Bad Neighbourhoods and Bad Influences
Can external indicators improve risk assessment models for Genocide?

The Scourge of Genocide
During the twentieth century, more people were killed through genocide and state sanctioned mass murder than in all wars of the last century combined (Rummel, 1995). Estimates vary, but most agree that the figure of 187 million deaths is closest the truth (Levene, 2008). What all the victims have in common is that they were slaughtered, intentionally, by a vastly overwhelming force. Verdeja calls genocide, “one of the great moral and political challenges of our age,” (2012, p.307). It is toward that challenge my research is aimed.

Risk Assessment Models
Risk assessment models are used by a range of parties, from governments to nongovernmental organisations to the United Nations (Harr, 2003; Genocide Watch, 2014; Dieng & Welsh, 2016). Yet all these models focus almost exclusively on internal, or country-level, factors. None consider the role played by external indicators (Harr, 2009; Ross, 2013; Williams, 2016). Unlocking these factors could significantly improve the accuracy of current risk assessments, thereby allowing time for early intervention to take place.

What external factors affect the likelihood of genocide and can such indicators be used to improve the accuracy of current risk assessment models?

Research Objectives

• Identify statistically significant external factors which influence the risk of genocide occurring in a particular country.

• Use such indicators to improve the overall accuracy of current, genocidal risk assessment models.

Research Question

What external factors affect the accuracy of current risk assessment models?