

# **Matthew M. Sweeney, Ph.D.**

## **Contact Information:**

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## **Education:**

### **University of Massachusetts Lowell, School of Criminology and Justice Studies**

- 2020 Ph.D., Criminology  
Option: Terrorism  
Dissertation: Who's in Charge?: How Group Centralization Impacts Tactical Choice, Ideological Cohesion, and Recruitment in American Extremist Groups.  
Committee: Arie Perliger (Chair), James J. F. Forest, Chris Linebarger, and Ami Pedahzur (University of Texas at Austin)
- 2014 M.A., Criminal Justice  
Graduate Certificate: Security Studies
- 2013 B.S., *summa cum laude*, Criminal Justice  
Concentration: Information and Technology

## **Publications – Peer Reviewed Articles:**

[\*Denotes Graduate student co-author]

- Forthcoming* **Sweeney, Matthew M.**, Perliger, Arie, & Pedahzur, Ami. Reconstructing the Theater of Terror. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*. DOI: 10.1080/09592318.2020.1794176
- Forthcoming* Dmello, Jared Romeo, Perliger, Arie, & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Violence of Political Empowerment: Electoral Success and the Facilitation of Terrorism in the Republic of India. *Terrorism and Political Violence*. DOI: 10.1080/09546553.2020.1761342.
- Forthcoming* **Sweeney, Matthew M.** & Kubit, Meghan\*. Blood and Scripture: How the Islamic State Frames Religion in Violent Video Propaganda. *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*. DOI: 10.1080/17467586.2019.1680853.
- Forthcoming* Harris, Christopher & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Understanding Police Union Contracts. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*. DOI: 10.1093/police/paz042.
- 2019 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Who can be a Leaderless Resistor: A Case Study Test of Literature-Based Assumptions of Leaderless Resistance. *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 42(7), 617-635. DOI: 10.1080/1057610X.2017.1407480.
- 2018 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** & Perliger, Arie. Explaining the Spontaneous Nature of Far-Right Violence in the United States. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 12(6), 52-71.

## **Publications – Book Chapters:**

- Forthcoming* Perliger, Arie & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** "Domestic Terrorism in the United States." in Lauren R. Shapiro & Marie-Helen Maras (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Security and Emergency Management*. Switzerland: Springer.

2018 Perliger, Arie & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** "The Role of Deterrence in US Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan," in Eli Liberman (Ed.) *Deterring Terrorism: A Model for Strategic Deterrence* (248-268), New York: Routledge.

### **Technical Papers:**

2015 Managing for Results: Implementation of GPRA Modernization Act Has Yielded Mixed Progress in Addressing Pressing Governance Challenges. GAO-15-819. Washington, D.C.: September 30, 2015. Retrieval at: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/672862.pdf>

### **Manuscripts In-Progress/Under Review:**

[\*Denotes Graduate student co-author, \*\*Denotes Undergraduate student co-author]

Merizalde, Juan\*, Palmieri, Michael\*, **Sweeney, Matthew M.**, & Perliger, Arie. An Empirical Evaluation of the Association between State-Levels of Far-Right Violence and Extremist Online Discourse: Exploring the "Iron March." [*Under Review*]

**Sweeney, Matthew M.**, Chenane, Joselyne Nkogo, & Perliger, Arie. The Role of Demographic Diversification of the Police Force in Curbing Hate Crimes: Cross Sectional and Longitudinal Analyses.

Dmello, Jared Romeo, **Sweeney, Matthew M.**, & Perliger, Arie. Explaining the Association between Electoral Victory and Majoritarian Violence.

**Sweeney, Matthew M.**, & Cote, Tyler\*\*. Competing for Control: A Test of an Intraorganizational Competition Extension of the Theory of Outbidding.

Palmieri, Michael\* & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Sovereign Netizens: A Social Network Analysis of the Sovereign Citizen Movement

### **Book Reviews and Media Publications**

2019, April 5 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Review of the book *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*. Democracy & Security. DOI: 10.1080/17419166.2019.1598120.

