

2017 Distinguished Scholar Award
Division on Terrorism and Bias Crimes
American Society of Criminology

Introductory Remarks Given by Dr. Gary LaFree

The DTBC's inaugural Distinguished Scholar Award recognizes Dr. Brent L. Smith's ground breaking work on domestic terrorism. Dr. Smith has been a leader in the study of terrorism for over 40 years. The problem of access to reliable data has always been a challenge for terrorism scholars, but Dr. Smith innovatively developed a partnership with the FBI to create one of the most well-known sources on domestic terrorism in the United States. The American Terrorism Study (ATS) has set the standard for empirically investigating domestic terrorism. Dr. Smith and other scholars, through the public release of these data, have made significant contributions to the study of terrorism. His research demonstrated the importance of dis-aggregating terrorism since terrorists of different ideologies varied in age, religious beliefs, education, occupation, preparatory behaviors, the crime types committed, and where they resided.

Dr. Smith's research has appeared in many top tier outlets including *Criminology*; *Criminology & Public Policy*; *Justice Quarterly*; *Crime and Delinquency*, and *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*. Dr. Smith literally wrote the book on domestic terrorism ("Pipe Bombs and Pipe Dreams: Terrorism in America." 1994; SUNY Press). He has been especially successful at translating his work into policy through building close relations with the FBI, US Attorneys, fusion centers, federal funding agencies, and other practitioner audiences to make important policy and practice contributions to the field. Dr. Smith's research has been funded by multiple grants from the National Institute of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.