



CREST, the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats, is inviting submissions for a three-day international conference in Lancaster, UK.

We are delighted to invite submissions for the first international conference on Behavioural and Social Sciences in Security (#BASS18). The theme of the conference is 'From Inspiration to Impact: Research into Understanding, Countering and Mitigating Security Threats'.

The conference is hosted by CREST, an academic centre with significant stakeholder engagement and a proven commitment to translating research to action. It is an excellent opportunity to present research which has or will have an impact on policy or practice in any of the conference themes.

We are interested in theoretical, empirical and critical papers, posters and talks from any discipline on any form of past, present or future threat, which address one of the conference's three themes: Understanding who and why; better intelligence gathering and decisions; and protective security and risk assessment. These themes, described in more detail below, will be interpreted broadly.

We invite submissions (details below) on these themes for:

- Twenty-minute papers
- Posters
- 5-minute lightening talks on emerging research

Understanding who and why

Papers in this theme will address the subject of the actors involved in security threats, their backgrounds, beliefs, values and motivations, how they learn and communicate to internal and external audiences, and the factors that lead to disruption, disengagement and desistence from crime and violence.

Who are the perpetrators and supporters of security threats? What roles do they play in planning, recruitment, fundraising, ideological transmission and the enactment of such threats? Why, how and when do individuals or groups engage in or disengage from crime or violence? What are the processes of learning, innovation or escalation involved? And what factors and decisions lead to de-escalation, and the reporting or countering of violent extremism or criminal activity?

Better intelligence gathering and decisions

This theme addresses the issues of intelligence interviewing and information gathering from and about individuals and groups, and how they might be improved. Papers may also consider

how terrorists and other criminal groups, and the services who respond to them, make decisions, anticipate and respond to critical incidents.

How can we tell if someone told a lie? What techniques can help people recall facts about an event? How are terrorist groups financed and what decisions do terrorists make to protect their security? Can social media use look unusual and how can we assess the value of the information we receive?

Protective security and risk

This theme addresses the need to better understand how we can protect ourselves, both online and in the physical world. Papers might consider how security professionals can help protect organisations and improve communication with employees, or how communities or families seek to protect themselves in the face of violent extremism or organised crime. What are the barriers to reporting friends and families suspected of extremism to the authorities, and how do people keep secrets online?

How can we patch security vulnerabilities with people rather than relying solely on technology? How can we prevent low-level breaches in security by well-meaning employees? How can we ensure that products are 'secure by default'? What can people's digital footprints tell us about their risk profile and vulnerabilities? Can behavioural science inform interventions to encourage more secure behaviour?

Bursaries

A limited number of small bursaries are available for doctoral students and unemployed or hourly-paid researchers. Please download an application from <https://crestresearch.ac.uk/bass18/> and submit it by 0900 (UK time) Monday 14th May to n.ronan@lancaster.ac.uk.

Submissions

Proposals for papers, posters and lightening talks should be made using forms that can be downloaded <https://crestresearch.ac.uk/bass18/> and submitted to crest@lancaster.ac.uk by Sunday 18th March.

About the conference host

The conference is hosted by the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST), which is a national hub for understanding, countering and mitigating security threats. CREST brings together the foremost expertise in understanding the psychological and social drivers of the threat, the skills and technologies that enable its effective investigation, and the protective security measures that help counter the threat in the first place. It receives the majority of its funding from the UK's security and intelligence agencies and works within a context of significant stakeholder and international researcher engagement.

More information

For more information please visit our conference page at:
<https://crestresearch.ac.uk/bass18/>

