

The Importance of (Good) Research

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The Quality of Terrorism Research Is Terrible

Alex Schmid and Albert Jongmann (1983):

“Much of the writing is impressionistic, anecdotal, superficial and at the same time often also pretentious, venturing far-reaching generalizations on the basis of episodic evidence”

Alex Schmid and Albert Jongman, *Political Terrorism: A Research Guide to Concepts, Theories, Data Bases and Literature* (Amsterdam: North-Holland, 1983).

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Andrew Silke (2001):

“[T]errorism research is not in a healthy state. It exists on a diet of fast-food research: quick, cheap, ready-to-hand and nutritionally dubious”.

Andrew Silke, “The Devil You Know: Continuing Problems with Research on Terrorism”, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 13(4) (2001), pp. 1-14.

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Andrew Silke (2007):

“[H]eavily dependent on easily accessible sources of data”, with “only about 20 per cent of articles [providing] substantially new knowledge that was previously unavailable to the field”.

Andrew Silke, “The Impact of 9/11 on Research on Terrorism” in Magnus Ranstorp (ed.), *Mapping Terrorism Research: State of the art, gaps and future direction* (Routledge, Abingdon, 2007), pp. 76-93.

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Peter Neumann and Scott Kleinmann (forthcoming):

“34 per cent of the items in our sample were either methodologically or empirically poor, while 11 per cent were both.”

But why?

But why?

- Government funding

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- Terrorism difficult to research

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- Government funding
- Terrorism difficult to research
- Not a unified field

So...

Let's do something
about it....

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