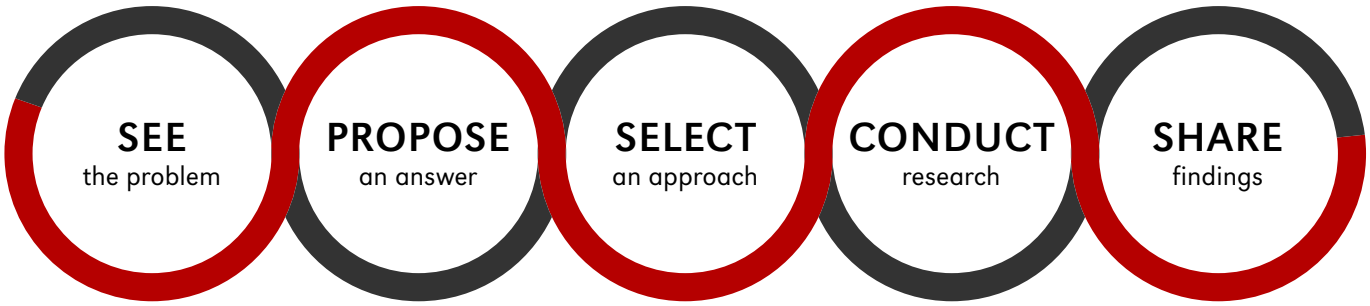
What is NCITE?

The National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE) Center is the nation's leading academic center for the study of emerging and novel terrorism threats.

NCITE is based at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a Center of Excellence. Our job is to generate unique research insights, build innovative tools, and develop curricula to strengthen the current and future homeland security workforce.

Our call: Help the national security front line protect the nation from terrorism and targeted violence.

CUTTING-EDGE, USEFUL RESEARCH



- NCITE's interdisciplinary team constantly scans the horizon for emerging threats.
- Government articulates challenges in understanding and preventing terrorism and targeted violence.

- NCITE shapes its annual request for proposals process around the emerging and articulated threats with input from government end users.

- NCITE vets and selects research projects that meet rigorous scientific and relevance criteria.
- Each project team and proposed method goes through a four-stage selection process.

- NCITE provides ways for end users to see research in progress and have early input.
- Interdisciplinary teams across universities in America and allies abroad use empirical methods to conduct cutting-edge research projects.

- NCITE reviews all research products, including a peer-review process to vet the scientific merit.
- NCITE shares products on public platforms and conducts panels, workshops, and other events for the public good.

RESEARCH THEMES

NCITE currently funds 29 innovative research projects. They fall under the following four themes:

Understanding the nature of counterterrorism and targeted violence

Improving the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative

Evaluating prevention programs

Strengthening the current and future homeland security workforce

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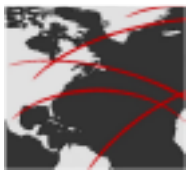
INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERNATIONAL

NCITE Consortium Map

Based at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) the NCITE consortium includes more than 50 expert researchers from partner institutions across the U.S. and Europe. Our researchers have a broad range of expertise - political science, criminology, psychology, sociology, business, information technology, and more.

RESEARCH EXAMPLES



Threat Landscape: The effectiveness of counter-extremism and counterterrorism policies depends on understanding the characteristics of adversarial organizations — their leadership structures, relations with local communities, choice of tactics and targets, and origins. It's also vital to know how groups interact with each other. Research projects map a host of violent extremist organizations and their activities across the globe.

Prevention: NCITE is working on several projects that aim to stop violent attacks before they happen. In one, researchers are developing an intelligent chatbot in the hopes of improving suspicious activity reporting. In another, experts are creating a handbook of best practices for managing the exit of violent extremists from the criminal justice system. A third project aims to develop standardized evaluative criteria for DHS' local terrorism and targeted violence prevention grant programs.

Emerging Technology: The emerging AR/VR "metaverse" is technology ripe for exploitation by extremists. In addition to the opportunities it presents for recruiting and radicalization, it can be combined with other emerging tech – including artificial intelligence – to cause more harm. The goal of this portfolio is to better understand how these new technologies shape the actions of terrorists so that decision makers in national security can develop strategies to prevent violent attacks.

Organizational Innovation and Teamwork: Organizational resilience projects explore how to get interdisciplinary teams across various sectors to work most effectively together. With experts in national security workforce development, NCITE researchers focus on improving teamwork across the field, increasing innovation in analysis, and providing access to academic resources to enhance national security capability.

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