2010 CICA/STR International Conference on Aggression, Political Violence and Terrorism: An Interdisciplinary Approach for a Peaceful Society

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INTRODUCTION

Current world circumstances related to political violence and terrorism have become the first agenda item for many governments. This situation has led to the formation of research groups on every continent, groups that aim to elucidate the sociological, biological, psychological, economic and political roots of aggression, political violence and terrorism. Researchers and thought leaders from more than 20 countries were present in Cartagena at the 4th Annual CICA/STR International Conference on Aggression, Political Violence and Terrorism: An Interdisciplinary Approach for a Peaceful Society, organized by Coloquios Internacionales sobre Cerebro y Agresión (CICA), the Society for Terrorism Research (STR), and Instituto de Estudios Psicobiosociales e Intevencion en Violencias (IEPSIV).

Addressing political violence and terrorism from multiple analytical disciplines - psychology, anthropology, psychobiology, neurosciences, criminology, sociology, law, economics to name a few - has allowed us to broaden the horizons of knowledge about a phenomena of greatest impact on society today. In Colombia especially, an immense need has arisen to overcome reductionism in the interpretation of this problem, so that we can build real and novel pathways for peaceful solutions to the violence and war in Colombia.

The 4th Annual CICA/STR International Conference was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, November 18 through November 20, 2010. Colombia is a country mired in one of the most bloodcurdling phenomena of violence the world has seen in recent times. This conference will be an event of great relevance and meaning for Colombian researchers and organizations that are interested in the study of aggression and violence, and that want to generate peaceful solutions to the armed conflict within their nation.

Under the management of IEPSIV (Colombia's Institute of Studies on Psychobiology and Intervention against Violence), and the leadership of Miguel Bettin, the conference left behind an important academic and strategic legacy which will help Colombia address its national problem of violence and war. Previous conferences held in Miraflores (Spain), Zakopane (Poland) and Belfast (Northern Ireland) generated advances in the understanding of aggression and violence through interchanges of experience among well-recognized researchers in the field from many countries. Among those attendees at the 2010 conference in Cartagena are J. Martín Ramírez (Spain), Tali K. Walters (USA), Miguel Bettin (Colombia), Craig Anderson (USA), John Archer (United Kingdom), José Sanmartín (Spain), Miguel de Zubiría (Colombia), Tatyana Dronzina (Bulgaria), Guillermo Velarde (Spain), Julio de Antón (Spain), Malgorzata Kossowska (Poland), Natividad Carpintero (Spain), Rubén Ardila (Colombia), Luis Millana (Spain), Yonah Alexander (USA), Valentina Bartolucci (Italy), Peter Eachus (United Kingdom), Alfredo Molano (Colombia), Ayeray Medina Bustos (United Kingdom), Eduardo Pizarro (Colombia), Emma Bradford (United Kingdom), Christoph Pfeiffer (Germany), Marta Cecilia Baldovino (Colombia), Enrique Chaux

(Colombia), Pilar Otero (Spain), Winston Sieck (USA), Kinga Williams   (Hungary) and Fernán González SJ (Colombia).

This 4th Annual CICA/STR International Conference will create an academic space to share experiences and ideas and to construct epistemological approximations and alternative solutions in the face of different manifestations of the phenomena of aggression, political violence, and terrorism. This conference followed the perspectives of previous CICA/STR conferences: To learn new information about the topics of aggression and violence, to share ideas and experiences about these phenomena in different cultures, to influence one another's work and to convert ourselves into collaborators. In addition, this meeting will emphasize the dissemination of information through the creation of networks of researchers to develop actions that will consolidate human rights and peaceful ways out of conflicts.

Share – Influence – Collaborate – Spread

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
18 November 2010

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

INVITED SPEECHES

The concept of non-imputability
Attorney General Guillermo Mendoza (Colombia)

Sexual selection as an explanation of men's violence
Professor Doctor John Archer (United Kingdom)

The principle of sexual selection, as first outlined by Darwin and elaborated more recently, is outlined. General features of sexually-selected males are presented, and research on humans considered in relation to these. Men engage in more risky forms of aggression than women. Consideration of societies without an effective rule of law, and warfare, leads to larger sex differences being identified. There may be specific adaptations for male inter-group aggression. These sex differences originate early in life, although the peak of violent acts is in young adulthood. Other features indicate the operation of sexual selection in humans: (1) greater male than female mortality; (2) longer male than female maturation; (3) larger size, strength and musculature; (4) male ritualized display characteristics, such as beards, deep voices and facial features associated with threat (brow ridges and chin size); (5) higher variance in reproductive success in men than women.

Biofunctional types of aggression

Professor Doctor J. Martin Ramírez. President, CICA (*Spain/USA*)

Human aggression is a heterogeneous construct, encompassing a multitude of meanings with different functions and antecedents. Most attempts to classify human aggression are focused either on its form or on its function or motivation; they show a clear dichotomy, with two main phenotypes. Although these dichotomous classifications may be too simple for a human behavior that often displays both simultaneously, several main reasons are given for explaining the usefulness of distinguishing between different kinds of aggression, characterizing aggression in a bimodal way: forensic decisions, predictive value, and affective control and treatment. But since different authors use different nomenclatures, with a considerable amount of semantic overlap, the convenience of unifying some redundant labels related to aggression classifications, and consequently their measurement instruments, is stressed. Empirical support of this approach, by validating the dual distinction between types and the correlation between different nomenclatures, is given.

Psychological profile of the terrorist

Professor Doctor José Sanmartín. Rector, Universidad Internacional Valenciana (Spain)

Implications of Global Climate Change for Violence in Developed and Developing Countries

Professor Doctor Craig Anderson. Director, Center for the Study of Violence (USA)

Global climate change will likely lead to increased violence in highly industrialized and in developing countries, but in somewhat different ways. The likely effects of global warming on violence are explored through factors that both: (a) are likely to be affected by global climate change and, (b) have been linked to violent tendencies at one or more levels (e.g., individual, small group, societal). Examples of such factors that meet both criteria include increased displacement, poverty, and physically uncomfortable living conditions.

Psychological impact of nuclear terrorism
General Guillermo Velarde. President, Institute of Nuclear Fusion (Spain)

Nuclear terrorism could be produced by the explosion of a radiological dispersion device (RDD), commonly known as dirty bomb, or by the explosion of a crude or improvised nuclear device (IND). The RDDs are made with conventional chemical explosives, provided with a vial of radioactive material containing radioisotopes commonly used in nuclear medicine or industrial applications. Experiments carried out so far with this kind of radioactive sources indicate that the lethal effects produced by the explosion of a dirty bomb would be likely the same than the effects produced by the chemical explosive. However their psychological impact on the population would be very high, this extreme being the most important goal pursued by terrorists. An IND is an atomic bomb that, due to a deficient design or the materials used or a poor quality control of its components, produce a yield lower than 1 kiloton of energy when exploding. This paper analyses

the explosions produced both by a RDD and an IND; some of the variables involved in a terrorist attack, and the psychological impact and chaos derived of an uncontrolled situation of this kind. Counterterrorism measures and procedures to apply in a dirty bomb explosion scenario will be also considered, as well as its biological effects and nuclear risk.

