

**Advanced Analytical Rigour**

**Seminar 1 – Practice Exercise**

The Hunt Laboratory for Intelligence Research

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**CONTACT**

**Ashley Barnett**

Research Associate

**Email:** [barnett.a@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:barnett.a@unimelb.edu.au)

**Tamar Primoratz**

Research Associate

**Email:** [tpri@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:tpri@unimelb.edu.au)

# Seminar 1: Practice Exercises

## Part 3: Argument Mapping

### Demonstration

**Jack:** FDR wanted America to enter the war. It is well documented that he knew it was essential for America to join the war effort to prevent the spread of totalitarianism. Furthermore, FDR knew that the Japanese were going to attack Pearl Harbour and he just let it happen. You wouldn't knowingly let the Pearl Harbour attack happen unless you wanted to enter the war.

**Jane:** But, no one in US Navy intelligence suspected a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour.   
  
**Jack:** He would have known that it was a consequence of his economic efforts to hinder Japan’s war in China.   
  
**Jane:** Sounds like a conspiracy theory to me. Pearl Harbour was so costly to the US Navy no US president would have let it happen. If FDR wanted war with Japan he would have found some other justification.

### Practice Exercises

**Exercise 1**

Stacy Burke is not the murderer because Burke’s fingerprints were not on the murder weapon. It is very likely that the murderer’s fingerprints would be on the murder weapon.

Furthermore, Burke was in London an hour before the murder took place. The murderer couldn’t have been in London an hour before the murder place. Burke was in London at 8:30 pm. The murder was at 9:30.

**Exercise 2**

Jane: The death penalty is unethical. The death penalty results in innocent people being wrongly executed. The wrongful execution of people is unethical.

Tom: But some crimes are so horrific that proportionate retribution can only be achieved via the death penalty. Achieving proportionate retribution is ethical.

**Exercise 3**

Radioactive elements disintegrate and eventually turn into lead. So if matter has always existed there should be no radioactive elements left. There are however, many radioactive elements such as uranium left in the world, which shows that matter has not always existed.

**Exercise 4**

Many people think that helmets should be compulsory for cyclists. But since the compulsory helmet law was passed, the number of people who cycle has declined, and this wouldn’t have happened unless having to buy a helmet was a disincentive for cycling. Helmets should only be compulsory if having to buy them is not a disincentive for cycling.

## Part 5: Reasoning Structure

### Demonstration

Bob is planning a terrorist attack. We have two reasons to believe this:

1) He has purchased materials to build a bomb

2) He has acquired a large amount of fertiliser.

Furthermore, Bob doesn’t work on a farm or do any agricultural work

**Exercise 1**

Australian Strategic Policy Institute executive director Peter Jennings told The Australian it was “very clear” that China was behind the cyber attack on Australia […]

“I think you’ve got to sort of go through a check list of factors, which is not just the capability issues that Morrison talks about but also the interest and intent,” Mr Jennings said in the wake of the PM’s press conference announcing the attack.

“The Russians could do it. The North Koreans could do it, but neither of them have an interest on the scale of this. They have no interest in state and territory government or universities,”

“So that leads me to conclude that the only country that has got the interest to go as broad and as deep as this and the only country with the sophistication and the size of the intelligence establishment to do it, is China. That’s very clear.

“I think you can sort of attribute 95 per cent of confidence to it being China.”

- Peter Jennings, head of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

**Part 6: Evaluating Arguments**  
  
**Exercise 1**

Now is the time for the international community to ban weaponised robots. If they are not banned, then they will provide a cheap weapon capable of massive destruction and will cause many civilian casualties. A ban will be effective, so long as it is done now. Similar bans have prevented the spread of weapons in the past. A recent example is the UN Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons, which came into force in 1998. The International Committee of the Red Cross argued that the ban was an historic step for humanity, stating that: “It represents the first time since 1868, when the use of exploding bullets was banned, that a weapon of military interest has been banned before its use on the battlefield and before a stream of victims gave visible proof of its tragic effects.” However, the ban needs to be done before killer robots get into the hands of militaries who are reluctant to give up weapons once they are acquired.

**Exercise 2**

In COVID’s shadow, global terrorism has gone quiet but we should still be wary. Having lost its physical caliphate, Islamic State appears to have lost its capacity, if not its willingness, to launch attacks around the world well beyond conflict zones. But we have seen this happen before. The September 11 attacks in 2001 were followed by a wave of attacks around the world. Since 2005, except for the Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris in January 2015, al-Qaeda has been prevented from launching any major attacks in western capitals. Then in 2013, Islamic State emerged and brought a new wave of attacks. While it’s tempting to conclude that the ending of the current wave of international terrorist attacks by IS is due largely to the ending of the physical caliphate in Syria and Iraq, and a concomitant collapse of capacity, the reality is more complex. The parallels with the epidemiology of viruses are striking. Terrorism works as a phenomenon that depends on social contact and exchange and expands rapidly in an opportunistic fashion when defences are lowered. Reasoning by analogy is imperfect, but it can be a powerful way of prompting reflection. The importance of this cannot be underestimated as intelligence failures in counterterrorism, like poor political responses to pandemics, are in large part failures of imagination. It is true we have successfully dealt with two waves of global terrorist attacks over the past two decades, but we have not dealt successfully the underlying source of infections. In fact, we have contributed, through military campaigns, to weakening the body politic of host countries in which groups like al-Qaeda, IS and other violent extremist groups have a parasitic presence. We now need to face the inconvenient truth that toxic identity politics and the tribal dynamics of hate have infected western democracies and that eliminating the viral spread of hateful extremism is extremely hard.



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**Ashley Barnett Tamar Primoratz**

Research Associate Research Associate

**Email:** [barnett.a@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:barnett.a@unimelb.edu.au) **Email:** [tpri@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:tpri@unimelb.edu.au)