



# **Examining the Ideological Sociopolitical and Contextual Factors Underlying the Appeal of Extremism**

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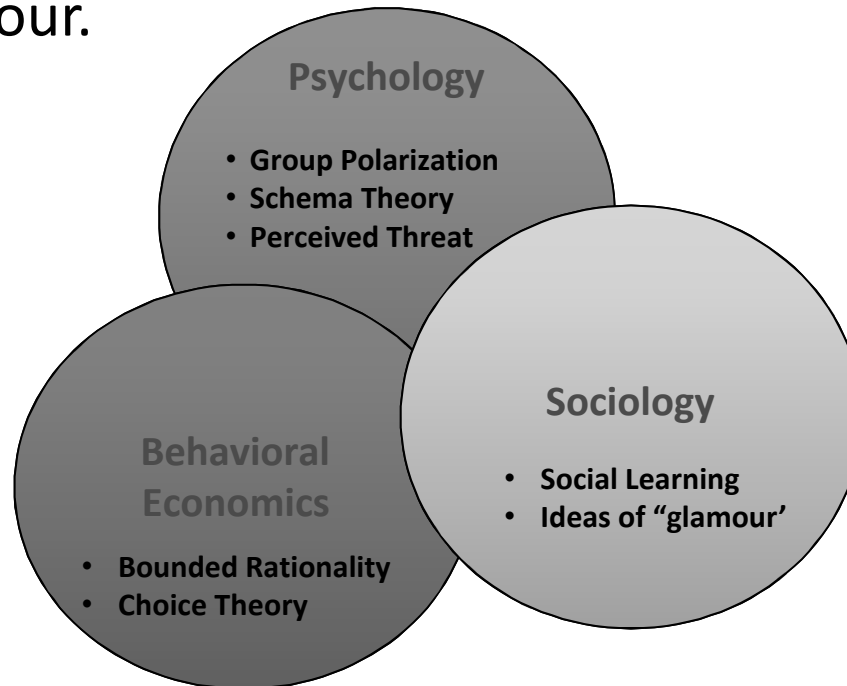


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# ‘Blending’

- Understanding complex systems requires the ‘blending’ of theories from a variety of disciplines to provide a complete picture of the multitude of factors which affect human behaviour.



# Looking at the Bigger Picture

- Explanations of extremist terrorists actions and the allure of extremist groups are often explained by religious ideology.
- However, it is argued here that ideology is often used to explain actions that are influenced by broader social-cultural-economic factors.



Ventures Africa, 2016

# Approach

- Interdisciplinary approach to provide a more comprehensive picture of human actions with regards to the appeal of extremists groups and actions of extremist groups.

Perceived  
'glamour'

Symbolic threat

Socio-economic  
conditions

Geopolitical  
situation

Belonging

Identity

Realistic threat

Group  
polarisation

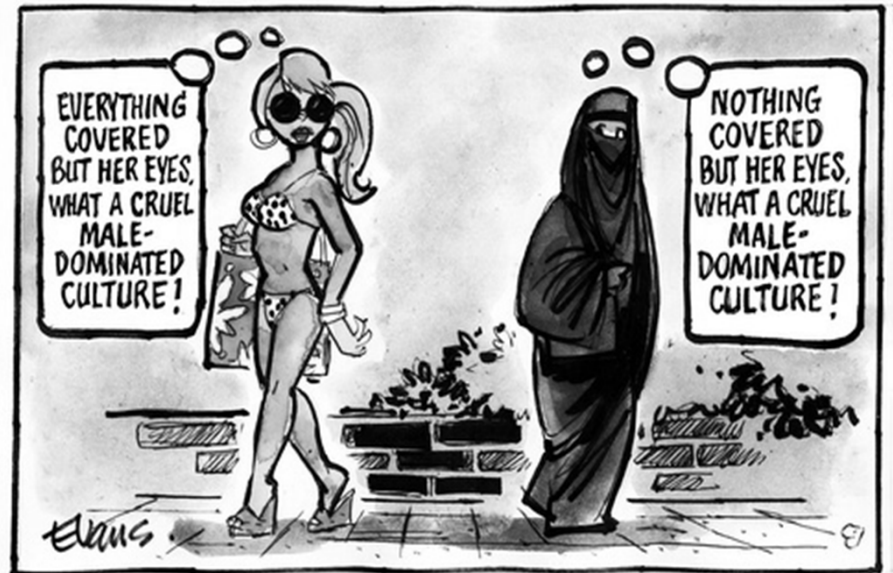
Strain

# Identity and Belonging

- Discursive constructions of identity and belonging, particularly discourses of race, religion, and nation permeate societal institutions, beliefs, and behavior.
- An individual's interpretation of their identity, and sense of belonging within a social context that is perceived as unjust, unfair and/or marginalizing can influence their decision making to seek out groups (including VEOs) that can alleviate this.

