



Social Science Perspectives and Countering Insider Threat

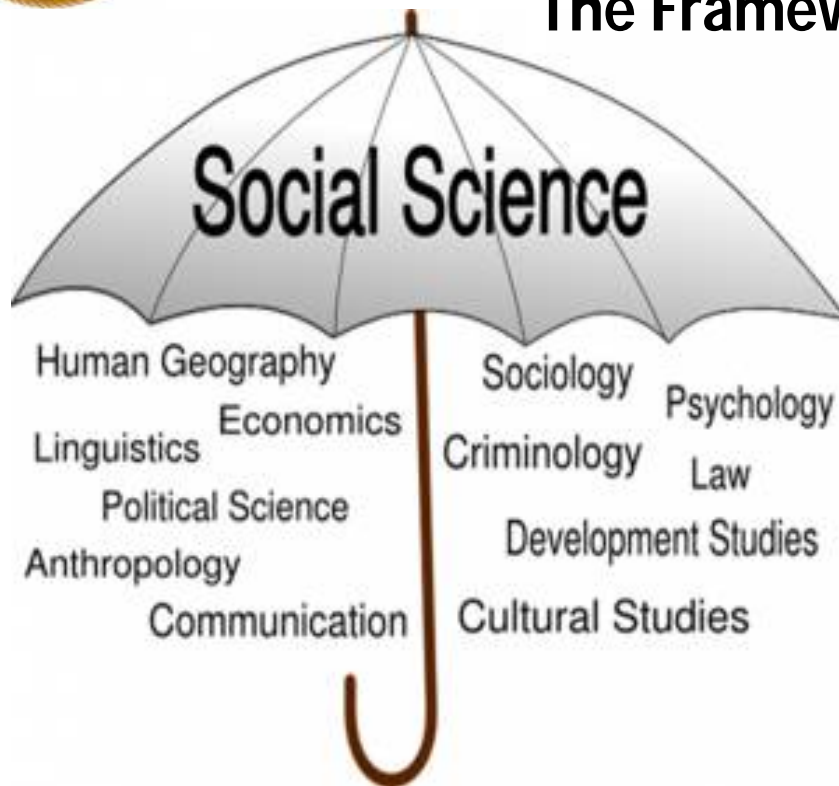
Overview

- What is a Social Scientist?
- Why Methods Matter
- The Application of Social Science
- Questions?



Social Science Perspectives and Countering Insider Threat

The Framework



- Social science is not a single discipline but rather a collection of associated disciplines.
- Many counter insider threat programs incorporate Behavioral Scientists with specific training and experience in Psychology, and sub-disciplines.
- [Experience](#), [training](#), and [methodological](#) approach shape how a Social Scientist supports Counter Insider Threat programs.



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Methods Matter

Quantitative

- Focus on numbers/numeric values
- Who, what, where, when
- Match with outcomes about knowledge and comprehension (define, classify, recall, recognize)
- Allows for measurement of variables
- Uses statistical data analysis
- May be generalized to greater population
- Easily replicated

Qualitative

- Focus on text/narrative from respondents
- Why, how
- Match with outcomes about application, analysis, synthesis, evaluations
- Seeks to explain and understand
- Captures "elusive" evidence



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Social Scientist: A Profile

Skills

- Multi- Context Focused
- Critical Perspective/
Red Teamer
- Policies and Socio-cultural
Considerations
- Applied Mixed Methods
- Experience Supporting
DOD and Marine Corps

Sources

- Hey Docs
(Advice/Consultation)
- Research Reviews with
FFRDCs and Interested
Stakeholders
- Assessments (Annual, ad
hoc, special projects)
- Working Group/Steering
Committee and Senior
Leader Requests for
Information

