



Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

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Upcoming Events

Virtual 2021

Conduct Investigations Workshop

How to Assess Cyber Threats and Cyber Stalking Workshop

B-SAFER: Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop

Skills Mastery in Violence Risk Assessment and Management: Case Formulation and Scenario Planning Workshop

[Learn more..](#)

Editor's Note



perpetration of violence.

In this issue, I am providing book reviews of *The Handbook of Risk Assessment* and *The International Handbook of Threat Assessment*. Both are second editions of important handbooks for threat assessment professionals that were released this year.

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.

We also have several special announcements related to new tools and practice cases. First, in collaboration with CONCEPT, we are launching new versions the PATRIARCH, MLG, and RSVP this year! Second, also in collaboration with CONCEPT, we are continuing to offer our HCR-20 V3 case study series. We hope *Intelligence* will continue to provide a forum for you to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment.

Our team hopes this newsletter finds you, your family, your friends, and your colleagues well. Although things are starting to look up for some people and some places around the world related to COVID-19, many of us continue to face significant challenges and hardships. In this issue, Mr. Totti Karpela will provide a practice update related to workplace violence prevention. He poses a very important question about whether we are collecting the right data regarding violent incidents. He highlights the importance of looking at incidents involving the prevention of violence, as well as incidents involving the

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for your commitment to preventing violence and increasing safety during these challenging times.

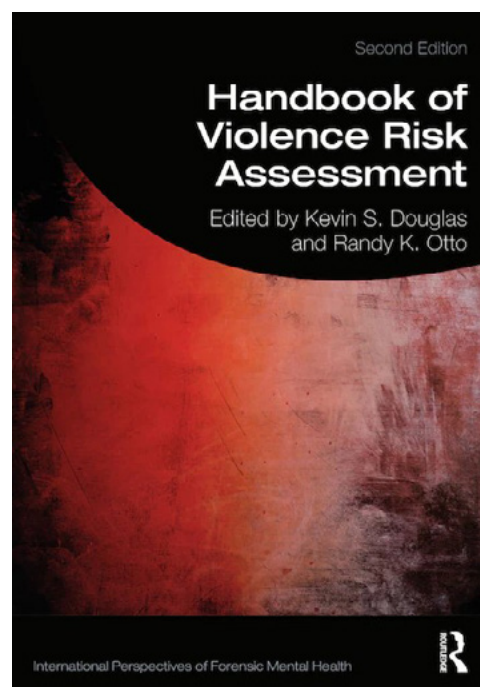
Sincerely,
Kelly A. Watt, PhD
Director and Threat Assessment Specialist at Protect International Risk and Safety Services

The Handbook of Violence Risk Assessment, Second Edition, edited by Kevin S. Douglas and Randy K. Otto

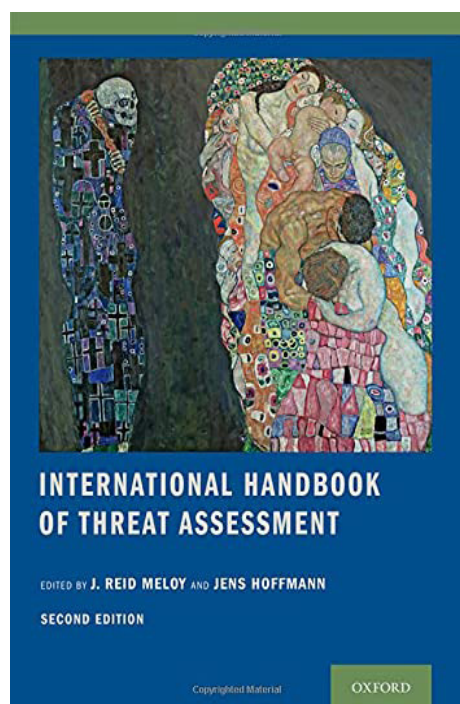
The second edition of the Handbook of Violence Risk Assessment, edited by Dr. Kevin Douglas and Dr. Randy Otto, has been released in 2021. The handbook is considered a primary reference for practitioners, researchers and legal professionals around the globe who specialize in assessing and managing violence risk. The handbook provides a contemporary and comprehensive research update about the most commonly used and well researched violence risk assessment instruments in the world, both actuarial risk assessment tools and structured professional judgement

guidelines. It also includes chapters that introduce more recently developed violence risk assessment instruments and chapters focusing on core themes and critical analyses of the field of violence risk assessment and management. This is an essential resource for all threat assessment professionals who assess and manage violence risk and who need to know (and be able to explain) whether the instruments they are using are supported by research.

