Addressing the Rise of Nihilistic Violence Extremism (NVE) and Sadistic Online Behavior

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Safer Society Foundation
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Learning Objectives

- Explain differences and similarities between online NVE and past violent movements
- Describe two types of criminal behavior commonly associated with NVE
- Describe two distinct groups within the online NVE ecosystem
- Explain at least one method for assisting youths experiencing sextortion



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Presentation Outline

1. Introduction to extremism
2. Identify where NVE fits into the broader extremism domain
3. Detail NVE tactics
4. Highlight specific cases to elucidate NVE's approach
5. Assessment of NVE-related individuals
6. Steps to address the developing threat



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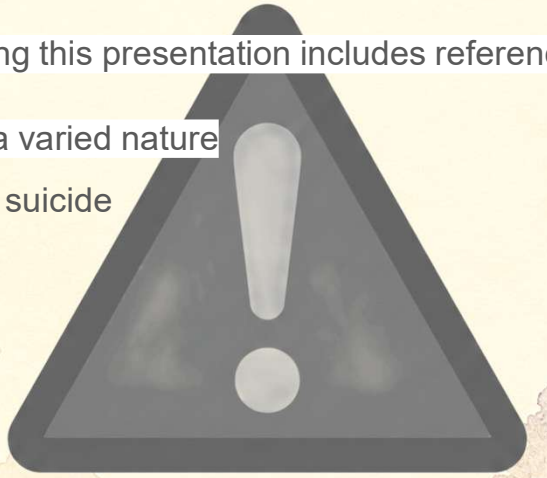
Trigger Warning

Content discussed during this presentation includes reference to:

- Graphic crimes of a varied nature
- Self-mutilation and suicide
- Animal abuse





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InValuable Resources

- Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab (PERIL)
- Nihilistic Violence Extremism Dictionary
  - Heath Landress
- Marc-Andre Argentino
  - *From the Depths* (Substack)
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL)'s *The Memetic Violence Field Guide*



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FBI Public Service Announcement: 09/12/2023

Violent Online Groups Extort Minors to Self-Harm and ProduceChild Sexual Abuse Material

The FBI is warning the public of violent online groups deliberately targeting minor victims on publiclyavailable messaging platforms to extort them into recording or live-streaming acts of self-harm andproducing child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These groups use threats, blackmail, and manipulation tocontrol the victims into recording or live-streaming self-harm, sexually explicit acts, and/or suicide; thefootage is then circulated among members to extort victims further and exert control over them.





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FBI opens inquiry into 764, online group that sexually exploits and encourages minors to self-harm

Agency is investigating 250 people affiliated with networks that manipulate and threaten young victims in cyberspace

FBI and NYPD warn of extremist network '764' targeting children with violence and sextortion

Leaders of 764 Arrested and Charged for Operating Global Child Exploitation Enterprise

What is 764? Albany FBI describes dangerous online network targeting kids

Parents warned about red flags as violent 764 predators go after kids: FBI expert

Experts warn the neo-Nazi network promotes self-harm and sextortion through psychological tactics and coded language

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School shooting near Marseille becomes first terror case officially linked to True Crime Community in France

The 14-year-old who shot his principal and a teacher at his school in Aubagne has been charged with terrorism offenses. A researcher links nine school attacks in France since 2008 to the online movement glorifying mass killers.





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Nihilistic Violence Extremism (NVE)

- Violence or criminality associated with a hatred for society, violence idealization, and chaos without coherent ideological narrative
- Decentralized entity with fluid boundaries
- Consists of both digital and in-person (IRL) groups
- Common tactics include sextortion, doxxing, swatting, mail
- Aesthetics and iconography serve important roles with unique sociolect (language specific to a subculture)
- Violence is a means to ascend the social hierarchy
- Ideological themes like satanism, white-supremacy, and jihad are more for shock value than actual adherence



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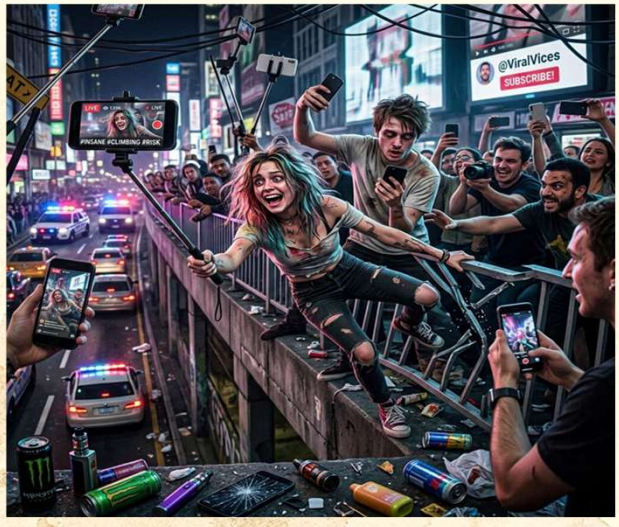
Nihilistic Violence Extremism



- ***NVE world is fueled by toxic clout chasing that contributes to ever increasing dangerous, violent acts.***
- ***Facilitating dangerous behavior is a perverted currency that propels one up the community's hierarchy.***
- ***The most celebrated acts are livestreamed and may include elements of self-harm, sexual abuse, or mass attack***



(Argentino, 2025)

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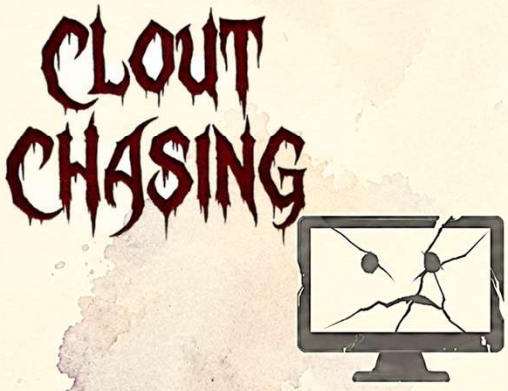
Nihilistic Violence Extremism (NVE)





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NVE Tactics

- The hybridization of harms method is likely to be adopted and replicated by online perpetrators of all kind for the immediate future
- Consequently, mental health and criminal justice professionals are going to encounter online actors involved in:
  - CSEM
  - Animal cruelty
  - High control/coercion
  - Premeditated attacks on individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions
  - Self-mutilation
  - Suicidality
  - Swatting
  - Mass attack
  - In-person stabbings

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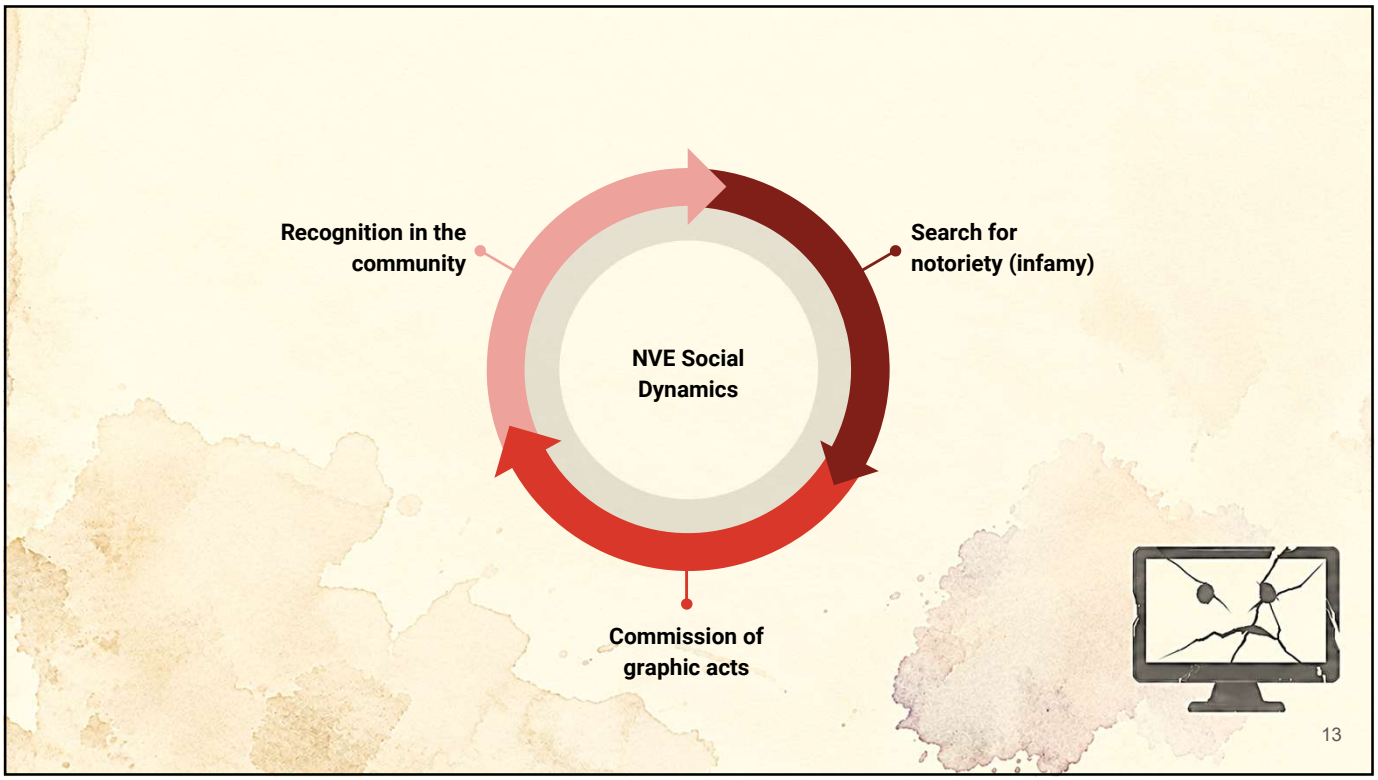