Crisis of Identity: Preventing Future Radicalization and Violence
Professor Doctor Yonah Alexander. Senior Fellow, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies (USA)

The 21st century has seen an expansion of radicalization and violence, both at conventional and unconventional levels of "higher principles" of national, ethnic, racial, religious, and tribal related concepts. This reality stems from an escalated crisis of identity, namely the tendency of individuals and groups to acquire multiple loyalities with state systems and global structures. There are many contributing factors that encourage separatism rather than unity and cooperation for the purpose of advancing particular strategic and technical interests. If civilization is to survive and provide a more secure future, then intellectual effort is required by governmental, non-governmental, and inter-governmental bodies. Specific agendas and roadmaps are recommended, such as the prevention of education in hatred and advancing tolerance, human rights, and the values of mankind.

Why human rights is a good tactical approach to counter terrorism

Doctor Arthur Kendall. President, Social Research Consultants (USA)

Terrorism concerns and human rights are very intertwined. In this talk, the term "human rights" refers to the civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Conventions (treaties) agreed to by 160 or so countries. These conventions make explicit the responsibilities of governments that signed them to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms.

These are some of the ways human rights enter the picture. Many of the perceived injustices spoken about by terrorist organizations can be construed in human rights terminology. Programs aimed at assuring the basics that people have a right to, such as food and shelter, have been successful in generating positive feelings towards groups that also use terrorist tactics. Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo abuses contributed much to anti-US rhetoric and feelings.

These are some of the psychological constructs relevant to human rights in relation to terrorism. Normative pressure can be brought to bear on nations to live up to the responsibilities they agreed to. Framing both sides' concerns in human rights terms can enhance perspective taking and compassion.

PAPERS

SESSION I   **Mind, Brain, Aggression and Terrorism**

The language of terrorism and its effects
Valentina Bartolucci (United Kingdom/Italy)

Drawing in a mixture of theoretical approaches – in particular Critical Studies on Terrorism, Critical Discourse Analysis and French Sociology – this paper aims to demonstrate that: 1) Terrorism is first and foremost a discursive construction and alternative framings can be adopted to represent events such as the September 11, 2001 attacks. 2) The governmental discourse on terrorism is a hegemonic signifier and a (potentially) hegemonic ideological framework. It has become so pervasive to be found in popular jokes, designs for tattoos, novels, children books, videogames, television programs and blogs. 3) The discourse has effects that go much beyond the formulation, acceptance and implementation of a counter-terrorism strategy, to include the furthering of domestic agendas and the targeting of opponents. The paper finally proposes a more careful use of the label of 'terrorism' and the necessity of acknowledging its inherently contested and ideological nature in the prospect of building more peaceful societies.

Moral reasoning, personality and neuropsychology in former Colombian battlers *Miguel Bettin (Colombia)*

Violent acts which are not impulsive, not reactive, and not done in the heat of the moment, in other words planned criminal acts done in cold blood, are typically attributed to neuropsychological dysfunction of a prefrontal character, to psychopathic disorders, or to deficits in the development of rational processes. However, among ex-combatants from the armed conflict in Colombia we have not found evidence of prefrontal neuropsychological traumas, psychopathologies, or low levels of development of moral reasoning. Instead we have found evidence to the contrary regarding these three factors: good prefrontal functions and adequately developed moral reasoning facilitate violent acts, socio-economically and ideologically motivated.

A model of hostile intent: Field trial
Peter Eachus, Alex Stedmon & Les Baillie (United Kingdom)

The aim of this research was to develop a model of hostile intent, i.e. a simulation of the hostile reconnaissance that might be undertaken by a terrorist before an attack. The field trial attempted to simulate the conditions of hostile intent to allow the parameters under study to be observed in a more ecologically valid environment. The parameters under investigation included those variables that are likely to be salient during hostile intent, i.e. psychological, physiological, behavioural and biological measures of stress. The purpose of this study was to examine the extent to which it was possible to induce an experience of stress, to evaluate changes in the chosen parameters, and to determine the extent to which it is possible to detect these changes as a means of identifying hostile intent. The results of the field trial demonstrated that it was possible to simulate hostile intent and that the parameters associated with this hostile intent change in a predictable manner and that these changes can be evaluated. Thus, overall the findings of this research provide a validated model of hostile intent that can be used by researchers to test interventions aimed at detecting or deterring hostile intent.

Brain and mind of the terrorist: The psychology of perpetrators and 'evil' actions
Ayeray Medina-Bustos (Argentina/United Kingdom)

'Evil' is defined as "human destructiveness", for example, small acts such as retaliatory parents, or peers harassing on a child daily for a long time or great violence against others, like genocide. (Staub, 2003). Those actions can destroy people's personality, dignity, self-image or the capability to trust people. Normally, perpetrators justified their acts arguing that they were defending high values, that they have moral reasons to protect their communities. Those destructive actions, such as in the case of genocide, are the outcome of basic ordinary psychological and social processes that leads to these extremes forms. Hence, it is very important to understand the roots of those acts. Once perpetrators and also people who support them are embedded in a group, trained in obedience to authority and indoctrinated in ideology, they resigned their individual decision making to the group and its leaders. Their perception of the facts and its shared belief system changed representing new realities. As a consequence, the group processes came to rule the psychology of the perpetrators. In this essay I aim to analyze the psychology of perpetrators in Argentina, during it last dictatorship between 1976 and 1983.

SESSION II   Aggression and Violence in the School Context

The icon of school violence
Julio de Antón (Spain)

School violence its represented through a complex geometric form that includes, from inside to outside, a right triangle that represents classroom and school, final destination for any conflict or friction arising from them, or derived from environmental acts or omissions. This is wrapped in a square that expresses becoming or not contingencies and structures of connivances and violence of neighborhood and urban conflicts. In turn the square is subsumed in another square, formed by participatory activity or not from citizens groups, agencies and institutions near the schools. The triangle and squares are included in a sphere that shows probable scenarios where schools move, presents in a urban space, that is enclosed in a ellipse that shows possible educative models that are part of school setting. Closing this geometric figure appears a school in chaos due to many minor cases of violence.

When terrorists target schools: An exploratory analysis of attacks on educational institutions
Emma Bradford (United Kingdom) & Margaret Wilson (United Kingdom)

On September 1, 2004, terrorists stormed a primary school in Beslan, Russia. The catastrophic death toll, which included nearly 200 children, highlighted how vulnerable educational institutions are to terrorist attacks.

Terrorist attacks on educational institutions have taken many forms. For example: armed assaults, bombings, hostage takings, chemical attacks, and arson. The current study focuses on armed

assaults. The frequency of this type of attack on educational institutions has increased sharply since 2003; with the incident rate in 2007 being double that of the previous year. The damage caused by these terrorist attacks is not limited to property damage, physical injury, and/or death; exposure to such traumatic incidents can have adverse psychological effects on all those who witness them, especially young children.