*Kelly A. Watt, PhD
Protect International Risk and Safety Services*



International Handbook of Threat Assessment, Second Edition, edited by J. Reid Meloy and Jens Hoffmann



The second edition of the International Handbook of Threat Assessment, edited by Dr. Reid Meloy and Dr. Jens Hoffman,

has also been released in 2021. This handbook provides a detailed and comprehensive review of cutting-edge theory, research, and practice related to threat assessment and management. The contributors to both editions of this handbook span the globe and provide an international perspective on the prevention of violence. Consistent with the first edition, this handbook is divided into three sections, embedding practical examples of threat assessment and management in theory and research. Part I discusses foundational issues related to threat assessment and management, explicit threats, warning behaviours, source interviewing, and legal issues. Part II explores different fields of practice in threat assessment and management related to where

violence occurs, what type of violence is perpetrated, and how the violence is perpetrated as well as important legal and conceptual issues. Part III illustrates operational aspects of threat assessment and management in diverse settings around the world, such as the Los Angeles Police Department Threat Management Unit, the United Kingdom Fixed Threat Assessment Centre, and Australia's Problem Behaviour Program. This handbook is a must read for anyone currently practicing in the area of threat assessment and management or those who are interested in practicing in this area in the future.

*Kelly A. Watt, PhD
Protect International Risk and Safety Services*

Preventing workplace violence: Are you collecting the *right* data?

I am a retired police sergeant and crisis negotiator and I have worked as a threat management professional for three decades around the globe related to violence prevention across diverse sectors. To my surprise, many workplaces that I have worked with are not collecting the “most valuable information” that would help them in preventing workplace violence incidents.

In many countries the employer is required to collect information about violent incidents. The purpose of this action is to compel the employer to make necessary changes to protect employees from actual, attempted or threatened violence. Many workplaces have implemented this action and I strongly support their efforts in doing so. I believe this is a necessary step, but I do not believe it is a sufficient step. When I challenge participants in workshops by claiming that they are not collecting the “most valuable information” about incidents, I usually get blank stares looking back at me and you may be feeling the same right now.

I believe that if you only focus on the violent incidents that have taken place, you obtain valuable data from encounters that took a wrong turn. I am not blaming the employees who were involved but, if violence occurred, it often means that violence was not prevented, and something should have been done differently. So, by “most valuable information?” I mean that workplaces should focus on the incidents that

were disrespectful, intimidating, threatening, or involved attempted violence but did not result in acts of violence—and should ask yourself, why and how was violence prevented in these situations

The importance of looking at incidents involving the prevention of violence, as well as incidents involving the perpetration of violence, first became clear to me when I was working as a supervisor in police emergency services in Finland’s capitol region. As I followed the arrest statistics of different shifts in the central district, I started to notice big differences in violence targeting the police during arrests. I expanded my focus to the local hospital’s emergency room shifts and started to see the same kinds of differences in the frequency with which shifts called for police assistance.

It occurred to me that, to really understand violence prevention, instead of just focusing on when violence occurred, we needed to focus on when violence did not occur. I began to ask myself “Why do different shifts have statistically less violence? Do they have a different work culture? Do they have different values? Do they have different leadership? Do they focus on different warning signs or risk factors? Do they engage in different tactics or strategies?” By asking these questions, I realized I was learning more about violence prevention by what went right than what went wrong—which is why I consider this the “most valuable information.”

