

the Canada Border Services Agency, and the Jamaican Constabulary Force. The representatives from the last two organizations were actually using mathematics in their jobs: Kevin Blake, an Assistant Superintendent of Police who heads of a unit of Operation Kingfish (which has been credited with reducing the amount of drug trafficking going through Jamaica), not only carries a gun but draws posets of criminal networks ferrying drugs and weapons between Jamaica and Haiti.

Although it may seem odd for a mathematician to be concerned with this, the media reaction to our work has been quite good, with television coverage by Fox News and CNBC Europe, radio coverage by Air America Radio, US National Public Radio, and Public Radio International, newspaper coverage by the *New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Associated Press*, and *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, magazine coverage by *The Economist* and *Seed Magazine*, and on-line coverage by *Science News* and MIT's *Technology Review*. The hit television crime drama *Numb3rs* even began drafting a script dealing with reflexive theory, and the American television series *Medium* aired an episode about a mathematician who was fighting terrorists.

The reaction from funding agencies, on the other hand, has been less than expected: other than the welcome support of the Proteus Group and the US Army War College, we have seen little financial support and no sustained interest by US (or other) government agencies in our enterprise, despite face-to-face meetings with the Jamaican Minister of National Security, a former senior official of the US National Security Agency and a former senior official of the CIA, the director of Homeland Security for one of America's largest ports, a former US ambassador to the European Union, a former governor of the US state of New Mexico, a US Air Force general, two US Navy admirals, at least three tycoons, and the presidents of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

One reason, I believe, is the inability of some people to imagine that mathematics other than cryptography could really be useful in counterterrorism. One MIT professor openly lampooned the idea of using mathematics for counterterrorism, asking me if I was going to use a fixed point theorem to catch Osama bin Laden. (He thus revealed also a lack of originality, as there is an old joke about using math to catch a lion.) Another MIT professor actually laughed at the mere mention of the word "poset."

But I suspect that a bigger reason is politics. When I tried to garner support for a European Institute for Mathematical Methods in Counterterrorism in Vienna, an Austrian algebraist told me that this could not (or should not) be created there, as Austria was a neutral country.

At a dinner held at the home of the Austrian ambassador to the United States, a senior officer of the US National Academies asked me about using mathematical psychology for counterterrorism. But when he uncovered a 2001 article I had written for the British newspaper *The Guardian*, despite the fact that I myself always