A comprehensive chronology of all armed assaults on educational institutions since 1980 was created with reference to the Global Terrorism Database, and other credible literary sources. Descriptive reports of each incident were subjected to content analysis according to a series of 143 variables. These variables describe various aspects of the incident including information about who the victim(s) were, where and when the attack took place, and who the offender(s) were. The data set was analysed using traditional inferential statistics as well as Multidimensional Scalogram Analysis (MSA). MSA allowed for the exploration of interrelationships between behaviours and the identification of underlying components in terrorist attacks on educational institutions. Trends and patterns observed within the data set will be discussed as will the implications of these findings on efforts to monitor, prevent, and respond to attacks on students, teachers and educational facilities.

School mediation: A base alternative to conflict solving
Martha Idolia Londoño (Colombia)

School mediation ventures in educational institutions as a problem solving alternative for forthcoming issues between community members most of the time leaves unsolved situations and misunderstandings. These, in turn, lead to more serious issues at a personal and institutional level, with direct or collateral effects on society.

A typical example of this is the phenomenon of "bullying". Conflict is inevitable, dynamic, and constant; it is present on a daily basis and, in that sense, the educational institution becomes a facilitator and enhancer of skills that enable the development of coping strategies. It is here where school mediation can be considered a "base" alternative towards problem solving, as it is the institution that is responsible for children, teenagers and young adults in process of building their futures.

Skills for conflict solving become internalized during the first academic years. During this period of life, the basis for coping and understanding relationship situations, especially those causing discomfort, are built. Using school mediation, teacher/student respect creates higher levels of trust and a democratic environment within the school context, enabling conflict resolution, increasing trust, and leading to agreements in a respectful environment. This process humanizes conflict. Through school mediation, students, teachers, and parents together spread this pluralistic, participatory social coexistence.

Advantages of school mediation include: Restoration, enabling the repositioning of the damage caused to the aggrieved person, the educative community, or the society; The Opportunity Principle leads to the avoidance of accusations and the escalation of conflicts; and the process can be Confidential. With training, teachers, students, and parents can participate in medications,

contributing to true peaceful conflict resolution inside the classroom.

The Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana School located in the city of Medellín (population of 5,600 students, 5,000 families and 350 teachers, from socioeconomic levels from 1 to 6) has made a bet on the school mediation as a formation and pedagogy strategy, helping to strengthen process under a legal frame, without discarding the philosophy and applicability of the Coexistence Manual, based on a Communicative-Relationship model guide by the Psycho-orientation department. The experience has been highly valuable in conflict solution.

Promoting peace in violence-torn communities: Evaluation of Aulas en Paz (Classrooms in Peace)
Enrique Chaux, Melisa Castellanos, María Paula Chaparro, Diana Andrade, Andrea Bustamant, Ana Lucía Jaramillo, Andrés Molano, & Mariajosé Otálora (Colombia)

Aulas en Paz (Classrooms in Peace) is an elementary school-based multi-component program for prevention of aggression and promotion of peaceful relationships. It combines universal and targeted components: 1) a universal classroom curriculum (40 sessions per year); 2) workshops for all parents and home visits to parents of the 10% most aggressive children (4 workshops and 4 visits per year); 3) extra-curricular peer group sessions with two aggressive and four prosocial children (16 sessions per year). Activities seek to promote the development of eight competencies: empathy, anger management, perspective taking, creative generation of options, consideration of consequences, critical thinking, active listening and assertiveness. Activities are implemented by school teachers and by university students as part of their pedagogical practicum. A 70 hours training about pedagogical strategies, classroom climate, and the eight competencies prepares them for implementing the program.

In this presentation, Aulas en Paz will be described and results will be presented from a quasi-experimental evaluation with 1908 2nd- to 5th-grade students. This evaluation was conducted in four Colombian regions facing high levels of community violence due to the armed-conflict between left-wing guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries and the armed forces. In total, 65 classrooms from 23 schools were randomly assigned to intervention or waiting list controls and assessed before and after an academic year.

Because of practical difficulties such as local educational authorities not fulfilling their commitment to provide the materials, implementation started late and had several limitations. Thus 50% of peer group sessions, 79% of classroom sessions and 81% of parent sessions had not been implemented at the end of the first academic year.

In spite of this, results showed a significant reduction in aggression and beliefs legitimizing aggression and a significant increase in prosocial behavior. These effects were small, but consistent between student and teacher reports. No effects were found on empathy, assertiveness or hostile attribution bias.

Changes in classroom climate might help explain why positive effects were found even though the majority of activities were not implemented. In fact, analyses of video recordings of 25% of the teachers indicated that they were following most of the pedagogical principles of the program and were promoting classroom climates in which structure and rules were combined with caring. Teacher training might have been crucial for this.

Implications for research and policy will be discussed.

World Research and Training Centre as an educational alternative for peace culture
Víctor Hugo Mejía (Colombia)

The city of Medellin, comprising the Metropolitan Area of the Aburrá Valley, is surrounded by contrasts. On the one hand, there are strong efforts of those responsible for educating at all ages, to improve the quality of educational services, coverage and impact in order to offer society the best minds. On the other hand, the murder rate in Medellín is very high. The murder rate increased 54.8% in the first three months of 2010, compared to the same period last year, with 503 homicides reported, according to a report released by the Colombian human rights group "Personality of Medellin," published by the newspaper El Tiempo.

This report includes evidence that the number of deaths of children in the Medellín gang war has doubled in the first three months of 2010, compared to the same period last year.   More children are being killed in Medellín and a greater number of young people are involved in gangs in the city, according to Personality of Medellín. "Illegal armed groups are becoming more and more for children and adolescents, as they are more easily influenced and are cheaper," said the report. Most of the killings were caused by gangs fighting for territorial control in the neighborhoods of Medellin.

This proposal looks at the Metropolitan Area of the Aburrá Valley as a site suitable for the World Laboratory of Conflict Resolution at the University of Peace in the UN. The experiences of Costa Rica and Africa as part of the University for Peace UN challenges, posed conditions favorable for reducing violence in the city of Medellin and the surrounding municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of Medellín.

The World Centre for Research and Training Institute for Conflict Resolution was established under an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the University for Peace in the UN headquarters in Costa Rica through law 438 of July 30, 1986.   The goal of the Center's involvement in the Metropolitan Area of the Aburrá Valley, specifically in Medellín, would be to reinforce educational and social programs to strengthen the culture of conflict resolution in school settings, using the experience and knowledge of the University of UN peacekeepers based in Costa Rica.

The headquarters of the World Centre for Research and Training Institute for Conflict Resolution at the University for Peace United Nations will be extended to Medellin in order to coordinate with public and private universities in the metropolitan area of the Valle de Aburrá.   The Centre will promote peace education and human rights as a central focus to the curriculum in undergraduate and graduate educational institutions. The Centre will promote and consolidate a culture of peace in primary, secondary and higher education, strengthening tools and mechanisms for conflict resolution.

