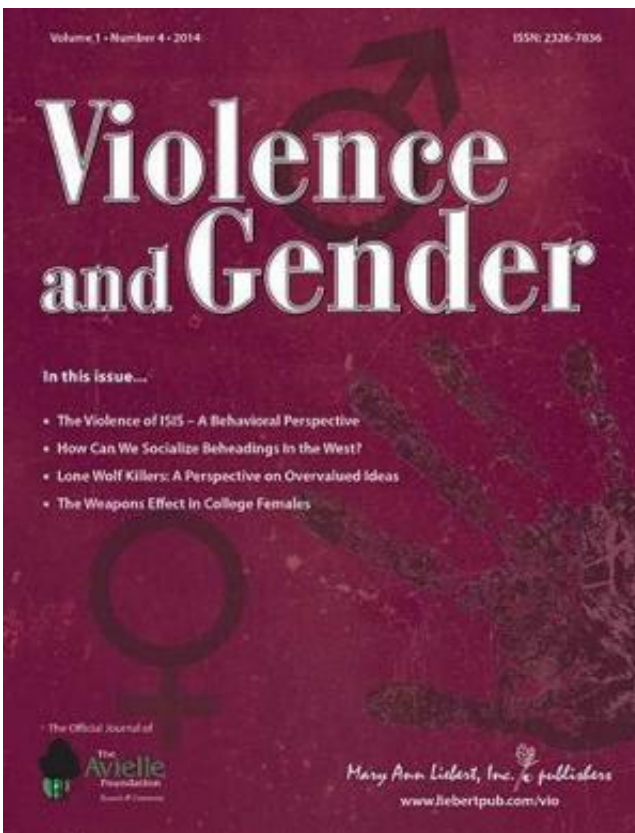


Behavioral analysis of ISIS brutality presented in *Violence and Gender* journal

December 17 2014



Violence and Gender. Credit: ©Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

The Sunni Islamist terror organization known as the Islamic State, or ISIS, uses extreme violence and brutality against anyone it perceives as a threat to its goal of expansion and restoration of an Islamic Caliphate. The significant behavioral aspects of this unparalleled violence and its

implications for the future are explored in a compelling Review article published in *Violence and Gender*, a peer-reviewed journal from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers.

In the article "The Violence of the Islamic State of Syria (ISIS): A Behavioral Perspective", coauthors Thomas Neer and Mary Ellen O'Toole, PhD, both retired FBI Agents, describe the growth of ISIS, its membership, and how gratuitous violence has become the organization's "brand." Other topics discussed in their article include violence and psychopathy, personality traits, use of propaganda, ISIS recruitment methods of young men and women, and strategies to counter ISIS.

These authors bring a unique and important perspective to understanding ISIS - a behavioral perspective. Both Mr. Neer and Dr. O'Toole worked for years as Profilers in the FBI's elite Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) where they analyzed violent offenders and their crimes. Mr. Neer's perspectives are also based on operational assignments throughout the world where he conducted behavioral and risk assessments of known and suspected terrorists. Dr. O'Toole lends her expertise in psychopathy and psychopathic behaviors of individuals and groups to ISIS leadership.

"ISIS is a global concern on many levels, and its grandiose display of extreme and ruthless [violence](#) is stunning," says *Violence and Gender* Editor-in-Chief Dr. O'Toole. "In this article, my colleague and I provide a behavioral assessment of this dangerous and evolving group comprised largely of young men in a vulnerable age group - late teens and twenties. I am sure you will find this unique and timely perspective both fascinating and enlightening, and extremely relevant for policy development."

More information: *Violence and Gender* [DOI: 10.1089/vio.2014.0037](https://doi.org/10.1089/vio.2014.0037)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

Citation: Behavioral analysis of ISIS brutality presented in Violence and Gender journal (2014, December 17) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-12-behavioral-analysis-isis-brutality-violence.html>

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