



A J E N N L I N D S A Y F I L M

SIMULATING RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE

PROGRAM IT. PREDICT IT. PREVENT IT.

Program it. Predict it. Prevent it.

SIMULATING RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE

SO FARE FILMS in association with CLASS MASCOT PRODUCTIONS and the CENTER FOR MIND AND CULTURE present
SIMULATING RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE a documentary film by JENN LINDSAY produced directed filmed and edited by JENN
LINDSAY music by XURXO ROMANÍ motion graphics and technical consultation by ANDREA MONZANI animations by DANIEL
ROBERTS lead assistant editor EM CEGIELSKI and executive produced by WESLEY J WILDMAN and EDOARDO VARELA

www.simulatingreligionfilm.com



Running time: 86 minutes

Format: HD

Producer/Director: Jenn Lindsay

Music by: Xurxo Romani

Filmed/edited by: Jenn Lindsay

Executive Producer: Wesley J Wildman

Animations by: Danielle Roberts

Executive Producer: Edoardo Varasi

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Jenn Lindsay is a social scientist, documentary filmmaker, and adjunct professor of Sociology and Communications at John Cabot University in Rome. Her work explores social diversity, intercultural relations, personal transformation and social change movements. She earned her Ph.D. from Boston University in the social science of religion, a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in Interfaith Relations at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, a Bachelors degree in Playwriting at Stanford University and studied Theatre Management at Yale University School of Drama and Nonprofit Management at Brandeis University.

For two decades Dr. Lindsay has produced and directed documentary films through her production company So Fare Films, the topics ranging from an African Buddhist monk's life and teachings, computer scientists simulating the spread of religious terrorism, the Indonesian Muslim headscarf, atheist Jews from Boston, and Italian hippies building artistic nativity displays. So Fare Films is an award-winning production company and film education program in Rome, Italy that produces compelling documentary films and educational materials that broaden perspectives, and serves as a change agent by giving voice to the voiceless. See more at www.JennLindsay.com.



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“Without this project, there’s no way that I could have built myself into a hybrid scholar-storyteller armed with serious chops on both flanks, a documentary filmmaker with a PhD, able to base my nonfiction storytelling on careful sociological analysis, and able to infuse my academic work with vivid portrayals of the human elements of groundbreaking interdisciplinary research.” - Jenn Lindsay

