Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats

Research

CREST has a network of over 100 researchers, in the UK and overseas. As well as building the capacity of research on understanding, countering and mitigating security threats, CREST is also committed to developing the next generation of researchers with over 15 doctoral students in the UK.

Core research

We have five core-programmes of research running for three years in six universities. These include a range of researchers and doctoral students working on projects in the following areas:

- Actors and Narratives
- Ideas, Beliefs and Values in Social Context
- Understanding and Countering Online Behaviour
- Eliciting Information
- Protective Security and Risk Assessment

Find out more
- Read the project posters, which outline the research and activities they are undertaking.
- Look at the posters by our doctoral students, describing their projects.
- Speak to CREST researchers who are presenting and willing to talk.

Get involved
- We run a series of roundtables, workshops and conferences. Talk to us if you'd like to hear more about our research and how it might help or inform your work.
- Apply to do research with us – CREST researchers have a wide-range of internationally-leading experience and we're happy to leverage this expertise and our networks to help applications for new research funding. Talk to our Director, Paul Taylor, or to the relevant researchers.

Commissioned research

Over the last two years we have commissioned eighteen projects to address requirements raised by our stakeholders.

Find out more
- Take a look at the posters outlining what these commissioned projects have done, or will be doing, with their funding from CREST.
- Researchers on these projects are here too – look for their presentations or speak to them during the breaks.

Get involved
- Apply to research with us – look for opportunities on our website, in our newsletter and on social media.
- Fund research with us – see our poster on commissioning new research and speak to our Director, Paul Taylor, for more information on how you can use CREST to provide you with research by commissioning through us.
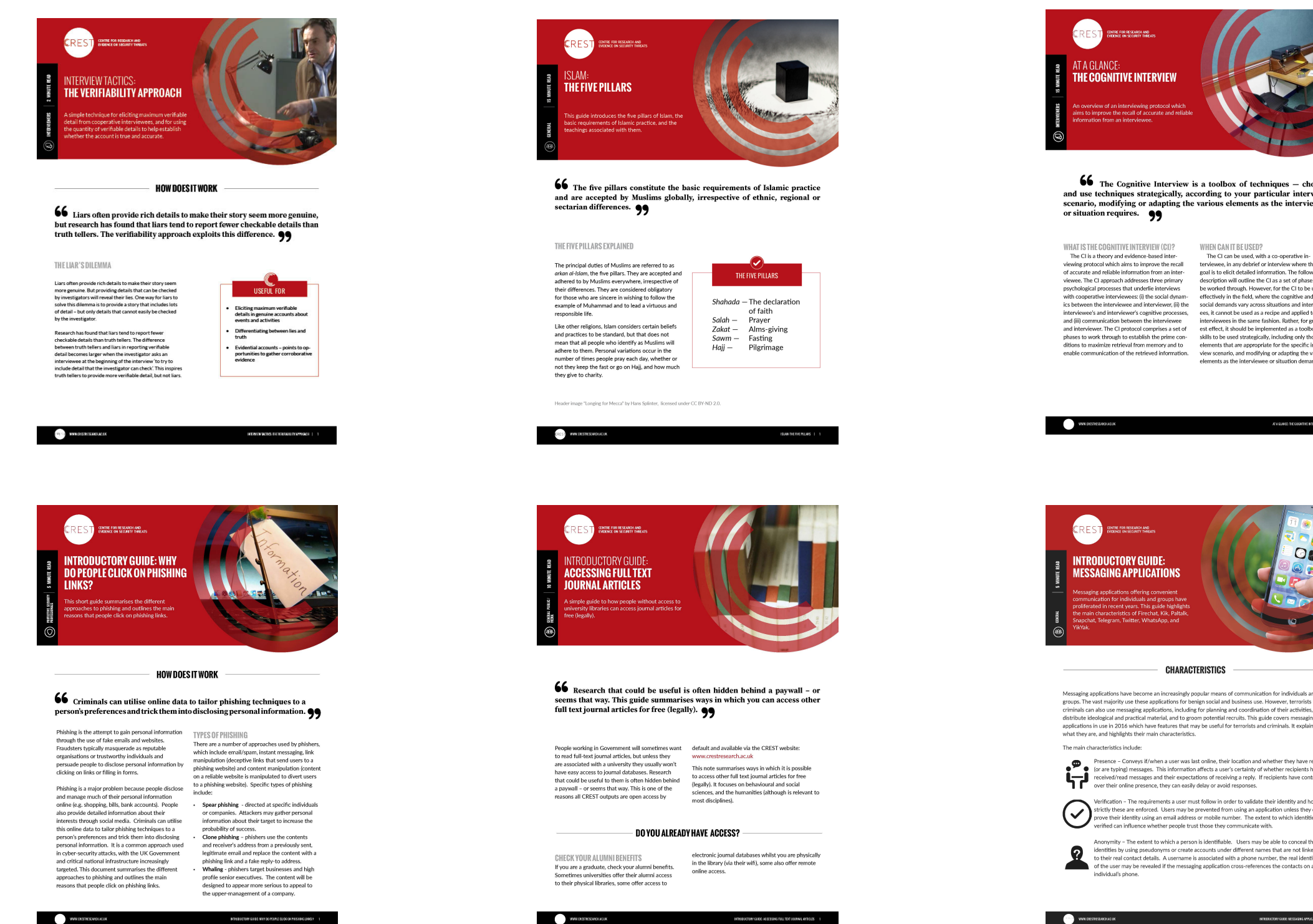
Communication

