



# Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

## Contents

- Editor's Note ..... 1
- Upcoming Events ..... 1
- Book Review .....2
- Practice Update .....3
- Special Announcements .. 4

## Upcoming Events

### CATAP Conference

### How to Self-Care for Threat Assessment Professionals

### Foundational Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop

### Understanding... Mental Health and Violence Risk Workshop Series

### Official Launch of the Violence Risk Triage: Fundamental Workshop

### Advanced Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop Learn more...

## Editor's Note



I am also providing a practice update about recognizing the presence and appreciating the impact of stalking. Stalking is a challenge to assess and manage for many professionals, and issues with identification and recognition of impact have become increasingly clear over time. I will be sharing a few stories with you based on real cases to help illustrate both common problems and possible solutions.

As always, *Intelligence* will keep you up to date with recent advances in threat assessment from around the globe through knowledge and experiences shared by world-leading experts.

I know that many professionals around the world are returning to in-person events, so I am excited to inform you that we are doing so as well! But I know that in-person events will not be without their challenges, and we look forward to working with participants to ensure they are comfortable.

In this issue, Matt Talbot will provide a book review of *Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America*, by Mark Follman. As Matt indicates in his review, the book will be relevant for all threat assessment professionals committed to preventing mass shootings.

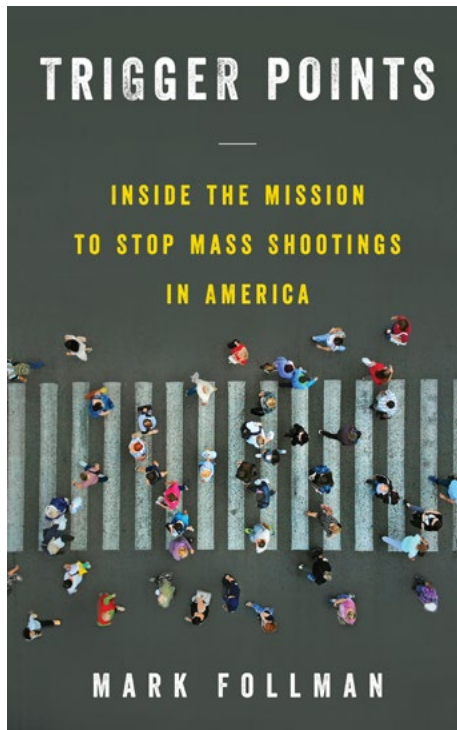
We also have several special announcements! For the first time since the pandemic, the annual conference for the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP) will be held in-person in Whistler, BC! Protect International is also pleased to announce all of the in-person and live virtual Workshops we will be offering in 2023!

We hope *Intelligence* will continue to provide a forum for you to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment.

Sincerely,  
Kelly A. Watt, PhD  
Director and Threat Assessment Specialist at Protect International Risk and Safety Services

# Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America

Mark Follman's *Trigger Points* takes readers on an in-depth journey from the origins of behavioral threat assessment and management to the current state of this effective violence prevention model. From the landmark findings of the Exceptional Case Study and the Safe School Initiative to more recent discoveries by the FBI, NTAC, and other safety-driven agencies, *Trigger Points* educates readers on preventive strategies proven to help potentially violent actors steer off a path of intended violence.



Follman helps to clarify myths and misperceptions about mass violence and its relationship to gun control and mental illness to help change the prevailing narrative that risks reactive legislative response and the further stigmatization of a marginalized population.

Follman's investigative prowess and diligence is evident. *Trigger Points* is a comprehensive and clear timeline of mass violence in America, and it is likely to be considered the staple account of the history of behavioral threat assessment and management. This book is particularly relevant to the US due to the prevalence and nature of mass shootings in the country (e.g., Buffalo, NY, and Uvalde, TX, in 2022). But it is also relevant to other countries around the world in light of recent events which may be indicative of increased risk of mass shootings globally (e.g., Utoya, Norway, 2011; Christchurch, New Zealand, 2019; Nova Scotia, Canada, 2020; and Cetinje, Montenegro, 2022). His anecdotal storytelling style is infused with strategic approaches to successful violence prevention that can be operationalized by all persons across contexts, for prevention hinges on all of us serving as active participants. Finally, this book serves as an opportunity to honour those who lost their lives by learning more about how to prevent future tragedies.

Matt Talbot, LCSW, CCFC, CFMHE, CTM  
*Triple Threat Assessment & Prevention Consulting, LLC*

## Upcoming Events

**How to Assess and Manage Cyberviolence**

**Victim Safety Planning Using the ASAP**

**How to...Assess and Manage Violence Risk Remotely**

**Using the PCL-R and PCL:SV to Assess Psychopathic Personality Disorder: Fundamental Workshop**

**Assessing and Managing Risk for Sexual Violence: Using the RSVP-V2/SVR-20 V2**

**Learn more...**

Follman provides this historical perspective of the field through the work of its professional pioneers, the threat assessment practitioners across disciplines who operationalize threat assessment and management daily, and first-hand accounts from those directly impacted by acts of mass violence. Beyond a history of the profession, Follman details the observable red flags and pre-attack warning behaviors prevalently found in the histories of mass attackers that help readers truly understand what they should 'see' and what they should 'say' to be an active upstander. Whereas there is an inextricable link between media coverage of mass shootings and perceptions of related and causal factors, this journalist-by-trade offers a compelling and promising perspective on ways to report on such sentinel events to help reshape distorted and pervasive false narratives about what drives such behavior.

