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## Domestic Violent Extremism – A View through an Organizational Psychology Lens

- Team acknowledgement

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- Support acknowledgement

Ajmal Aziz, DHS S&T and OUP

- Disclaimer and acknowledgement

Thoughts and conclusions my own



## 25 Years After Oklahoma City, Domestic Terrorism Is on the Rise

In an exclusive interview with WIRED, FBI director Christopher Wray discusses a scourge that "moves at the speed of social media."

FBI director: Domestic terrorism cases have surged since 2020

## Domestic terrorism-related cases increased by more than 350% over 8 years: Watchdog

The number of plots foiled also increased, according to the statistics.

"It's not just the ease and the speed with which these attacks can happen, but the connectivity that the attacks generate."

- FBI DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

## US has seen increase in domestic threats since Hamas attacks in Israel, FBI says

Director Christopher Wray cautioned police vigilance and encouraged police chiefs to continue sharing information

## FBI Director: US Terror Threat Rising

# **Domestic terrorism-related cases increased by more than 350% over 8 years: Watchdog**

The number of plots foiled also increased, according to the statistics.



Ideas | 20 May 2022

# The Buffalo shooting and the rise of the lone wolf terrorist

Lone Wolf Attacks Are Becoming More Common — And More Deadly

🕒 APRIL 18, 2024

✓ Editors' notes

**Analysis shows lone actors more likely to commit terrorist acts than US extremist groups**

by Josh McAuliffe, Pennsylvania State University

Ideas | 20 May 2022

APRIL 18, 2024

# Analysis shows lone actors more likely to commit terrorist acts than US extremist groups

by Josh McAuliffe, Pennsylvania State University

✓✓ Editors' notes

DYNAMICS OF ASYMMETRIC CONFLICT  
2024, VOL. 17, NO. 2, 118-139  
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OPEN ACCESS [Check for updates](#)

Keeping up appearances: US domestic extremist organizations and the effects of membership on domestic terrorism perpetrators

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**ABSTRACT**  
Within the broader discussion of US domestic terrorism, the impact of formal extremist groups on the behaviour of perpetrators of ideologically motivated crime stands as a key albeit under-examined issue. Radicalization and terrorism have long been understood as group-driven processes, yet the degree and rate of group affiliation among US extremist offenders is highly variable, especially in the context of rising instances of lone actor attacks. This raises the question of the role that group affiliation plays in relation to perpetrators of extremist violence. For while discourse surrounding domestic terrorism has largely classified these organizations as facilitators or enablers of radicalization and extremist violence, patterns in recent years suggest these groups may in fact do the opposite and dampen the violent impulses of their members to preserve their organizational interests. This paper presents an analysis of data adapted from the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States (PIRUS) dataset as well as original data and finds that membership in formal extremist groups does appear to create a moderating effect on perpetrators of ideologically motivated crime, reducing the probability of group members in engaging in violence.

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Terrorism; Extremism; Domestic Terrorism; Radicalization; Homeland Security

## Introduction

What is the contemporary role of formal extremist organizations in the landscape of US domestic terrorism and violent extremism and their effects on perpetrators of ideologically motivated crime? Over the past ten years, a series of high-profile acts has gradually shifted the attention of US counterterrorism stakeholders away from the transnational movements and groups that have been emblematic of the post-September 11 era. From lethal lone actor attacks in places like Pittsburgh and El Paso to the attack on the US Capitol Building on 6 January 2021, the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in the United States is increasingly being seen as something rooted in the home front as opposed to far-off enemies and conflicts. This has resulted in renewed debates on the role played by domestic extremist groups and movements and the degree to which they foster radicalization and violent extremism, with entities such as The Proud Boys, ANTIFA,

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# The incomplete picture of lone wolf extremism