Our world-leading research is irrelevant if practitioners, policy-makers and other stakeholders do not get to hear about it. CREST communicates its research through guides, its website, a quarterly magazine, the media, specialist publications and face to face through networking events.

Guides

CREST produces guides, research briefs as well as blogs, articles, research digests and other accessible and informative outputs based on our research.

These are available to download for free from our website.

CREST Security Review

CSR draws on leading research from around the world to illustrate how behavioural and social science can be used effectively in everyday scenarios.

Find out more
- Read our guides and issues of *CSR*!
- You can download more from www.crestresearch.ac.uk
- Subscribe to our newsletter on our website.

Get involved
- Share *CSR* with your networks – it can be downloaded from www.crestresearch.ac.uk/csr
- Tell us what topics would be useful to have guides on.

Networking

CREST has a programme of events where it engages in face-to-face discussion of its research with stakeholders. These range from roundtables that have included two-hourly discussions on terrorist financing and transmission of ideas, to conferences on topics such as interviewing.

These events are opportunities for researchers and practitioners to engage in discussion about what works, what could be useful and what the latest evidence can tell us.

Find out more
- Where appropriate we publish reports from these events on our website.

Get involved
- If you'd like to meet with our researchers through an informal roundtable, or through a larger event, talk to the relevant researcher or Deputy-Director Kim Knott.

Funding

CREST is funded by the UK's security and intelligence agencies and its six founding partners (the universities of Bath, Birmingham, Cranfield, Lancaster, Portsmouth, and West of England). Its funding is administered by the Economic and Social Research Council [ESRC Award ES/N009614/1]. The ESRC ensures the academic independence and rigour of CREST's work.

CREST is administered by Lancaster University.

Welcome to CREST!

CREST — CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE ON SECURITY THREATS

Lancaster University

Core research

Actors and Narratives—What are the narratives of people who get involved in, and disengage from, terrorism? This Programme examines the narratives of people who get involved in, and disengage from, terrorism. The outputs enrich our understanding of individual motivators, which inform methods of threat assessments and intervention. Led by Dr **Cerwyn Moore** at the University of Birmingham.

Ideas, Beliefs and Values in Social Context—Where and how are extremist ideologies transmitted and young people radicalized? This Programme improves our understanding of where and how extremist ideologies are transmitted and young people are radicalized, in order for de-radicalisation strategies and counter-narratives to be better designed and targeted. Led by Professor **Kim Knott** at Lancaster University.

