



DECODED LAUNCH ROUNDTABLE

Date: September 24, 2020

Disclaimer: This briefing note contains the encapsulation of views presented throughout the evening and does not exclusively represent the views of the speaker or the Canadian Association for Security and Intelligence Studies.

KEY EVENTS

During the Decoded Launch Roundtable, presenters Candyce Kelshall and Natalie Archutowski discussed the reasoning and methods behind creating *DECODED: Understanding the Post-COVID-19 Security Landscape Using Structured Models, Approaches, and Analytic Techniques*.

NATURE OF DISCUSSION

Presentation

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a 'new normal' which requires tools such as Structured Analytical Techniques (SATs) and Structured Models and Analytical Techniques (SMATs) to gain a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of how we might adapt to this new social, economic and political landscape.

BACKGROUND

Presentation

CASIS Vancouver has published DECODED which gives an in-depth analysis on some aspects of daily life which have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe and provides insights on how we might adapt to the new normal. This is done through the use of SMATs, as well as a collaboration with multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Question Period

In order to navigate the ‘new normal’, the public must use critical thinking and maintain social cohesion. By using SMATs, one is able to analyze a group or organization rather than individuals which can be difficult to navigate. Therefore, this allows one to sort through misinformation to create informative and comprehensive knowledge on the crisis in question.

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION AND WEST COAST PERSPECTIVES

Presentation

- COVID-19 is creating a new normal which Gen Z’s are using to demand and promote changes to the expectations of equity and equality around the globe; law enforcement and decision makers must adapt in order to protect social cohesion.
- SATS and SMATs, including the Pinehurst Model, Counter Violence Grid and Discord Model, can be used to generate comprehensive and nuanced understandings of complex security issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Critical thinking, resilience and collaboration are necessary to navigate the vast amount of information available in the Digital Age.
- Key points of interest that have been affected by the pandemic are:
 - Food security
 - Extremism
 - Misinformation
 - Human Acuity
 - Transport and Infrastructure
 - Economic Landscape
- Using models and techniques that look at groups rather than individuals can help give insight as to whether a group or social movement might escalate to violence or not.

Question Period

- In these times of change, pushing for tolerance and keeping social cohesion high can be done by holding your community, friends and family to account.
- Violence does not have to be physical to do harm. There is a significant amount of soft harm that occurs both in physical spaces and online.
- The basis upon which SMATs function effectively is that they look at social network theory which observes psychological community engagement environments and is designed therefore to stop individual profiling.

- The nature of a SMAT is to reduce cognitive bias, meaning that ‘good data in equals good data out’. Diversity is key for developing questions and techniques to find the most effective way to decode information.
- There is a shocking amount of misinformation being liked and shared by people who do not care whether what they are reading is true. The challenge then is to sort through all of that information to decipher what is true and what is misinformation.



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