A TALE OF TWO TAC TEAMS:

UNPACKING HOW POLICE TACTICAL OFFICERS EXPERIENCE OCCUPATIONAL STRESS

Zachary Towns, Ph.D.(c) and Rosemary Ricciardelli, Ph.D.

STUDY CONTEXT AND METHODS

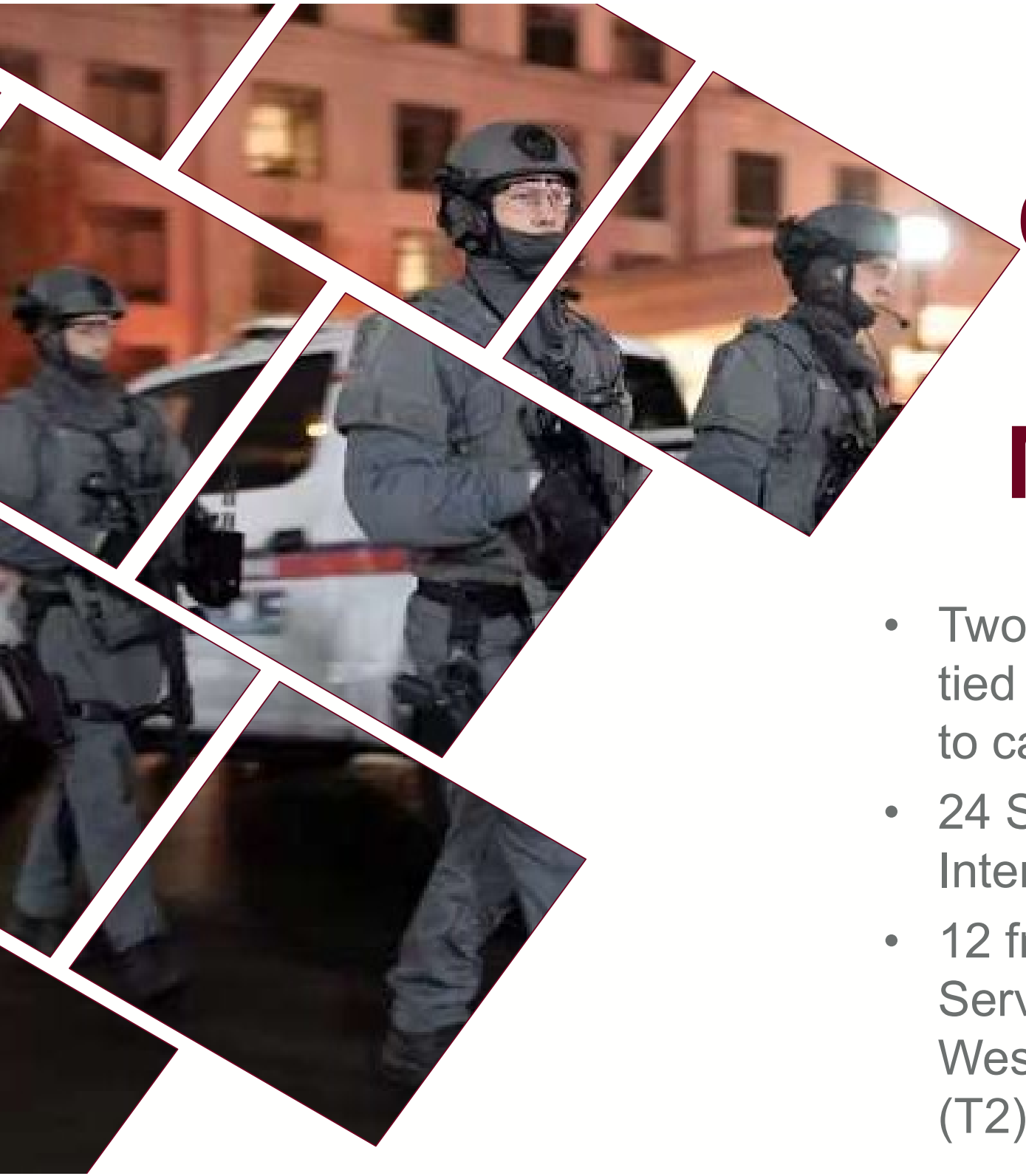
PAPER 1: A Comparative Analysis of Two Canadian Police Tactical Teams' Operations, Training, Patrol Support and Police Militarization

PAPER 2: Revisiting the 'Velvet Glove' versus the 'Iron Fist': Canadian Police Tactical Teams and Community Policing

PAPER 3: The Non-Uniformed TAC Member: Exploring the Impact of Tactical Team Membership on Family Systems and Family Well-Being

PAPER 4: Identifying Sources of Occupational Stress Among Tactical Police Officers in Canada

CONCLUDING REMARKS



STUDY CONTEXT AND METHODS

- Two customized reports tied to improving pathways to care for TAC officers.
- 24 Semi-Structured Interviews.
- 12 from an Eastern Police Service (T1) and 12 from a Western Police Service (T2).

