

# **Matthew M. Sweeney**

## **Contact Information:**

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## **Education:**

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

Ph.D., Criminology (est. Dec, 2019)

Option: Terrorism

Research Interests: Terrorism and Political Violence, Leaderless Resistance and Lone Wolves, American Far Right, Policing, Social Movement Theory

Dissertation: The Influence of Centralization: The Impact of an Organization's Level of Centralization on Organizational Characteristics

M.A., Criminal Justice (2014)

Graduate Certificate: Security Studies (GPA: 4.0)

B.S., *summa cum laude*, Criminal Justice (2013)

Concentration: Information and Technology

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

**Sweeney, Matthew M.** & Perliger, Arie. (2018) *Explaining the Spontaneous Nature of Far-Right Violence in the United States*. Perspectives on Terrorism.

**Sweeney, Matthew M.** (In Press). *Who can be a Leaderless Resistor: A Case Study Test of Literature-Based Assumptions of Leaderless Resistance*. Studies in Conflict and Terrorism. DOI: 10.1080/1057610X.2017.1407480.

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*. [Under Review]

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

## **Publications – Book Chapters:**

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

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

### **Manuscripts in Progress:**

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

**Sweeney, Matthew M.**, Pedahzur, Ami, Perliger, Arie. *The Terrorism Media Nexus*.

**Sweeney, Matthew M.**, Kubit, Meghan, & Perliger, Arie. *Blood and Scripture: How the IS Frames Religion in Violent Video Propaganda*.

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

Harris, Christopher & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** *Understanding Police Union Contracts*.

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

#### **Graduate:**

CRM5001G-A: Terrorism (International and Domestic (Summer 2018)

#### **Undergraduate:**

CRIM.1010 – The Criminal Justice System (Fall 2016, Summer 2017)

CRIM.3980 – Criminal Justice Data Analysis (Spring 2016; Summer 2016; Spring 2017)

CRIM.3800 – Selected Topics in Criminal Justice: United States Domestic Terrorism (Fall 2015)

### **Conference Posters and Presentations:**

Perliger, Arie & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** *Explaining the Spontaneous Nature of Far-Right Violence in the United States*. International Studies Association Annual Conference. April 3-7, 2018. San Francisco, CA.

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 International Security and Arms Control Section Annual Conference. October 13-14, 2017. Washington, D.C.

Perliger, Arie & **Sweeney, Matthew**. *The Nature and Causes of “Spontaneous” Terrorist Attacks*. International Studies Association-International Security Studies Section and International Security and Arms Control Section Annual Conference. October 13-14, 2017. Washington, D.C.

Dmello, Jared, **Sweeney, Matthew**, & Perliger, Arie. *The Violence of Political Empowerment: Electoral Success and the Facilitation of Political Violence*. International Studies Association-International Security Studies Section and International Security and Arms Control Section Annual Conference. October 13-14, 2017. Washington, D.C.

Perliger, Arie, Dmello, Jared, & **Sweeney, Matthew**. *The Violence of Political Empowerment: Electoral Success and the Facilitation of Political Violence*. Society for Terrorism Research. August 14-15, 2017. New York, New York.

**Sweeney, Matthew.** *The Influence of Decentralization in Authority and Support: The Sovereign Citizen Movement's use of Online Platforms.* Terrorism and Social Media Conference. June 27, 2017. Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom.

Harris, Christopher and **Sweeney, Matthew.** *Police Union Contracts: An Analysis of Large Cities,* American Society of Criminology. November 17, 2016, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Sweeney, Matthew.** *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. April 5, 2016. West Point, New York. \*

**Sweeney, Matthew.** *Examination of Geographic and Operational Displacement Among African Maritime Piracy,* American Society of Criminology. November 20, 2015, Washington, D.C.

**Sweeney, Matthew,** Asbaga, John, Greenberg, Edward, and Malgorzata, Zuber. *The Effect of Fear on Attitudes toward Security,* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. March 3, 2015, Orlando, Florida.

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

**Sweeney, Matthew M.** (Forthcoming). *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America.* Democracy & Security.

**Sweeney, Matthew M.** (2018, June 19). *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/> on June 19, 2018.

### **Invited Speaking Engagements:**

The Psychology of Terrorism. Billerica Memorial High School. June 13-14, 2018.

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. April 8, 2017.

Tea Time Speaker Series: Domestic Terrorism from a Law Enforcement Perspective. Mount Wachusett Community College. September 26, 2016.

### **Work Experience:**

- (7/2018-) Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Merrimack College, North Andover, MA
- (8/2015-) Doctoral Teaching Fellow, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA
- (6/2016-,  
6/2016-9/2016) Research Assistant, Shannon Community Safety Initiative School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA

(6/2016-7/2016) Program Staff, Center for Terrorism and Security Studies Study Abroad Summer Semester, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Braga and Lisbon, Portugal

(5/2015-7/2015) Student Trainee, Government Accountability Office, United States Federal Government, Boston, MA

- Assisted in production of the 2015 capping report on the implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act, Modernization Act, report available under “Technical Papers”.

(9/2014-5/2015) Teaching Assistant, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA

### **Academic Awards/Honors:**

- Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell (2015)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell (2013)
- Presidential Award for Academic Achievement

### **Service:**

- Journal Reviewer: *Democracy and Security* and *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*.
- Graduate Student Summit, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 53rd Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado [2016]

### **Volunteer Experience:**

(1/2017-12/2017) Internship Facilitator, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA

- Taught and facilitated an internship experience for ten undergraduate students.
- Oversaw student development in research related activities.
- Guided student activity related to case selection, coding, and analysis activities.

(1/2015-1/2016) United States Country Coordinator, National Network of PhD Thesis Writers, Terrorism Research Initiative, Lowell, MA

(1/2007-1/2015) Social Media Coordinator/Breakout Session Coordinator/Membership Committee Member, Choroideremia Research Foundation, Springfield, MA

### **Professional Organization Membership:**

American Society of Criminology

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

**Technical Papers:**

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. Retrievable at: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/672862.pdf>

**Media Appearances**

Owen, Paula J. (2016, September 26). 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.

\* Invited/Funded Presentation