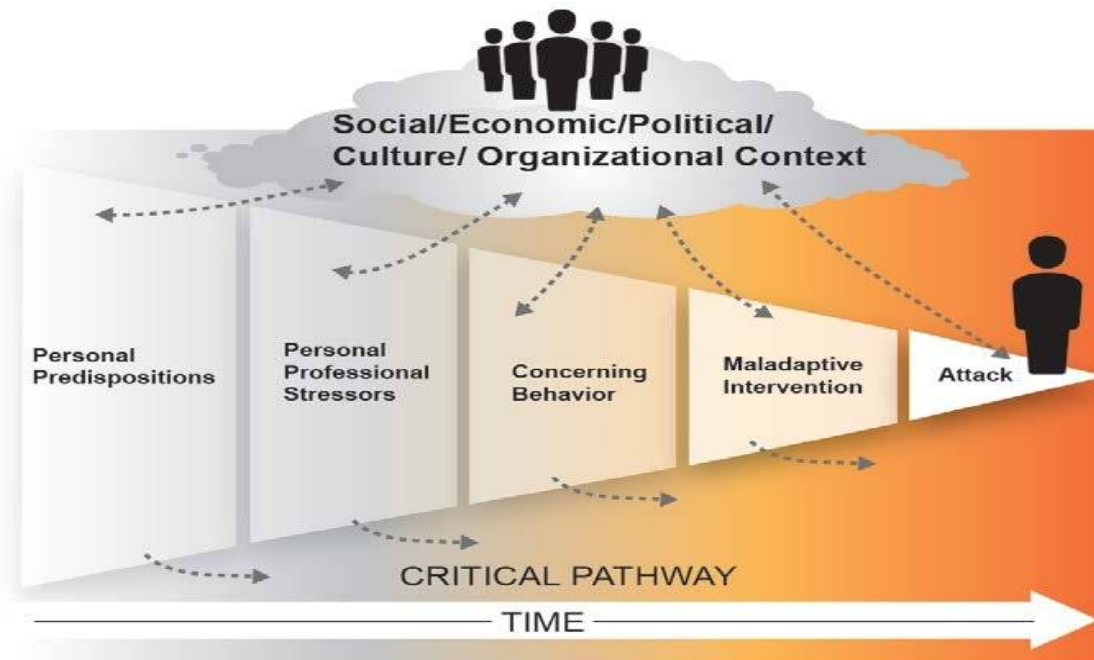
Contributions

- Brief Summaries/Knowledge
Nuggets
- White Papers
- Internal Assessment Reports
- Literature Reviews
- Original Research reports
- Training
- Brown Bag Discussions
- Research and Information
Database
- Conference Presentations



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The Critical Pathway



- Use research skills to look more deeply
- Tailor the framework to the program context
- Add to the Body of Knowledge

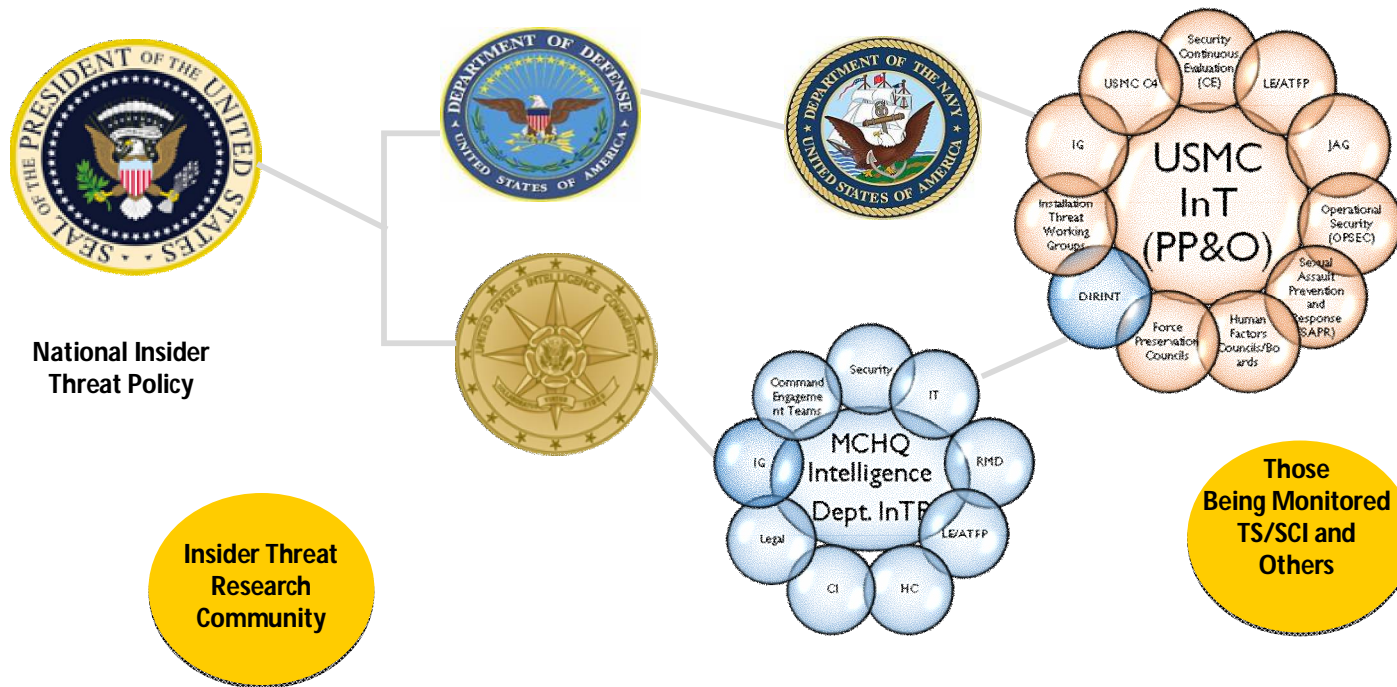
Source: The critical pathway to insider threat behavior (adapted from Greitzer, et al., 2010)

