



# Not Your Mother's Terrorism:

A Lecture by Dr. Laura Huey, Associate Professor of Sociology,  
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Evidence-Based Policing



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2-4pm

Social Science Centre

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It is commonly recognized that social media presents vast new opportunities for terrorist groups seeking to radicalize audiences, and thus is seen by security officials, policy-makers and the public alike as a space that amplifies potential risk. Much of the response to this risk is to employ standard conventional suppression techniques – namely, censorship through content removal, account suspensions and deletions. Arguably, such efforts have had little deterrent effect. Within this paper, I argue that few researchers have actually studied the actual mechanisms by which radicalizing messages are delivered to targeted audiences. In particular, I explore one key aspect of the phenomenon of 'jihadi cool' – the rendering of pro-Islamic terrorism into something hip and trendy among online audiences. Discussed is the use of political jamming: a subversive, satirical activity that draws on humor to reinforce ideological messages. The opportunity for countering IS messages through the same technique is considered as a more viable alternative to attempts at censorship.