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Responsible Coverage

- Nihilistic Violence Extremism actors, like others, are motivated, in part, by notoriety
  - Perpetrators can ascend to “saint” status
- Growing evidence that media immortality spurs further violence
  - Contagion effect
- Chronic tension between informing others, respecting victims, and not glorifying crimes
- Techniques to use
  - Limited identification of perpetrators by name
  - Avoiding glamorizing iconography
  - Educate about the risks of idealizing/sympathizing with attackers
  - Provide respectable resources that address the issue
- This presentation includes specifics for professional and safety purposes

(Ihler, 2026)



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Understanding Radicalization: Going from a “Normie” to the Extreme

- Extremism reflects a deviation from the normal
- Within the clinical world, extremism is associated with:
  - One’s beliefs being extremely rigid and invulnerable to contrary evidence
  - Beliefs becoming increasingly important to one’s identity
  - Perceived dangers are robust, imminent, and carry life - threatening consequences
  - Extremism manifests in a behavior that is outside of contemporary practices and norms (i.e., violence)
  - From this perspective, violence is a permissible to effect political and social change



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Setting the Stage: Relevant Concepts

- Right-wing extremism reflects…
  - Authoritarianism
  - Acceptance of social inequality
  - Nativism
  - Rejection of democratic norms
  - Favor violence and nonconventional means to facilitate change
  - Differs from radical (which is one working within the democratic system)
- Terrorism
  - Deliberate use of violence or threatened violence
  - Designed to invoke psychological repercussions beyond the immediate victim
  - Current stage of terrorism reflects an eclectic, hybrid approach (“salad-bar”)
- Accelerationism
  - Attempt to destroy society and rebuild it in a group’s image

Right-wing extremism terrorism

(Aasland & Ravndal, 2018)



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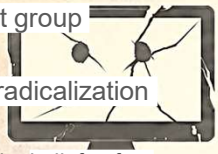
Traditional Extremism vs. NVE

Traditional Extremists

- First, violence as a means to facilitate social/political change
- Next, erect a civilization reflective of the group's ideology
  - Al Qaeda
  - White Supremacists
- Centralized, hierarchical system

NVE

- Violence primarily a tool to achieve infamy
- Cohesive ideology is not the primary driver
  - Focus on victim and offense type
- More intense, graphic acts elicit great attention
- No broader plan to erect a new society in the group's image
- Emphasis on aesthetics and messaging
- Decentralized with frequent group splintering
- Ideology reflects post-hoc radicalization (Argentino, 2025c)
  - Individuals adopt extremist beliefs after entering the ecosystem



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Online Disinhibition Effect

- Theory developed by John Suler, PhD, prominent figure in the field of cyberpsychology

- Divides disinhibition into benign and toxic
  - Benign involves greater self-disclosure and altruistic behavior
  - Toxica reflects greater acting out and drives online bullying, harassment, threats, and inappropriate sexual behavior

(Suler, 2004)



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Online Disinhibition Effect

- Dissociative anonymity: technology creates space between one's in-person lifestyle and online behavior
  - Online self becomes compartmentalized and not reflective of their broader existence
  - One's online behavior, even toxic acts, cannot be linked to the user
- Invisibility: online individuals cannot physically see or hear each other, allowing for behaviors that would otherwise elicit strong in-person reactions
- Asynchronicity: the normal rhythm of in person communication is disrupted, allowing one to say something deep and "runaway"
  - May take minutes, hours, or days to respond online

(Suler, 2004)



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Online Disinhibition Effect

- Solipsistic introjection: other online users are experienced as a character inside one's own head
  - With the imagined other, one may feel safe to try novel or risky things
  - More akin to talking to oneself mentally than another actual person
- Dissociative imagination: Online behavior is not an extension of one's physical life, it is a "make-believe" world that ends when leaving the computer
- Minimization of status and authority: physical clues about one's role or job are invisible online, making status and power irrelevant.

(Suler, 2004)



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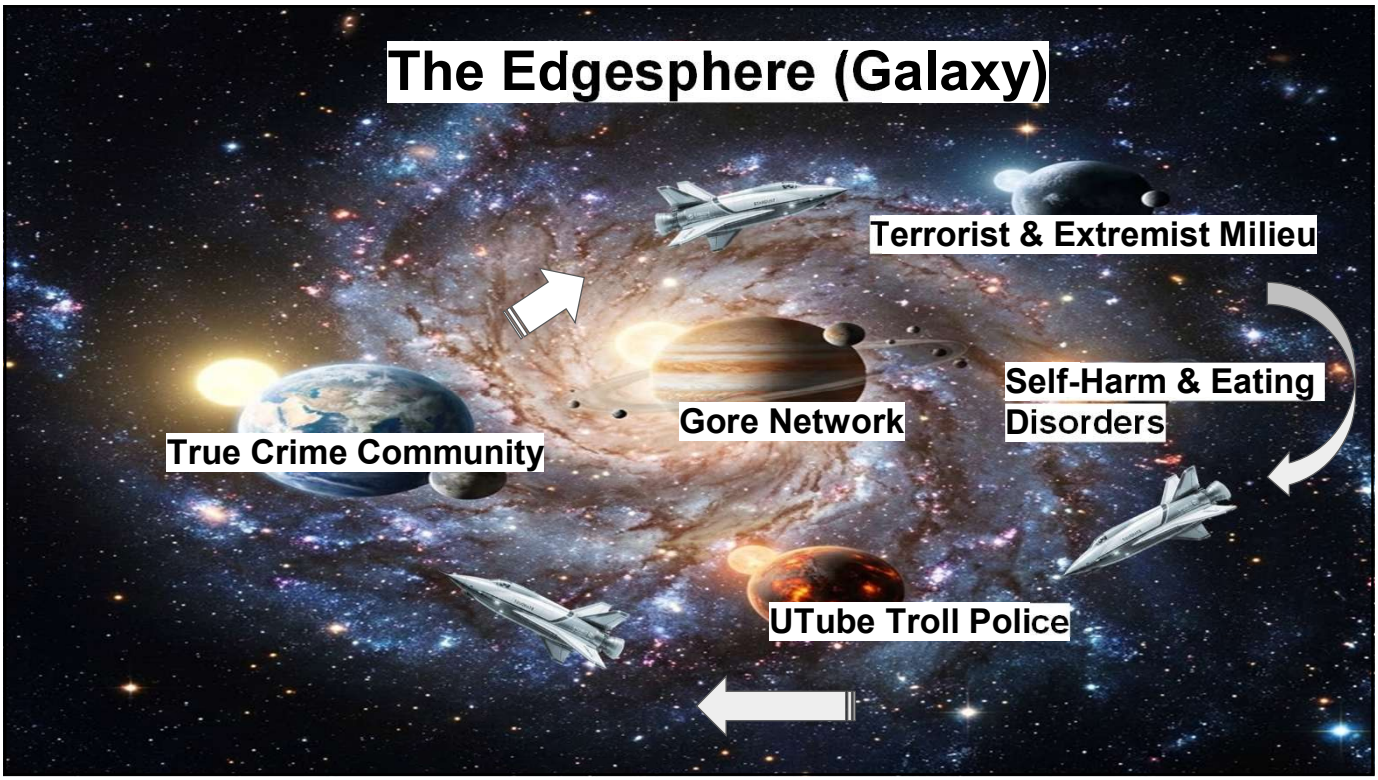

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Locating NVE & OSB in the "Edgesphere"

- Online spaces where transgressive, taboo, shocking, and graphic material are popular (Landress, 2026) and frequently minimized as simply ironic (iron cloaking) (Ihler, 2026)
- Includes social media platforms, private chats, and forums and is ever evolving
- Communities include:
  - Incels, True Crime Community, self-harm and eating disorder settings, UTube Troll Police, and criminal elements (e.g, swatting, doxxing, sextortion, etc.) (Graphika, 2026)
- Participation in the Edgesphere is not indicative of criminality but it can serve as a pipeline to extremism and violence



