

# George Mason University's Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center (TraCCC) Hosts:

## Adam Lankford

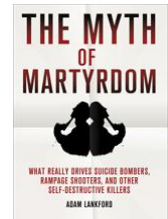
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice  
University of Alabama

# The Myth of Martyrdom: What Really Drives Suicide Bombers, Rampage Shooters, and Other Self-Destructive Killers



Dr. Adam Lankford is an assistant professor of criminal justice at The University of Alabama. He has written for The New York Times, Foreign Policy, Wired, The Daily Beast, The Huffington Post, and numerous peer-reviewed journals. His research has been featured by CNN, MSNBC, NPR, BBC World Radio, CBS Radio, The Boston Globe, and many other national and international outlets. From 2003 to 2008, he helped coordinate Senior Executive Anti-Terrorism Forums for high-ranking foreign military and security personnel in conjunction with the U.S. State Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance program. During this period, ATA hosted delegations from Armenia, Colombia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan.

Dr. Lankford is the author of *The Myth of Martyrdom: What Really Drives Suicide Bombers, Rampage Shooters, and Other Self-Destructive Killers*, which offers unprecedented evidence that many suicide terrorists are suicidal, in the clinical sense, and are not simply driven by ideology or commitment to the cause. This directly contradicts what most experts have insisted about suicide terrorists for decades. Dr. Lankford's recent op-ed contribution, *What Drives Suicidal Mass Killers*, was published in the New York Times on December 17, 2012, and highlights similarities between suicide terrorists and suicidal rampage shooters, such as a profound sense of victimization and a desire for fame and glory, often exacerbated by mental health problems.



*Introduction given by Dr. Louise Shelley, Director of TraCCC*

**Date:** Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 12:00-1:30pm  
**Location:** Room 113, Founders Hall  
3351 Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(Virginia Square Metro Stop)

**Please Bring Lunch, Beverages Will Be Provided**  
**To RSVP, Please contact Stu Mackenzie at [tracc@gmu.edu](mailto:tracc@gmu.edu) or 703-993-9757**