



SMA CENTCOM Panel Discussion

Radicalization (Part I)

From the SMA Study in Support of USCENTCOM:

Assessment of Strategic Implications of Population Dynamics in the Central Region

Booklet

10 March 2019

1030-1200 ET

**Dial (866) 712-4038;
Passcode 37250264#**

Strategic Multi-Layer Assessment (SMA) provides planning support to Commands with complex operational imperatives requiring multi-agency, multi-disciplinary solutions that are NOT within core Service/Agency competency. Solutions and participants are sought across USG and beyond. SMA is accepted and synchronized by Joint Staff/J-39 DDGO and executed by ASD (EC&P).

Agenda

Panel Description: At the request of United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), SMA initiated a study in August 2019 to understand the strategic implications of destabilizing population dynamics within the Central Region. CENTCOM asked SMA research teams to consider how drivers of instability in the region—to include long-term internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, spread of radical ideologies and extremism, great power competition, disruptive non-state actors, and the potential for black swan scenarios—could be mitigated across PMESII levers of national power.

The first set of questions revolve around radicalization, particularly how to prevent the weaponization of IDPs and refugees by ISIS. In Part I of the panel series, research team from across industry, academia, and government research institutions will present findings related to breaking the cycle of radicalization, reintegration and reconciliation, and prevention of radicalization in IDP/refugee camps. In Part II (on 17 March 2020), research teams will present findings related to who owns the radicalization problem and what we can learn from historical examples of deradicalization.

B1: “How can we break the cycle of radicalization, particularly with children who know no other social system/model of governance? Are there possible graduated steps to deradicalization (i.e., judicial efforts, penal efforts, religious efforts, familial efforts, treatment efforts) that can be applied?”

B4: “How do you reintegrate radicalized people back into society? Both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have centers focused on this problem. What should the international community do with people who cannot be reintegrated into society? Are there lessons from other regions on reintegration and reconciliation that could be applied to the Central Region?”

B5: “How do you protect an at-risk population from extremism in an IDP/refugee camp? How do you build community resilience to help prevent radicalization? How do you triage and segregate persons in IDP/refugee camps that have varying degrees of radicalization?”

Speakers and Topics: The speakers for this discussion, the titles of their briefs, and the links to their publicly released reports are provided below (Note: The links for the reports with “LINK PENDING” indicated below will be included in a new version of this booklet on the SMA publications webpage: <https://nsiteam.com/sma-speaker-series>).

The order in which the panelists are listed will be the order in which they will present.

- **Introductory Remarks**
 - Ms. Sarah Canna (NSI, Inc.)- moderator
- **Question B1**
 - Dr. Skye Cooley (Oklahoma State University)
 - *Child's Play: Cooperative Games as Tools of Deradicalization* (<https://nsiteam.com/childs-play-cooperative-games-as-tools-of-deradicalization/>)
 - Ms. Nicole Peterson (NSI, Inc.)
 - *Defying the Cycle of Violence Among Children of War* (<https://nsiteam.com/defying-the-cycle-of-violence-among-children-of-war/>)
 - Dr. Nick Wright (Intelligent Biology)
 - *Young People Aged 0-17: Neuroscience and Cognition to Break Cycles of Radicalization* (<https://nsiteam.com/young-people-aged-0-17-neuroscience-and-cognition-to-break-cycles-of-radicalization/>)
- **Question B4**
 - Dr. Nick Wright (Intelligent Biology)
 - *Affording New Futures: The Neuroscience and Cognition of Reintegration and Reconciliation* (<https://nsiteam.com/affording-new-futures-the-neuroscience-and-cognition-of-reintegration-and-reconciliation/>)
 - Dr. Sabrina (Pagano) Polansky (NSI, Inc.)
 - *Reintegrating the Radicalized: Challenges, Lessons Learned, and How to Overcome Barriers* (<https://nsiteam.com/reintegrating-the-radicalized-challenges-lessons-learned-and-how-to-overcome-barriers/>)
- **Question B5**
 - Dr. Karl Kaltenthaler (University of Akron)
 - *Preventing Radicalization among Internally Displaced People in Syria and Iraq* (<https://nsiteam.com/preventing-radicalization-among-internally-displaced-people-in-syria-and-iraq/>)
 - Dr. Larry Kuznar (NSI, Inc.)
 - *Dealing with Radicalization in IDP Camps* (<https://nsiteam.com/dealing-with-radicalization-in-idp-camps/>)

- Mr. Howard Lee (US Army TRADOC)
 - *An Assessment of Syrian Refugee Camp Radicalization Dynamics*
(<https://nsiteam.com/kingdom-of-saudi-arabia-futures-study-with-an-assessment-of-syrian-refugee-camp-radicalization-dynamics/>)
- **Q&A**

Speaker Biographies

Ms. Sarah Canna (NSI, Inc.)

