



Dear BRNET Members and Friends of BRNET:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! Below you will find updates from our network. Be sure to check our website at <http://brnet.unl.edu> for additional information and check “Member announcements” at the end of this newsletter for several job openings and opportunities.

2015 BRNET Think Tank

This year’s BRNET Think Tank at Boston University was a great success! Thank you to those who were able to attend. Special thanks to Drs. Melissa Holt and Jen Green for co-hosting and to Dean Hardin Coleman for his support of BRNET. Below are some pictures and highlights:



Think Tank co-hosts (from L to R):
Dr. Melissa Holt, Dr. Jen Green, Dr. Susan Swearer,
Dr. Shelley Hymel, and Dean Hardin Coleman



BRNET Think Tank Members at Boston University,
June 10, 2015



BRNET Think Tank, Day 2, Boston University School of
Education

Researcher Spotlight – Dr. Michele Ybarra

Dr. Michele Ybarra is President and Research Director of the Center for Innovative Public Health Research (CiPHR), a non-profit research incubator in San Clemente, CA. She earned her PhD in Child Mental Health Services in the Department of Mental Health at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where she is an adjunct faculty member. Dr Ybarra's work broadly examines the ways in which technology affect the health and well-being of young people, and also how we can harness the benefits of technology to promote healthy behavior among young people. She is well known for her work in cyberbullying, with a focus on the psychosocial correlates of both youth victimization and perpetration.

Dr. Ybarra is particularly pleased about several recent papers that have been published:

Her work examining the linkages between suicidal ideation and bullying by sexual identity, in collaboration with Drs. Mitchell, Kosciw and Korchmaros, was published in [Prevention Science](#) in April. They found that within the context of other important factors, bullying was associated with odds of suicidal ideation twice that of non-victimized youth. Within sexual identity, the relation between bullying and suicidal ideation was particularly strong for gay, lesbian, and queer youth, even after adjusting for other influential factors. Across sexual identities, the odds of suicidal ideation are higher for bisexual youth but not for other sexual minority youth when compared with otherwise similar heterosexual youth. Other factors, including depressive symptomatology and low self-esteem, were also predictive of recent ideation across all sexual identities. The relation between bullying and suicidal ideation is complex. Furthermore, given the disproportionate level of bullying experienced by LGB youth, the authors call for more protective environments for LGB youth.

Another important article was recently published by [Child Abuse & Neglect](#), which examined the potential for online social support to play a protective role against bullying and sexual harassment online and offline, for LGBT and non-LGBT youth. While the Internet played a positive social role in the lives of many LGBT youth (e.g., they were more likely than non-LGBT youth to have online friends and to appraise these friends as better than their in-person friends at providing emotional support), peer victimization and unwanted sexual experiences were more commonly reported by LGBT than non-LGBT youth. Perceived quality of social support, either online or in-person, did little to attenuate the relative odds of victimization for LGBT youth. For all youth, it was in-person rather than online social support that seemed to reduce the odds of victimization.

Another recent article published in [Journal of Sex Roles](#) finds bullying mediates the elevated odds of substance use for gender minority youth compared to cisgender adolescents (i.e., those whose sex assigned at birth is the same as their gender identity). An article published last year in the [Journal of Adolescent Health](#) highlights the importance of differential power and repetition in measuring 'bullying' as opposed to peer harassment, and also identifying youth who are more likely to be struggling with other personal challenges.

U.S. Political/Policy Updates

BULLYING DEBATE COMES TO CAPITOL HILL: On the heels of the Senate HELP Committee's markup of No Child Left Behind, Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) is looking for ways to get his proposed language on bullying into the education bill. "It's a great opportunity to finally - at long last - put this issue right on the front burner," Casey told Morning Education. "Because it's a pretty difficult issue to ignore if it gets to the Senate floor and you have to cast a vote on it." Both Casey and Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.)

withdrew proposals aiming to curb bullying in schools during the markup after the amendments garnered little Republican support. Republicans cited concerns about federal overreach. Casey's proposal would require states to have policies that prohibit bullying based on students race and LGBT status, among other things. It is based on a bill that had two Republican cosponsors - Sens. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) - in 2013. But during last week's markup, Murkowski expressed doubt about the measure. And a national debate over Indiana's religious freedom law makes for a charged climate when it comes to debating federal policies meant to protect gay and lesbian youth.