School social climate and emotional reactions in students of I.E. Bogotá
Víctor Manuel Prado Delgado, María Lucero Ramírez, & Magda Sofia Ortiz (Colombia)

The school setting is a place whose mission falls within the realm of training, but by the demands of social order, malleability in family systems, the dynamic interrelation between educational stakeholders, the policies that guide the pedagogical and individualities of the human being, its role has become blurred. The objective of this research is to identify the school social climate that is experienced within the public and private educational institutions with the emotion often expressed by students in typical life situations. The psychometric study is non-experimental. Research design is a cross-sectional correlational descriptive with a probability sample comprised 414 subjects, of which 210 are part of the 204 public and private sector, students in grades sixth, seventh and eighth of basic secondary education, distributed as follows: 50.9% were women and 49.1% were males, aged between 10 and 14. The instruments used were adapted versions of the School Social Climate Scale and the Emotional Reaction Questionnaire, previously validated by pilot study and expert criteria untold confiability Kappa of 0.9 and 0.8. The results suggest that the categories of aid, organization and innovation are perceived by students in a negative way and require more care to have a proper school climate. This involves directly the level of interest of teachers by students, and the standard management and the methodologies implemented in the classroom. As for the emotional reaction the participants refer to the anger and rejection as the most common emotion compared to situations where the teacher should be supportive of its formation.

SESSION III   Political Violence: Colombian Armed Conflict

What is happening with guerrillas in Colombia?
Alfredo Molano (Colombia)

Truth, justice and repairing: Three bases for peace in the XXI century
Eduardo Pizarro (Colombia)

Forced disappearing, kidnapping and violent deaths: Victimization surveys and police statistics
José Ignacio Ruiz, S.J. (Colombia)

The aim of this paper is to show the results of a research about the prevalence of three forms of criminal victimization - enforced disappearance, violent death and kidnapping. These crime types are closely related to the context of armed conflict which has impacte the Colombian population over a long period of time. Data from two sources will been showed: the first, results of an investigation by a victimization survey included in a broader questionnaire about security perception and social nets; the second, police statistics from the first semester of this year on the same offenses. In this way, we can analyze the similarities and differences in the trends of these three forms of criminality, from the two registration forms, taking into account the scope and limitations of each one. Unlike other studies focusing on the most populated Colombian cities, the

present investigation provides data at the national and regional levels in an effort to cover all departmental capitals of the country.

Territory, Violence and Power: The Colombian conflict from an historical and geographical perspective
Fernán González, S.J. (Colombia)

The author's speech to the conference takes as a point of departure his contributions to a geography of the Colombian armed conflict; this is seen in relation to the formation of the Colombian state, and in comparison to the analyses of these processes in the western world and to research on the Colombian conflict. This double comparison leads the author to propose the model of a "differentiated presence of the State" to interpret the interactions between nation, region and locality, where they play an important role in the operation and the current crisis of traditional parties. Given recent changes in the geography of the Colombian armed conflict, the author analyzes, taking a medium-term view, the expansion against guerrillas and paramilitaries in the nineties; he then outlines the context of the long-term construction of the Colombian state, with emphasis on the country's processes of settlement, territorial integration and political articulation. Finally, the author will examine recent territorial changes in the conflict, including the withdrawal of the guerrillas to refuge areas such as land and costal borders and relationships with drug trafficking.

Psychosocial support for demobilized ex–paramilitary population AUC (Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia): First is life…the life of all
Juan Pablo Estrada (Colombia)

After the negotiations between National Government and AUC and its subsequent demobilization, the first group of members of this organization arrived in Medellin, members of ex-Cacique Nutibara group, who surrendered and gave their arms in November of 2003. Expectantly, we saw 868 men and women who were taken to the municipality of La Ceja where they stayed for 20 days, carrying out diagnosis-and-demographic characterization activities, before returning to the city. In January 2004, the reintegration process began in Medellin, with another 1,600 demobilized members of "Heroes de Granada" group and a few more of different ex-groups, until reaching the figure of 4,328 demobilized people located in the city today.

An intervention model, "Return to Legality," was designed. This model was supported and verified by OEA and the monitoring of IOM (International Organization for Migrations). The model included intervention in areas of education, income generation, legal counseling, social research, institutional strengthening and psychosocial support. This work will be discussed in this article.

But the question is, where does the idea of a psychosocial support for demobilized population come from? The guidelines were made after analyzing surveys of a demobilized population as to their reasons for entering the armed group. In the analysis of the results, 57% of the demobilized persons attributed their participation in these groups as the result of the coexistence difficulties on the place they lived. Of these, 25% reported personal revenge as an entry reason; another 25%

named threats against their lives and another 7% referred to conflicts with friends, family or neighbors. The dynamics of relationships and the break in family ties were the clue to guide action towards social networks reconstruction. Even more, 32.25% of demobilized persons, referred to a need for change, and 18.56% of them were demobilized because of their family. Their demographic conditions suggested the feasibility of the intervention: 68% were young people between 18 and 25 years old with particular needs of affiliation, recognition and identity.

We found in this model of intervention a way for demobilized populations to have the opportunity to re-signify the violent events in which they were involved, to repair as far as possible the damage caused, and assume responsibility towards themselves, their families and communities. These actions are based on the logic suggested by Ignacio Martin-Baró of denaturing the conflict and working for the population to reduce their ideological ties. Nevertheless, is carefully considered the possible leakage for liability for the committed acts, remembered in the participant stories, valued at the particular context in which they emerge.

The support has been developed with demobilized people, their families and communities, from a relational perspective and taking different references, under the assumption of complexity and considering different levels of involvement and participation. Thus, in an arduous path, always traveled on the basis of reflection, we have asked about 5 points:

1. The impact of war on the subjectivity, which characterizes Medellin people in a particular way in their relationship with others and the alertness to danger, showing the effects of conflict in the collective mental health.
2. Relation between institutional demand and real opportunities of action, from the deep knowledge of the involved population and the respect for their autonomy in community life.
3. The social psychologist's role in the socio-political configuration in a context of violence.
4. An action plan, with the purpose of reestablishing and strengthening of trust in a joint effort, in daily life and hard times.
5. Risks in the process and emerging threats, given the complexities of urban and partial demobilization and the constant presence of drug trafficking and the fight for control of markets routes and "places of vice".

The biggest risk to the program is to conceive the reintegration process only from the economic perspective. Because in this way, in the prevailing market logic and attending the twilight of duty as Lipovestky pointed, good and evil would not be categories to classify the tasks that participants of the program could access, so they would commit, without problems, even more lucrative practices, though more harmful to society and themselves. This is why we expect that "our subjective aspirations, group and individual, are geared to the satisfaction of our real needs, that is, those requirements which drive to the road to our humanization, and not those that bind us to compulsive consumption in detriment of many and the dehumanization of all" (Martin-Baró, 1984).

