



**2017-2018 Academic Year
Office of Research and Evaluation
Placement ID: DRVE**

Research/Topic Area: Domestic Radicalization to Violent Extremism

Program Overview:

In 2011, the federal government released the National Strategy for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States. This document notes that law enforcement plays an essential role in keeping us safe from violent extremism, but so too does engagement and partnership with communities. Violent extremists are those individuals who support or commit ideologically motivated violence to further political, social or religious goals. Violent extremists target their messages to children, families, and individuals. The best defenses against these extremist ideologies are well-informed and equipped families, local communities, and local institutions. The document and its accompanying Strategic Implementation Plan advance an approach to building on existing community-based problem-solving practices, local partnerships, and community-oriented policing as a basis for preventing violent extremism as a part of a broader mandate of community safety.

In its appropriation for fiscal year 2012, Congress first provided NIJ funds for “research targeted toward developing a better understanding of the domestic radicalization phenomenon, and advancing evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention.” This led to the inception of the Research and Evaluation Program on Domestic Radicalization to Violent Extremism (DRVE) at NIJ. The DRVE program is a central part of NIJ’s Crime and Crime Prevention Research Division. The goal of the DRVE program is to develop knowledge of radicalization to violent extremism in the United States that bolsters efforts to prevent or counter violent extremism. The program primarily invests in extramural research and evaluation projects to accomplish this goal; it also uses expert working groups, intramural research and international coordination with other research agencies to supplement investments. Subsequent solicitations calling for research in this area led to 23 awards since the program’s inception in 2012.

The goal of the DRVE program is to answer three major questions in its first five years:

1. What are the primary drivers of radicalization to violent extremism, and how do they vary across cohorts (e.g., by grievance, by age, by socioeconomic categories)?
2. How is radicalization to violent extremism analogous to other forms of extreme violence, such as mass casualty events and gang violence?
3. What policy choices and/or programmatic interventions prevent or reduce radicalization to violent extremism, induce disengagement from violent extremism, and/or support de-radicalization and desistance from violent extremism?

The DRVE program aims to answer these questions for the benefit of multiple stakeholders, but sees criminal justice agencies and their community partners as the primary beneficiaries of this program. For a full description of the program and the awards made to date, see www.nij.gov/topics/crime/terrorism/Pages/domestic-radicalization.aspx.



Research assistant project task responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- Compiling, summarizing, revising, or making use of complex, technical, or specialized literature.
- Participating in data collection activities related to domestic radicalization to violent extremism.
- Extracting and compiling data from written sources, from individuals (questionnaires and interviews), or from existing databases.
- Assisting in research design strategies (e.g., developing and modifying research proposals, procedures, or tools/instruments).
- Processing and summarizing data using scientific or statistical techniques.
- Assisting in data interpretation and analyses to generate reports/papers.
- Assisting in developing research questions and designs for intramural studies.
- Assisting in preparing materials for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review for intramural studies.
- Conceptualizing and drafting publications (such as government reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, NIJ publications, and trade magazine articles).
- Drafting and presenting presentations at conferences (where funding permits and the University approves).
- Recording, compiling, and reporting information related to the research program and activities with a focus on relevance for the policy or practitioner fields; preparing policy briefs; and assisting with responses to Congressional inquiries.
- Assisting with coordination of research activities and participating in intra- and inter-agency working groups (e.g., other federal science agencies and stakeholders such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Executive Office for the United States Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, and National Counterterrorism Center).
- Assisting with outreach activities and research dissemination activities (e.g., meeting presentations, articles, webinars).
- Assisting with the creation, synthesis and updating of website content in conjunction with the Office of Communications.
- Assisting with the planning, logistics and execution of an annual program status meeting.

NOTE: Research Assistants do not provide clerical support, process grants or other award documents, participate in grant management activities, or perform inherently governmental functions.

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system ***required***.
- Demonstrated knowledge of intermediate to advanced research and evaluation methods and analysis ***required***.
- Demonstrated experience in social or behavioral science related to criminal justice ***required***.
- Demonstrated knowledge of domestic radicalization, violent extremism and/or terrorism ***preferred***.

General Required Qualifications

- **Education and/or Experience:** Doctoral students working toward a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., D.P.A., Dr.PH., D.H.Sc., D.Sc., D.S.W., Psy.D., Ed.D.).
- **Mathematical Skills:** Very good to advanced understanding of statistical principles and research methods (quantitative and qualitative).
- **Computer Skills:** Working knowledge of computers and standard software such as Adobe Professional, Excel, Internet Explorer, Outlook, Windows operating systems, Word, and PowerPoint required.



Proficiency using R, SPSS, SAS, or Stata. Knowledge of Access, ATLAS.ti and other statistical or geospatial software a plus.

- **Reasoning Ability**: Ability to work independently, accurately, and in a timely manner.
- **Communication Skills**: Ability to communicate orally and in writing to prepare comprehensive research reports, proposals, and presentations and make recommendations to accomplish and enhance project objectives.
- **Certifications, Licenses, Registrations**: Human Subjects (HS) Protection training is required. NIJ research assistants must take annual HS training onsite at the Office of Justice Programs. RAs also must successfully complete [CITI training](#).
- **Background Check**: Candidates must complete all required U.S. Department of Justice profile and pre-screening paperwork with all security reviews and background investigations (such as credit and criminal investigations) resulting in a favorable adjudication.
- **Citizenship**: Candidates must be U.S. citizens.

Work Location: Primary work location will be at [NIJ's offices in Washington, D.C.](#) Minimal local travel in the [National Capital Region](#) may be needed to attend meetings and visit offsite research facilities. For this assistantship, travel is anticipated to conduct research site visits.