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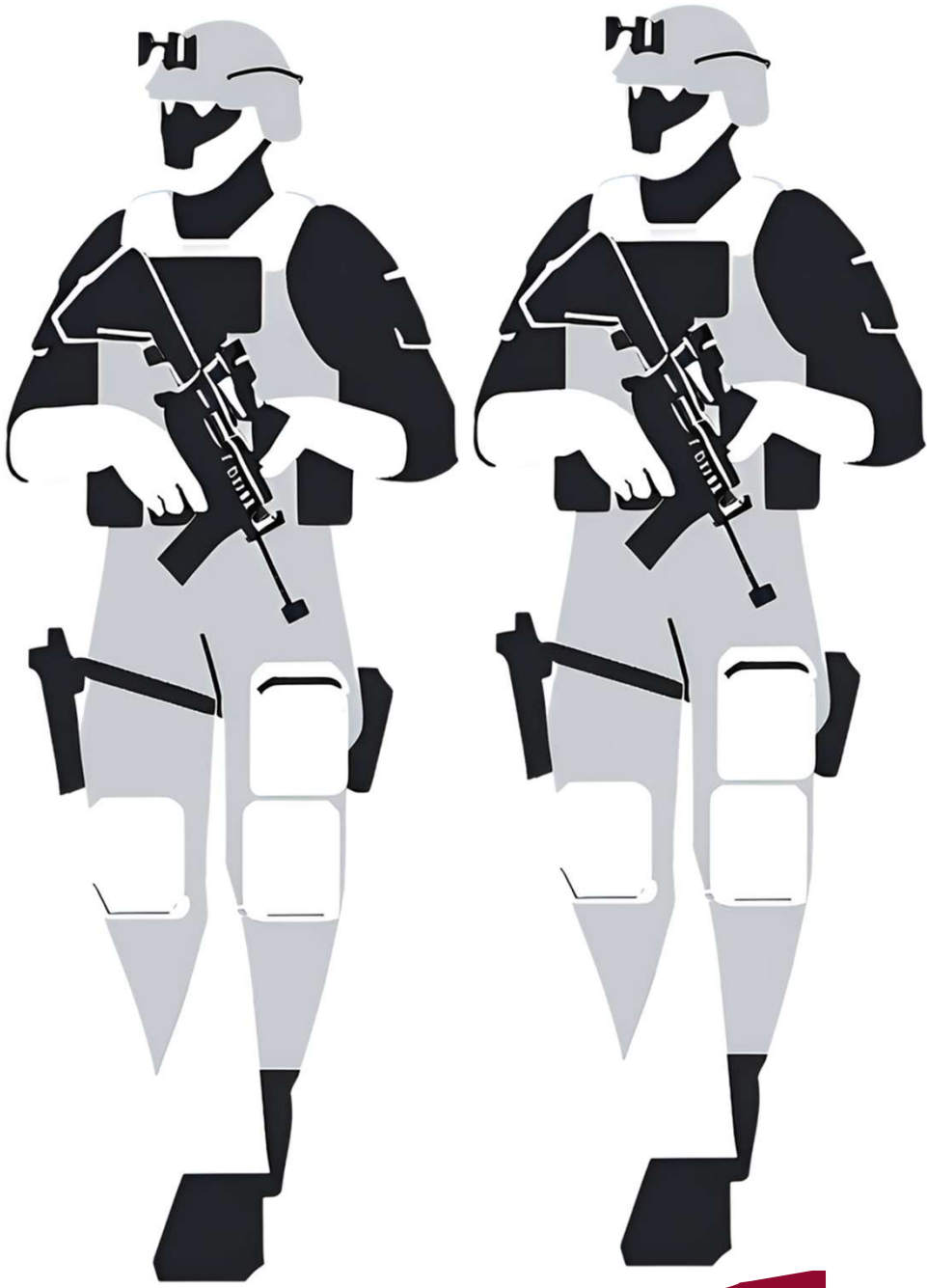
> First, TAC officers in our sample argue that as **the needs of patrol shift** based on the **severity of risk** present at call types**, so too will the net widening demand** for tac intervention in those calls – that were once thought of as **only a patrol responsibility.**

