Research on Intergroup Violence

Intergroup conflict can be attributed to a variety of complex economic, societal, governmental, cultural, and historical factors, and once engaged in a conflict situation it becomes increasingly difficult for the involved parties to achieve durable peace. The development of effective conflict management and negotiation approaches is impaired in part by gaps in our understanding of the factors that lead to the initiation and persistence of intergroup conflict. The program specifically examines the role of threat and trust in the persistence of intergroup conflict, and the endogenous impact of conflict itself civic society and the allocation of societal resources. Finally the program will attempt to identify possible interventions that can mitigate the impact of threat to promote peace and resilience. This research will contribute both normative theories of conflict and political decisions, as well as empirical analyses of the dynamics of media threat propagation and security perception across various stages of intergroup conflict.

Current work:

“Threats to Peace: Threat Perception and the Persistence or Desistence of Violent Conflict,” Amy Sliva, Mikhail Malyutov, Glenn Pierce and Xin Li, Proceedings of the European Intelligence and Security Informatics Conference (EISIC2013), August 2013.


“The Impact of Threat on Israeli and Palestinian Public Opinion: Implications for the Peace Process” paper in progress with Sheila D. Kohanteb, Glenn Pierce, Guy Ben Porat
Research on Firearm Violence

Gun violence is a persistent problem in the United States and also in many other nations in the world. This program of work examines policies and initiatives to help control illicit transfer of firearms to prohibited persons and groups in the United States and internationally.

Recent work


Program in Cross Border Crime and Security

The concept of border security is clearly defined by its specific set of national and international security threats - international terrorism and transnational crime. To address these threats effectively, border security requires that enforcement agencies and governing institutions continually evaluate and manage their efforts and processes to address the diverse challenges posed by illicit trafficking in commodities, people, finance, weapons and WMD while at the same time facilitating legitimate trade and commerce. Beyond the confines of national border enforcement, effective cross-border security also requires substantial foreign collaboration.

The major project in this area has been the Exploratory Methodology Mapping (EMM) for Illicit Trafficking of Explosives Technologies, Materials and other Weapons project funded by the HSARPA Border Enforcement Analytics Program (BEAP) APEX, Department of Homeland Security.

On June 17, 2014 As a member of the ICE APEX Border Enforcement Analytics Program Team, Northeastern EMM project received the Department of Homeland Security, Under of Secretary for Science and Technology’s Award for Building Partnerships, June 17, 2014, Washington DC.

Current funding

Exploratory Methodology Mapping (EMM) for Illicit Trafficking of Explosives Technologies, Materials and other Weapons, HSARPA Border Enforcement Analytics Program APEX, Department of Homeland Security extension to year two ($1025,000) April 2014 to March 2015.


“U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Counter Proliferation Investigations Fusion Center,” contract to ICE to assist the development of ICE’s Counter Proliferations Investigations Fusion Center, Principal Investigator (amount $198,000), 09/30/2010 through 09/30/2011.
Past Publications


“Threats to Peace: Threat Perception and the Persistence or Desistence of Violent Conflict,” with Amy Sliva, Mikhail Malyutov, and Xin Li, Proceedings of the European Intelligence and Security Informatics Conference (EISIC2013), August 2013.


Exploratory Methodology Mapping (EMM) for Illicit Trafficking of Explosives Technologies, Materials and other Weapons, HSARPA Border Enforcement Analytics Program APEX, Department of Homeland Security extension to year two ($1025,000) April 2014 to March 2015.


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"New Approaches to Identifying Secondary Market Sources of Illegal Firearms," National Institute of Justice, Principal Investigator ($205,891), July 2007 through June 2012.
