

## **Workshop on Strategic Aspects of Terrorism, Security, and Espionage**

Organizers: Dr. Boaz Ganor (IDC Herzliya)  
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The “Center for Game Theory in Economics” will host a Workshop on Strategic Aspects of Terrorism, Security, and Espionage as part of the events of the 2014 Stony Brook Game Theory Festival. This three day event will take place on the campus of Stony Brook University from July 16-18, 2014. The program will consist of invited and contributed presentations.

Terrorism has been an active field of interdisciplinary research for decades. Academic researchers in various fields have long recognized the strategic nature of the interactions between terrorists, media, public opinion, and decision making. Decision makers all over the world are challenged with finding the best policies, doctrines, and practices in counter terrorism that will be both efficient and will guard liberal democratic values. Traditional security dilemmas such as deterrence, espionage, victory, and many more become increasingly complicated and challenging in a context of asymmetric warfare, terrorism, or guerrilla warfare. The answer to many of these counter terrorism dilemmas and others lays in the recognition that the desirability of an outcome for both parties generally depends upon the actions of both decision makers – the head of the states and security organizations vis-à-vis the heads of the terrorist organizations. Thus, it is appropriate and fruitful to apply the tools of game theory to the analysis of counterterrorism policies.

Since research is being conducted by individuals across distinct disciplines, this workshop will provide a unique opportunity for interaction between practitioners and academics from diverse fields (e.g., economics, political science, mathematics, psychology, sociology, communications, operations research, and computer science) that are using game theoretic techniques to analyze issues related to counterterrorism. This workshop aims to advance our understanding of both the problems associated with and social implications of resource allocation in response to terrorist threats and on alternative counterterrorist policies. This event will provide a unique opportunity for scholars to disseminate the results of recent advances and to identify important directions for future work (potentially laying the groundwork for collaboration between theorists and applied researchers across disciplines, on issues for which the policy implications are of utmost importance).

While the primary focus of this event will be terrorism, presentations and discussions will also cover the related topics of security and espionage. The workshop program will broadly consist of three interrelated parts. First, terrorism experts will provide an overview of the current state of the discipline and identify unique challenges at the junction of practical decision making and the academic analysis of these issues. Second, applied academic researchers will present the results of recent and ongoing original work. This portion of the program will include both empirical and theoretical presentations from unique perspectives and disciplines, such as conflict economics, evolutionary game theory, computer science, operations research, and experimental

economics. Third, the workshop will conclude with a roundtable discussion led by a panel of leading game theorists and policy experts which will highlight open research questions and identify new ways in which game theory can contribute to the analysis of and our understanding of these complex issues.

For further information, please contact one of the conference organizers: Boaz Ganor (IDC Herzliya; [ganor@idc.ac.il](mailto:ganor@idc.ac.il)), Timothy Mathews (Kennesaw State University; [tmmathews@gmail.com](mailto:tmmathews@gmail.com)), or Yair Tauman (Stony Brook University and IDC Herzliya; [amty21@gmail.com](mailto:amty21@gmail.com)). You are invited to submit a complete paper or extended abstract by Friday, April 25, 2014. Submissions should be sent by e-mail as a PDF file to the organizers. Contributors will receive e-mail notification as to whether their paper has been accepted for presentation before Friday, May 16, 2014.