SESSION IV   Culture, Violence, and Terrorism

Towards a model of ideological conviction in the terrorist mind
Winston Sieck (USA)

The religiously motivated terrorist has been described as harbouring no ambiguity or doubt about the mission or means to accomplish it (Juergensmeyer, 2000). The successful exploitation of religious texts is often a key component of developing this deep ideological conviction in the terrorist agenda. Yet, the set of specific religious ideas that promote such certitude remains unclear. That is, how do specific religious ideas eliminate doubt in the mind of the terrorist? Our primary hypothesis is that arguments that justify terrorism include specific "metacognitive" beliefs that serve to erase doubt in the terrorist cause and provide psychological defences against contrary views. Metacognitive beliefs are specific kinds of beliefs that affect the cognitive processes that govern feelings of confidence in worldviews. For example, the idea that pluralism results in spiritual contamination is a metacognitive belief that restricts consideration of information sources. The excessive levels of confidence that ultimately result from certain types of metacognitive beliefs serve to sanction extreme actions (e.g., supporting or attempting to accomplish nuclear terrorism). In order to test these ideas, we have been conducting a study that compares extremist and moderate Islamic ideologies as expressed on Arab-language web sites. Specifically, we have been examining Arabic web documents that provide Islamic justifications for terrorism from leaders and learned clerics (on the extremist side), or documents that provide Islamic-based counter-arguments to terrorism (or arguments that constrain it) on the moderate side. The results provide evidence for five dimensions of metacognitive belief that discriminate extremist and moderate Islamic ideologies in psychological terms. These include beliefs about (1) cultural maintenance vs. cultural change, (2) homogeny vs. cultural diversity, (3) separation vs. interaction with other groups, (4) authority vs. independence in judgment, (5) extreme vs. balance in religious practice, etc. Theoretical and practical implications of the findings will be discussed.

Fields and codes of violence in southwestern Colombia
Carlos Moreno (Colombia)

The war studies should analyze the way that the armed actors establish the power relations in the territories that they have presence. The militias and the Armed State Forces construct cooperation and competition relations due to they share the same space. The armed actors configure their relations according to the strategic interaction. Then, the employ of violence repertories changes in order to the struggle tensions. However, the characteristics of the strategic interaction depends on the type of territory and period of time in which are performed. The paper has the objective to compare the territorial occupation of the armed actors in the South West of Colombia.

Psychic trauma in subjects made vulnerable by violent experiences and/or violent actions on others in the context of political violence in Colombia
Jorge Palacio, Edith Teresa Aristizábal Díaz-Granados & Camilo Madariaga (Colombia)

It is observed that the acuteness of the conflict in Colombia is magnified more each day in strategies as well as in weapons generating diverse degrees of emotional impact depending on the subject's position towards the violent acts, their possibilities for defense or flight, and the

psychological resources that they posses to grasp and overcome these experiences of horror, or to remain fixated on them by default. Such violent actions can hardly ever remain in oblivion because the techniques and methods deployed by the armed groups in Colombia aim at the submission and domination of entire settlements that are forced to watch the torture, dismembering, and quartering of the bodies that were their relatives or neighbors, with the purpose of letting them know that they must submit to their commands and norms to avoid becoming the object of such criminal actions.

This study, which is part of a project financed by Colciencias in the area of health, strives to identify not only the effect or psychological impact caused on these persons by the submission or forced violent experiences, whether from the position of victims or victimizers, but also the case by case study and comparison of the acts that the subjects carried out facing the exposition or participation in combat, murders, disappearances, torture and massacres occurring in some regions of the Colombian Caribbean, among them: Magdalena, Atlántico, Cesar, Sucre and Bolívar. The process of investigation and clinical intervention carried out with each subject is framed in the psychoanalytical presupposition that states that the subject always chooses, even if it's a forced choice (Palacio, L. 2000), and this is valid for the subjects who were submitted to violent experiences as well as for those who were actors and exercised violence on others (Aristizábal, Howe, Palacio, 2009).

The investigation has a qualitative approach under the design of Grounded Theory (Glaser & Strauss, 1967) and Multi-Case Comparison (Lessard-Hebert, M & otros, 1995), which is integrated in an Analysis Matrix named ARIADGE (Palacio & Aristizabal, 2003). Thirty subjects have been intentionally selected in two municipalities and three *corregimientos* (smaller towns) of the Colombian Caribbean and belonging to displaced or reinserted communities, who turn up for psychological consultation of their own will, and answered the researcher's request made in communal meetings cited by the Municipal Official Representative and the People's Advocate. As a technique for data processing, clinical interview protocols were carried out and then transcribed and processed with Ethnograph software for discourse analysis. Through the Analysis Matrix, previous categories are presented as the product of the convergent elements and of the exceptions found in the narrative of the interviewed subjects. During the course of the interviewing process these categories were tuned up to the point were they became exclusive.

It is observed in the results that it is necessary to pose queries around the relationship between the types of trauma caused by the encounter of the subject with a psychologically indigestible horror, the modalities of psychological harm linked to this trauma and the responses produced by the subject with the reactivation of trauma. The responses of the subjects in front of the violent actions determine a choice and this choice makes them responsible for the acts carried out to flee trying to get to safety and/or to obtain benefits from the programs proposed by the Estate for subjects that have been displaced due to the war and for the victimizers that have demobilized.

Narrate to live
Women Victims of Violence in Colombia (Colombia)

SESSION V   Facets and Consequences of Violence and Terrorism

The evolution of biological weapons: An unavoidable legacy?
Natividad Carpintero-Santamaría (Spain)

Biological research has still a way ahead to combat the rate of infectious diseases that dramatically affect many countries in the world. According to the *World Health Organization Report on Infectious Diseases*, more than 13 million people die annually as a result of infectious illnesses, one in two deaths in developing countries.

Conventional biological research has considerably evolved in the last decades into biotechnology and biological engineering, a complex interdisciplinary science which applies engineering principles to molecular biology, microbiology, immunology, etc. Among other relevant goals, biological engineering is applied to the prevention of illnesses and medical diagnosis.

However, some biotechnological areas under research can be applied to the development of new bioagents susceptible to be used as bioweapons. New substances, bioregulators, synthetic pathogenic organisms and vectors could become an added challenge in the non-proliferation process of BW.

Fundamentalism and terrorism as negative terror management strategies
Kinga Williams (England/Hungary)

Starting from a cognitive-behavioural position (i.e. we think in certain ways so we behave in certain ways), the presentation first puts forward the Yerkes-Dodson Law of stress' effect on performance. It goes on to demonstrate that individual stress-cognitions and socio-cognitive stress-cognitions are not only very similar in nature, but also show the same kind of detriment in action: cognitive errors. It is then proposed that Fundamentalism is the combined product of the errors due to cognitive simplification, - with Terrorism being its behavioural correlate, itself resulting from the Rule-Category Substitution Fallacy (Williams 2007).

Psychology of violence and reconciliation: The international experience
Rubén Ardila (Colombia)

Violence, wars, aggression, personal and social conflicts have been found along the registered history of humanity. This has led some people to believe that violence and aggression are an "innate trait" of "human nature". However, scientific research carried out in the 21st Century and earlier has thrown light on what is learned, what is genetic, and what is the product of the interaction of these groups of factors.

Reconciliation, on the other hand, is the process which should take place after the conflict is over. It occurs after the peace process, when family and/or social violence is over, and so forth. The objective of the reconciliation processes is to avoid the perpetuation of the conflict, treating its causes and consequences. Research is based on several sources: work with non human primates, work with children from several cultures and various age levels, and the reconciliation processes that have taken place in countries which have had internal conflicts of great intensity and long

duration, such as Guatemala, Salvador, South Africa, Chile and Argentina.

