The Monterey Terrorism Research and Education Program (MonTREP) conducts in-depth research, assesses policy options, and engages in public education on issues relating to terrorism and international security. MonTREP is part of the Monterey Institute, and faculty associated with it teach courses in the Institute’s master’s degree program in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies.

MonTREP defines terrorism as “the use or threatened use of violence, directed against targets chosen for their symbolic or representative value, as a means of instilling anxiety in, sending one or more messages to, and thereby manipulating the perceptions and behavior of wider target audiences…. The perpetrators of acts of terrorism can either be non-state groups or state security forces.”

The focus of the program is on the study of violence-prone extremist groups and their historical evolution, ideological motivations, organizational structure, demographic profiles, and operational methods, as well as their potential interest in carrying out mass casualty attacks (including through the acquisition and use of so-called “weapons of mass destruction”). MonTREP experts examine the motivational factors that lead terrorist groups to select designated “enemies,” choose particular targets, and resort to different types of attacks in an effort both to inform scholars and policymakers and to enhance the level of public knowledge about how and why such actors make strategic and tactical decisions.

MonTREP researchers have studied a wide variety of political and religious terrorist groups, including Islamists and jihadists, apocalyptic millennials, neo-fascists in Europe, right-wing radicals in the United States (Christian and secular), Marxist-Leninists, ethnonationalists, anarchists, eco-radicals, Jewish fundamentalists in Israel, and state-backed “death squads” in places such as South Africa and Latin America.

Adhering to the highest scholarly standards, but also have the potential to contribute to the formulation of more effective security and counterterrorism policies. For that reason, MonTREP experts frequently serve as expert consultants for a variety of government agencies, as well as for international organizations. MonTREP specialists are also called upon frequently by the media to offer expert commentary in articles reporting on political and religious extremism, terrorism, and related policy concerns.
MonTREP Faculty Biographies

Brigadier General (RET) Russell D. Howard
Director and Senior Research Fellow, MonTREP

General Howard is the former director of the Jebsen Center for Counterterrorism Studies at the Fletcher School, and head of the Department of Social Sciences and founding director of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point. General Howard’s previous positions include Army Chief of Staff Fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, and Commander of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Lewis, Washington. He holds a Master of Arts degree in International Management from the Monterey Institute, and a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University.

General Howard is the co-author/editor of seven terrorism-related books (the Howard series) published by McGraw Hill.

Jeffrey M. Bale, Ph.D. (UC Berkeley)
Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow, MonTREP

Dr. Bale has been studying violence-prone political and religious extremists for nearly three decades. He has taught at several major research universities, published numerous scholarly articles on terrorism, extremism, Islamism, and covert political operations, carried out specialized archival research in the United States as well as in several European countries, and accumulated an extensive collection of primary source materials related to both extremist and terrorist groups and covert politics.

Gordon M. Hahn, Ph.D. (Boston University)
Adjunct Professor

Dr. Hahn is the author of Russia’s Islamic Threat (Yale University Press) and has written numerous scholarly and analytical articles on politics, Islam, and jihadism in Russia. He conducts research and teaches on Islam and politics in Russia and Eurasia, Russian domestic and foreign policy, and international relations in Eurasia. Dr. Hahn is also the editor and principal researcher of Islam, Islamism, and Politics in Eurasia Report, a MonTREP publication.

Sharad Joshi, Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
Assistant Professor and Research Fellow, MonTREP

Dr. Joshi teaches courses on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction in South Asia. Formerly a postdoctoral fellow with the Nonproliferation Studies, he has been a visiting fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis in New Delhi and an adjunct instructor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He has also done consulting work on terrorism financing and proliferation issues in South Asia.

Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies Degree

The Master of Arts in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies (NPTS) degree program at the Monterey Institute is the first of its kind internationally, and builds on both the Institute’s previous certificate program in nonproliferation and the Terrorism Studies concentration that was formerly a part of its International Policy Studies degree program. Creation of the NPTS degree program reflects students’ strong interest in these vital issues, as well as increased demand in both the public and private sector for policy experts in the fields of weapons of mass destruction and the threat of terrorism.

“The establishment of the Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies degree program in fall 2010 put an exclamation point on our commitment to providing Monterey Institute students with a graduate education that has immediate relevance in today’s world,” notes Institute President Sunder Ramaswamy. “This degree program gives our students the opportunity to be part of the solution to some of the world’s most pressing problems.”

“The widespread threat posed by violence and terrorism, jihadist and otherwise, is likely to persist for the foreseeable future,” adds MonTREP Senior Research Fellow Jeffrey M. Bale. “Hence it is of vital importance that national and international policymakers understand the worldviews and objectives of the perpetrators of that violence and terrorism in order to develop more effective responses and countermeasures, whether these involve military or non-military means.”