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-critical-pathway-to-insider-threat-behavior-adapted-from-Greitzer-et-al-2010-30_fig2_327186846



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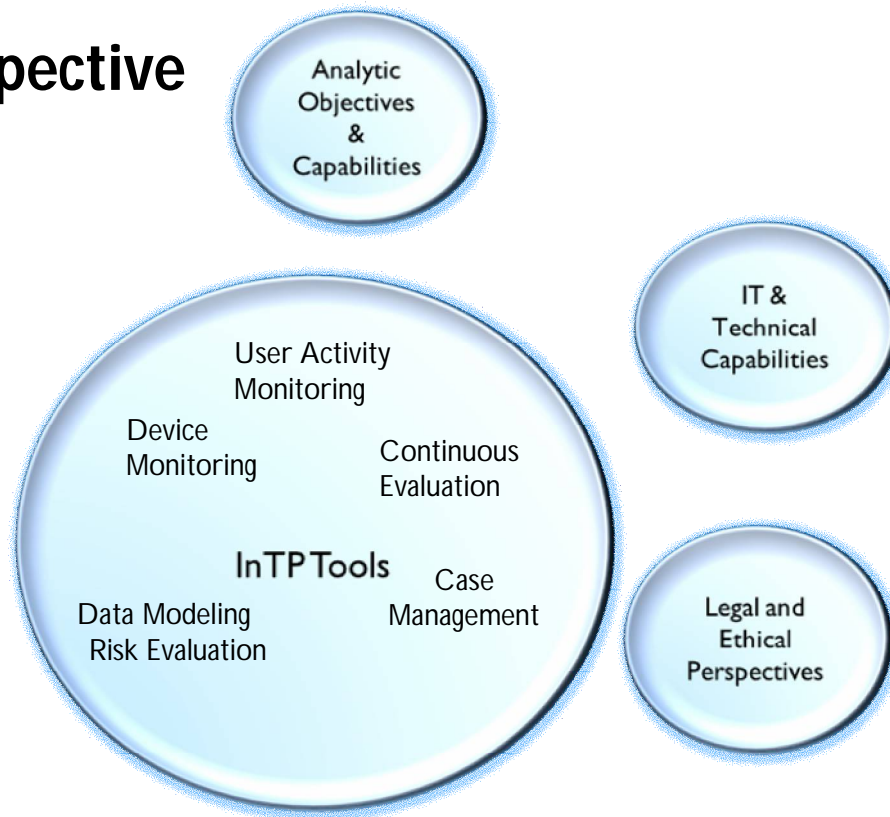
Macro Level Perspective





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Micro Level Perspective





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Challenges

- Applied Social Science and specifically the use of non quantified methods can be messy.
- Broadening the space for Social Science may make it difficult to professionalize and codify the work.
- Critical thinking can become cumbersome for implementers.



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Summary Points

- The Social Sciences are broader than Psychology and are not synonymous with the Behavioral Sciences.
- There is diversity in the existing Social Science community.
- Broader analytic lenses, tools and research methods offer a check and balance on tech centric approaches/myopic policy implementation/ one size fits all approaches.
- Social Scientists provide advice, critical thinking, research, assessment capabilities and training.



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Questions & Discussion