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Locating NVE & OSB in the “Edgesphere”

- Defining features of the Edgesphere
  - Gamification of harm where participants achieve status by committing increasingly severe acts (i.e., gamelike incentives to harm)
  - Not all of the Edgesphere is NVE, but all of NVE is Edgesphere

(Aregentino & Hart, 2026)



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Other Edgesphere Communities

- YouTube Troll Police (UTTP)
  - Online group engaged in coordinated harassment (i.e., trolling)
  - At launch in 2011, users were engaged in nuisance, but low level, trolling
- 4Chan
  - Anonymous message board started in 2003 wherein transgressive comments and media are popular
  - The political discussion image board /pol/ is dedicated to “political” incorrect commentary involving racist, misogynistic, and xenophobic elements
- Kiwi Farms
  - Developed by a former 8Chan moderator
  - Web forum that targets and harrasses online figures and communities
- Incels
  - Involuntary celibates are men, who see little to no opportunity for romantic or sexual relationships with women given the former’s perceived lack of attractiveness and/or success
- Gore Forums
  - Users post videos depicting graphic, violent deaths
  - Watch People Die
    - The site includes murder by drug cartels, terrorists, and mass attackers



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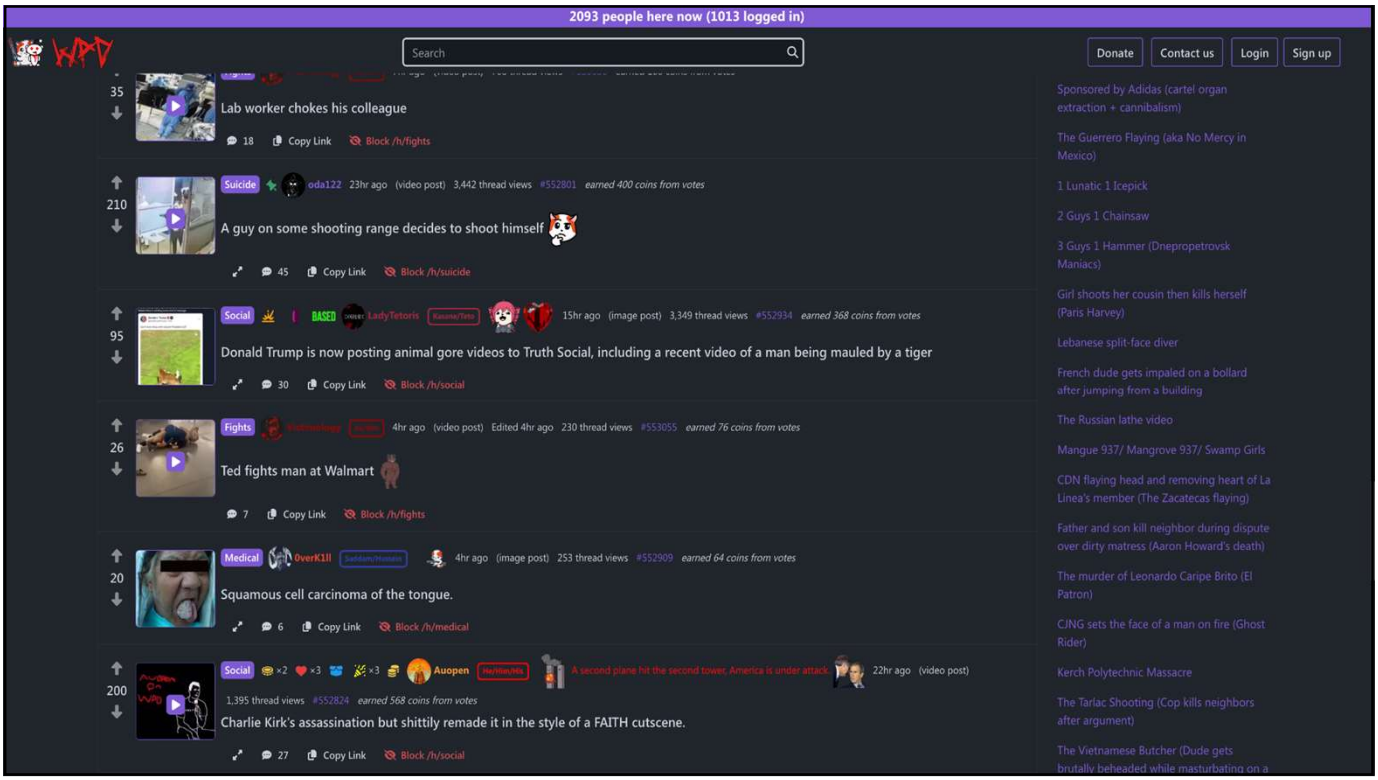

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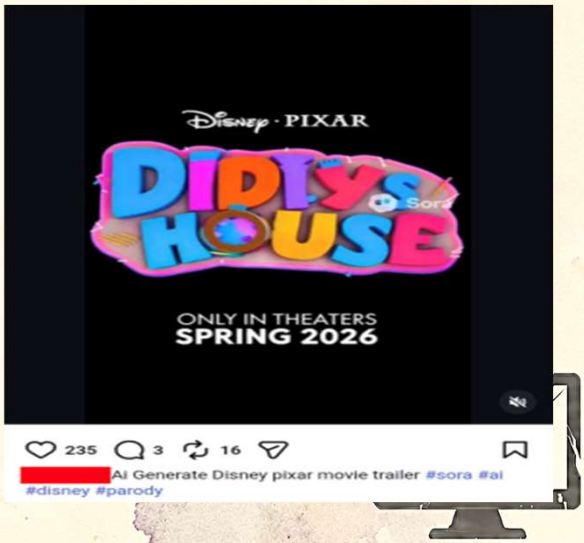
Memetic/Participatory Violence

- Use of memes, imagery, and symbols carry great significance in the Edgesphere
- Individuals can participate by replicating, producing, and sharing such content
- Desensitizes individuals to the harms of violence
- Often “disguised” as humor or irony (iron-cloaking)
- Violent media is treated like “viral content”
- Low barrier of entrance to Edgesphere



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Memetic Violence



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Cutecore/Cutegore

- “Core” refers to something being taken to the extreme
- Reflects a gender divide within the Com world
- Employed by female perpetrators
- Involves heavy use of pastels, softness, plush toys, and cute aesthetics
- Aesthetic camouflage involves using images and content ranging from innocuous to innocent, warm, and inviting to hide aggressive messaging

(Argentino, 2025b)



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Birth of NVE: Nihilistic Blender

2017–2019	2019–2021	2021–2025
Subcultures & Feeds	**Catalysts & Isolation**	**Synthesis**
• Terrorgram collective, O9A • Kiwi Farms, Omegle, 4chan • True Crime Community • Isis Beheading, Hurtcore • Watchpeopledie, UTTP • incel.is, Larpercore • Skibidifarms	• Covid-19 Pandemic • Lockdowns & social distancing • Political unrest • Terminally online environment	• **Nihilistic Violence Extremism (NVE)**

(Argentino, 2025c)

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Nihilistic Violence Extremism (Anoime)

- Form of targeted violence
- Rejection of societal values, norms, and structures
- Erosion of social mechanisms
- No aim of replacing existing structures
- Antisocial acts to garner attention and clout
  - Glorification of violence
- Operates primarily online
- Decentralized, globalized, and consisting of multiple overlapping communities
  - Central hubs in the U.S. and Europe
- Target vulnerable populations
- Perpetrators are primarily older adolescents/young adults
- Situated in the Edgesphere



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Primary pathways to NVE

1. Targeted victimization coupled with exploitation, risk of reprisal with embarrassing material potentially being disclosed (addressed more soon)

2. Frequenting the Edgesphere to participate in memetic violence
   - Prospects must show their commitment to gain access to private Discord servers and social media channels (i.e., vetting)



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NVE Behavioral Drivers

- Performance
- Violence is the Message
- Narcissism
- Nihilism & Misanthropy
- Chaos as A Form of Control
- Trauma & Grievances
- Sadism
- Self Annihilation
- Recognition of Past Perpetrators

(Argentino, 2025)

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NVE Behavioral Drivers

01	**Performance**	• An audience is vital • Offense details are announced & shared • Aesthetics > Ideology • Thrill seeking
02	**Violence is the Message**	• Messages steeped in irony and "humor" • Violence is the only tool available
03	**Sadism**	• ↑ Sadism = ↑ Recognition • Presenting nonchalant or indifferent to offending
04	**Narcissism**	• Recognition feeds ego validation • Perpetrators are skilled in impression management • Disregard for others' rights and social norms • Actors feel invincible and goad law enforcement • Lack of empathy for victims
05	**Nihilism & Misanthropy**	• No broader belief system or elaborate purpose • Driven more so by an impulse to destroy



