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**U.S. Department of Justice Funds Expansion of Hamline Professor's
Research on Mass Shootings**

*New funding will increase data available and deepen understanding of mass shooting events;
results will inform policy and prevention strategies*

St. Paul, Minn. -- Jillian Peterson, assistant professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Director of the Center for Justice and Law at Hamline University, has been awarded a two-year, \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop new insights into the causes of mass shootings and possible ways to prevent them in the future.

The grant is one of few DOJ awards made available to specifically study gun violence.

The funding will help establish a comprehensive national database of mass shootings to assist policymakers in developing strategies for interventions and prevention of these events.

"The enlarged database will enable a nuanced and more complete picture of people who commit mass shootings and the environments in which those events take place," said Peterson.

Titled "*A Multi-level, Multi-method Investigation of the Psycho-social Life Histories of Mass Shooters*," the project will build on Peterson's existing database of mass shooting events. The expanded data set will include individual-level psycho-social variables, community level social-ecological factors, and information obtained through interviews with incarcerated mass shooters.

The grant also provides resources to share the results with stakeholders and decision-makers so that data can be used to develop evidence-based intervention programs and policies.

Hamline undergraduate students have worked on Peterson's research in the past and will continue to be a part of the team during the next phase of the work.

"Professor Peterson's groundbreaking work provides our students with an exceptional opportunity to be a part of critical research that has the potential for real world impact," said Hamline's Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Marcela Kostihova.

For additional information or for media desiring interview opportunities with Jillian Peterson, please contact Christine Weeks at (612) 791-3546, or by email at cweeks03@hamline.edu.

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