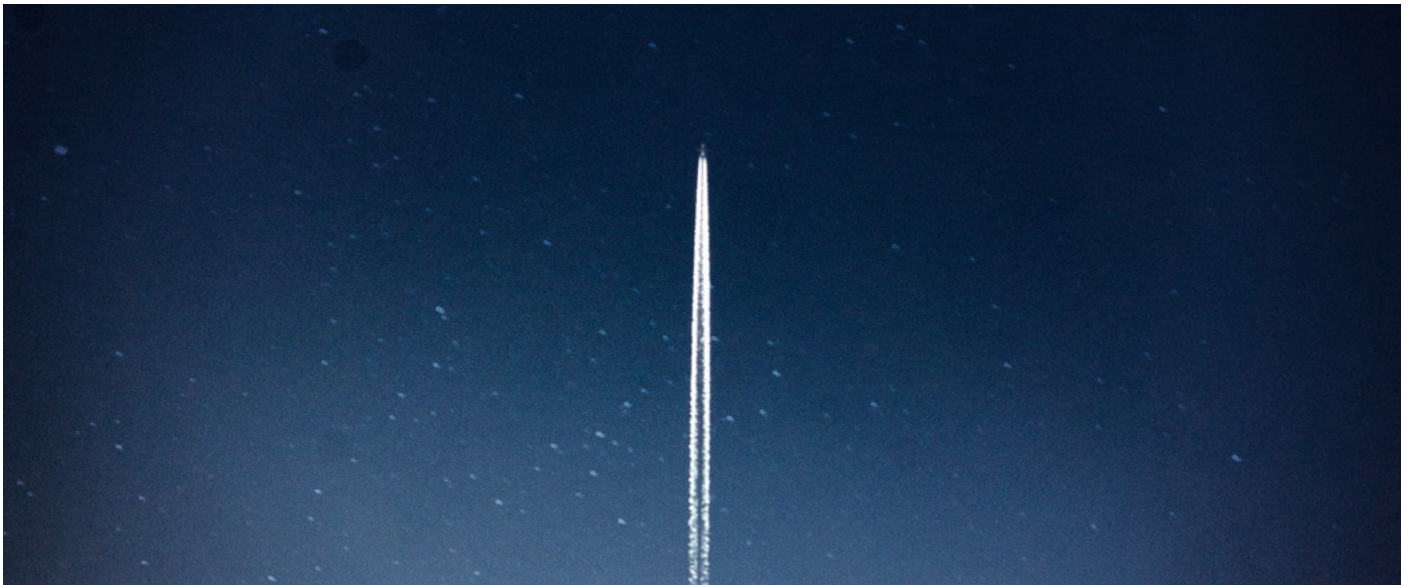
To help illustrate this point, I am going to close with an age-old example regarding the analysis of damage to bomber planes in WWII (modified from an article by Trevor Bragdon). The Center for Naval Analysis reviewed the bullet holes and damage from each bomber after each mission. The data began to show a clear pattern: most damage was to the wings and body of the plane. The solution to their problem was clear: increase the armor on the plane’s wings and body. But there was a serious problem with this analysis. Before the planes were modified, a statistician named Abraham Wald pointed out a critical flaw—the researchers had only looked at bombers who’d returned to base and had not looked at any of the plans that had been shot down.

When we take the above example and apply it to violence prevention, ask yourself: could you possibly be making the same “mistake” by focusing only on incidents where violence occurred and not considering incidents where violence was prevented? Based on my experience in this area, I strongly encourage you to start to gathering information about violence that was prevented. Learn from your success stories and use them as a benchmark of your violence prevention progress, and share them (as appropriate) within your organization. We can all learn more from what goes well than what goes wrong!

Mr. Totti Karpela, CEO, Director Threat Peace of Mind Threat



Launch of version 2 of the PATRIARCH, MLG, and RSVP



Protect International and CONCEPT are launching version 2 of the PATRIARCH (for honor-based violence), Multi-Level Guidelines (MLG; for group-based violence), and Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP; for sexual violence) in 2021! The newest versions of these structured professional judgement manuals will be consistent with advances in research, practice and the law related to honor-based violence, group-based violence, and sexual violence and will incorporate best practices related comprehensive assessment and management of violence risk.

The live virtual PATRIARCH-V2 and MLG-V2 Workshops have already taken place and the live virtual RSVP Workshop will be taking place on 9-10 November 2021. The PATRIARCH-V2 is already available on demand via CONCEPT and both the MLG-V2 and the RSVP-V2 are coming soon!

Practice Case Series: New Sectors



CONCEPT and Protect International are continuing to partner to release a case study series using the Historical-Clinical-Risk-Management-20 Version 3 (HCR-20 V3) to assess and manage violence risk! Each of the practice cases are derived from real, sanitized cases across diverse settings. Don't miss the chance to sharpen and maintain your skills administering the HCR-20 V3 with the added opportunity of consulting with internationally recognized experts on each case. Participants who have taken part in this case study series have informed us that this experience will change the way they assess and manage violence risk in the future!

The practice case series for corrections and forensic psychiatric settings are now available on demand via CONCEPT. The practice case series for higher education and workplace settings are currently ongoing with opportunities to take part in live case discussions in July and October 2021.