> … although TAC **agrees** their attention and usage have shifted to keep pace with the threats to patrol, **any suggestion that TAC 'mandates' have shifted from proactive to reactive may also lead to spurious conclusions…** there appears to be **a net widening of intersectional societal issues bleeding into calls for service**, where a multifaceted policing approach is warranted to handle the calls for service safely.



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PAPER 2: REVISITING THE ‘VELVET GLOVE’ VERSUS THE ‘IRON FIST’: CANADIAN POLICE TACTICAL TEAMS AND COMMUNITY POLICING

Home / News / Crime / Local News

VPD recruitment video pulled after being compared to Call of Duty

"Real life is nothing like this. In the real world, the fallout from this kind of policing is very traumatic."

By [redacted]

Published Mar 02, 2022 3 minute read Join the conversation

@SamHersh01

Very necessary and normal to have at a community event.

A similar armored vehicle costed Edmonton Police $500,000.

Imagine what we could actually do for the community with that money.

> **Miranda Gray** @mirgray · May 19
> When did #Ottawa Police get this vehicle (photo from community outreach event)? What did it cost? Maintanence? How many times has it been needed for duty? Why are we militarizing our police in Ottawa? How is this appropriate for outreach to racialized and immigrant residents?

1:01 PM · May 19, 2023 · **8,625** Views

POLICE
RESCUE 1

POLICE
STOP

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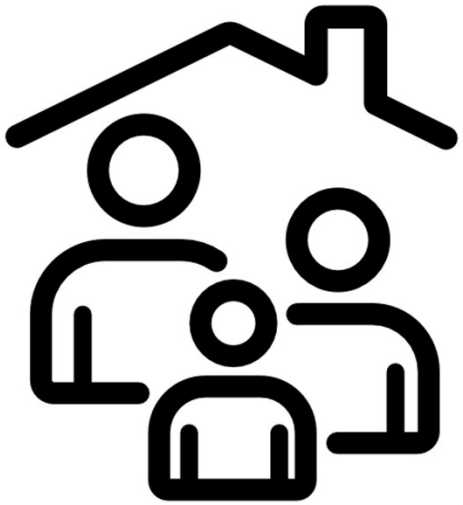
PAPER 3: TAC OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

“I think that just totally compounds everything. **I think that is the gateway into all of the horrific calls or all of the stress you accumulated** for twenty plus years or whatever. **That you've tucked away somewhere, or you've been dealing with**. And all of a sudden, you're like, 'well I don't have the support of the service.' **I lost this time with my kids like that you're only getting once in your life.** And **then you pissed it away for some bullshit call** that you got called in for or whatever (T1 07).”

“Then, all of a sudden, you start to feel way too **fatigued mentally, emotionally and that takes effect physically.** Because you're not sleeping. And that's when **the really shit calls start creeping in.** That's when you start s**eeing faces you don't want to see anymore.** That's when you start thinking about people. But **you start hearing the screams** or it all just starts building (T1 P07).”

“I'm explaining to my wife what happened last night or whatever. **No one ever really reaches out to check on our family members** unless we like specifically say like '**my wife won't leave the house now because she thinks I'm going to die** or something like that' (T2P10).”