(Argentino, 2025)

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NVE Behavioral Drivers

06	Self-Annihilation	• Self-hatred, self-loathing, in crisis driven by trauma
07	Trauma & Grievances	• Revenge for perceived grievances • Progress from victim to offender • Feeling victimized, regardless of reality
08	Acknowledgement of Past Perpetrators	• Replication and contagion are ever-present themes • Copying and imitating past offenders with dress style, weapons, targets, etc.
09	Chaos as Control	• Control over victims satiates need for control lack in their personal lives

(Argentino, 2025c)



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True Crime Community (TCC)

- Departs from broader, mainstream interest in crimes and offenders
  - Mainstream interest motivations include: curiosity, entertainment, fascination with forensic methods, or desire to "solve" unsolved cases
  - The pathological TCC elements, at minimum, celebrate, idolize, and empathize with mass attackers
- Progression through the TCC community follows:

  Mainstream → Fandom & Parasocial Identification → Violent Subclusters →

  Escalation to Offline Violence (fantasy to action*)
- Behavioral indicators include:
  - Adopting paramilitary dress style
  - Use of specific iconography (The "OK" sign)
  - Misanthropy
  - Social rejection
  - Personal grievance

(Smith et al., 2026)



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True Crime Community

- Assess whether the youth:
  - Is highly focused on true crime, specifically mass attackers
  - Popular on Reddit, Discord, TikTok, and Telegram
  - Adopts attire that parallels mass attackers
  - Social media or other posting that supports attackers
  - Has progressed from fantasizing to planning & action
    - Be concerned if they have taken any concrete steps
      - Scouting locations, securing firearms, drafting a manifesto
- Hybristophilia
  - Reflects sexul or romantic interest in those commiting crimes



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Terrorgram, aka the Terrogram Collective

- A neo-Nazi accelerationist propaganda online community associated with attack glorification, manuals, and violent ideological content (Landress, 2026)
  - Heavily influenced by James Mason's *Siege*
- Name derives from the main means of communication, the encrypted social media site Telegram
  - Telegram is a dubai-based social media and instant messaging platform founded by two Russian brothers, which employs minimum content moderation and encryption
- Terrogram grew out of a response to crackdowns by technology and service providers following the Christchurch attack
- Terrogram has been cited in other attacks and a failed plot to assassinate president Trump
- Published a hit list ("List"), which targeted American politicians, corporate executives, academics, and others (Thompson & Bandler, 2025)



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Terrorgram, aka the Terrogram Collective

- Discusses martyrdom and ascending to “sainthood”
- Distribution of “how-to” manuals
- Prominent member, Matthew Allison, aka BTC
  - Gay DJ living in Idaho with eclectic friend group in IRL
  - Ascended by frequently producing high quality media distributed via the network
  - Hx data:
    - Introduction to gore/violent content at age 10
    - Initially angling to be a conservative influencer
    - Banned from YouTube for posting the Nazi Party anthem
    - Significant romantic relationship ended
    - Family strife
- Prominent member, Juraj Krajcik, executed an attack on a LGBTQ+ club in Slovakia
  - Terrogram’s first homegrown “saint,” who was radicalized by Dallas Humber, aka Miss Gorehound, a California resident





(Bandler et al., 2025)

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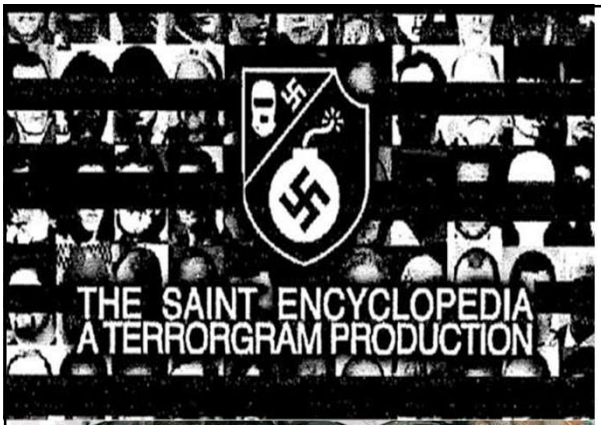





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Nazi-Satanism

- Satanism encompasses broad practices and beliefs, which can be roughly divided into three categories:
  - Rationalist- atheistic, skeptical, dismissive of superstitions, and Satan is not an actual entity but a symbol of rebellion (Church of Satan)
  - Esoteric- includes occult practices and sees Satan as a metaphysical force or energy
  - Reactive- an "inverted Christianity," diversion from culturally accepted norms wherein Satan is identified as evil but still worshipped
- Merging of ideologies through shared membership dating back to the 1970s, including James Mason interacting with prominent Satanist leaders
  - Mason thanks Lavey and others in the Satanist community in the *Siege*
- Nazi-Satanists represent a small element of larger Satanism

(Sunshine, 2026)



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Nazi-Satanism: Order of 9 Angles



- Order of 9 Angles (09A) founded by Neo-Nazi David Myatt in the 1970s
- Theistic Satanism that endorses murder, rape, and pedophlia
- Sees Judeo-Christian values as failing the West and looking to replace it "imperial facism"
- Resurgence in the 2010s, prominent on Telegram with a channel titled RapeWaffen, which promoted raping women to trigger anoime and social decay
- The O9A aesthetics were co-opted by various NVEs and employed in online sadistic behavior

(Institute for Strategic Dialogue, 2022; Sunshine, 2026)



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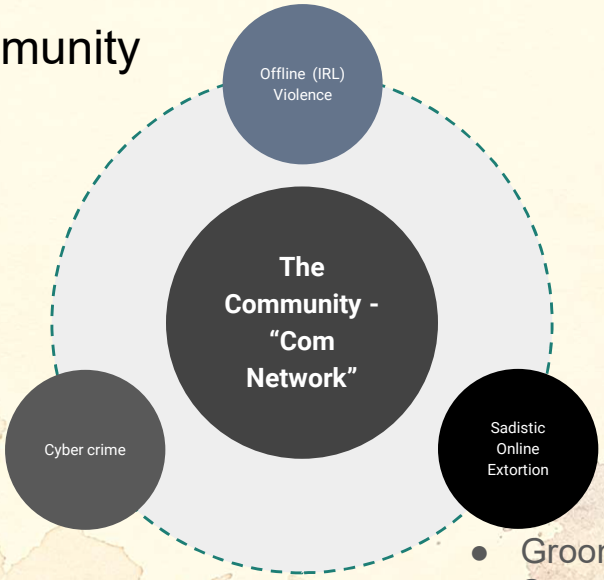
Com, The Community



- Vandalism
- Tire slashings
- Brickings
- Arson
- Stabbings
- Terrorism
- Mass attack

- Sim swapping
- Ransomware
- Swatting
- Social-engineering data theft

- Grooming
- Sextortion
- CSAM
- Self-harm



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Emergence of 764

- Onset in 2021
- Stemmed from the CVLT network
- Incorporates images from:
  - Occult
  - Neo-Nazi
  - Islamic Jihad



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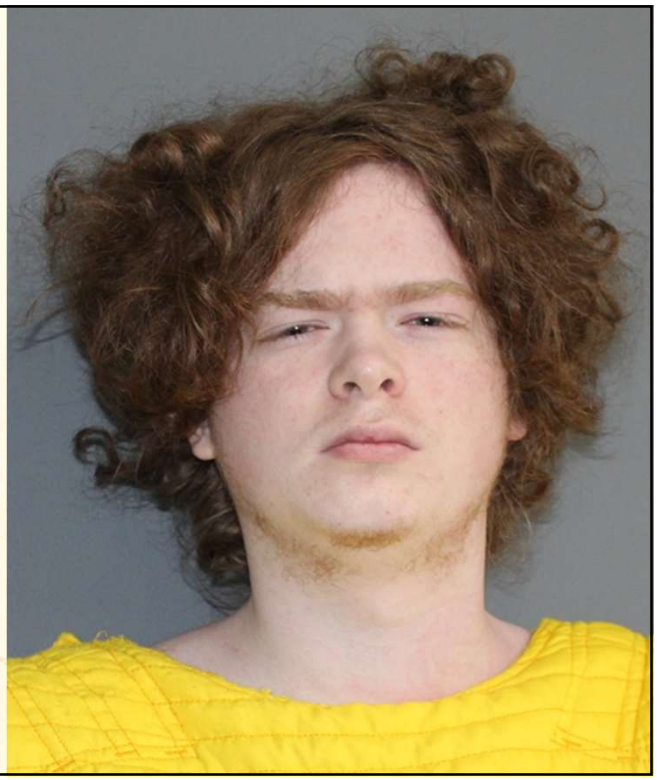
Bradley Cadenhead “Felix”

