be routinely asked about violent ideation, threats, attempts and acts at intake – a practice that is rarely conducted in a structured or consistent manner in emergency and inpatient psychiatry. This highlights the need for something like the Violence Risk Triage Tool to assist with identifying primary and secondary warning signs for violence risk, prioritizing cases and determining immediate actions, including referral for a comprehensive risk assessment.

Rypdal K., Hart S. D., Gjestad R., Hoff H. A., Mellesdal L., Oedegaard K. J. & Bjørkly S. (2017, June). *The association between victimization, suicidal and violent behavior: Comparing methods of analysis*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services, Split, Croatia.

Knut Rypdal, Centre for Research and Education in Forensic Psychiatry, Haukeland University Hospital

Update: *Ewert v. Canada* (2018)

Review by Dr. Stephen Hart

The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) recently rendered its [judgment in this matter](#). Briefly, Ewert argued that some tools used by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to assess his risk are not valid for use with offenders who, like himself, identify as Indigenous Peoples. The tools at issue are frequently used by CSC to assess the violence risk and included the PCL-R, VRAG, SORAG, Static-99, and VRS-SO. After various unsuccessful grievances in CSC since 2000, Ewert took his concerns to the Federal Court of Canada in 2015. He was successful in the first phase of his trial, but the interim decision was overturned by the Federal Court of Appeal. Ewert was subsequently granted leave to appeal to the SCC.

The majority decision of the SCC allowed Ewert’s appeal in part. With respect to the major issues, it found that:

1. CSC, by failing to take appropriate steps to understand and remediate potential cultural bias in the violence risk assessment tools, had

breached its obligation under the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* to “take all reasonable steps to ensure that any information about an offender that it uses is as accurate as possible” – something that is particularly problematic given the *Act* specifically requires CSC to ensure that its policies and programs are appropriate for, as well as responsive to the needs and circumstances of, Indigenous Peoples.

2. CSC’s reliance on the tools was not proven by Ewert to be rationally unrelated to its mission and therefore was not a breach of Ewert’s constitutional rights under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The SCC issued a declaration in respect of the first finding. Its effect is that, should he initiate new proceedings with respect to the issue, Ewert no longer has to follow the statutory grievance mechanism to prove anew that CSC breached the *Act*. As noted in the majority decision, Ewert has already done so many times, and “It cannot be said, based

on the events that followed, that the grievance mechanism was effective in resolving the issues raised by [him]” (para. 84).

This case is one of relevance to threat assessment professionals around the world dealing with the question of whether various tools or procedures used in violence risk assessment are culturally valid – or, conversely, culturally biased – for use with members of ethnic minorities. The concern is relevant to all tools, not just those discussed in Ewert. A positive outcome of the case is that it stimulated attention to cultural issues in violence risk assessment. Disappointingly, CSC has not announced (or, apparently, made) any changes to its policies or procedures in light of the SCC’s decision that would improve the cultural appropriateness of its services, demonstrate respect for its statutory and moral responsibilities with respect to Indigenous Peoples, and protect itself from similar legal action in the future.

Stephen Hart, Protect International Risk and Safety Services

Special Announcements

The rumours are true: Protect International is scheduled to release its brand-new **HCR-20^{V3}** app in 2019!

Incorporating elements from various customized software applications it has developed since 1996, the new HCR-20 V3 app will be available in single-user, small organization, and enterprise versions. It includes cutting-edge features that give you everything you need to administer the HCR-20 V3, as well as interpret and report HCR-20 V3 findings. It also has a variety of options for storing and managing case information. Subscribe below to read new details as they become available.

SUBSCRIBE

CATAP: Upcoming Workshop & Conference in Whistler, Canada



The Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP) is pleased to announce its [2018 conference](#) will be held at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler in beautiful Whistler, British Columbia. The annual CATAP Conference is the premiere clearinghouse for training, sharing knowledge, networking, and connecting with professionals from law enforcement, post-secondary education, and mental health sectors, amongst others, skilled in threat assessment and risk management.

This event is open to the public with member, non-member, and group rates available, along with several registration options. Participants can attend the

2-Day Workshop and/or the 3-Day Conference.

The 2018 Workshop runs October 13th and 14th, where registrants may choose from two streams, including foundational and advanced. This is followed by the Conference October 15th through the 17th, with an exciting lineup of international presenters covering a variety of timely topics, including terrorist and grievance-fuelled violence, and corporate stalking, to name a few.

Affiliated with sister organizations world-wide, the primary goal of CATAP is to assist its members in the accurate assessment and effective management of violence to better protect

victims of stalking, harassment, and threat situations. To this end, connecting with amazing peers at this annual conference is often a highlight for many, me included. I look forward to seeing our members and welcoming new colleagues from Canada and around the world. Hope to see you in Whistler!

Darren Balsom, President
CATAP

For more information, please visit:

www.catap.ca

Send emails:
info@catap.ca

Bow Valley College: Sexual Violence Conference and Workshop

Higher education has been taking important steps related to assessing and managing risk for sexual violence, an area that has greatly needed more attention. This started in Ontario with McMaster University and OCAD University, followed by British Columbia with Emily Carr University of Art & Design and the University of Victoria, and most recently in Alberta with Bow Valley College.

All of these institutions have taken the lead in hosting Conferences and Workshops related to sexual violence risk assessment and management that they have opened up to others. These events have served to increase knowledge and skills in this area, to foster communication and collaboration among stakeholders, and hopefully change the way we think about and respond to sexual violence.

The next [Workshop and Conference](#) is being hosted by Bow Valley College in January 2019. It is highly relevant to everyone who is responsible for supporting victims of sexual violence by assessing, managing, and preventing future risk.