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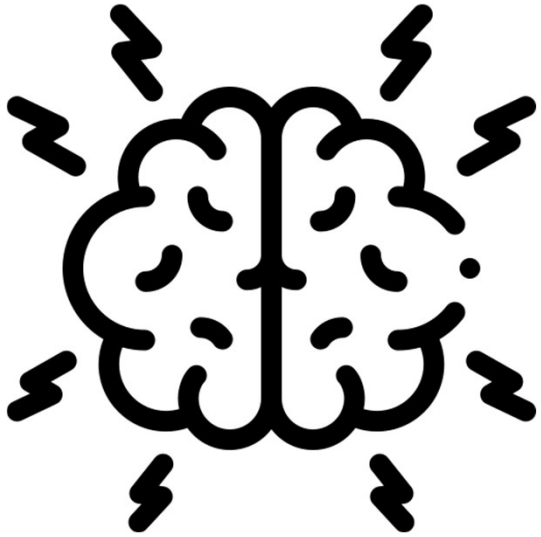
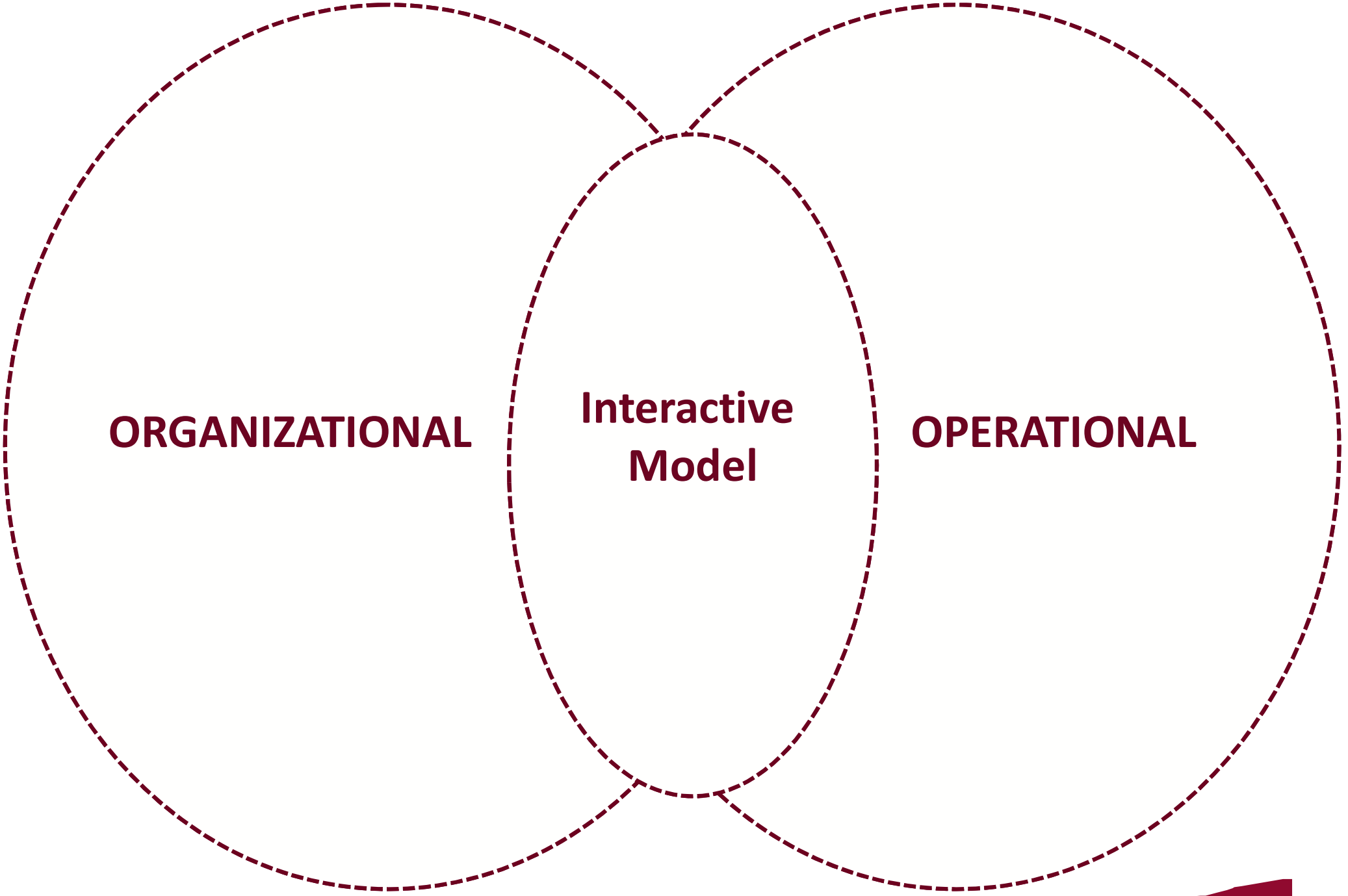
PAPER 4: IDENTIFYING SOURCES OF OCCUPATIONAL STRESS




ORGANIZATIONAL
Interactive Model
OPERATIONAL

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CONCLUDING REMARKS

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- Occupational stress.
- Mental health disorder prevalence?
- TAC spouses and families.
- Impacts on recruitment and retention.
- Protective factors.

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