

Corporate Watch

MODULE 5:

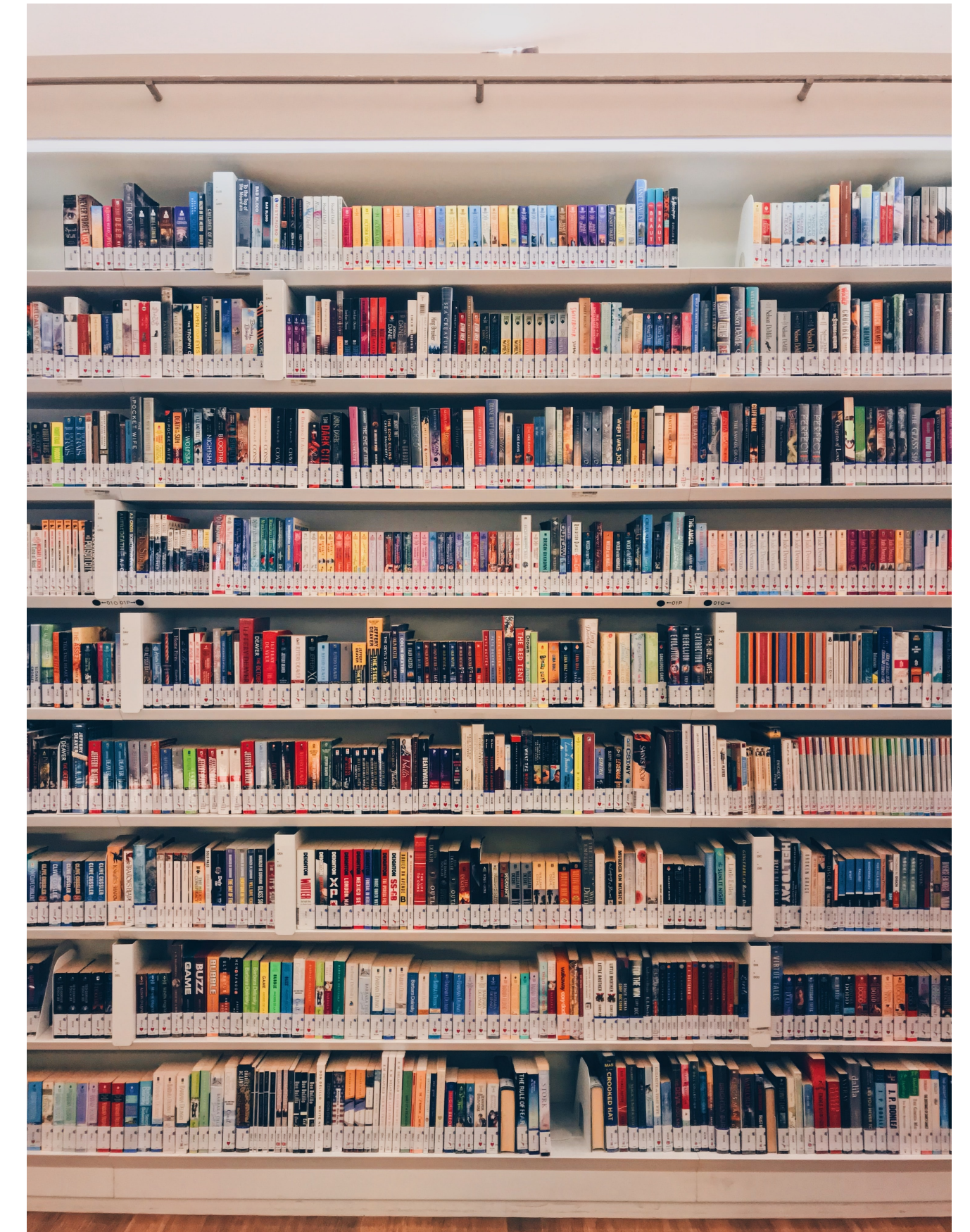
OFFLINE RESEARCH

AIMS OF THIS SECTION

- ▶ To encourage learners to think about ways to research and find out what they need beyond using the internet.
- ▶ Please note we are not encouraging you to break the law! This is for information purposes only.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- ▶ Public libraries have many useful databases available for people to use e.g. FAME.
- ▶ They may also have archives of newspapers and journals (especially those pre-internet).
- ▶ Never underestimate what information may be easily accessible in a book!
- ▶ There are also a number of specialist, copyright and business libraries.



TALKING TO PEOPLE

- ▶ Talking to actual humans is one of the easiest and fastest way to find out what you need.
- ▶ This may involve talking to an expert in a particular field.
- ▶ It may involve talking to a disgruntled ex-employee.
- ▶ Who may effortlessly have the information you need that you can contact?



