CREST 10 YEAR TIMELINE

2015

CREST

CREST LAUNCHES

"...talks were pitched at exactly the right level." – Government

2016

CREST Conference – London
The inaugural conference showcased cutting-edge research from CREST PhDs, early career researchers, five core programmes, and commissioned projects, bringing stakeholders together to explore the full breadth of CREST's work.

Sunni and Shi'a Islam
(Kim Knott)
Our most popular resource ever, with over 67k downloads and 225k views, still topping monthly charts nine years on.

"Prof Vrij's research has informed UK Aviation and Border Security interrogation policy." — Practitioner

2017

Model Statement Technique
(Aldert Vrij)
A simple technique for eliciting more information from cooperative interviewees, now integrated into security training and policy.

Sikh Activism in Britain
(Jasjit Singh)
Explores the narratives and issues that drive Sikhs in Britain to engage in visible activism, becoming a key resource for understanding Sikh radicalisation.

"Jas Singh's work on Sikh radicalisation was not seen as 'policy critical' at commissioning, but quickly became of interest and is now the go-to resource" – Impact Assessment

CREST Conference – Reading
The second conference focused on building the CREST community and sharing research across core and commissioned projects. Presentations featured work from ECRs alongside senior researchers.

2018

"Amazing mix of academics, policy makers, and researchers" – Practitioner

Russian Influence Campaigns
(Martin Innes)
Revealed systematic disinformation after the 2017 UK terror attacks, leading to international funding and an evidence review on social media's role in crises.

BASS – Lancaster
The first public BASS featured 50+ talks across three themes, with keynote speakers from Canada and Australia. Over 100 delegates attended to share research and explore international perspectives.

2019

Muslims & Islam in the UK
(Kim Knott)
A set of short guides created to make CREST's in-depth research on Islam more accessible to practitioners. Used in training for nearly 1,000 end users across multiple countries and agencies.

Organisational Change
(Rosalind Searle & Charis Rice)
Widely used by managers and adopted by NHS Scotland and CPNI (now NPSA), these tools helped organisations manage change effectively.

CRESTFest – London
A two-day showcase designed for government stakeholders. ECRs presented new research and joined informal discussions, creating direct opportunities for policy–research exchange.

Deradicalisation Programmes
(Sarah Marsden)
Explored approaches to disengagement and evaluation. Informed Home Office policy and led to Marsden chairing an independent advisory committee.

"...one of the best pieces of training in my 40 years of service." — NCA

Understanding Conspiracy Theories
(Karen Douglas et al.)
CREST's most cited publication, this seminal 2019 paper shaped the development of conspiracy theory research as a field. It continues to guide academics, policymakers, and practitioners in understanding the psychology and social dynamics of conspiracy beliefs.

2020

Community Reporting on Terrorism
(Michelle Grossman & Paul Thomas)
Explored why families and friends hesitate to report loved ones' extremist activity, becoming a central element of delivering the UK PREVENT strategy, influencing a number of workstreams led by the national PREVENT team.

2021

The Eliciting Information Framework
(Anna Leslie)
A practical tool for interviewing and debriefing, rapidly deployed during the pandemic.

"...today shows how much I rely on CREST in this respect." – Practitioner

Emergency Services Interoperability
(Nicola Power et al.)
Exposed the "principle-to-implementation" gap in emergency response, underpinning new research and a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship.

The Role of Social Media in Far-Right Violence
(Olivia Brown)
After the 2024 UK riots, Brown's work informed public understanding through outlets such as Financial Times, Policing Insight, BBC, LBC, and CBC News, shaping debate on online harms and safety

Incel-Related Violence
(Lewys Brace)
Attracted huge public interest, surging to 40k views in one month after the Netflix TV show Adolescence came out.

"...one of the most organised (and best) conferences I've been to... exceptional quality of speakers." – Practitioner

BASS – St Andrews
BASS24 hosted 65+ talks, 192 delegates, 49 universities, and 85 government reps. Keynotes from Montreal and OFCOM, plus a UK policing panel, highlighted practice-driven impact.

"It was fabulous... amazing opportunities to meet up, network and exchange ideas" – Researcher

2022

Dynamics of Violence Escalation
(Joel Busher et al.)
Explored how anti-minority and far-right activism escalates or is contained during 'hot periods'. The project and briefings received detailed praise from security practitioners.

CREST/CPD Negotiation event – Manchester
Delivered with the UK CT Negotiation Team, this private event explored communication, engagement, and influence in negotiations. 5/7 presentations came from CREST.

2023

BASS – Lancaster
After the pandemic pause, BASS returned with 65 talks on risk, eliciting information, and disruption. It hosted 180+ delegates from eight countries, plus DSTL-funded panels on social bias.

"A great opportunity to present my work and get feedback from brilliant people." – PhD researcher

BASS – Bath
BASS23 brought 59 talks and 230 delegates from seven countries. Keynotes came from King's College London, Cardiff, and DSTG Australia, alongside popular returning themes.

Lethal Subcultures & the Extreme Far-Right
(Ben Lee)
Explained emerging extreme far-right movements, siege culture and lethal subcultures, helping to inform Counter Terrorism Policing training.

2024

2025

NABS+ Community Event – Crewe
Funded by UKRI, supported by CREST, NABS+ was launched a cross-sector network on behavioural and social science for security. The inaugural event gathered 29 institutions to tackle online harms, disinformation, and AI.

Time-Critical Questioning Framework
(Lorraine Hope et al.)
A pioneering protocol tested in live hostage-taking exercises, improving rapid information extraction under pressure.

"We've witnessed first-hand the efficacy of this pioneering technique." – Practitioner

EVENTS OUTPUTS