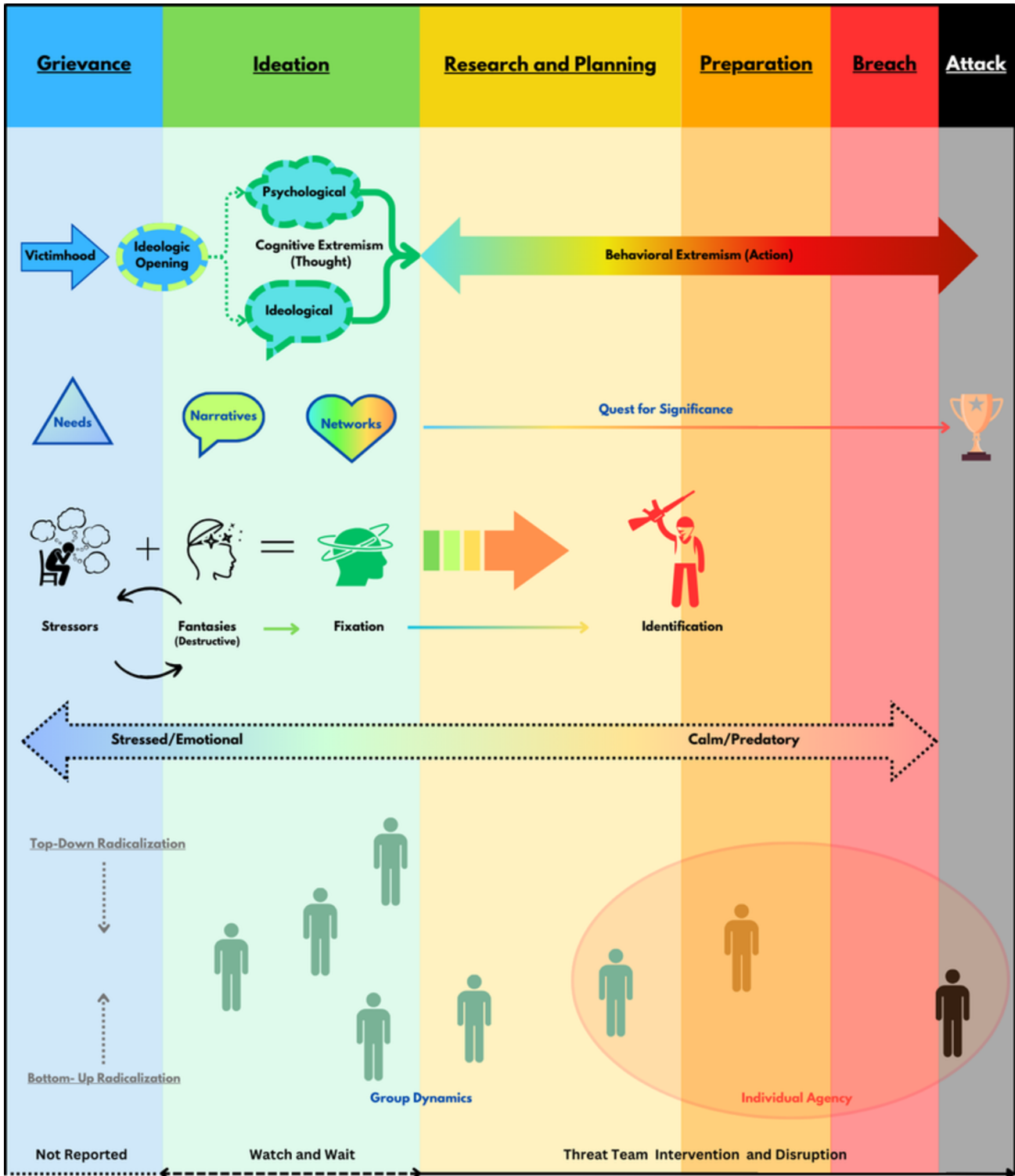


## APPENDIX C

# CONCEPTUALIZING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TATM



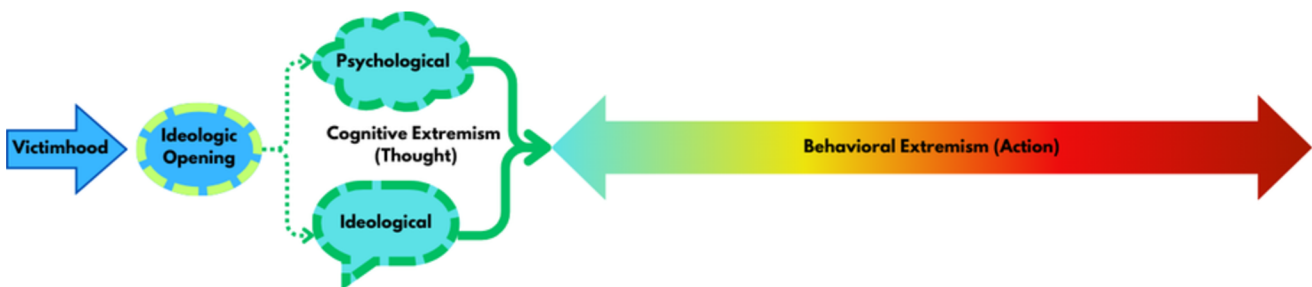
(Adapted from Calhoun and Weston, 2003; Quassim Cassam, 2021; Kruglanski et al., 2019; Dupue and Dupue, 1999; Meloy 2006)