Prevalence of posttraumatic stress and antisocial personality disorder in deserters of guerrillas
Marta Cecilia Baldovino (Colombia)

Colombia has been involved, for more than 50 years, in an irregular conflict, with the guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the People's Liberation Army (EPL) as protagonists. Government pressure, clashes with security forces and harsh conflict conditions have led to the demobilization of 50,316 guerrillas, taken in by the Humanitarian Service Program for the Demobilized (PHAD), for reintegration into civilian life. Negative effects of war on mental health, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and antisocial personality disorder (TAP), could affect the quality of life of the demobilized individuals and the effectiveness of the reintegration program.

Objective: To assess the prevalence of PTSD and TAP among demobilized Colombian guerrillas. Participants: 192 demobilized individuals (115 men and 77 women), 18 to 57 years old with one to 28 years of militancy in the guerrillas. Method: Cross-sectional correlational descriptive study; data were analyzed using SPSS version 15.0. Instruments: Castrillón's PTSD test for adults (2003) and the MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview for PTSD and TAP were applied. Results: Under the PTSD test for adults, 37.4% showed PTSD symptoms, and 12.1% are at risk. According to the MINI, 68.8% exhibit criteria for PTSD and 3.1% for TAP; no relationship was found between the clinical variables of PTSD and TAP. Those who joined the guerrillas motivated by false promises of pay and support, showed more PTSD symptoms, powerlessness and threat to life than those who joined for other reasons. Such motivations were more related to psychosocial factors such as camaraderie, lack of economic and educational opportunities and search for respect, than to TAP.

SESSION VI   Modalities of Violence and Aggression

Two Causes and Ten Routes to Suicide: The extreme self-violence
Miguel de Zubiría (Colombia)

The present essay summarizes seven years of research lead by the Colombian League against Suicide, in which thousands of youth were assessed regarding their loneliness, and self-suppression ideation and attempts. Two findings are particularly worrying. First, among the thousands of interviewed and assessed youth, 41% report having seriously considered self-suppression at least once in their lives. Second, a striking 16%, that is, one out of six, report having carried out from a slight suicidal attempt, to one or several serious attempts with indelible consequences.

These numbers and several world-wide epidemiologic reports confirm that juvenile suicide is a phenomenon with a pronounced increasing curve over the last decades. Why? After verifying these delicate reports, we examined several associated factors. Five years of research lead us to

conclude that there are three key factors: loneliness, depression and frailty. The presence of at least one theme was found to be an important predictor, and the presence of the three of them increased the likelihood of suicidal ideation or attempts to up to 90%.

Currently, we explore the hypothesis that there are two causes underlying suicide: unhappiness and suffering. Hence, youth incompetent to generate happiness for themselves, as well as those incapable of tolerating adversity and suffering, take a dangerous route that sooner than later leads to suicide, the most extreme conceivable form of self-violence. Unhappiness and suffering may generate five pairs of depression (interpersonal, intimate, existential, personal and general), for a total of ten forms of depression. These have been well-identified with an instrument we designed, named the AFFECTOGRAM. It is derived from an extensive questionnaire of personal questions, which can be individually or group administered, and which represents an X-ray of the twenty essential affective bonds of a youth.

Our current work aims at unveiling the psycho-genesis of happiness, loneliness, depression and juvenile suicide, through a retrospective view towards early and middle childhood. We are looking for early events or signs that allow us to rebuild its genesis. When we achieve this goal, we hope to be able to clear up part of the mystery of extreme violence towards the self, and to provide guidelines to parents, teachers and psychologists as to how to detect early signs of this form of cruelty. Only one life saved will justify the effort.

Gender and violence: Women in suicide terrorism
Tatyana Dronzina (Bulgaria)

It's usually said that during violent conflict and war a woman's body becomes a battlefield: war always operates on women's bodies[1] and "violence against women has been part of every documented war in history."[2] Since the 80's, however, the opposite phenomenon is witnessed: several women have chosen to convert their bodies in an arm and to die killing.

Female suicide terrorism is a growing phenomenon: "The number of female suicide attackers has risen from eight during the 1980's to over 60 since 2000."[3] Successful terrorist missions have been carried out in Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Chechenya/Russia, Israel/Palestine, Iraq, India, Pakistan, Russia, Somalia, Uzbekistan and China.

This article represents the main outcomes of a four year research and concentrates on five cases. In three of them female suicide acts were legitimated by secular ideologies (Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Turkey). In Chechenya and Palestine, different radical organizations, in different periods of their development, resorted both to religious and secular legitimating. In order to understand female suicide terrorism, it is analyzed on 3 levels: social, organizational and individual. The main conclusions are that the main variables impacting female choice go beyond nationalistic, religious and ideological motives and have to do with the female identity and its specific situation in traditional patriarchal societies.

Infrahumanization of the outgroup in response to symbolic threat
Ma?gorzata Kossowska (Poland) & Maciej Sekerdej (Poland/Portugal)

Infrahumanization theory constitutes a distinctive form of intergroup bias, in which people derogate the outgroup by attributing to it a lesser degree of humanity than to the ingroup. Research on infrahumanization has mainly focused on the attribution of uniquely human emotions to groups. This research draws on the lay distinction between secondary emotions that are perceived as unique to human beings (e.g. love, sorrow, regret) and the more simple primary emotions that may also be experienced by animals (e.g. joy, fear, anger). A growing body of research has documented the pervasive tendency to infrahumanize the outgroup by attributing to it a lesser degree of secondary emotions, while an equal (or greater) degree of primary emotions.

Infrahumanization is not restricted to the explicit intergroup conflicts and may be present in everyday intergroup interactions. However, a conflicting or violent relationship between the in-group and the outgroup usually increase the infrahumanization bias. We suggest that the relationships between infrahumanization and prejudice is moderated by the feeling of threat. In two consecutive studies, we examine the relationships between symbolic threat which refers to the conflict of values, norms, and beliefs between groups, infrahumanization of the outgroup and negative attitudes towards outgroup members. It is proposed that infrahumanization can be a strategy for people to reestablish psychological equanimity when confronted with a self-threatening situation. Thus in symbolic threat condition infrahumanization increases prejudice towards outgroup.

Violence within the family: Interventional models for maltreaters in the penitentiary milieu in Spain
Luis Millana (Spain)

Violence within family is in no way a new phenomenon. Far from being absent from democratic societies, it represents one of the most worrying social problems we have to face up to. Violence within the family is defined as any behaviour by a member of the family that causes physical, emotional or sexual damage to one or more members of the household. This type of violence is found in all socioeconomic strata, and in all cultural or religious groups. It affects overwhelmingly women, with other members of the household being less frequently affected. Since 2007, formal complaints have increased by 2.7% in Spain, going from 29,277 formal reports in the first quarter of 2007 to 32,492 in the first quarter of 2010. Between January and June 2010, judges pronounced 13,919 sentences for gender violence, of which 59.3% were convictions. The Spanish legislation currently in force establishes that the prime aims of penitentiary centres are "reeducation and reinsertion of those condemned to custodial sentences and holding and custody of detainees, prisoners and convicts", as well as care, assistance and support for both inmates and released prisoners. Likewise, penitentiary regulations (article 110) state that prison staff "shall design formative programs directed at developing inmates' skills and tackling those problems that are thought to have played a role in inmates' criminal behaviour and facilitate and support their contact with society..." Therefore, the aim of this paper is to review psychologically oriented interventions used in the criminal and penitentiary settings. In order to make the exposition

clearer, we have classified interventions into two categories: (1) those that are usually implemented in penitentiary centres, and (2) those that are usually implemented outside the penitentiary centres. It should be borne in mind that "outside interventions" are increasingly common due to the increment of custodial sentence suspension and penalties alternative to imprisonment.