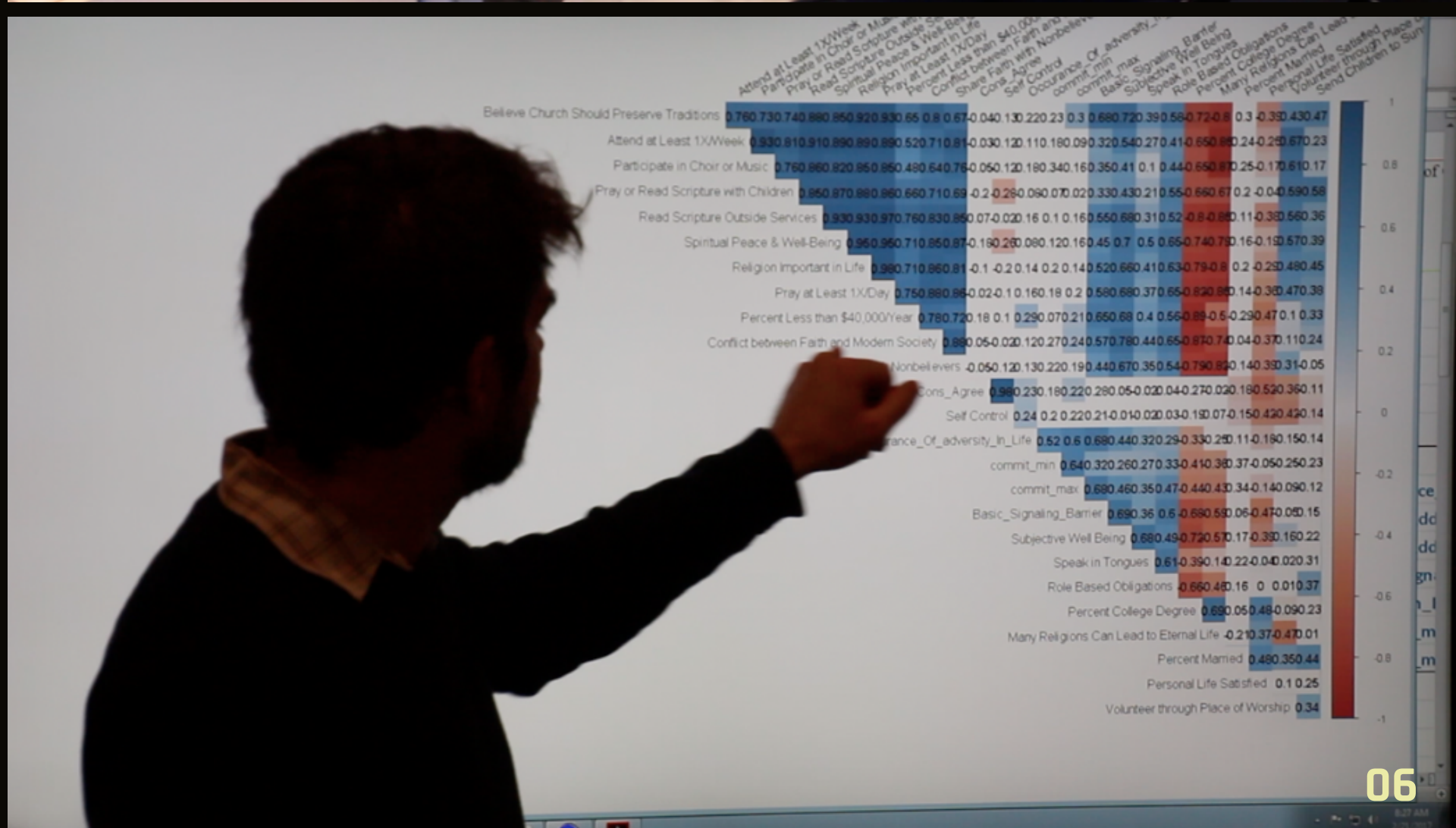


LOGLINE

After the Boston Marathon Bombing, a group of world-class experts in religion and computer science creates cutting-edge simulations to predict and prevent religious radicalization and violence... but saving lives in the real world is harder than they thought.

BRIEF SUMMARY

An expert crew of computer scientists and religion scholars embark on a three-year project to apply computer simulation and modeling to find solutions to worldwide humanitarian crises. Called to action by the Boston Marathon Bombing and increasing religious extremist terrorist attacks in North America and Europe, the scientists develop cutting edge technology at their headquarters in research centers in Boston and Virginia as well as at a Norwegian university. The team eventually travels to refugee camps in Lesbos, Greece to understand and simulate connections between religious extremism and the refugee crisis. They use the powerful modeling and simulation methodology to develop policy recommendations for predicting and preventing religious radicalization and violence.



FILM REVIEWS

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“This film enlightens us not only to the phenomenon of religious violence, but also to the way scholars can come together in an effort to improve the world.”

(Georgia Southern University)

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“This movie’s ability to make us aware of the depth of the situation is what I appreciated most about it. Understanding the bigger picture and the human story behind it all is more important than just focusing on religion or violence.”

(Rutgers University)

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“This was a powerful documentary that highlighted the struggle that migrants face and can make a viewer really self-reflect on the situation of their lives.”

(John Cabot University)

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“Throughout the Documentary Simulating Religious Violence Directed by Dr. Lindsay, I was shocked to learn about how professionals were able to simulate and build multi-agent AIs that could model human behaviors.”

(Tulane University)

TOPIC SUMMARY

Radicalization, religiously rationalized violence, and refugee displacement are urgent large-scale crises in today's world. Responses range from traditional military campaigns, grassroots activism, to politicized gestures, but no one has been able to come up with anything beyond short-term and- aid solutions to what is a long-term problem.

The Modeling Religion Project (MRP) team is taking a "think outside the box" approach. They have embarked upon the challenge of using the cutting-edge technology of computer simulation and modeling to test and validate scholarly theories from the scientific study of religion about what causes religious violence--which lead them to long-term concrete public policy proposals that have the potential to prevent further tragedy stemming from religious extremist terror attacks.

This film captures the story of invention and personal purpose that goes into developing technology that can make the world a better, safer place. The MRP models shed light on the conditions that lead to religious violence and also illuminate the path by which massive human displacement is not only caused by religious sectarian violence but also how some asylum-seeker and second-generation youth become vulnerable to radicalization in their host countries. This story demonstrates how the powerful methodology of computer modeling and simulation can reveal solutions to some of the world's most pressing global issues. It can shine a light on the lethal ignorance that blocks us from better understanding our collective complexity and towards demonstrating to policymakers how the computer model methodology offers a useful confrontation of complex global issues.

Ultimately the film is framed by two quotations from religious texts that give a circumspect answer these questions: "desire for the fruits of your work must never be your motive in working. Never give way to laziness, either," Bhagavad Gita 2.4; "it is not your responsibility to finish the work, but you are not free to desist from it either," Pirke Avot 2:21.

These verses encapsulate the film's ultimate conclusion that we must continue to try our very best to make a positive difference with our lives, regardless of whether we will succeed.



**DIRECTOR, FILMMAKER
AND EDITOR**
Jenn Lindsay

**LEAD ASSISTANT
EDITOR**
Em Cegielski

**MOTION GRAPHICS AND
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CONSULTANT**
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SOUND EDITOR
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