Ms. Sarah A. Canna is a Principal Analyst at NSI. In this capacity, Ms. Canna applies her open source analysis skills to regions of vital concern to US Combatant Commands, particularly the Middle East and South Asia. To help military planners understand the complex socio-cultural dynamics at play in evolving conflict situations, Ms. Canna developed a Virtual Think Tank (ViTTa) tool, which is designed to rapidly respond to emergent crises by pulsing NSI's extensive subject matter expert (SME) network to provide deep, customized, multidisciplinary analysis for defense and industry clients. This tool has been used to study the so-called Islamic State as well as Eurasian cooperation and conflict. Ms. Canna is also a lead editor and integrator of white papers, reports, and proceedings focused on violent extremism, influence and deterrence, and adversarial intent. Ms. Canna also supported durability analyses using the NSI State Stability (StaM) model for Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and (at the megacity level) Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prior to joining NSI, she was an associate within the Social Science Program at Strategic Analysis, Inc. (SA), where she supported multidisciplinary projects ranging from developing and assessing computational social science models, evaluating state instability forecast models, and developing cultural aptitude taxonomies. Additionally, Ms. Canna provided analytic support to the Defense Science Board (DSB) 2008 task force on Understanding Adversaries, the 2007 DSB summer study on Challenges to Military Operations in Support of US Interests, and the 2006 DSB summer study on 21st Century Strategic Technology Vectors. Prior to joining SA, she was a research associate at Intellibrige Corporation in Washington, D.C. where she provided daily open source analysis to the Commander, US Southern Command and the Commandant, US Coast Guard. She also managed a network of 200-plus subject matter experts, upon whose knowledge Intellibrige analysts relied. Ms. Canna has a MA degree from Georgetown University in Technology and Security Studies. Ms. Canna holds a translation certificate in Spanish from American University and is learning Dari.



Dr. Skye Cooley (Oklahoma State University)

Dr. Skye Cooley is an assistant professor in the School of Media and Strategic Communications at Oklahoma State University. He is a co-founder of the MESA group, specializing in conducting open-source content analysis of foreign media and narrative analysis. His work has been published in *Global Media and Communication*, *the International Journal of Press/Politics*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Russian Journal of Communication*, *Asian Journal of Communication*, among others.



Dr. Karl Kaltenthaler (University of Akron)

Dr. Karl Kaltenthaler is Professor of Political Science and Director of Security Studies at the University of Akron. His research and teaching focus on political violence, political psychology, public opinion and political behavior, countering violent extremism (CVE), and counterterrorism. He has worked on multiple research studies involving Afghanistan, Bangladesh, several European countries, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, and the United States. Dr. Kaltenthaler's current research centers on the radicalization and recruitment process into Islamist violent extremism in different types of social and political environments as well as ways to counter this process (Countering Violent Extremism). His body of research and analytic work has resulted in academic publications and presentations as well as analytic reports and briefings for the U.S. government. His research has been published in three books, multiple book chapters, as well as articles in *International Studies Quarterly*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, as well as other several other journals.



Dr. Lawrence A. Kuznar (NSI, Inc.)

Lawrence A. Kuznar (Chief Cultural Sciences Officer, NSI, Inc., Professor of Anthropology, Purdue University-Fort Wayne) Dr. Kuznar conducts anthropological research relevant to counterterrorism and other areas of national security. His research ranges from advanced statistical and geographical modeling of social instability, to discourse analysis of adversaries including North Korea, China, Russia, Iran, and ISIS (Daesh) to provide leading indicators of intent and behavior. He has developed computational models of genocide in Darfur and tribal factionalism in New Guinea, mathematical models of inequality and conflict, and integrated socio-cultural databases for geo-spatial analysis of illicit nuclear trade and bioterrorism. Dr. Kuznar's recent research has been funded by academic sources, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Strategic Multi-Layer Analysis, Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), the Human Social Cultural Behavior (HSCB) modeling program of the Department of Defense, and by the US Army Corps of Engineers. He has also served on the HSCB Technical Progress Evaluation panel and a National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) net assessment panel. He conducted extensive research among the Aymara of southern Peru and with the Navajo in the American southwest. Dr. Kuznar has published and edited several books and numerous peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *American Anthropologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *Political Studies*, *Field Methods*, and *Journal of Anthropological Research*. Dr. Kuznar earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology, and a M.S. in Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences from Northwestern University. His B.A. in Anthropology is from Penn State.