# Mental Models of How things Are

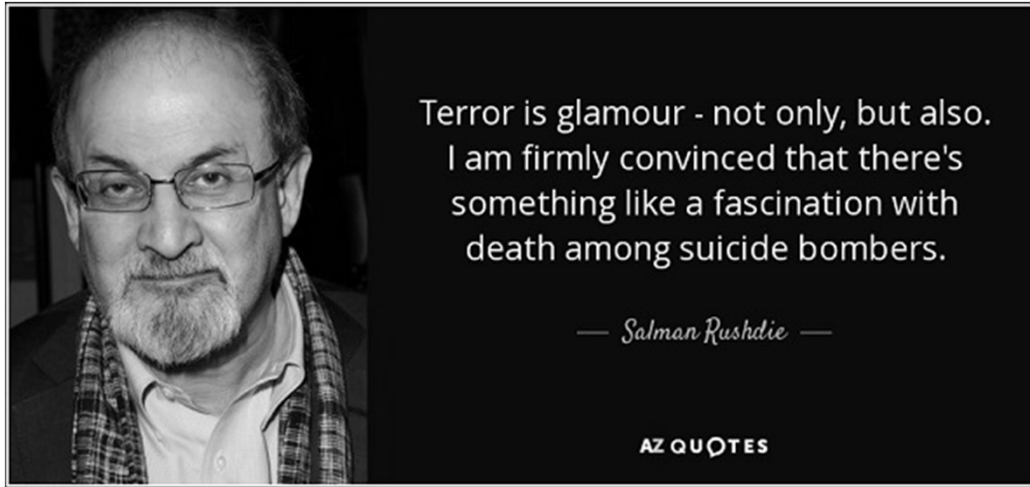
- Individuals create mental models regarding such things as how societies should and do behave, how their world is ordered, the nature and role of justice, and the nature and role of men and women.



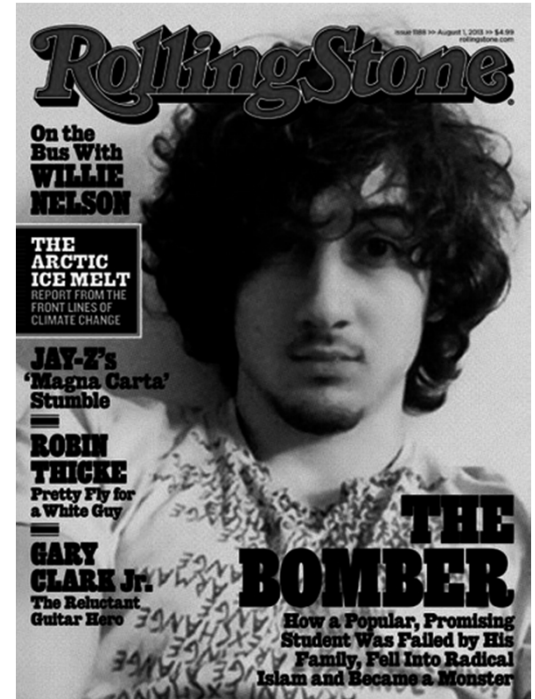
[www.quora.com](http://www.quora.com),  
2016

# Perceived Glamour

- It is argued here that the perceived glamour of a group becomes something to aspire to