2019, April 3 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** *FAR RIGHT TERRORISM & THE PROBLEMATIC CASE OF SPONTANEOUS ATTACKS: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY*. The Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right. Retrieved from: <https://www.radicalrightanalysis.com/2019/04/03/far-right-terrorism-the-problematic-case-of-spontaneous-attacks-a-quantitative-study/>.

2018, June 19 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** *What is the Sovereign Citizen Movement, what do they believe and how are they spreading?* Radicalisation Research. Retrieved from: <https://www.radicalisationresearch.org/guides/sweeney-sovereign-citizen-movement/>.

### **Teaching Experience [Instructor of Record]:**

2018-Present Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Merrimack College, North Andover, MA

- CRM1000 – Introduction to Criminology
- CRM5001G-A –Terrorism (International and Domestic) [Graduate] [Hybrid Online/On-Campus Course]

2014-2020 Doctoral Fellow, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA

- CRIM.1010 – The Criminal Justice System
- CRIM.3800 – Selected Topics in Criminal Justice: United States Domestic Terrorism

- CRIM.3980 – Criminal Justice Data Analysis

**Invited Guest Lectures:**

CRIM.2480 – Terrorism (International and Domestic)

Topic: Sovereign Citizen Movement (2018), Religious Terrorism (2018)

CRIM.3270 – Violence in America

Topic: United States Domestic Terrorism (2016)

CRIM.5710 – Domestic Terrorism and Violent Extremism [Graduate]

Topic: American Far Right (2017), Sovereign Citizen Movement (2018)

**Teaching Technology:**

Skilled in the use of BlackBoard Learn and Blackboard Learning Management System.

**Work Experience:**

- 2016-2020 Research Assistant, Shannon Community Safety Initiative, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA
- 6-7/2016 Program Staff, Center for Terrorism and Security Studies Study Abroad Summer Semester, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Braga and Lisbon, Portugal
- 5-7/2015 Student Trainee (Program Management and Analysis), Government Accountability Office, United States Federal Government, Boston, MA
- 6-8/2013 Intern, Special Investigations Unit, Office of Police, Security, and Outside Services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
- 6-8/2012 Intern, Boston Regional Intelligence Center, Boston Police Department, Boston, MA
- 6-8/2011 Legislative Intern, Office of State Representative Tom Sannicandro, State of Massachusetts, Boston, MA.

**Conference Posters and Presentations:**

- 2019, June **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Sovereign but Not Alone: An Examination of Competition and Cooperation Among Sovereign Citizens Online. *Terrorism and Social Media Conference*. Swansea, United Kingdom
- 2019, April **Sweeney, Matthew M & Cote, Tyler.** Competing for Control: A Test of the Intra-Organizational Extension of the Theory of Outbidding. *International Studies Association Annual Conference*. Toronto, ON.
- 2019, April Perliger, Arie & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Terrorism and Media Nexus. *International Studies Association Annual Conference*. Toronto, ON.
- 2018, April Perliger, Arie & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Explaining the Spontaneous Nature of Far-Right Violence in the United States. *International Studies Association Annual Conference*. San Francisco, CA.
- 2017, Oct. Perliger, Arie, Dmello, Jared, & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Violence of Political Empowerment: Electoral Success and the Facilitation of Political Violence. *International Studies Association-International Security Studies Section and American Political Science Association-International Security and Arms Control Section Annual Conference*. Washington, D.C.
- 2017, Oct. Perliger, Arie & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Nature and Causes of “Spontaneous” Terrorist Attacks. *International Studies Association- International Security Studies Section and International Security and Arms Control Section Annual Conference*. Washington, D.C.
- 2017, April Perliger, Arie, Dmello, Jared, & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Violence of Political Empowerment: Electoral Success and the Facilitation of Political Violence. *Society for Terrorism Research*. New York, New York.

