

"Incel" Subculture: From Toxic Masculinity to Domestic Terrorism

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Incels Defined

- “Incel” is short for “involuntary celibates”: refers to a subculture of men who blame women for their involuntary celibacy
- “Incels see themselves as sexually deprived not because of any lack of drive, ambition, or hygiene, but because external forces - biology, feminism, society at large - are stacked against them”.
- “A person who, if you take the term literally, can’t have sex despite wanting to. In practice, this goes beyond simply having sex and enters the realm of having no possibility of finding a partner, either to get validation, love, or acceptance from.”



Incels Online

- Subculture forums allow isolated individuals to unite and feel a sense of connectivity, acceptance, and understanding online; to share their sense of shame and self-condemnation. Communities can be found on various websites with blogs, chatrooms, merchandise, and more





“Chads”

“In incel jargon, a Chad is a strong, well-liked, testosterone-loaded man who has sex with a disproportionate number of women. Incels resent women for choosing to sleep with Chads rather than non-Chads like themselves”.





“Beckys & Stacys”

"Stacy is the archetype of a high-value, ultra-attractive, feminine woman and the female counterpart of Chad. Becky represent all other females”.

The Becky



The Stacy





Incels & Plastic Surgery

Men are having their faces rebuilt – and it's all to get a date

Cosmetic surgeon Dr Barry Eppley will do operations other practitioners won't perform. His clients are young men who blame their lack of success with women on the way they look. Alice Hines reports



Dreams of Chad: On the incel forum Lookism, users regularly Photoshop each other's selfies to show what they would like if transformed into Chads.

