Hot Spots of Hate and Violence: U.S. County Level Analysis of Factors Related to Hate Crimes and Terrorism

Our Project is an effort to exploit existing quantitative data in innovative ways to identify factors that make certain counties prone to radicalization and political or hate-inspired violence. We intend to test several hypotheses about how hate crime and terrorism in the United States relate to each other as cause and effect. In order to do this we will 2) several hypotheses about how hate crime and terrorism in the United States relate to each other as cause and effect. In order to do this we will 1) Integrate the Global Terrorism Database and data on hate crimes from the FBI Hate crime Statistics Reports, 2) Integrate this dependent variable data with independent variable data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) data all at the county level. All county-level data will be merged using unique census FIPS codes. We will use different types of time series rare event econometrics models to analyze our dependent variables and identify areas at an elevated risk of experiencing outbreaks of extremism. With these various analyses we will do a presentation on the causal analyses of factors leading to terrorism and hate crimes and send out the paper for review.