

Radicalized Individuals & Brain Drain in the United States

By Jacqueline Nesbitt and Hannah Gross

GitHub Repo: [project2_Nesbitt_Gross](#)

W200 - Project 2 - March 2021

Summary

Over the past 40 years, highly educated Americans have abandoned the geographic majority of the United States to live in a very specific set of cities with the best and most jobs, this is American brain drain. Our research will investigate the potential relationship between brain drain and brain gain on radicalized individuals in the US on a state level from 1980 to 2018. Radicalized individuals are extremists, who have committed crimes and/or have associations with foreign or domestic extremist organizations.

Primary Dataset

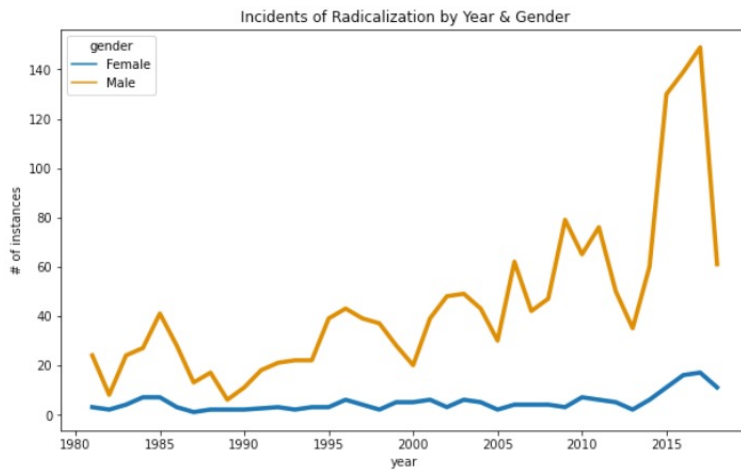
[Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States \(PIRUS\)](#) contains [deidentified individual-level data](#) regarding the backgrounds, attributes, and radicalization process of over 2,200 far right, far left, Islamist, and single-issue extremists. These individuals were radicalized to the point of criminal activity and/or associated with foreign or domestic extremist organizations. This analysis will use data from 1980 - 2018.

Secondary Dataset

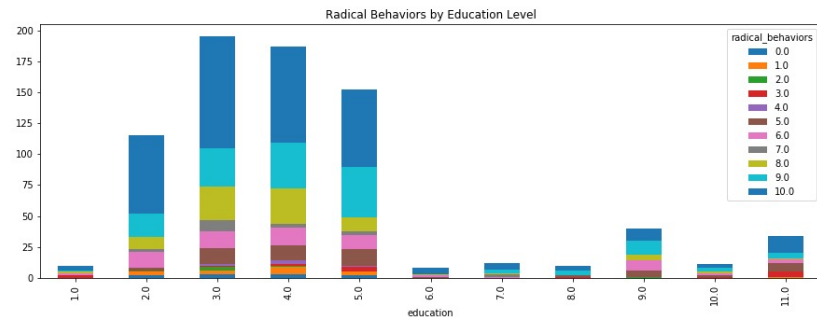
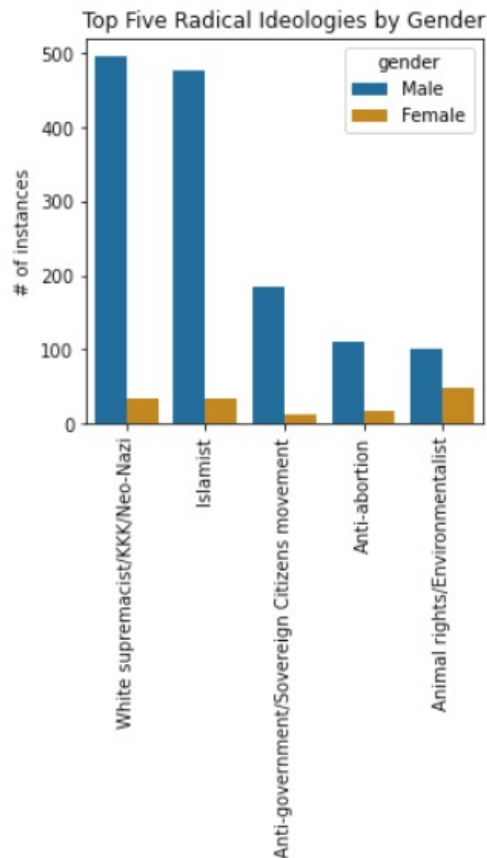
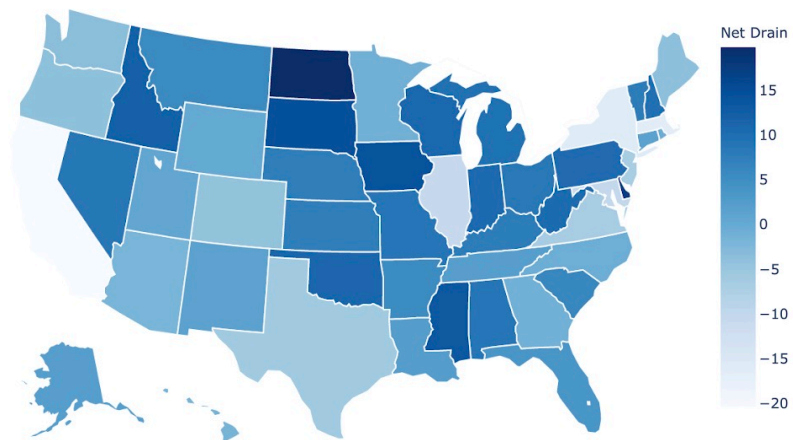
[Losing Our Minds: Brain Drain across the United States - US Congress Joint Economic Committee](#) includes [a dataset](#) containing information on the gross brain drain, gross brain gain, and net brain drain for all states in the US from 1940 - 2017. Data from 1980 - 2017 will be analyzed.

Research Question (subject to change)	Dataset Variable	Variable Definition
Do high rates of brain drain/gain impact a state's number of radicalized individuals?	Loc_Habitation	US state/province and city where the individual spent most of their time
Do high rates of brain gain impact a state's likelihood of being targeted by radicalized individuals?	Loc_Plot_State1 Loc_Plot_City1	Location of terrorist activities
Are there ideologies more common in states with high net brain drain?	Terrorist_Group_Name	The existing Designated Terrorist Organization or extremist group with which individual is affiliated.
Is there a relationship between election years and radicalization?	Date_Exposure	Date at which the individual's activity/plot first came to public attention.
What role does gender play in brain drain and radicalization?	Gender	Gender of radicalized individual
What is the highest level of radicalization behavior by state and brain drain?	Radical_Behaviors	Maximum extent of radicalization in the individual's behavior
Education creates highly skilled workers. Are there differences in ideology between highly educated and less educated radicalized individuals?	Education	Highest level of education completed at exposure
Does employment impact radicalization?	Employment_Status	Employment status at exposure
Does work history influence radicalization?	Work_History	Work history prior to exposure

Initial Plots



Net Brain Drain in 2018



Biography

“Losing Our Minds: Brain Drain across the United States - Losing Our Minds: Brain Drain across the United States - United States Joint Economic Committee.” *United States Joint Economic Committee*, 24 Apr. 2019, <https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/2019/4/losing-our-minds-brain-drain-across-the-united-states>.

National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). (2018). Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States [Data file]. Retrieved from (<http://www.start.umd.edu/pirus>)