

Matthew M. Sweeney

Contact Information:

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Google Scholar: <http://MMSweeney.org/Google-Scholar/>

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>¹

Manuscripts Under Review:

[*Denotes Graduate student co-author]

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*]

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

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

Manuscripts in Progress:

[**Denotes Undergraduate student co-author]

¹ 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., Perliger, Arie, & Pedahzur, Ami. The Terrorism Media Nexus.

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

- 2019, April 5 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** Review of the book *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*. Democracy & Security. DOI: 10.1080/17419166.2019.1598120.
- 2019, April 3 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** *FAR RIGHT TERRORISM & THE PROBLEMATIC CASE OF SPONTANEOUS ATTACKS: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY*. The Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right. Retrieved from: <https://www.radicalrightanalysis.com/2019/04/03/far-right-terrorism-the-problematic-case-of-spontaneous-attacks-a-quantitative-study/>.
- 2018, June 19 **Sweeney, Matthew M.** *What is the Sovereign Citizen Movement, what do they believe and how are they spreading?* Radicalisation Research. Retrieved from: <https://www.radicalisationresearch.org/guides/sweeney-sovereign-citizen-movement/>.

Teaching Experience [Instructor of Record]:

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 Perliger, Arie, Dmello, Jared, & **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Violence of Political Empowerment: Electoral Success and the Facilitation of Political Violence. *Society for Terrorism Research*. New York, New York.
- 2017, June **Sweeney, Matthew M.** The Influence of Decentralization in Authority and Support: The Sovereign Citizen Movement’s use of Online Platforms. *Terrorism and Social Media Conference*. Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom.
- 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 4th 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.