- Casey plans to keep in talks with Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander and others as NCLB moves ahead, but he said he doesn't think Alexander's proposed language on bullying is strong enough. "It might be we're still at loggerheads" by the time the bill gets to the floor, Casey said.
- Meanwhile on K Street: The Human Rights Campaign hired Eppin Strategic Planning's Robert Eppin, former legislative director for Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), to lobby issues including bullying of LGBT youth. HRC Government Affairs Director David Stacy said the group is "strongly urging" lawmakers to include both Franken and Casey's anti-bullying language in NCLB. "We will continue to push for those bills to be included when the bill moves to the Senate floor," Stacy said.
- And in bullying news outside the beltway: Montana is no longer the only state in the country without an anti-bullying law. The law Gov. Steve Bullock signed into law will ban students and teachers from bullying students in all K-12 public schools and give parents and authorities a path to go after bullies and others that break the law. More: <http://gftrib.com/1DAXmRy>.

BRNET New Members!

BRNET has a current total of 159 members!

- Please send recommendations for potential BRNET members (i.e., faculty, researchers, and clinicians who are conducting research on bullying or related topics) to Dr. Shelley Hymel, Dr. Susan Swearer, or to bullyresearchnet@gmail.com.

If you have recently joined BRNET and have not yet provided your information, please send the following to bullyresearchnet@gmail.com.

- 1) contact information that can be posted on the website,
- 2) a brief biography of you and your work,
- 3) a list of current/ongoing projects in this area,
- 4) an annotated bibliography of your work in this area (i.e., full reference plus a few sentences about the work), and,
- 5) relevant web-based links you would like to share.

Friends of BRNET

Friends of BRNET is a group of graduate students, administrators, parents, and individuals who are interested in learning more about the Bullying Research Network. Friends of BRNET receive our monthly

e-newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of BRNET or to refer someone to Friends of BRNET, please click on this link: <http://cehs15.unl.edu/cms/index.php?s=2&p=711>

BRNET Member Grant/Funding Announcements

Receipt of funding facilitates the BRNET mission to conduct interdisciplinary research related to bullying and aggression, with particular attention being paid to the link between basic and applied research. Thus, the BRNET directors are excited to offer members a new opportunity to share grants (and other sources of funding) they have received for their research projects.

Funding varies across countries and is not limited to federal grants. If you are interested in sharing your grants or funding with other BRNET members, please send an abstract of the research funding along with the funding source to bullyresearchnet@gmail.com and we will post the information on our website.

BRNET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Two Job Openings, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Two job openings, University of Nebraska – Lincoln: For the past decade the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln has supported the Bullying Research Network (BRNET), an international network of bullying prevention and intervention researchers. Building upon the success of BRNET, the college has developed the Empowerment Initiative that conducts translational research on bullying prevention and intervention. This position is integrally aligned with the Empowerment Initiative and will be part of a **cluster hire of bullying-related researchers**. We are seeking scholars to contribute to our translational research foci on youth empowerment, youth engagement, and bullying prevention across homes, schools, and communities. Please see the attached job descriptions. For more information, please contact Dr. Susan Swearer at: sswearer@unl.edu or by phone: [402-472-1741](tel:402-472-1741) (office).

(2) Seeking Director of Safe and Humane Schools

Clemson University seeks candidates for a Director of Safe and Humane Schools within the Institute on Family & Neighborhood Life (IFNL) at Clemson University. This individual will oversee dissemination of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) and develop related initiatives within IFNL to create safe and humane settings for children and adults by promoting positive connections and reducing bullying and violence. The successful candidate will be expected to oversee efforts to secure external funding, strengthen and develop partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals, contribute to the development of educational offerings and online and print resources, supervise several IFNL staff and graduate assistants, and collaborate with researchers within IFNL on a comprehensive research agenda.