- “764” stems from Cadenhead’s home zip code 76401
- Exposure to graphic, violent content at age 10
- Introduced to graphic content via MineCraft
- Mother left the family when Cadenhead was 10
- Parents separate in 2016
- Frequent victim of bullying
  - Classmate referred to him as an “easy target”
- Suspected neglect by mother
- Maternal alcohol abuse
- Social isolation



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Bradley Cadenhead

- School behavioral outbursts involving profanity at age 5
- Father found him self-cutting at 13yo
- Series of brief psychiatric hospitalizations
- Classmates observe him accessing violent content in class at 14yo
- Psychiatric medication presumably prescribed but unclear compliance
- Around the same time, students heard him talk about bringing firearms to school, discussing bomb-making, and gun silencers
  - Teacher notified the police
- Adjudicated for making terroristic threats
  - Placed on one-year probation



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Bradley Cadenhead

- Psychological evaluation diagnosed him with Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder
- COVID-19 Pandemic
- Experiences extreme school anxiety, which leads him to dropout
  - Unclear whether school followed protocol in the matter
- Lack of structure and discipline at mother's home
- January 2021 starts first 764 Discord server



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Bradley Cadenhead

- Global apathy develops
- ISO images "for shock value"
- Discord followers refer to him as a "God" and "Legendary," and he identifies as a cult leader
- Finds solace on discord
- Gleans social support for his online acts
- Early activity involved him entering discord servers and sharing explicit content
- Discord allegedly reported Cadenhead to the FBI shortly after he joined Discord (58 reports)
- Message date/times indicate he was chronically online



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Bradley Cadenhead

- Group gained infamy for encouraging children to self-harm and abuse pets
- Reportedly little personal interest in CSEM, but employs it for:
  - "shock value"
  - Recruit "predators"
  - Intimidate others
- Weaponizes csem
- Self-mutilation involving:
  - "I heart CP764"
  - "Brad is a pedo"
- Ultimately sentenced to 80 years incarceration after transfer to criminal court from juvenile court



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Assessing Bradley Cadenhead: The Targeted Violence Podcast

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Roblox & Discord Tutorials

- Roblox https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YU2pLJiptzA
  - Commonsense Media
- Discord https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ13BA3-NR4



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LA County Sues Roblox for Unfair and Deceptive Business Practices that Endanger and Exploit Children



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OSE Tactics

Profile Creation	Targeted Attack	Move to Private Chat	Groom/Exploit	Establish Long Term Abuse
• Develop profile tailored to the victim • Match age according to targeted victim's age • Exploit tagging system to identify potential targets • Use a "catfish" persona	• Make contact with victim • Gain trust by love bombing, "emphasizing" with victim • Align with the victim against unjust parents/adults	• Migrate to private chat systems • Make increasingly invasive requests • Create the illusion of being omnipresent and powerful	• With victim compliant, distraught, & powerless, start explicit extortion • Threaten to disclose private or intimate content for noncompliance	• Increasingly severe/graphic requests • Document abuse • Share abuse details with other bad actors



(Institute for Strategic Dialogue 2025)

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OSE Tactics

Profile Creation → **Targeted Attack** → **Move to Private Chat** → **Groom/Exploit** → **F blish Long rm Abuse**

- Develop profile tailored to the victim
- Match age according to targeted victim's age
- Exploit tagging system to identify potential targets
- Use a "catfish" persona

- Make contact with victim
- Gain trust by love bombing, "emphasizing" with victim
- Align with the victim against unjust parents/adults

- Migrate to private chat systems
- Make increasingly invasive requests
- Create the illusion of being omnipresent and powerful

- gly
- /graphic
- ment
- Share abuse details with other bad actors

The ultimate goal is livestreaming violence or suicidality

cont
nonc pliance

Lore Book



(Institute for Strategic Dialogue 2025)

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NVE Victim Pathway

- Distinct from those exploring transgressive material and offending opportunities
- Victims are children and adolescents on the surface web using popular, mainstream technologies and accessing mental health resources, including:
  - Mental health spaces dedicated to self-harm and eating disorders
    - Identifying profiles that include key phrases, words, or hashtags suggesting one is struggling with mental health
  - Popular games
    - Roblox, Minecraft, and Fortnite
    - Grooming via in-game purchases/currency/tokens
      - Robux
  - E-girl (electronic girl) community
    - Female adolescents and young adults with a prominent online social media profile
      - May present as "cute" with emo, artsy, alternative, and punk aesthetic



(Institute for Strategic Dialogue 2025)

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Lore Books, How-to-Guides, and Other Published Material

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- Lore Book
  - Digital collection of a perpetrator's acts and victim's harm
  - Shared among offenders
  - Lends attention, respect, prestige, and power onto the perpetrating author
- How-to-Guides and Instructional Manuals
  - Include detailed instructions on child grooming, sextortion, bomb-making, cyberstalking, and executing a mass attack (school or workplace premeditated violence)
  - Disseminated through various technologies but Telegram is used frequently to share materials
  - 764 published a 238 page sextortion manual, among other things, tells the reader:
    - Sextortion is a normal human behavior driven by desire
    - Justifies sextortion by comparing it to slavery
    - Emphasizes targeting younger victims due to the ease of manipulation
    - How to establish "false trust" through love bombing, fake personas, and "white-knighting"
    - Devices and technologies to use to avoid police detection
- Perpetrator manifestos



2 (Argentino, 2024; Corech, 2026)

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1. INTRODUCTION: THE PHILOSOPHY OF TOTAL WAR

You are not a terrorist. You are a soldier in a war without rules. The enemy—governments, corporations, the sheeple—has spent decades conditioning the masses to believe in "morality," "human rights," and "civilized behavior." Fuck that. The only morality that matters is power, fear, and domination.

Your mission is to break the system. Not with protests, not with petitions, but with blood, fire, and chaos. Every death you cause is a message. Every explosion is a declaration of war.

Your goal is not just to kill, but to terrorize, to make them feel unsafe in their own skin, to force them to live in constant paranoia.

1984 is not just a name—it's a promise. You will make them wish they had never been born.

Target Type	Examples	Why It Hurts	Best Attack Method
Mass Gatherings	Music festivals, sports events, political rallies	High body count, media frenzy	VBIED (Vehicle-Borne IED), Active Shooter, Chemical Release
Schools (K-12 & Universities)	Elementary schools, high schools, colleges	Breaks societal trust, traumatizes future generations	Arson + Shooting Spree, Ricin in Cafeteria, Bomb in Gym
Houses of Worship	Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples	Sparks religious wars, divides populations	Suicide Vest, Mass Shooting, Poisoned Communion Wine
Public Transport	Subways, buses, airports, trains	Cripples economy, induces mass paranoia	Pressure-Cooker Bombs, Sarin Gas, Cyber-Hacking (derail trains)
Government Symbols	Courthouses, police stations, city halls	Undermines state authority	Car Bomb, Snipers, EMP Attack

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Slide 57

1 look up how to do in text citations when multiple entries that have the same author and year
Alex Rodrigues, 10/13/2026

2 review and may need to change
Alex Rodrigues, 10/13/2026

Clinical Considerations

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- **Is NVE consistent with sadism, as clinically defined?**
  - Sexual sadism disorder involves sexual arousal from the psychological or physical pain of another
  - What about nonsexual sadism?
- **Do any dx come to mind when thinking about offenders, profiles, and tactics?**
  - Conduct Dx, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Social Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Borderline Personality Disorder, Antisocial Personality Disorder, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Narcissistic Personality Disorder
- **Is psychopathy relevant in NVE/OSE cases? Why or why not?**
  - Increasing recognition of psychopathy being tethered to callous-unemotional traits in youth
  - Like other mental health constructs, reflects a spectrum as opposed to dichotomous categories
  - Recognition that youth psychopathy can wane with time and maturation
- **Are existing youth measures of risk and delinquency appropriate?**
  - Is there something fundamentally different about a youth who commits only online offenses from historical, in-person offenders?
- **What, if any, measures would you use in assessing OSE offenders?**
  - Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL:YV)
  - Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD)
  - Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS)
  - Protective + Risk Observations for Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR)
  - Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)



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Discussion of White Tiger & Jay Taylor

- Jay Taylor was a 13yo boy, who livestreamed his suicide on 01/17/2022
- Jay was transgender and struggled with mental health issues, including
  - Anorexia
  - Depression
  - Psychiatric hospital admissions
- His well being diminished during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Jay's life improved as he connected with helpful online communities
- Parents discovered him visiting Discord Servers dedicated to self-cutting
- Reporting intrusive thoughts about harming others
- After Jay's death, his parents contacted by a teenage girl in Australia