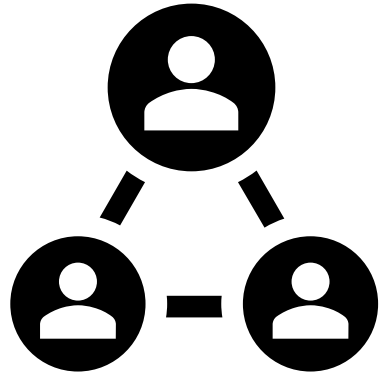


What it means to “belong”  
to an organization has  
changed





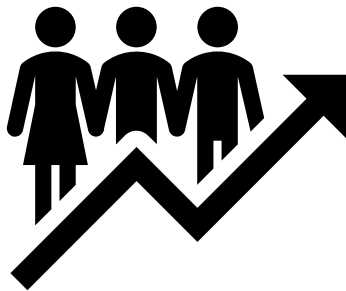
# Organizational Psychology as a Lens



Gig work



In-person participation



Online engagement

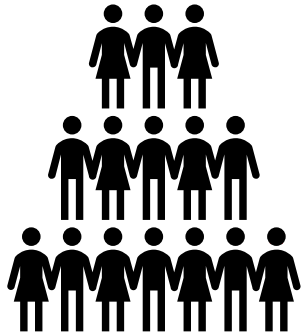
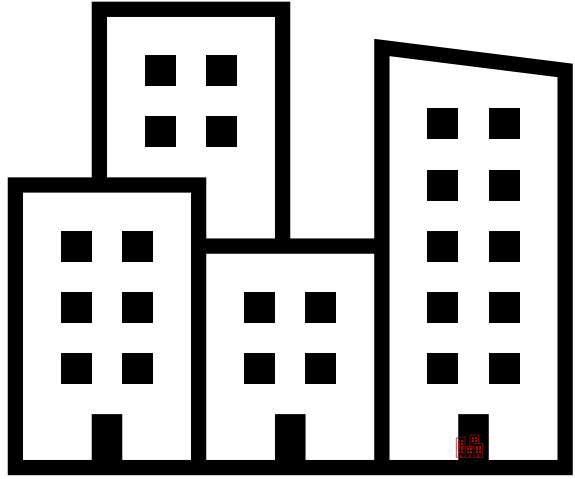


Shifting roles for men

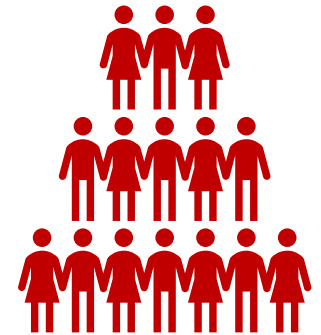
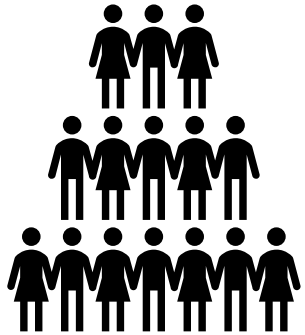
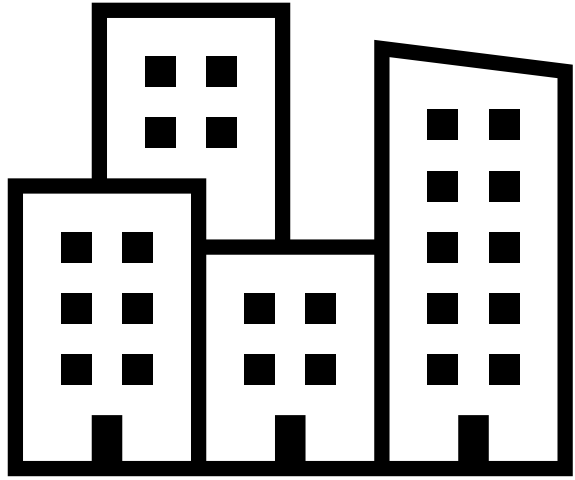
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[an illustration of a managed ecosystem]

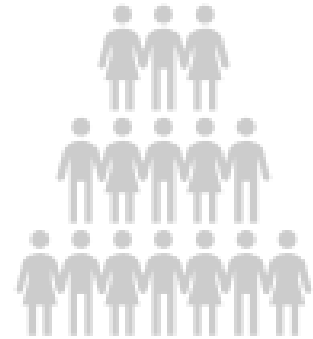
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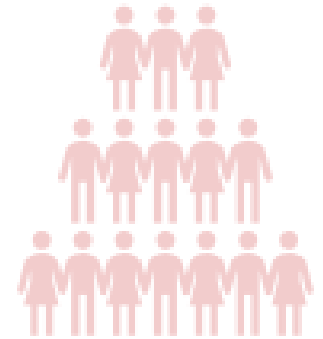
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## Why does this matter?



# ENVISION | 24



Introducing my friend and colleague, Austin Doctor, PhD