SESSION VII   **Legality, Media and Transmission of Violence**

Possible criminal justice solutions to organized crime: Drug trafficking and terrorism
Pilar Otero (Spain)

Among the different manifestations that constitute the concept of organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism arouse special interest because of their intense public repercussions. This is so with the phenomenon of drug trafficking for its use of terror indiscriminately as a tactical and strategic mechanism to stake out its supremacy and control, often managing to break the people's confidence in the legitimacy of the Rule of Law. In the face of this situation, it is important to stop perceiving the drug trafficker as a common criminal because he has always been capable of adapting himself empathetically to the different transformations that the State has undergone in the last fifty years. Until we understand the nature of criminal organizations, their strategic capacity and their insertion into society and we admit the errors committed in public policies in security and we search for a complete panorama of the phenomenon, society will continue to be held prisoner by this violence. Regarding terrorism, there are few countries where these crimes take on such relevance as in Spain, not so much for the frequency but rather for the analysis that is made of the criminal justice reaction to them. In this area, criminal law is the paradigm of a regulation at the limit of constitutional legitimacy because of the anticipation of barriers to incrimination, the infringement of the principle of legality in the writing of many categories of offences, the exacerbation of sentences or the absence of any preventive purpose to the sentences of securing the innocuousness of the criminal as the only objective. And, furthermore, the perception of a great part of society that the organisms of criminal persecution and criminal justice remain passive in the face of this phenomenon can be noted. Before this discouraging panorama of both manifestations of organized crime, an analysis of antiterrorist and anti-drug trafficking criminal law, its application in case law and its confrontation with governmental policy will be carried out in an attempt to find some solution which may very well prove to be difficult.

Impact of terrorism on Indian newspapers: A case study
Pallav Mukhopadhyay & Tapati Basu (India)

History witnesses that various terrorist activities have intentionally implemented tools of psychological and physical force (intimidation, coercion, repression and ultimately destruction of lives and property) to achieve their goals. In the present age of terror, terrorism poses serious threats to the security, welfare and rights of common people, the stability of the state system, the health and pace of economic development and the expansion or even the very existence of the largest democracy amongst the world.

The Indian newspapers willingly or unwillingly serve the terrorist outfit's specific or general publicity and propaganda. Walter Laqueur stated, "The media are the terrorist's best friend. The terrorist's act by itself is nothing; publicity is all." On the basis of immediate and extensive coverage of Indian newspapers, terrorists can rapidly and effectively reach readers at home and abroad. The terrorists attain to increase the effectiveness of their violence by creating an emotional state of extreme fear in target groups and also to draw forcibly and instantaneously the attention of the "whole world" to themselves. Terrorists try to publicize their activities with a view to make their violent deeds appear heroic. To what extent do the newspapers' extensive coverage of terrorism influence public attitudes? This question needs to be addressed by thorough analysis.

Impact of terrorism on Indian newspapers includes the interaction of terrorism with media and police. In each case of terrorist attack, an inevitable critical relationship develops between the newspaper and the law enforcement personnel. The newspaper can affect siege-management situations by (a) interfering with on-going operations; (b) exacerbating the pressure on the responsible authorities and (c) harassing relatives of victims by pressing for interviews. Since the November 26 terrorist strike at Mumbai, newspaper's role has been criticized.

Timely news feeding containing information may satisfy the public appetite for information. What role should the newspapers in democratic systems have in combating terrorism? To terrorists, newspaper coverage means advertising by which terrorism increases the effectiveness of its message through repetition. Many people are of the opinion that newspaper personnel should censor themselves. Some strong reactions also emerge which accuse newspapers of glorifying law-breakers.

The impact of terrorism on Indian newspapers and the role of newspapers during terrorist crisis situations has not, thus far, at least, been suitably explored and systematically studied. The research conducted by scholars on this arena consists of reports, occasional articles and case studies. Analysis of success and failure of handling specific terrorist incidents from the perspective of the newspaper has appeared as a serious discourse of study.

In view of this condition, there is an immediate need to undertake an in depth study on the impact of terrorism on Indian newspapers. In a democratic society how can Indian newspapers devise new methods of fair and credible reporting of terrorist strikes without jeopardizing their responsibilities to the public should be studied in a proper way.

Violence transmission from parents to children: From domestic violence to school bullying
Carolina Botero (Colombia)

Bullying is a phenomenon that has existed throughout the history of humans in schools, but only now it has been outlined through the mass media, congresses, academic events and books published around this topic. Similar to family violence, which in the past showed statistics that made society recognize this reality, bullying is emerging as one of the largest social problems of our time, thanks to the efforts of researchers who have pointed out the magnitude of the problem.

For example, a national level study found that 29% of 5th grade children had been victimized by peers (Chaux et al, 2007). However, bullying and family violence are significantly related (Schwartz et al. 2007; Aubrey et al, 2007 y Ferguson et al, 2009). The model that is presented relates family and scholar violence in a complex frame of macro and micro contingencies, and shows the need for further study of the problem from a broader perspective. This perspective could include factors which go beyond the bully-victim interactions and include scholar, family, social, cultural, economic and political factors (Mattaini, 2004, 2005, 2007). Intergenerational transmission of violence is explained from the social learning and functional analysis perspectives, and results from a exploratory research in schools of Bogotá city are presented, which identify maintenance factors of peer violence, comparing it with couple violence.

Terrorism and its oxygen: A game-theoretic perspective on terrorism and the media
Christoph Pfeiffer (Germany)

If more terrorism leads to increased media attention and vice versa, why has this seemingly vicious circle not lead to an explosion of terrorism after 09/11? While the symbiotic relationship between terrorism and the media is taken as almost self-evident in the political sciences, theoretical analysis from an economic perspective is rare. A game-theoretic model with two players – the media and the terrorists – is developed and then extended to multiple terrorist groups with homogenous and heterogeneous preferences. Based on the model it can be shown that media attention not only encourages terrorism, but also has a stabilizing effect. With increasing terrorism and constant public preferences the probability that a single terrorist incident is reported on diminishes reducing the expected payoff from a successful terrorist attack. It is proposed that this effect has contributed to a relatively stable development of overall terrorist attacks after periods of increased media attention.

POSTERS

Analysing a terrorist brain: Neurobiological advances and ethical implications
Valentina Bartolucci (United Kingdom/Italy) & Malcolm Dando (United Kingdom)

The past two decades have seen an explosion in research in the field of human aggression and neuroscience. Advances in neurobiology have raised the possibility that aspects of neurobiology can explain various aspects of human criminal and aggressive behaviour. It may sound like science fiction, but it is now possible to use EEG (a type of brainwave imaging) to read a (potential) terrorist mind and to know how, when, and where the next terrorist attack will occurr. This knowledge, however, can pose enormous challenges concerning the moral and legal conceptions of free will and responsibility. This paper aims to stress the incredible advances in neurobiology, especially for what concerns the 'brain imaging' of terrorists, at the same time addressing urgent questions around their possible dual use and ethical implications.