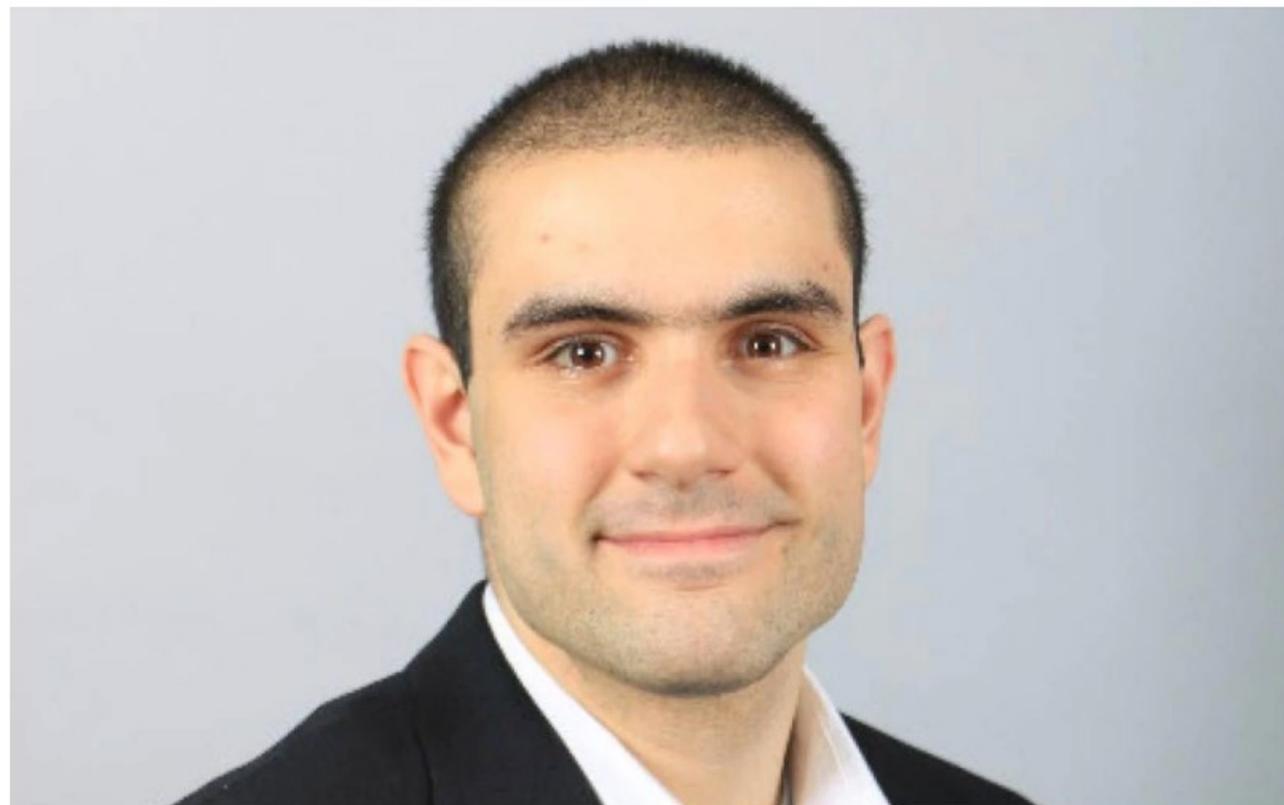


Elliott Rodger



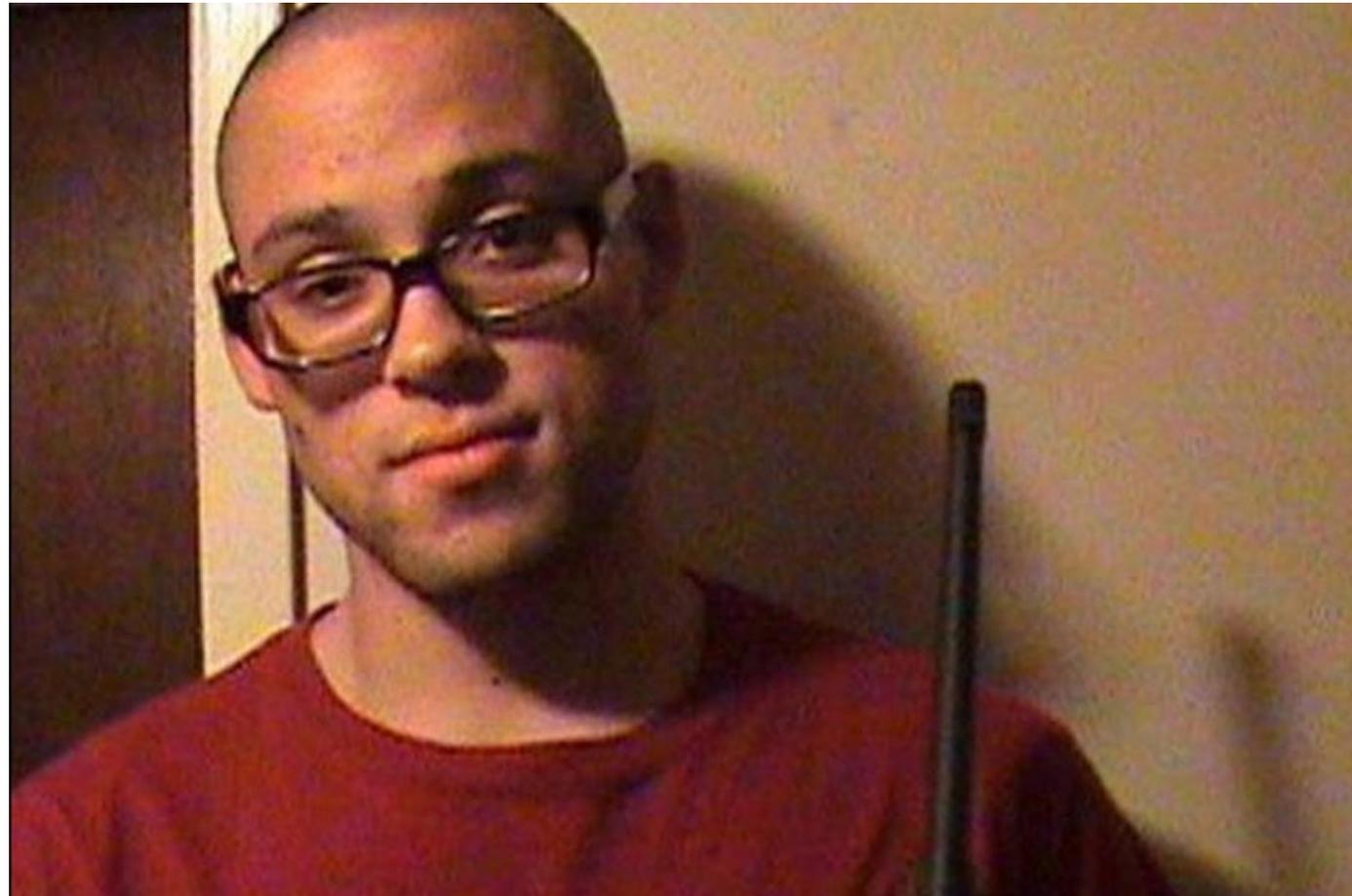


Alek Minassian





Chris Harper-Mercer





Scott Beierle



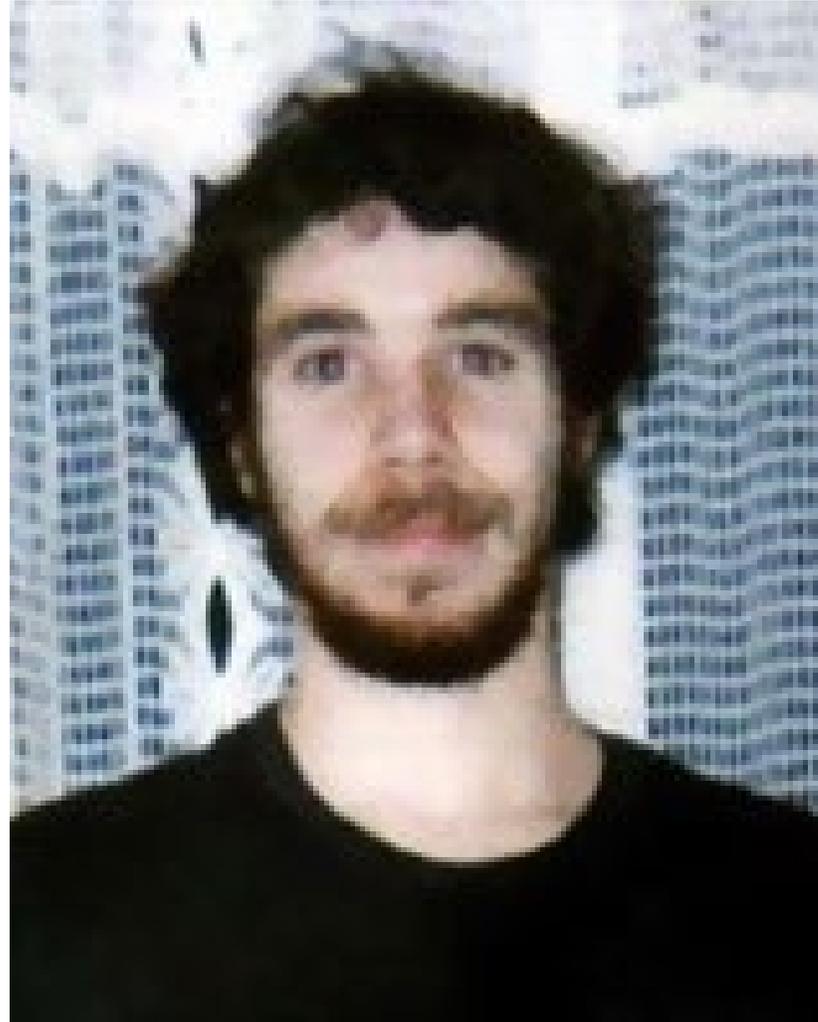


George Sodini





Marc Lépine





Characteristics & Red Flags

- Male*
- Socially awkward and/or socially isolated
- Obsession with other men's looks and attention from women
- History of bullying or perceived ridicule
- "Grievance collector"
- Sees violence as justified means to avenge
- Identifies with other Incels who have committed acts of violence or mass murder