## Problems Recognizing the Presence and Appreciating the Impact of Stalking

Stalking may be defined as an unwanted and repeated communication, contact, or other conduct that deliberately or recklessly causes people to experience reasonable fear or concern for their safety or the safety of others known to them (Kropp, Hart, & Lyon, 2002). Research indicates that between 5% and 15% of individuals will be stalked in their lifetime and could experience serious psychological or physical harm, including mental health problems and life-threatening injuries. Despite the prevalent and serious nature of stalking, many professionals fail to recognize the presence of stalking, or appreciate the impact of stalking on victims. In this practice update, I will review two case examples that illustrate the problems and then will discuss possible solutions.

In the first case, a male graduate student was engaging in a pattern of repeated and unwanted communication and contact towards a female graduate student. The stalking was diverse in nature, involving repeated and unwanted communication about, communication with, approach of, direct contact with, and intimidation of, the female graduate student. The stalking was persistent in nature, occurring on a frequent basis over a year and a half despite numerous requests and even formal directions from people in positions of authority—including police—to cease and desist. The stalking was also serious in nature, the female graduate student experienced distress and concern for her physical safety, to the point that she carried

a neutralizing agent for many months, fearing an acid attack.

Despite the diverse, persistent, and serious nature of repeated and unwanted communication and contact, this pattern was not recognized as stalking by the higher education institution or the police and therefore was not responded to as such. Part of the reason for the failure to recognize stalking was that the responding professionals were not familiar with the definition of stalking, different professionals had different information, and the professionals involved were not sharing information with each other.

The second case involved a former employee who was released after his probation period at a company due to domineering, antagonistic, and intimidating behaviours towards clients and co-workers. His behaviour escalated to a pattern of repeated and unwanted communication and contact towards at least eight former co-workers, including those in a position of authority, who he was making insulting and inflammatory comments about on social media. Because of his behaviour, some individuals increased the level of security on their personal online accounts, some avoided standing in front of the windows at work, and some started using their home alarms more regularly. In addition, several victims felt violated and fearful to the point that they experienced insomnia, fatigue, anxiety, depression, difficulty concentrating, and social isolation. In at least four cases, the level of distress could

be characterized as a moderate to severe in terms of functional impairment. Some even made formal complaints to their workplace and the police, and subsequently resigned.

Unfortunately, the workplace failed to check in with employees consistently, did not give feedback to employees in a timely fashion, and did not make referrals for support (e.g., safety planning and psychotherapy). Part of the reason for this failure to respond appropriately was because the workplace did not understand the nature of stalking (e.g., what behaviours count as stalking) and so they did not consider the case a high priority. Consequently, they did not fully explore the effect that the stalking was having on employees and failed to appreciate the magnitude of the impact before it was too late.

Many of the problems related to recognizing the presence and appreciating the impact of stalking can be addressed through training on the nature and impact of stalking, establishment of threat assessment teams, understanding the intersection between information sharing and violence risk, implementation of comprehensive threat assessment and management, and prioritizing the response to stalking as a form of violence. By taking these steps, professionals can improve their skills in this area.

Kelly A. Watt, PhD  
*Protect International Risk and Safety Services*



### Together Again: Annual CATAP Workshop & Conference October 16-20, 2022 in Whistler, BC

The Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals ([CATAP](#)) is excited to welcome you back to in-person programming this October during the 2022 Annual CATAP Workshop & Conference in beautiful Whistler, British Columbia (BC). Over five days, leading figures in behavioural threat assessment from Canada, the United States, and Europe will present more than a dozen workshops, case studies, and thought-leadership sessions of relevance to your contemporary work in any setting. At the outset, attendees benefit from the choice of an intensive 2-day Foundational or 2-day Advanced Terrorism workshop facilitated by Molly Amman, JD, CTM and Dr. Paul Gill, respectively. CATAP is honoured to open the conference with a keynote address from CATAP co-founder, Dr. Stephen Hart, and to feature two never before heard Canadian case studies from the RCMP regarding the homicides in Penticton, BC, and Portapique, Nova Scotia. Other highlights include an intimate fireside chat with award-winning journalist Mark Follman, author of *Trigger Points - Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America*, and in-person networking opportunities with peers and experts from across international boundaries. [Registration remains open!](#)



### In Person and Live Virtual Workshops in 2023!

Protect International is pleased to announce that we will be offering both in person and live virtual Workshops in 2023! This means that participants will have more options related to attending our workshops on assessing and managing violence risk. Our workshops will also continue to be offered at diverse times so that participants can keep attending them from anywhere around the world! The workshops will include our comprehensive programs (e.g., [Foundational](#) and [Advanced](#) Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshops), special issues (e.g., how to manage fear, how to prevent violence), booster training (e.g., case reviews), several workshop series (e.g., violence risk communication, assessing mental health and violence risk), 1- to 2-day foundational training on our structured professional judgment tools (e.g., [HCR-20](#), [SARA](#), [RSVP](#), [ASAP](#)), and the launch of the newest version of the Guidelines for Stalking Assessment and Management Manual ([SAM-V2](#))!