Mr. Howard Lee (US Army TRADOC)

Mr. Howard Lee is a retired US Army Field Artillery Lieutenant Colonel with a combined 40 years of experience as an Army officer, operations research analyst, and models and simulations specialist. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Oregon State University and has an M.S. in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. He currently serves as a Senior Research Analyst and Studies & Analysis Team Chief for the TRADOC G-2 Modeling and Simulations Directorate with responsibility for overseeing the Athena Simulation Program. Over the last 30+ years he has performed duties in models and simulations and/or operations research positions at the Directorate of Simulations for the US Army Europe, Grafenwoehr, GE; the Depth and Simulations Attack Battle Laboratory, Fort Sill, OK; the National Simulations Center, the TRADOC Analysis Center, the Mission Command Battle Laboratory and the Modeling and Simulations Directorate all located at Fort Leavenworth, KS.



Dr. Sabrina (Pagano) Polansky (NSI, Inc.)

Dr. Polansky has extensive experience leading teams and projects both in academia and industry, including both government and commercial domains. Though supporting a wide variety of projects and proposals at NSI, her work has focused in four main areas: 1) providing support to DoD's Strategic Multilayer Analysis (SMA) projects, including rapid applied analysis for CENTCOM, 2) serving as the Principal Investigator and Project Manager for a multi-year contract investigating progress in conflict environments, 3) providing project oversight as the project manager for two AAA titles at a top gaming company, and 4) contributing thought leadership as one of two developers for a corporate offering focused on enhancing dignity in interactions with customers and employees. Prior to NSI, Dr. Polansky served as the Director (Acting) of a growing behavioral sciences program, as well as a Faculty Fellow Researcher and Lecturer at UCLA. Her work has spanned a wide variety of topics, with particular depth in intergroup relations, injustice, basic and moral emotions (e.g., empathy, moral outrage), and prosocial/antisocial behavior. She maintains an active knowledge base in the broad field of social psychology, and knowledge that spans multiple fields given her experience and leadership on multidisciplinary projects. Dr. Polansky earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology (minor in Statistics) from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a dual BA with highest honors in Psychology and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Ms. Nicole Peterson (NSI, Inc.)

Nicole Peterson is an Analyst who assists in qualitative research and strategic analysis in support of Strategic Multi-Layer Assessment (SMA) efforts primarily focused on national security issues and Department of Defense (DoD) concerns. She has contributed to NSI's Virtual Think Tank (ViTTa®) and discourse analyses during her time at NSI. Nicole coordinates SMA's speaker series, which encompasses a broad range of topics from radicalization of populations and violent extremist organizations to artificial intelligence. She is also the publisher of SMA's weekly newsletter, which summarizes SMA speaker sessions, outlines upcoming events, and disseminates relevant publications. Nicole began her career at NSI as an undergraduate intern for its commercial sector and was subsequently promoted to an associate analyst for its government sector in 2016. She graduated with honors from the University of San Diego where she received a BA in applied mathematics and a minor in accountancy.



Dr. Nicholas Wright (Intelligent Biology)

Dr. Nicholas Wright is an affiliated scholar at Georgetown University, honorary research associate at University College London (UCL), Consultant at Intelligent Biology and Fellow at New America. His work combines neuroscientific, behavioural and technological insights to understand decision-making in politics and international confrontations, in ways practically applicable to policy. He leads international, interdisciplinary projects with collaborators in countries including China, the U.S., Iran and the UK. He was an Associate in the Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC and a Senior Research Fellow in International Relations at the University of Birmingham, UK. He has conducted work for the UK Government and U.S. Department of Defense. Before this he examined decision-making using functional brain imaging at UCL and in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics. He was a clinical neurologist in Oxford and at the National Hospital for Neurology. He has published academically (some twenty publications, e.g. Proceedings of the Royal Society), in general publications such as the Atlantic and Foreign Affairs, with the Pentagon Joint Staff (see www.intelligentbiology.co.uk) and has appeared on the BBC and CNN. Wright received a medical degree from UCL, a BSc in Health Policy from Imperial College London, has Membership of the Royal College of Physicians (UK), has an MSc in Neuroscience and a PhD in Neuroscience both from UCL.



MSc in Neuroscience and a PhD