Applying Psychological Theory To Public Diplomacy:
How U.S. Government Programs
Counter Violent Extremism

Drake Weisert April 22, 2022 Duke University Counterterrorism and Public Policy Fellowship

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Current Psychological Research

Three Pillars of Radicalization Theory

Public Diplomacy Strategy

Programs: A CVE Toolbox

CURRENT PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH



ROOT CAUSE EXPLANATIONS

PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS

RADICALIZATION PROCESS

THREE PILLARS OF RADICALIZATION THEORY ("3 NS")

Needs (Quest for Significance)

Narratives

Networks

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AGENCIES

U.S. Department of State

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY TECHNIQUES

INFORMATIONAL RE

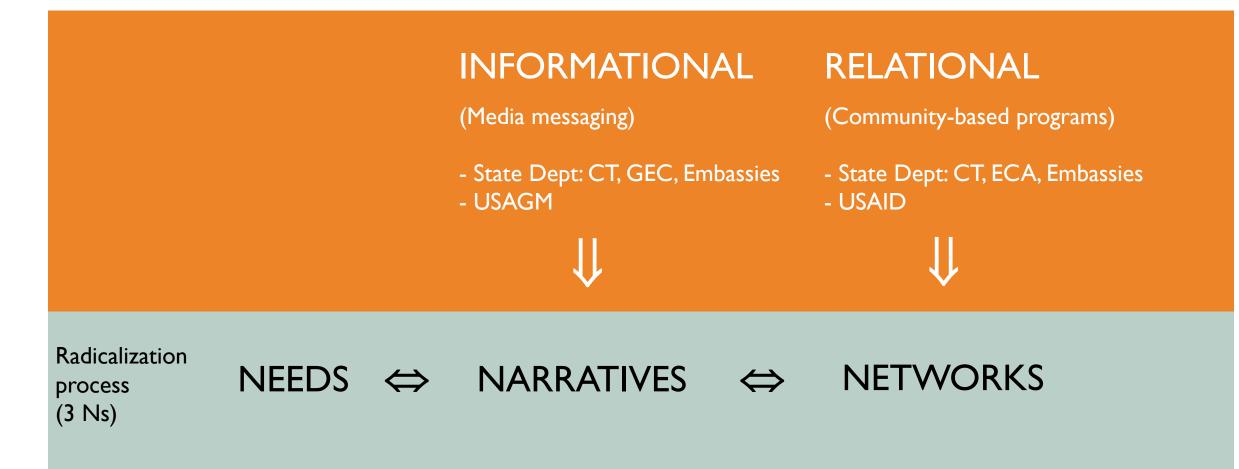
(Media messaging)

RELATIONAL

(Community-based programs)

- State Dept: CT, GEC, Embassies - USAGM
- State Dept: CT, ECA, Embassies - USAID

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY TECHNIQUES



U.S. GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS



CVE TOOLBOX	Narratives	Networks
U.S. Department of State		
Bureau of Counterterrorism (Informational and relational approach)	Peer to Peer	Strong Cities Network
		Young Cities
Global Engagement Center (Informational approach)	Defeat ISIS Campaign	
	Djibouti Messaging Training	
	The Way Forward	
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (Relational approach)		International Visitor Leadership Program
		Citizen Exchanges
		English Access Microscholarship
Regional Bureaus and Embassies (Informational and relational approach)	Sawab Messaging Center	Syrian Refugee Youth and Theater
		Madrassa Youth in Kyrgyzstan
U.S.Agency for International Development (Relational approach)		Trans-Sahara Partnership
		Niger CVE Network
		Somali Youth Learners Initiative
U.S.Agency for Global Media (Informational approach)	Not in Our Name	
	Raise Your Voice	
	Benar News	

CVETOOLBOX: SUMMARY OF PROGRAM TECHNIQUES

Informational programs (targeting narratives):

Questions?

Drake Weisert weisertda@state.gov Duke University Counterterrorism and Public Policy Fellowship