## THE MAPPING OF MODELS ALONG THE PATHWAY TO VIOLENCE:

**The Pathway to Intended Violence:** The BAU’s operational approach rests on the pathway to intended violence model which orients the practitioner towards the primary goal of preventing or disrupting an attack (Fein and Vossekuil, 1995; Calhoun and Weston, 2003).



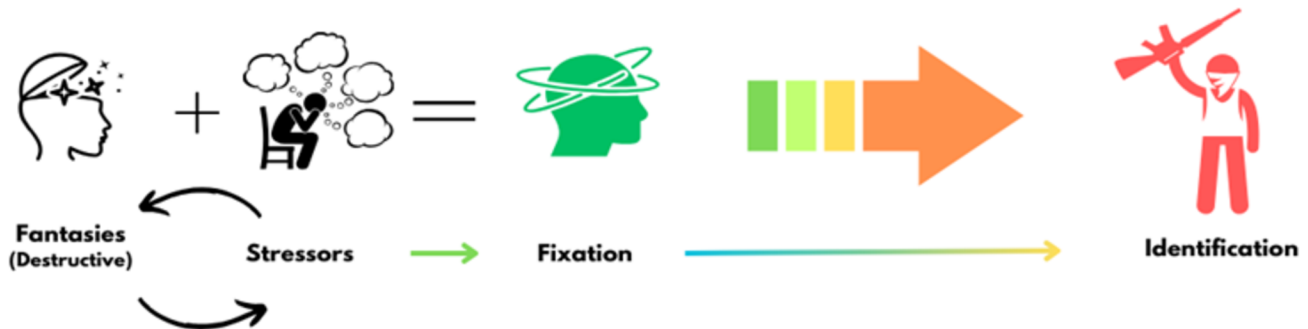
**Movement from Thought to Action:** Cassam (2021) points out that extremist preoccupations often include feelings of victimhood and humiliation. Such emotions can lead to an ideological opening allowing for extremist thoughts to take shape and eventually extremist action to take place. Radicalization is a complex process and involves more than just ideology. However, this simplified depiction of the movement from radicalization towards mobilization is consistent with the observations of the BAU in that ideological extremism and non-ideological (i.e., psychological) extremism converge when moving towards behavioral extremism or violent action.



**The Need for Social Worth:** Kruglanski et al. (2022) provide a motivational construct through the significant-quest theory, which emphasizes a person’s need to have social worth. The means to satisfy the unmet needs involve a supportive narrative and validation by one’s network or group. In addition to the cultural, ethnic, and/or religious components that may shape the need for social worth, the BAU notes the importance of one’s personality as it relates to committing violent extremist action. Within this framework, the BAU posits that personality (combined with capability) may ultimately play a deciding factor in the manner in which the quest for significance is undertaken.



**Fantasies:** Both constructive and destructive fantasies are a normal part of the human condition. While constructive fantasies are balanced and shaped by charitable values, destructive fantasies emerge from repeatedly unsatisfied needs (Depue and Depue, 1999). A working theory by the BAU posits that destructive fantasies can lead towards fixation if they are reinforced by constant stressors in one’s life. Similarly, Meloy et al. (2015) believe fixation is typically pathological when it is accompanied by a deterioration in social and occupational functioning. Both the BAU and Meloy have observed the movement from fixation to identification often increases the degree of threat posed by an individual. This is known as fixation and identification warning behavior within the field of behavioral threat assessment. It is important to note, identification warning behavior pertains to the adoption of a “pseudo-commando” identity or warrior mindset (Meloy, 2015).



**Affective and Predatory:** The stressed versus calm state of an individual is a relevant distinction in the field of behavioral threat assessment and is grounded in Meloy’s (2006) bimodal theory of violence. It is often applied when distinguishing emotional or affective violence (which can be unpredictable) with predatory or targeted violence (which can be preventable). The adaptation of Meloy’s theory as a continuum, when juxtaposed along the pathway to intended violence, reminds practitioners that sometimes violence can be an amalgamation of both affective and predatory drivers. This can be especially relevant when a noticeable shift along this continuum is observed during an investigation.



**Group Identity:** An identity movement does not become extreme until the in-group adopts hostile attitudes towards the out-group or groups (Berger, 2018). In this progression, group dynamics can play an important role in lowering the barriers towards committing violence. Despite such dangers, the BAU's observations have shown that groups are not necessarily as "tight" as others perceive them to be. The level of commitment to the group identity often varies among its members. Moreover, the BAU has found that some violent extremists do not thrive in group settings and may perceive a group's commitment to their chosen cause to be inadequate.