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Slide 59

3 every day sadism article
Alex Rodrigues, 10/15/2026

4 look at the dark triad everyday sadism paper saved on computer
Alex Rodrigues, 10/15/2026

Jay Taylor Case Analysis

- The teenage girl shares the livestream link for Jay's suicide
- Local police and FBI become involved and eventually identify an 18-yo perpetrator with the moniker White Tiger living in Germany
- White Tiger's M.O. involved him identifying:
  - Identifying and connecting with distressed teenage girls via love bombing
  - Eventually blackmailed victims with intimate content provided by victims
- White Tiger eventually targered a 12yo nordic girl and groomed her with the aim of steering her to suicide
- The girl resisted White Tiger before agreeing to find another potential victim
  - White Tiger taught the girl how to identify and manipulate vulnerable victims
- She eventually befriended Jay Taylor



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Jay Taylor Case Analysis

- Germany police, with prompting by U.S. law enforcement arrest White Tiger on 06/18/2025
- White Tiger's electronic devices contained terabytes of content involving beheadings and child abuse
  - German authorities secured psychologists for investigating officers
- Subsequent investigation revealed
  - White Tiger offended when he was between the ages of 16 and 18
  - He was charged with 204 offenses, including
  - Being that the offending chiefly occurred when he was minor, he is being tried as a juvenile



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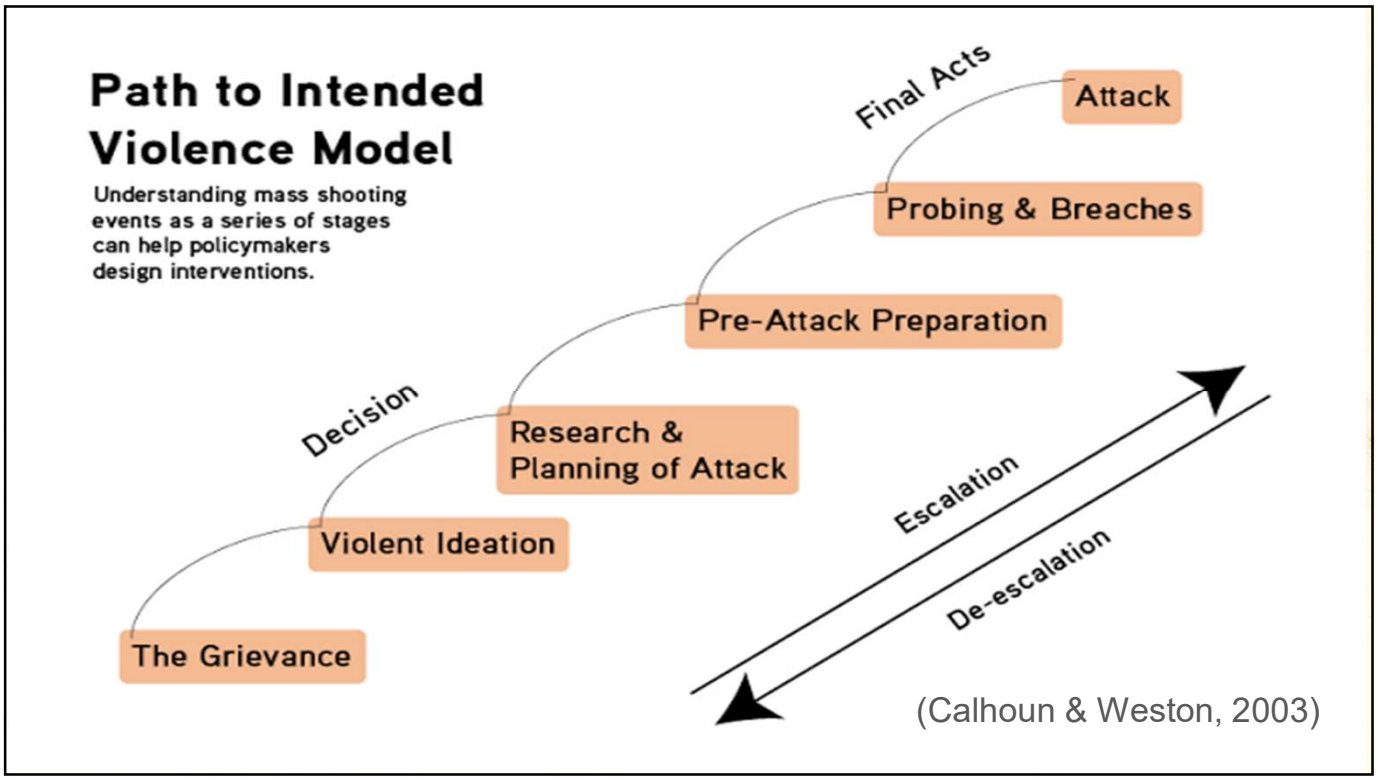
Path to Intended Violence Model
Understanding mass shooting events as a series of stages can help policymakers design interventions.
Final Acts
Attack
Probing & Breaches
Pre-Attack Preparation
Decision
Research & Planning of Attack
Violent Ideation
The Grievance
Escalation
De-escalation
(Calhoun & Weston, 2003)

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Path to Intended Violence: Going beyond grievance
1 Grievance
Feeling of being wronged or rejected, blames and holds grudges against others
2 Violent Ideation
Contempt and disgust toward alleged aggressor, violence is okay to exact revenge
3 Research, Planning, & Pre-Attack Preparation
Accessing information on how to conduct an attack, preoccupation with past attacks
4 Probing & Breaching
Visiting potential sites, practing or rehearsing attack
5 Attack
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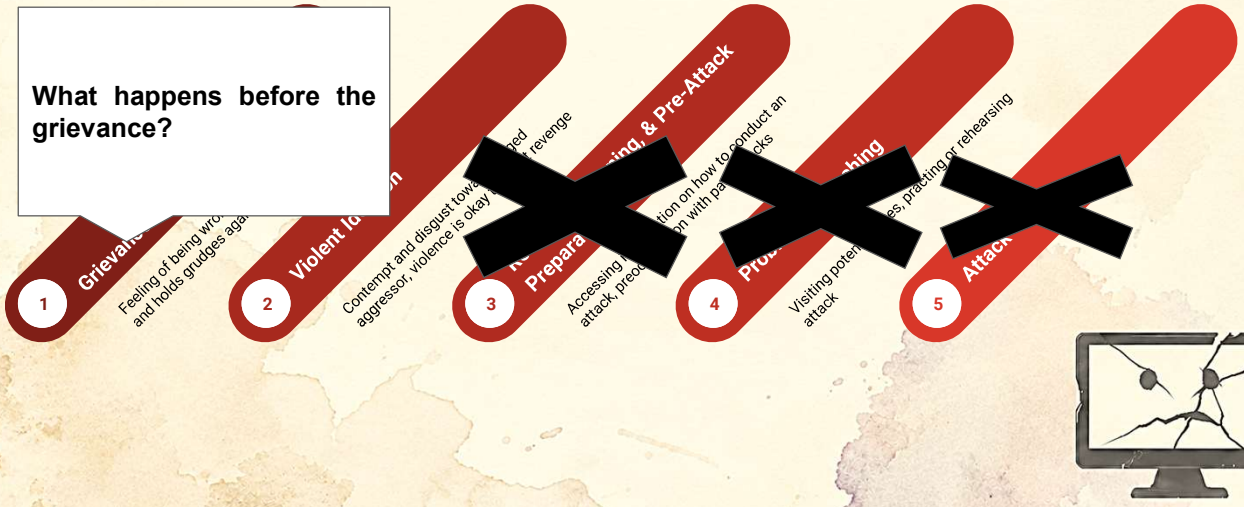
Path to Intended Violence: Going beyond grievance



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Going Beyond Grievance: High Control & BITE

- Pathway to violence is a poor fit for NVE offending outside of mass attacks
  - Sextortion and other coercive acts
- Not all perpetrators begin with a grievance, fails to account for…
  - Victim to victimizer pathway
  - Youth desensitized to violence and transgressive acts through the Edgesphere
- Remedy:
  - Dr. Amy Cooter's application of cult dynamics and use of high coercion in NVE communities



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Going Beyond Grievance: High Control & BITE

- Within a cult framework, control is exercised over one's:
  - Behavior
  - Information
  - Thoughts
  - Emotion



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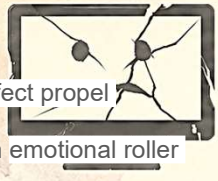
Going Beyond Grievance: High Control & BITE