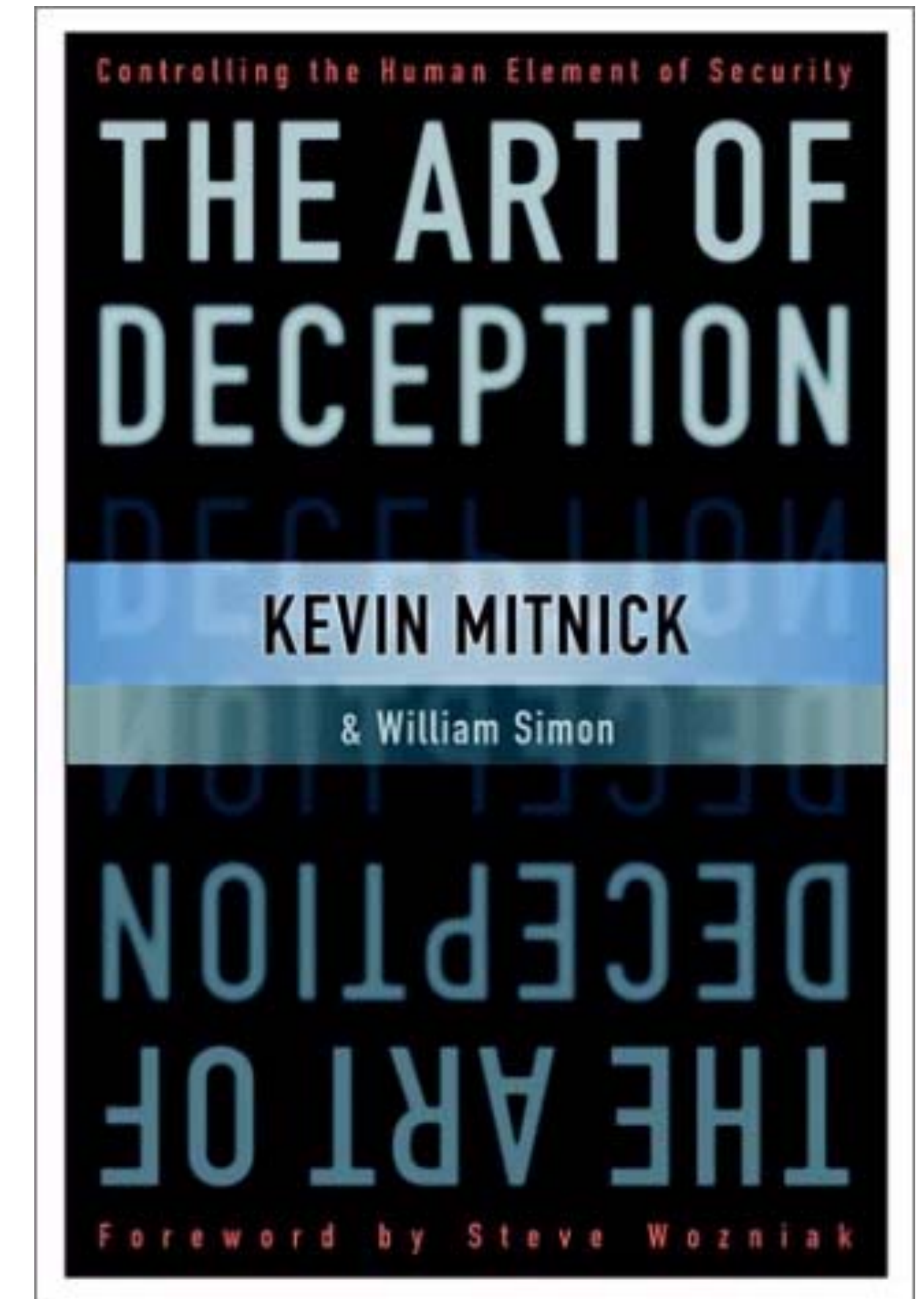
ATTENDING EVENTS – COVERTLY

- ▶ No need to share information about yourself. Have a basic story just in case but keep it as close to the truth as possible. Focus on asking questions rather than answering them.
- ▶ Aim is to be grey and invisible. Who is already visible at the event? Eg. Waiters, cleaners, plainly dressed attendees.
- ▶ However, never underestimate the power of a high vis jacket!



“SOCIAL ENGINEERING”

- ▶ Weakest security link is always the human factor
- ▶ People like being helpful
- ▶ People like boasting and boosting their egos
- ▶ Trust/Confidence/Biases/Privileges
- ▶ Name dropping & chains of info from different phone calls
- ▶ Tours of buildings
- ▶ Google-able avatar
- ▶ Social proof
- ▶ Practice getting info out of someone



PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE

- ▶ Campaigners may also engage in physical surveillance to get information about a company, for example:
- ▶ Observing a factory to identify suppliers and customers.
- ▶ Looking through the bins of an office to get information on contracts.
- ▶ Following an illegal logging truck to identify the company.

CASE STUDY: SMASH EDO



PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE RISKS

- ▶ There can be dangers and legal risks involved with physical surveillance.
- ▶ Many resources exist sharing best practices for investigative journalists at risk and legal guidelines e.g. NUJ, Reporters without Borders.
- ▶ It is useful to study physical surveillance as a form of self-defence against state repression. Resource: <https://warriorpublications.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/security-countersurveillance1.pdf>