Understanding and Countering Online Behaviour—How is the Internet used in recruitment, radicalisation and organisation of threats to national security? This Programme develops our understanding of the use of the Internet in recruitment, radicalization and organization of threats to national security, as well as develop ways in which it can be harnessed to mitigate such threats. Led by Professor **Adam Joinson** at the University of Bath.

Eliciting Information—How can the nature of social and cognitive processes contribute to promoting complete recall and accurate deception detection? By examining the nature of social and cognitive processes within intelligence-gathering interactions, this Programme develops techniques that promote accurate and complete recall, while facilitating deception detection. Led by Professor **Aldert Vrij** at the University of Portsmouth.

Protective Security and Risk Assessment—How can we better develop security as a social practice? This Programme broadens our understanding of the social processes that characterise effective 'collaborative' security, giving stakeholders the tools to both elicit better risk information and make better risk decisions. Led by Professor **Debi Ashenden** at the University of Portsmouth.

Commissioned research

In 2016 we commissioned ten projects to address requirements raised by our stakeholders. We will commission a further round of projects in 2017.

Find out more
All ten of our projects have short posters here outlining what they will be doing in their CREST-funded projects. Researchers on these projects are here too – look for their presentations or speak to them during the breaks.

Get involved
Apply to research with us - look for our call for research in late 2016 – on our website, in our newsletter and on social media
Fund research with us – see our poster on commissioning new research and speak to our Director, Paul Taylor, for more information on how you can use CREST to provide you with research by commissioning through us.

- Sharing information with authorities concerning violent extremist activity and involvement in foreign conflict, Professor Paul Thomas, University of Huddersfield & Professor Michele Grossman, Victoria University, Australia
- Minimal Social Exclusion: A Means To Increased Information Gain In Human Intelligence Interviews?, Professor Par Anders Granhag, University of Gothenburg
- How Does Isis Online Propaganda Demonstrate Mechanisms Of Radicalisation? Assessing Cognitive Mechanisms With A Quantitative Analysis, Dr Stephane Baele, University of Exeter
- From The Diasporisation To The Transnationalisation Of Exile Politics: Understanding When Extremism Gives Way To Moderate Politics – The Case Of Sri Lanka, Dr Christopher McDowell, City University London
- An Exploratory Study Of Expertise And Inertia In Emergency Service Responses, Professor Laurence Alison, University of Liverpool
- Applying Criminological Paradigms To Terrorist Decision Making Regarding Security And Risk, Dr Paul Gill, University College London
- Ethno-national, Religio-cultural Or Anti-Muslim? Investigating Sikh Radicalisation In Britain, Dr Jasjit Singh, University of Leeds
- Differences In The Ability To Spot Rare, Non-salient Or Hidden Targets, Professor Nick Donnelly,

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This programme examines the backcloth of economic, political, societal and global security perspectives that shape the perceptions and realities of security threats.

Through original research, knowledge synthesis and transfer – including workshops and roundtables, the programme aims to improve understanding of the conditions under which extremist ideologies are transmitted, individuals and groups are radicalised, and a minority make the move to violence.

Better knowledge of the process, locations, events and relationships involved in ideological transmission is vital for future development and targeting of interventions, disruption, and counter-narratives.

Bite-size guides

- Expert reviews on ideological transmission: How? Where? Who? What? In families, among peers, in formal and informal education, and via religious and political organisations.
- Introductory primers on Islam, Sunni/Shia differences, beliefs and practices, conversion, and Islamic and Islamist groups.
- Short guides on far right extremism, the counter-jihad movement, conspiracy theory, reciprocal radicalisation.
- Introductions to diasporas, and their impact on conflict zones and other security threats.

RadicalisationResearch

CREST funds and supports the public information website which provides expert scholarly articles and summaries on radicalisation, extremism, fundamentalism and terrorism, http://www.radicalisationresearch.org