

Lisa Pescara-Kovach, Ph.D.

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Dr. Lisa Pescara-Kovach is an associate professor of educational psychology at The University of Toledo where she serves as the Director for the *Center for Education in Targeted Violence and Suicide* and Chair of The University of Toledo *Mass Violence Collaborative*. In addition, she is an advisory board member for the *National Behavioral Intervention Team Association (NaBITA)* and mass violence-related content creator for the *ALICE Training Institute*.

Within the community, she has served as the region's Crisis Intervention Team "Fundamentals of Mental Illness" trainer since 2014 and is the co-founder and lead member of the Northwestern Ohio Critical Incident Stress Management team that assists survivors of, and first responders to, critical incidents toward preventing stress- and trauma-related outcomes. She is also on the advisory board of the Lucas County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

She has created and teaches master and doctoral level seminars on:

- school violence: theories, causes, prevention, and intervention
- threat assessment and case management of rampage shootings and suicides
- applied child and adolescent development
- prevention through recovery for K-12, campus, and workplace interpersonal and intrapersonal violence

Some of her recent publications include "The Contagion Effect as it Relates to Public Mass Shootings and Suicides" in the *Journal of Behavioral Intervention Teams* as well as a co-authored publication with Dr. Brian Van Brunt titled, "Debunking the Myths: Mental Illness and Mass Shootings" in *Violence and Gender*. Lisa's work was recently featured on Salon.com and TheHill.com on the topics of media contagion and female mass killers, respectively.

She was a featured speaker at the 2018 NaBITA annual conference, where she presented "Clearing Up the Confusion: Mental Health and Mass Shootings". She also conducted a presentation on the reality of female mass shooters. Other recent peer-reviewed conference presentations include, but are not limited to, terrorist recruitment of youth, a comprehensive approach to planning for a mass shooting, conducting a behavioral threat assessment, the myth of mental illness and mass shooters, bullying and its link to suicides and homicides, mental health and the student-athlete, recognizing at-risk students, de-escalation with mentally ill students and patients, and PTSD in emergency response personnel.