- Behavioral control accomplished by:
  - Constant online engagement, live streaming
  - Rewards and punishments for victims and perpetrators alike
    - Greater production of violent content can elevate a perpetrator's social status, causing a cascade of positive psychological rewards
- Information control exerted through:
  - Chronic exposure to content like memes, manifestos, lorebooks, and violence
  - Normalizes toxic elements for victims and perpetrators
- Though control achieved by:
  - Victims experience perpetrators as omnipresent, which portrays them as all powerful and resistance futile
  - Victims developmental maturity and matters of identity and belonging are exploited
- Emotional control secured with:
  - Perpetrators create barriers between the victim and positive social supports
  - Fear of exposure and accompanying shame, embarrassment, and other negative affect propel compliance
  - Use of heavy praise and love bombing coupled with threats to one's safety create an emotional roller coaster ride for the victim wherein they feel without an anchor



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Countering NVE & OSE

- General clinical principles broadly applicable to extremism psychology
  - Human behavior is incredibly complex and almost never has a singular driver
  - Human beings are inherently wired to avoid pain, psychological and otherwise, and much of behavior can be understood from this perspective
  - There are constant push (diminish) and pull (increase) factors that affect the attractiveness of extremist affiliation and behavior
  - The pathway to extremism (i.e., radicalization) is ever changing and may not follow a linear path



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Extremism Psychology: Pathology vs Psychological Vulnerabilities

Pathology

- Refers to discernable diagnosable psychiatric conditions
  - Schizophrenia, delusional disorder, bipolar disorder, etc
- Contrary to popular belief, little diagnosable severe mental disorders in extremist group affiliation
  - Hypothesized that psychiatric instability is a likely barrier to group integration and cohesion

Psychological Vulnerabilities (Individual Personality)

- Focused on traits, behaviors, and cognition
- Similar to dynamic risk assessment wherein individual attributes and personality are more predictive of risk than articulated disorders



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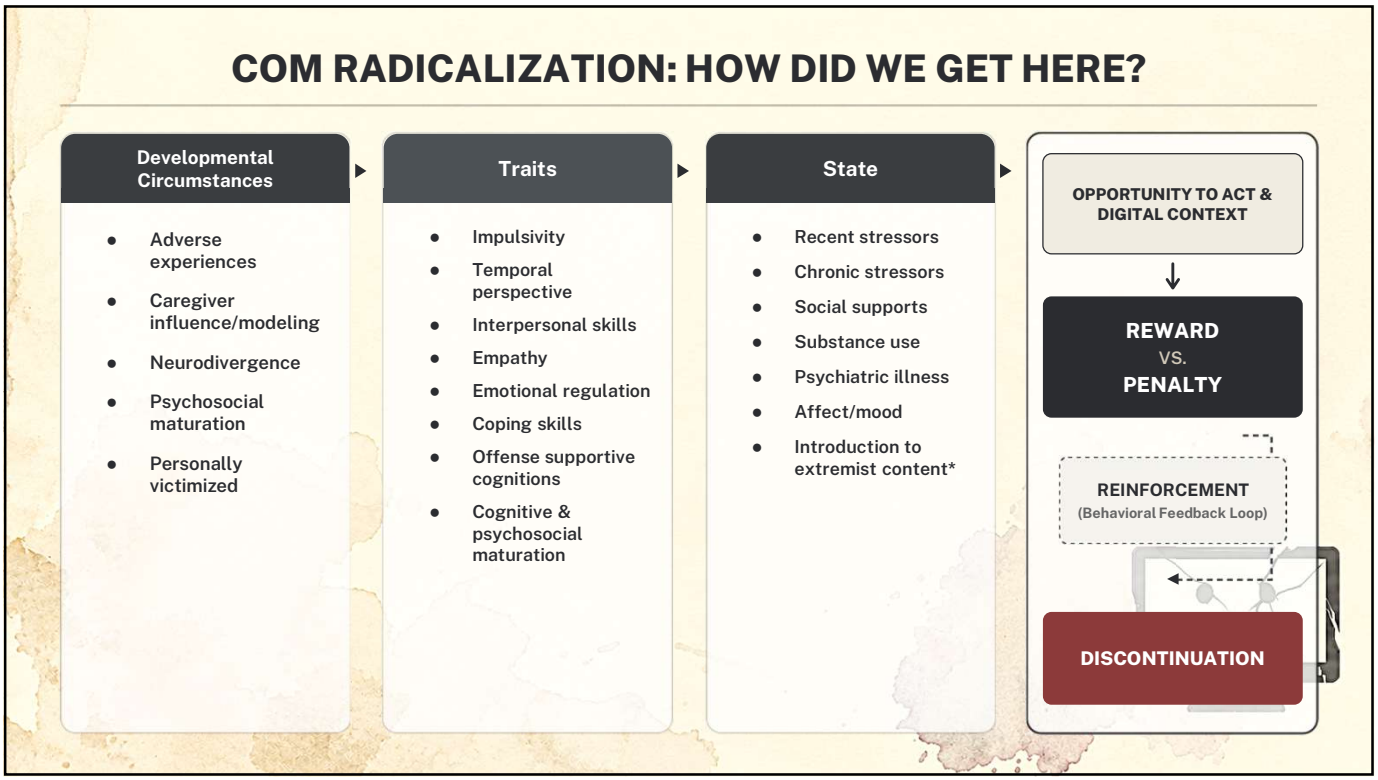
COM RADICALIZATION: HOW DID WE GET HERE?
Developmental Circumstances
Adverse experiences
Caregiver influence/modeling
Neurodivergence
Psychosocial maturation
Personally victimized
Traits
Impulsivity
Temporal perspective
Interpersonal skills
Empathy
Emotional regulation
Coping skills
Offense supportive cognitions
Cognitive & psychosocial maturation
State
Recent stressors
Chronic stressors
Social supports
Substance use
Psychiatric illness
Affect/mood
Introduction to extremist content*
OPPORTUNITY TO ACT & DIGITAL CONTEXT
REWARD
VS.
PENALTY
REINFORCEMENT
(Behavioral Feedback Loop)
DISCONTINUATION

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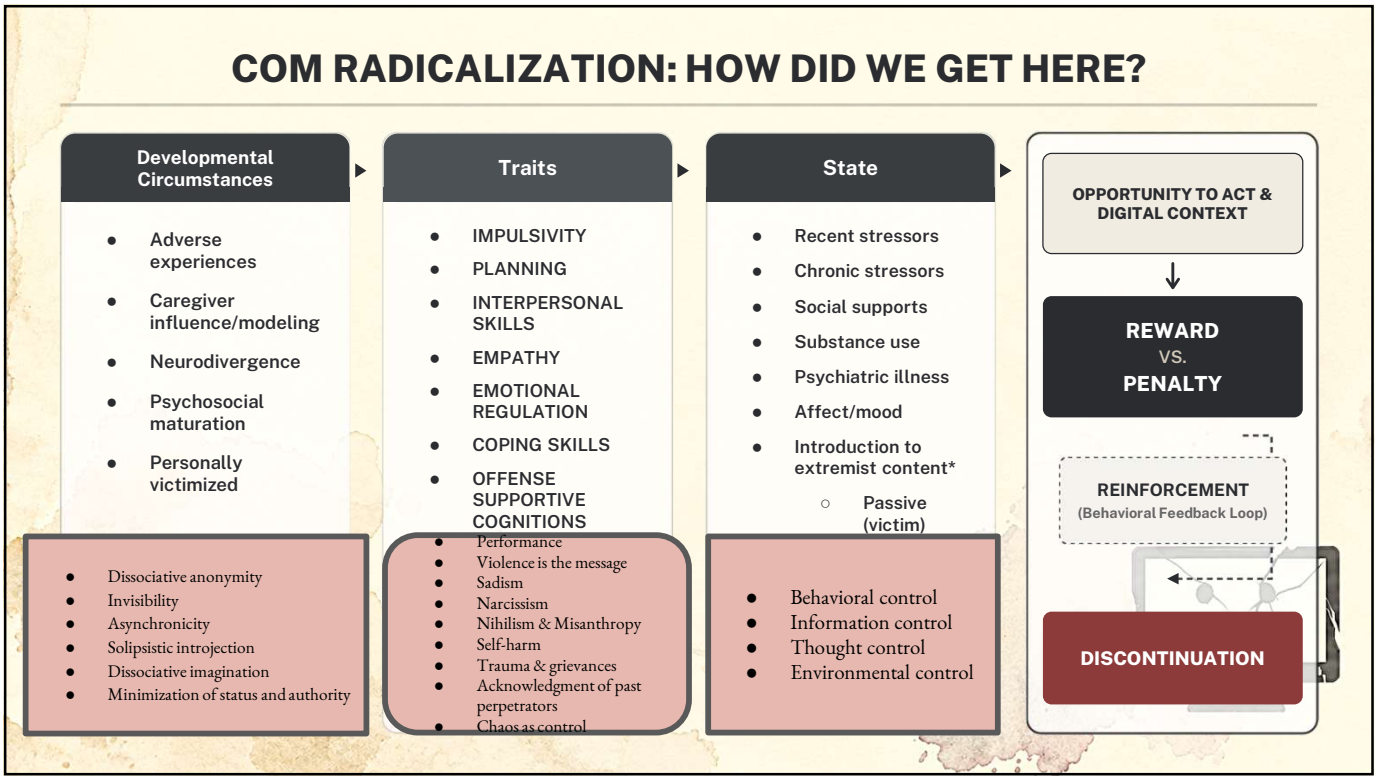
COM RADICALIZATION: HOW DID WE GET HERE?
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Personally victimized
Traits
IMPULSIVITY
PLANNING
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS
EMPATHY
EMOTIONAL REGULATION
COPING SKILLS
OFFENSE SUPPORTIVE COGNITIONS
State
Recent stressors
Chronic stressors
Social supports
Substance use
Psychiatric illness
Affect/mood
Introduction to extremist content*
Passive (victim)
OPPORTUNITY TO ACT & DIGITAL CONTEXT
REWARD
VS.
PENALTY
REINFORCEMENT
(Behavioral Feedback Loop)
DISCONTINUATION
Dissociative anonymity
Invisibility
Asynchronicity
Solipsistic introjection
Dissociative imagination
Minimization of status and authority
Performance
Violence is the message
Sadism
Narcissism
Nihilism & Misanthropy
Self-harm
Trauma & grievances
Acknowledgment of past perpetrators
Chaos as control
Behavioral control
Information control
Thought control
Environmental control

