

Public behaviour and perceived hostile threats: New research evidence

A workshop to explore implications for policy and practice

Wednesday 11th January 2023, 10am-3pm

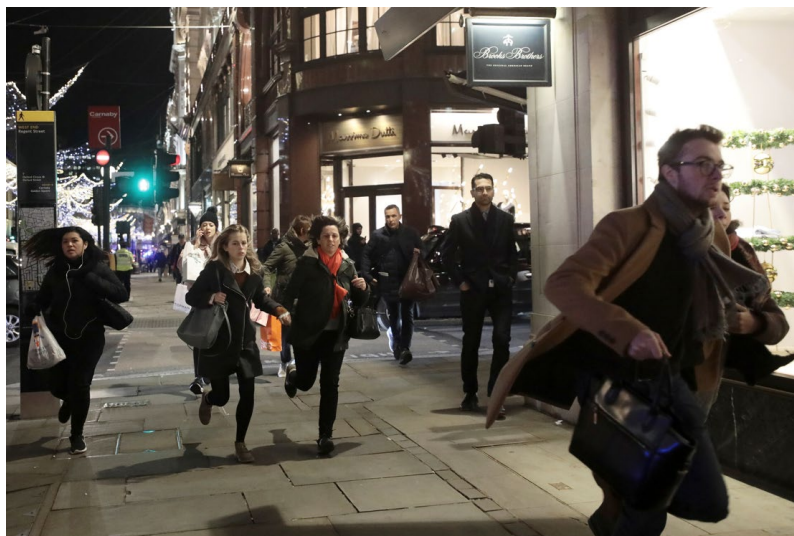
5 Endeavour Square, Stratford, London E20 1JN

Workshop hosted by Transport for London, Keele Academic Policing Collaboration, and the ESRC-funded Crowd Flight Project.

The scale, frequency, and form of hostile threats in crowded public spaces has changed over the last 15 years. Alongside rises in genuine hostile threats, there have been significant spikes in false alarm incidents, some of which have involved thousands of people and a full-scale multi-agency response.

These new patterns of threat and response represent a challenge to existing understandings of behaviour in emergencies. This has therefore prompted a new programme of research, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, to understand the factors that lead to different kinds of public behaviours in relation to perceived hostile threats.

The research team has established a highly productive partnership with Transport for London with a particular focus on examining behavioural reactions to real and presumed terror attacks upon underground rail networks in major cities, in this case the London underground. This workshop has been developed to allow the team to come together with those involved in dealing with such incidents to explore this new science and discuss its implications for policy and practice.



The workshop will be delivered by a team of academics at the forefront of developing new scientific understandings in the domain of public behaviour in mass emergencies, who will deliver facilitated discussions on new studies of public behaviours, including:

- The Oxford Circus false alarm incident, Black Friday 2017
- Experimental examination of flight responses to ambiguous potential hostile threats
- Public behaviour in the Tower Hill tube train evacuation, 2017
- Public and staff responses to the marauding knife attack at Leytonstone tube station, 2015

We are inviting anyone with a professional interest in this domain in the emergency services, government, local authorities, or rail transport to join the workshop which is provided free of charge.

More on the project here: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/projects/stampedes/>