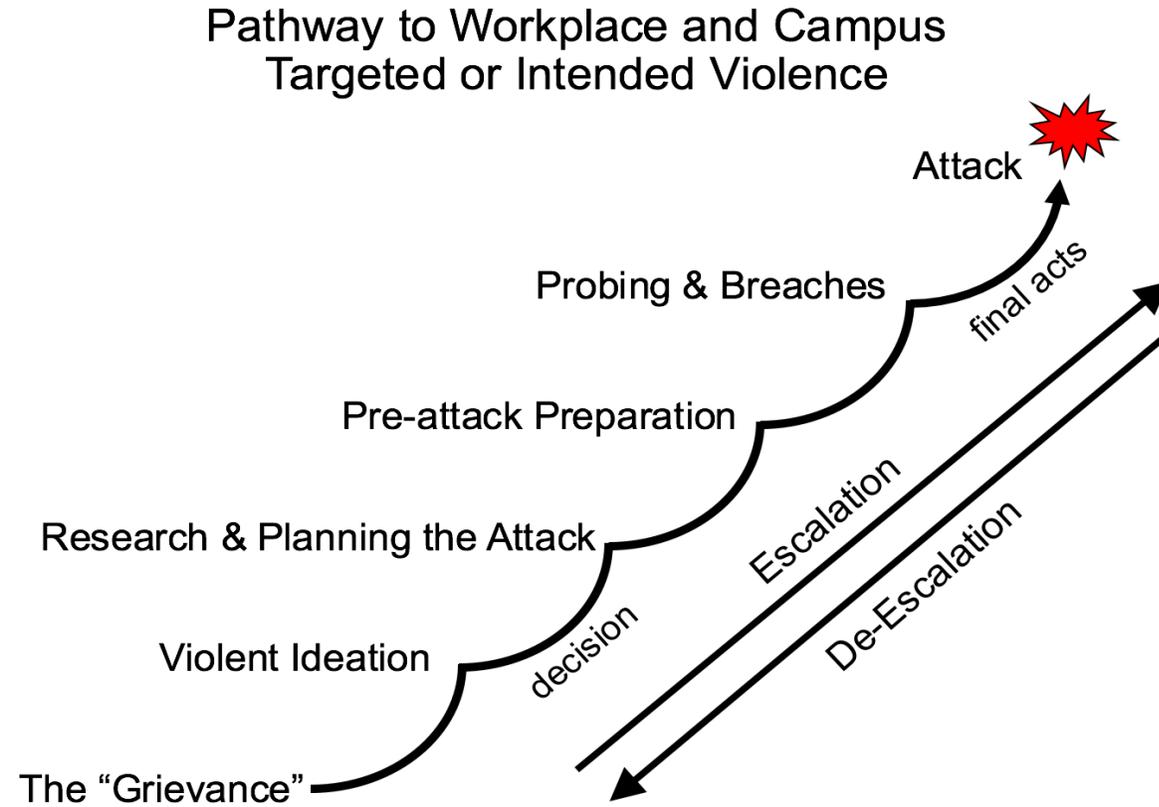


Characteristics/Red Flags

- Lack of empathy or remorse for victims or potential victims
- Depersonalization of target population – supported by online communities
- Family of Origin Influence – domestic violence and child abuse in home
- Role of father – traditional macho male, absentee father, or “meek” father
- Intersection of age and masculinity



Pathway to Violence (Calhoun & Westin)



Adapted with permission from F.S. Calhoun and S.W. Weston (2003). *Contemporary threat management: A practical guide for identifying, assessing and managing individuals of violent intent.*
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Takeaways



- Listen for the grievance
- Ask about online presence and time in virtual communities
- Be attentive to isolation and the persecution narrative
- Listen for language only used in those communities
- Movement from fascination to identification
- Increase contact around times of loss or anticipated loss (job, school, friend, bad first date)
- Don't just consider acts that rise to the level of a criminal conviction- look out for stalking, intimidation, harassment, disparaging or humiliating acts
- Triangulate information with family, friends, school, check social media, etc.



Questions



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