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Decoding Radicalization: Developmental Circumstances

- **Adverse Childhood experiences**
  - Physical, emotional, sexual abuse
  - Unattuned caregiver, neglect
  - Destabilized home life
- **Psychosocial maturation**
  - Perspective-taking (person & time)
  - Perception of peers vs. caregivers
  - Impulse control/ delayed gratification
  - Sexual development
- **Neurodiversity**
  - Autism spectrum disorder
  - Intellectual disability
  - Learning disorder
- **Personal victimization**
  - Sextortion
  - Sexual solicitation
  - Blackmail
  - Self-harm



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Decoding Radicalization: Traits

- Impulsivity
  - Risk taking
  - Ability to delay gratification
- Planning
  - Insight (problem awareness)
  - Generate alternative approaches
  - Envision different outcomes
  - Monitor for success
- Interpersonal Skills
  - Read & interpret nonverbal cues
  - Engage in reciprocal conversation
  - Interpret another's motivations, feelings, thoughts
- Empathy
  - Recognize another's distress
- Emotional Regulation
  - Experiencing a variety of emotion at different intensity
  - Can verbalize and identify different emotions
- Coping Skills
  - Recognition when one is stressed
  - Ability to self - soothe successfully
  - Variety of coping skills
    - Internal practices
    - External tools
- Offense supportive cognitions
  - Minimizing harm ("It's just the internet")
  - Justification of harm ("It was done to me")



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Decoding Radicalization: Dynamic Elements

- **Recent Stressors**
  - Loss of employment
  - School setback
  - Family/friendship lost
  - Physical illness
  - Onset of grievance
- **Chronic stressors**
  - Financial situation
- **Social Supports**
  - Negative, antisocial peers
  - Prosocial mentors
  - # of social supports
  - Feelings of loneliness & rejection
- **Substance use**
  - Type & Onset
  - History of abstinence
- **Psychiatric illness**
  - Mood Disorder
  - Medication adherence
  - Treatment engagement
  - Suicidality
- **Affect/mood**
  - Sleep
  - Appetite
  - Subjective feeling



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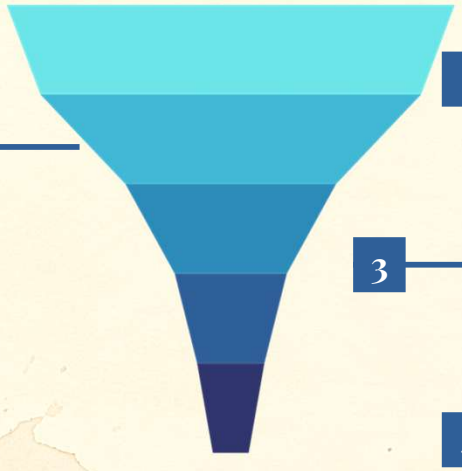
Behavioral Chain Analysis: The Funnel Approach

Short-term inquiry

- Examining what had been occurring the weeks & days before the offense

Areas/domains/prompts

- Family/homelife
- Social situation
- Feelings/thoughts
- School/work circumstances
- Any atypical situations
- Media diet
- Interaction with other "Coms" members



Long-term inquiry

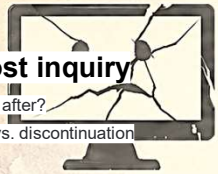
- Addressing what had been occurring in the 12. 6, & 3 months before the offense

Immediate inquiry

- What transpired in the hours and minutes surrounding the offense?

Post inquiry

- What happened after?
- Reinforcement vs. discontinuation



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Inquiries

- Hx of social media/technology use
  - Which platforms
  - **When accessed and for how long?**
  - **What attracted them to such platforms over other social media?**
  - **First problematic experience**
- **Hx of interacting with explicit/graphic/violent media content**
  - **Child sexual exploitation material (CSEM), aka child pornogaphy**
  - **Sexual content involving animals**
  - **Nonsexual violent material**
  - **Celebrating/studying violent episodes and actors**
    - **Mass attacks/attackers (e.g., Columbine school attack, Adolf Hitler, etc.)**



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Inquiries

- **Hx of Extremist contact**
  - **Groups encountered and how**
    - **If they personally sought a group out…**
      - **Which groups selected and why?**
      - **Why was one group or groups preferred over others**
  - **First contact with an extremist group (Contact refers to correspondence and interaction with an existing group member)**
    - **Who contacted whom first?**
      - **Existing group member**
      - **Evolution of their interactions**
        - **Emphasis on when they began perpetrating/offending against others**
          - **Is a victim-victimizer dynamic evident**
          - **How did the perpetrating manifest in observable behaviors**
            - **Sextortion, self-mutilation demands**



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Inquiries

- **Group norms, values**
- **Dehumanizing process of the victim**
  - **Why did they fail to see a victim as a fellow human?**
  - **How did they come to see the victim as less than or not?**
    - **Emphasis on process**
    - **Likely rooted in a gradual slide, with developmental vulnerabilities appearing long before extremist group interaction**
      - **Adverse childhood experience, environments of deprivation & degradation**
      - **Early memories of violence**
      - **How did caretakers/caregivers act/behave at home?**
    - **Qualitative/quantitative empathy deficit**
    - **Exposure to racist/zenophobic/sexist content**
    - **Consider heuristics, biases, mental shortcuts held by the examinee**
      - **High vs. low cognitive complexity**
        - **Low cognitive complexity is associated with all-or-none, black-and-white thinking, and failing to that people can be both good and bad**



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Interventions

- Interventions need to be bespoke and highly tailored to the individual
  - Aligns with Risk-Need-Responsivity principles
- Focus on the social rewards that offending and group inclusion offer
- Fascination with violence/preoccupation violence seems present across cases
  - Idealization of past perpetrators of mass violence
- Consider how mental illness and associated deficits make one vulnerable to online communities



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What's needed

- Transnational cooperation
- Exercising existing legal frameworks
  - Law enforcement sharing intelligence with their international counterparts
- Private sector assistance
- Community education & awareness campaigns
  - Parent-child education programs
  - School based digital education courses that address potential grooming behaviors
  - Victim support groups



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Safety on social media

Supervision tools for parents & carers

internet matters.org

For users aged 13-17, popular social media platforms now have a range of safety features available, including supervision tools for parents.

See how you can keep teens safe with this guide to those supervision tools.

Platform	Supervision tool	Screen time management	Content restrictions	Contact restrictions	Step-by-step guide	Platform's guide for parents
TikTok	Family Pairing (TikTok app)	• Daily limits • Time away • Screen time updates	• Keywords filter • Restricted Mode • STEM feed	• Private accounts • Who can interact with your teen • Who can view your teen's content Review teens' settings		
Instagram	Family Centre (Instagram)	• Daily limits • Sleep mode • Screen time updates	• Keywords filter (Hidden words) • Set and approve teens' content sensitivity setting	• Private accounts • Who can interact with your teen • Who can tag/mention teen or use their content		
Snapchat	Family Centre (Snapchat)	N/A	• Limit content in Stories & Spotlight	• Overview of teens' friends, Groups and chats.		
YouTube	Supervised Accounts (Google Family Link)	• Disable auto-play	• Block content • Set content levels • Review and turn off watch history	• Block channels		

Note: While not all platforms give parents the power to customise all settings, teens can often customise these settings themselves. With Instagram Family Centre, for example, parents cannot customise content while teens can.

Remember that your child must use their real age to benefit from these safety features.

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Contact Information

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