Managing bullying cases: Analysis of the shared concern method

Manuela Jiménez, Melisa Castellanos, & Enrique Chaux (Colombia)

Bullying, a repeated and systematic aggression that usually implies power imbalance, is frequent in almost every school. Given that it has very negative consequences for all those involved, it is crucial to identify the best ways to reduce its prevalence. There are several programs that seek to prevent bullying from occurring. However, we know very little about the best ways to manage bullying once it has occurred. The current exploratory study evaluated qualitatively the Shared Concern Method, a strategy for managing cases of bullying based on a series of individual and group meetings with those involved. Results showed that the method seems to have better results with some of the bullies than with others, which indicates that more research is needed, including analyses of possible variations to the method.

Risk and protective factors on mental health of young people displaced by political violence or social violence

Jorge Palacio, Colette Sabatier, & Michel Tousignant (Colombia/France/Canada)

The aim of this research is to examine the mental health of young adolescents who have been displaced by political violence of Colombia within the integrated ecological model of trauma impact presented by Elbedour, ten Bensel and Bastien (1993). This framework stipulates the combined influence of several levels of factors linked to family affiliation and social aspects of family network. Two groups of young adolescents participated in this study; 48 were displaced by political violence (26 boys and 22 girls) and 50 sedentary adolescents lived in an extremely poor suburb of Barranquilla (26 boys and 24 girls). The mean age is 12.5 years old (sd= 2.18; min = 9; max = 16). Questionnaires have been chosen with regards to their use in a context of poverty and/or violence (Macksoud, 1992; Macksoud& Aber, 1996; Macksoud, Aber, Dyregrov, & Raundalen, 1990). Results show that displaced adolescents are more depressed and anxious than their sedentary peers. Anxiety is explained by the total indices of trauma events while depression is rather explained by the separation from parents. Social competencies and social environment appear as protective factors. Among the social factors, one finds the extended family unit and the inclusion of friends within the social network of the family. Overall, the family and the preservation of the family unit appear as crucial factors of mental health.

An approach to school bullying
Claudia Patricia Roa (Colombia)

Research groups, organizations and communities interested in the subject of school bullying wish to show the importance of research and design alternatives that may contribute to the development of programs that promote healthy relationships, eliminate school violence, and prevent bullying. Bullying is a topic with high social and personal impact. Many researchers point out the negative consequences and attempt to generate awareness of the severity of the problem. School bullying can be defined in many different ways. Most often, a person is determined to be the victim of bullying when "he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself," as defined by Dan Olweus. School bullying includes negative actions, aggressive behavior, a pattern of behavior repeated over time, and an imbalance of power or strength. Bullying consists of

different types of abuse, such as verbal, physical, emotional, racial, sexual, cyber, and through social exclusion or isolation. The impact of school bullying is negative over many different actors - students who bully others, students who are bullied, observers of bullying, schools, parents, and society in general. The consequences of bullying include low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, perception of a negative climate at school, guilt for not acting, and the development of an environment of fear and disrespect.

The Mortality Management Model
Kinga Williams (United Kingdom/Hungary)

One of the main functions of culture is to buffer against Existential Anxiety, a chronic stressor, common to us all. Various cultures create their world-views by construing reality in particular ways, while rendering alternative world-views threatening. Cultural Diversity, leading to Culture Shock, is thus another stressor, acute by comparison, especially when Mortality Salience is high (e.g. Rosenblatt et al 1987). Lack of Cultural Diversity, however, is just as acutely stressful, resulting in Globalization (e.g. Salzman 2008), leading to "Uniformity Shock" (Williams 2009). When these stressors converge, both individual and social Cognitive Capacity are challenged, and two opposing routes open up.

The poster delineates these, by putting forward the Mortality Management Model. One route is a vicious circle, recreating and increasing Existential Anxiety, resulting in increased Other-Culture Intolerance. The other potential route is forward-pointing, towards greater Other-Culture Tolerance. Given that the present cultural-political climate is clearly the product of the Vicious Circle Route, while any meaningful future belongs with the Route Pointing Forward, mindfulness of the respective processes' workings is imperative.

The Mortality Management Model is a system-creating attempt at capturing how theories, hypotheses and concepts connect to provide the uniquely comprehensive explanatory power of the work, to date, ultimately derived from the Terror Management Theory – a theory increasingly recognised as one of the most influential of our day.

Violence and substance abuse

René Zambrano, Nohora Ortíz, Carmen Aarón, & Nilson Ríos (Colombia)

This study of a sample of 77 subjects with histories of abusing psychoactive substances made important comparisons between abuse and/or dependence and aggressive and violent behaviors. These aggressive and violent behaviors included gang membership, intra-familial aggression, suicidal behavior, and participation in street fights. The study established correlations between and among these behaviors and the various moments of searching for and obtaining psychoactive substances, consumption, addiction, rehabilitation and abstinence.

Religion and submissiveness: The role of religion in producing submissive followers
Michael A. Zárate, Cesar Zubi, & S. Fernando Rodríguez (USA)

There are multiple motives behind terroristic activities. Of the motives, one of the most self-contradictory concerns religious-based motives. How is it that a strong belief in god can promote violence? Research, often conducted in response to the 9/11 attacks in the US, has begun to identify the processes involved in using religion to promote violence. For example, research shows that leading people to believe that violence is sanctioned by God can lead people to behave more aggressively (Bushman, Ridge, Das, Key, Busath, 2007). Similarly, group identification activities (attendance at religious activities) lead to support for suicide attacks, whereas religiosity, per se, does not predict support for suicide attacks (Ginges, Hansen, and Norenzayan, 2009).

In a different line of research, Saraglou, Corneille, and Cappellen (2009) show that priming individuals with religious constructs produces more submissive behaviors later. The presented research extends that to test the hypothesis that if religion based priming leads to more submissive behaviors, religious based priming should also make people more likely to follow a leader. Participants were randomly assigned to a 2 (prime type) by 2 (leader direction) factorial design. All participants first completed a scrambled word task. For ½ of the participants, the scrambled words, once unscrambled, made a religious statement (tested should faith was his – which translates to "his faith was tested"). The other participants were given non-religious statements. In a later task, participants were asked to decide on funding between one of two research centers (a child development center, or a renewable energy center). A confederate, blind to conditions on the first factor, argued for one of the two centers. Submissiveness was defined as agreement with the confederate. Preliminary analysis show support for the hypothesis. Latinos (n=24) followed the confederate participant more when primed with religious constructs (59% of the funding) compared to when they were not primed with religion (43% of the funding) F (1,22) = 4.61, p=.043). Analysis of the overall sample shows a similar, albeit non-significant effect. More data will be collected before the conference to increase the N. The research is discussed for its relevance to how religious beliefs and processes can be used to promote violent conflict.