

# **Matthew M. Sweeney**

## **Contact Information:**

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## **Education:**

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

*Est. 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

## **Work Experience:**

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

*2016-Present*      Research Assistant, Shannon Community Safety Initiative, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA

*2014-Present*      Doctoral Fellow, 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, Government Accountability Office, United States Federal Government, Boston, MA

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

*Forthcoming*      **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*. DOI: <http://doi.org/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. Retrievable at: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/672862.pdf><sup>1</sup>

### **Manuscripts Under Review:**

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*]

Harris, Christopher & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Understanding Police Union Contracts. [*Under Review*]

### **Manuscripts in Progress:**

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

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> The Government Accountability Office is listed as the author of the report. The writers and contributing authors are listed at the end of the report.

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

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

- Forthcoming*      **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Review of the book *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*. Democracy & Security.
- 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]:**

#### **University of Massachusetts Lowell:**

CRIM.1010 – The Criminal Justice System

CRIM.3800 – Selected Topics in Criminal Justice: United States Domestic Terrorism

CRIM.3980 – Criminal Justice Data Analysis

#### **Merrimack College:**

CRM5001G-A: Terrorism (International and Domestic) [Graduate]  
[Hybrid Online/On-Campus Course]

#### **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.

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

- 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 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 Perlinger, 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.
- 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

### **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

**Funding Rewards:**

- 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, \$500
- 2015 Professional Development Award, Graduate Student Association, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$500
- 2014 Professional Development Award, Graduate Student Association, University of Massachusetts Lowell, \$500

**Service:**

- Early Career Research Fellow, Centre for the Analysis of the Radical Right.  
Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer for *Democracy and Security*, *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, & *The Security Journal*.
- University of Massachusetts Lowell Undergraduate Open House (2015, 2016)
- University of Massachusetts Lowell Graduate Open House (2015, 2016)
- Center for Terrorism and Security Studies Internship Facilitator, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA (2016 Fall, 2017 Spring)
- 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.