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## Who is RUSI?

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Royal United Services Institute, founded in 1831

Offices in London, Brussels and Nairobi

Centre for Financial Crime & Security Studies,  
founded in 2014

Financial Crime Policy; public-private partnership; info-sharing

Financial Crime 2.0; threats/opportunities of new tech; virtual currencies

Finance/FININT against threats: terrorism; organized crime; proliferation; IWT;  
human trafficking

Sanctions





# Outline of the session

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# A nexus between international terrorism and organized crime: how did we get here?

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“ Notes with concern the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms trafficking, and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials...”

Tools to combat TF built into international standards against money laundering

“ ...terrorists benefit from transnational organized crime, including from the trafficking of arms, persons, drugs, and artefacts and from the illicit trade in natural resources including gold and other precious metals and stones, minerals, wildlife, charcoal and oil, kidnapping for ransom extortion and bank robbery...”



## How did we get here? (continued)

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which encouraged FATF and FSRBs to include an analysis of financial flows associated with trafficking in persons that finances terrorism as part of its ongoing work, in close cooperation with CTED, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and with UNODC

called on all countries to “shut down all alternative sources of financing of terrorism, including dismantling the possible connections between terrorism and organized crime, such as through human trafficking”, and based on this for



# Defining the nexus: the academic debate

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*Inside Terrorism:* should distinguish between terrorists and ordinary criminals, who are driven by material gain – not influence public opinion

*The Crime-Terror Continuum* described alliances, motivations, convergence and the 'black hole' syndrome

*Methods and Motives:* described a terror-crime interaction spectrum, including appropriation, nexus, symbiosis, hybrid and transformation

*Terrorism, Crime and Transformation:* TOs have transformed into TCOs who are more interested in profit. TOs and TCOs do not cooperate on shared interests, but utilise in-house capabilities to undertake criminal/political acts



## The academic debate (continued)

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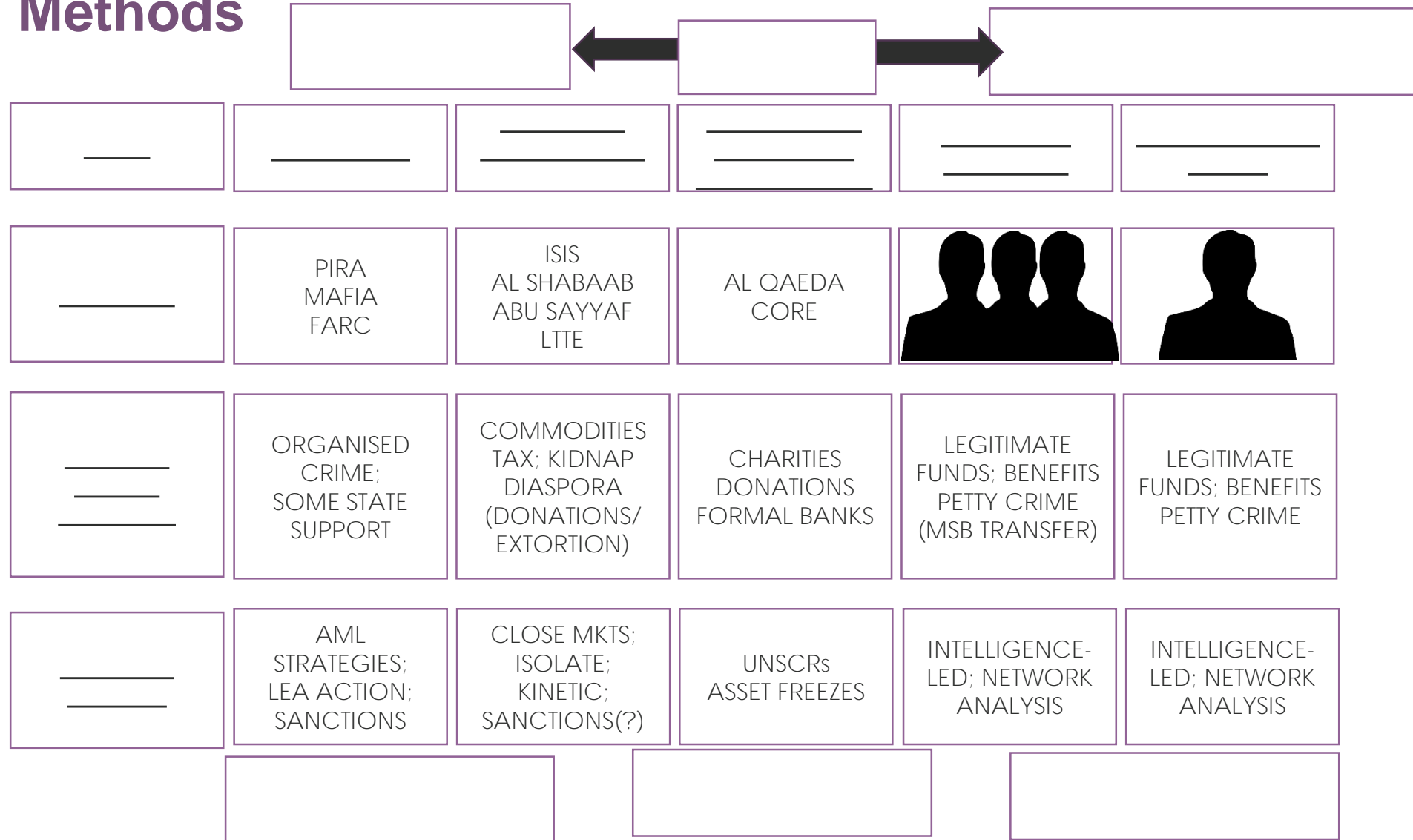
*Links Between Terrorism, Organized Crime and Crime in Sahel* demonstration of a symbiotic relationship based upon time and space – as opposed to real convergence

*Criminal Pasts, Terrorist Futures:* a convergence of social networks, with recruits drawn from the same pools. Highlight the radicalisation process, role of prisons, skills and experiences and petty criminality

*Viewing Organised Crime and Terrorist Organisations through Financial Threats* when viewed through a financial lens, there is no meaningful difference in distinguishing between the groups, as so many have gone through convergence and transformation

*Overhyping the Relationship:* based upon confirmation bias analysts looking for a relationship will invariably find one. For criminal organizations, terrorists are more of a complication than an opportunity

# Terrorist Finance: Criminal Methods







# Relevance of the nexus: context dependent



## Continued...

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Disrupting operations via strategic prosecutions that target both, to ensure that

– e.g. in the case of ISIL, the group exploited its population and the resources under its control. Whilst this was ‘criminal’, identifying this as a nexus provided little disruption opportunity (other than kinetic!)

Occasions where , for example, IWT and terrorism in East Africa, or the purported use of virtual currencies by terrorist actors.

How do jurisdictions weigh risks versus realities?



# The way forward

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# Thank you!

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