- 2017, June **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Influence of Decentralization in Authority and Support: The Sovereign Citizen Movement's use of Online Platforms. *Terrorism and Social Media Conference*. Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom. \*The Conference Organizers Invited the Presentation.
- 2016, Nov. Harris, Christopher and **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Police Union Contracts: An Analysis of Large Cities, *American Society of Criminology*. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2016, April **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Ideological Leaderless Resistance: A Contextual Leaderless Resistance of the Phineas Priesthood. *The 4<sup>th</sup> Cadet/Student Conference on Terrorism, Insurgency, & Asymmetric Conflicts*. United States Military Academy at West Point. West Point, New York. \*The United States Department of Defense Invited and Funded the Presentation.
- 2015, Nov. **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Examination of Geographic and Operational Displacement Among African Maritime Piracy, *American Society of Criminology*. Washington, D.C.
- 2015, March **Sweeney, Matthew M.**, Asbaga, John, Greenberg, Edward, and Malgorzata, Zuber. The Effect of Fear on Attitudes toward Security, *Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*. Orlando, Florida.

#### **Invited Speaking Engagements:**

- 2018, Oct. 13 John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth: Odyssey Series: Critical Issues in Terrorism and Counter Terrorism. *Apple or Al-Qaeda: The Branding and Competition Among Terrorist Organizations*. Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell.
- 2018, June 13-14 The Psychology of Terrorism. Billerica Memorial High School.
- 2017, April 8 John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth: Odyssey Series: Critical Issues in Terrorism and Counter Terrorism. *The Resurgence of the Extreme Right*. Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell.
- 2016, Sept. 26 Tea Time Speaker Series: Domestic Terrorism from a Law Enforcement Perspective. Mount Wachusett Community College. \*Event Featured in Local Media Publication

#### **Funding Awards:**

- 2019 VOX-Pol Conference Funding for Terrorism and Social Media Conference. €500.
- 2019 Full Conference Funding for Terrorism and Social Media Conference. Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell. \$2000.
- 2019 Professional Development Award, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$500.
- 2017 Full Conference Funding for Terrorism and Social Media Conference. Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS), University of Massachusetts Lowell. \$2500. \*CTSS was a Sponsor for the Conference and the Conference Organizers Invited my Presentation.
- 2014-2017 Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$17,000 per year stipend, plus tuition and fee waiver.
- 2017 Professional Development Award, Graduate Student Association, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$500.
- 2016 Hotel and Registration Remission. Graduate Student Summit, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 53rd Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, \$600

- 2016 Professional Development Award, Graduate Student Association, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$500.
- 2016 Full Reimbursement for Travel and Participation in the 4th Cadet/Student Conference on Terrorism, Insurgency, & Asymmetric Conflicts, United States Military Academy at West Point, United States Department of Defense, \$1000.
- 2015 Professional Development Award, Graduate Student Association, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$500.
- 2014 Professional Development Award, Graduate Student Association, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$500.

**Awards/Honors:**

- 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- 2014 Residential Staff Member of the Year, Office of Residence Life, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- 2013 Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- 2012 Shining Staff of Inn and Conference Center Staff, Office of Residence Life, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- 2005 Presidential Award for Academic Achievement

**Service:**

Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer for *Democracy and Security*, *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, & *The Security Journal*.

Center for Terrorism and Security Studies Internship Facilitator, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA (2016 Fall, 2017 Spring)

University of Massachusetts Lowell Undergraduate Open House (2015, 2016)

University of Massachusetts Lowell Graduate Open House (2015, 2016)

United States Country Coordinator, National Network of PhD Thesis Writers, Terrorism Research Initiative, Lowell, MA (2015-2016)

**Professional Organization Membership:**

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

American Society of Criminology, Division on Bias Crimes and Terrorism

International Studies Association, International Security Studies Section

American Political Science Association, International Security Section

**Professional Media Appearances**

- 2016, Sept. 26 Owen, Paula J. *At forum in Gardner, law enforcement officials express frustration over domestic terror*. Retrieved from <http://www.telegram.com/news/20160926/at-forum-in-gardner-law-enforcement-officials-express-frustration-over-domestic-terror> on October 23, 2017.