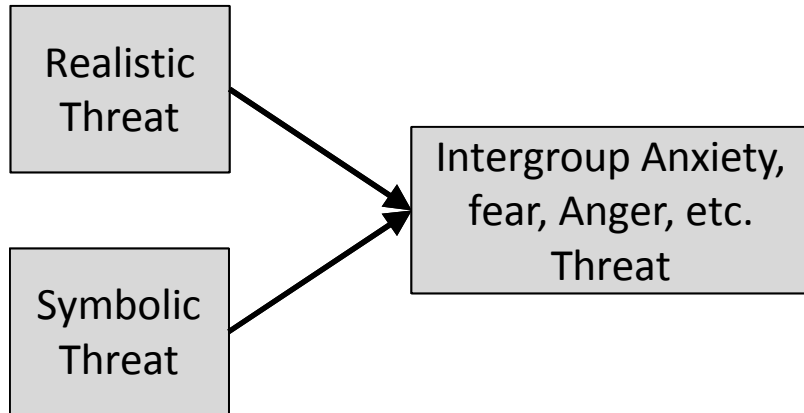
Salman Rushdie,  
AZ QUOTES, 2016



Rolling Stone Magazine,  
August 2013



# Perception of Threat



Campaign Against Arms Trade, 2015



Oxford Islamic Studies Online, 2016

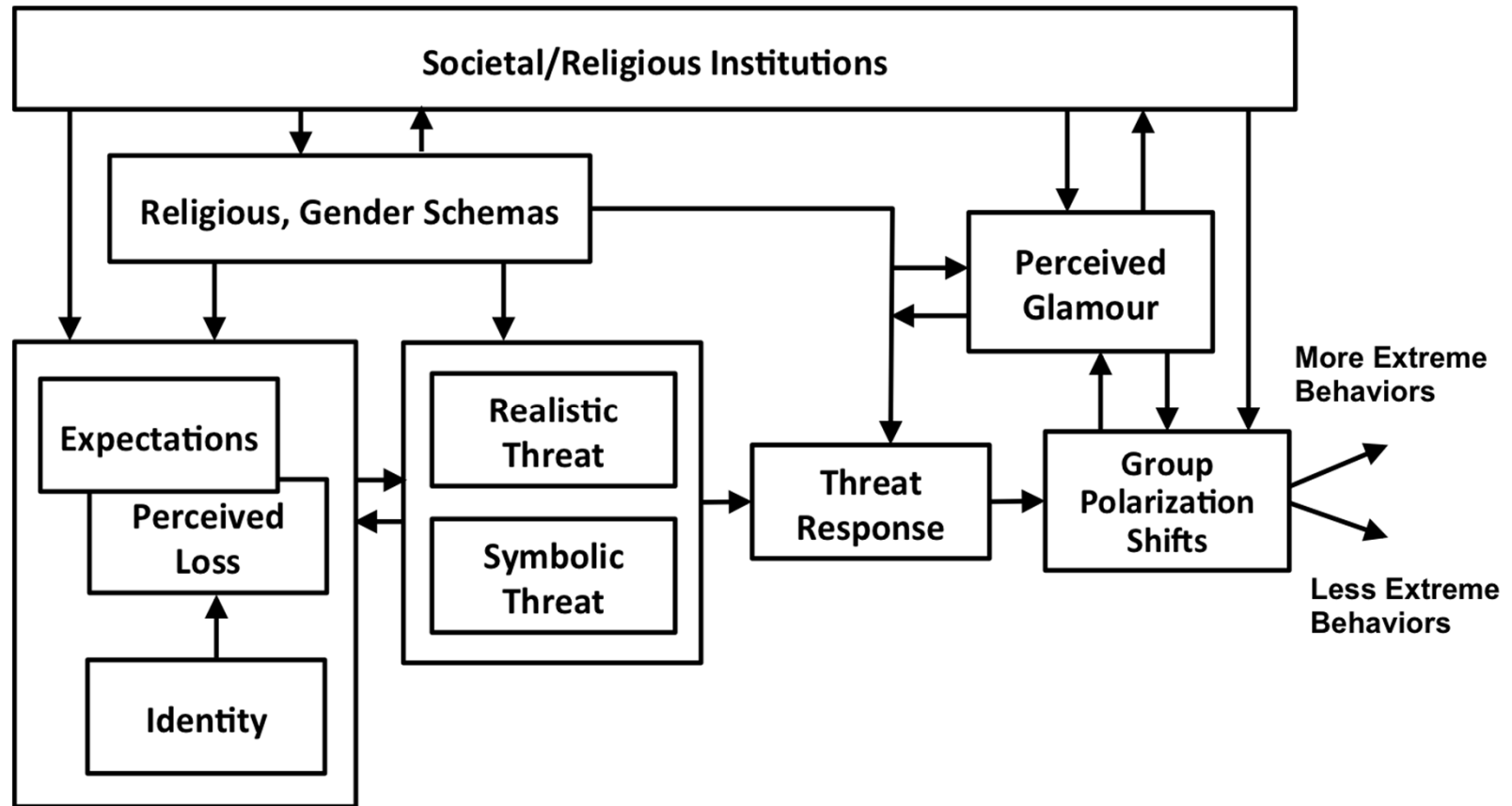
# Group Polarization

- “Group polarization arises when members of a deliberating group move toward a more extreme point in whatever direction is indicated by the members’ pre-deliberation tendency” (p. 3, Sunstein, 1999)



[www.nzedge.com](http://www.nzedge.com), 2016

# Conceptual Model of Extremist Behaviour



# Questions?



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