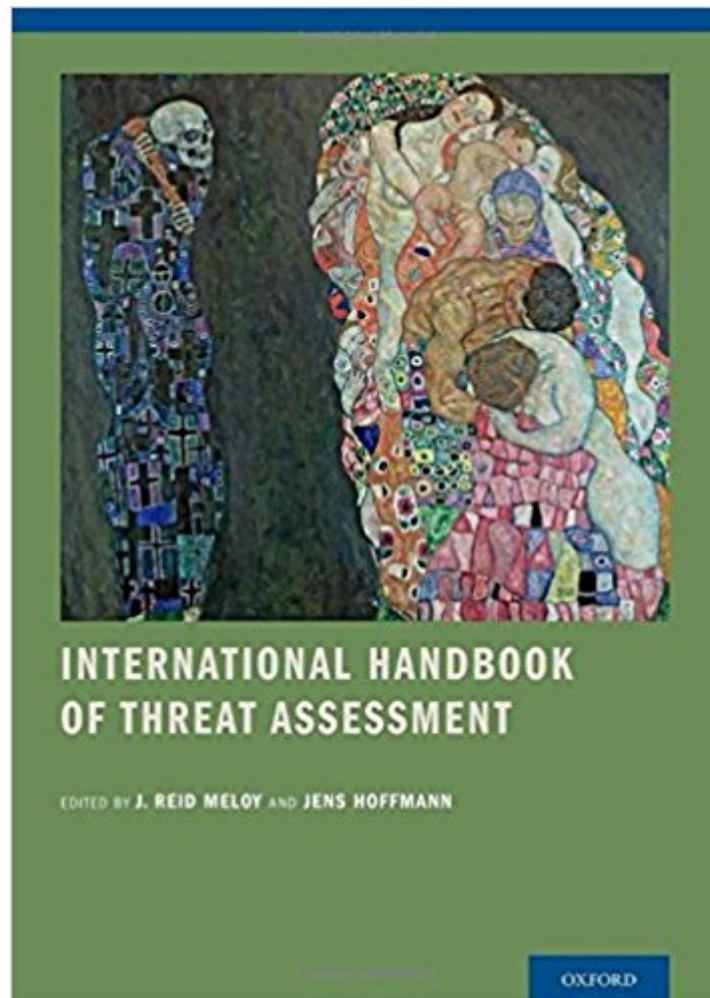




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International Handbook Of Threat Assessment



Synopsis

Threat assessment is a method used by mental health and law enforcement professionals to assess the risk of intended violence toward a specific target, such as attacks and assassinations of public figures, workplace homicides, mass murders, school shootings, and acts of terrorism, both domestic and foreign. Beginning with studies by the U.S. Secret Service twenty years ago, the research and interest in this field has accelerated over the past decade with published scholarship and emerging professional organizations. *International Handbook of Threat Assessment* offers a definition of the foundations of threat assessment, systematically explores its fields of practice, and provides information and instruction on the best practices of threat assessment. The volume is divided into three sections. Section I defines the difference between threat assessment and traditional violence risk assessment and discusses threat assessment terminology and practice, contemporary understanding of threats, warning behaviors concerning targeted violence, and the legal basis of threats and targeted violence interventions. Section II elaborates on the various domains of threat assessment, such as workplace violence, public figure attacks, school and campus violence, insider threats, honor-based violence, computer-modeling of violent intent, targeted domestic violence, anonymous threats, and cyberthreats. Section III presents the functions of a number of threat assessment individuals and units, including the UK Fixated Threat Assessment Centre, the LAPD Threat Management Unit, Australia's Problem Behaviour Program, and the U.S. Navy Criminal Investigative Service, among others. This book will serve as the standard reference volume in the field of threat assessment and will be invaluable to mental health and criminal justice professionals who practice threat assessment or are interested in understanding this new field of research.

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Customer Reviews

This is undoubtedly a valuable resource for anyone with a professional interest in the developing field of threat assessment. As with any compendium of articles by a range of authors, consistency is often a problem and this is the case here in places. It is a book to delve into selectively rather than read, cover to cover. Articles range from the seriously academic to the more narrative and anecdotal. Since I know some of the authors and have heard many speak on the issues presented, I wonder whether some articles and findings could not be presented more concisely. There is also some repetition of key issues and conclusions. The emphasis on psychological aspects is evident since this is the chosen discipline of the knowledgeable editors, who appear no less than 5 times each as authors or co-authors. This may be over-stating their personal perspectives (as valuable as they certainly are) since as editors, I think their vast experience would have been better served elsewhere. For example, in extracting the major headlines/findings from the articles presented and especially, highlighting where there is room for further research including, the critical gaps that still exist in understanding and predicting predatory violence. The fact is that psychological (endogenous) factors are only a limited part of a complex and multi-disciplinary mosaic of influencing factors and variables. The Breivik mass killing in Norway a few years ago demonstrated the complexity and controversy when various panels of psychologists could not agree on whether Breivik was clinically 'sane' or 'insane.' One informed observer commented this may be of secondary importance - and of equal significance are the (exogenous) factors that (mis)-shaped Breivik ideologically e.g.

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