This position is available starting in the summer of 2015. Clemson University, located in the Appalachian foothills between Greenville, SC and Atlanta, GA, is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer seeking applicants from diverse social and cultural backgrounds and/or disability status.

Required Qualifications: A Master's degree in a relevant education, social science, or related discipline is required, as is expertise in promoting safe and healthy school (K-12) environments; experience supervising other employees; a record of receiving funding from grants, contracts, and/or donations; and a history of collaborative work. Additional preferred qualifications include: a PhD in a relevant education,

social science, or related discipline; experience in leading a program of work within a university or non-profit organization; and experience in implementing the OBPP.

Review of applicants will begin on April 6, 2015, and will continue until the position is filled.

To Apply: Submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and three letters of reference to:

Safe and Humane Schools Search Committee
IFNLSearchCommittee@clermson.edu

Alternatively, hard copies may be sent to:

Safe and Humane Schools Search Committee
Clemson University
Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life
2038 Barre Hall
Clemson, SC 29634

For inquiries, please contact: IFNLSearchCommittee@clermson.edu

(3) Job Opening: 2 Postdoc and 3 PhD Positions

Dear colleagues,

I am looking for excellent researchers who have finished or are about to finish their PhD dissertation to offer them challenging postdoc positions at the project ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMS 2.0: Tailored interventions to minimize bullying.

See for more information: <http://www.rug.nl/about-us/work-with-us/job-opportunities/overview?details=00347-02S0004FNP>

I am also looking for three PhD students. The PhD positions will be advertised in April on this website: <http://www.ics-graduateschool.nl/ph-d-positions>

Please, send this information to your colleagues who might be interested to come over and join us to cooperate in this innovative project!

Looking forward to get in touch with them, By the way: next week I will be at SRCD (Philadelphia). If you are interested in this postdoc position and you are at SRCD, please let me know. Would be great to discuss this job opening.

Best wishes, René Veenstra

(4) 10th International Conference on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to announce that the call for abstracts for the 10th International Conference on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (July 20 - 22, 2015) is now open (see attached). We hope to see many of you at the conference at Roehampton.

Best wishes,

Cecilia Essau, PhD

Please see the attached document detailing information on the conference and call for abstracts.

(5) Policy Report

Colleagues,

I am writing to you in BRNET regarding a policy report on bullying in schools that I am leading on behalf of the EU Commission's Network of Experts on the Social Aspects of Education and Training (NESET II), together with Professor Carmel Cefai ([University of Malta](#)). The report focuses on identifying key structural and process features of good practice based on European and international research and practice regarding bullying prevention in school, as well as addressing issues of discrimination in schools. It is envisaged that this NESET II Analytical Report will influence the EU Commission's policy work on the issue of school bullying in future.

If any of you could send me or let me know of your recent work (or that of your colleagues) on these particular areas below, it would be much appreciated (by Monday, June 15th):

- Research on bullying interventions actively designed by students/young people
- Qualitative research on children and young people's experiences of bullying or being bullied in school
- Key review articles in the past 4 years on strengths and weaknesses of bullying interventions
- International research on optimal, age-specific, interventions and prevention approaches for a) racist related bullying, b) religion related bullying, c) homophobic bullying and/or d) social class/poverty related bullying, including its impact on early school leaving
- Research on community based interventions as a dimension of bullying prevention in schools
- Research on family support dimensions as a component of systemic interventions for bullying in school
- Religious-related bullying, aggression, prejudice in school and interventions

Many thanks in advance!

With best wishes,

Paul Downes

(6) Member Query

A faculty member in the Department of Teaching, Learning, & Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln is writing a book on stories of migration. Some of the youth in the book identify as Third Culture Kids (TCK) —expatriates who come from privileged homes and spend much of their times living in different countries. In one interview, a TCK was bullied in Japan because she was different. If any BRNET member has done research on bullying and TCK's, please contact:

Theresa Catalano, PhD
Assistant Professor
Second Language Education/Applied Linguistics
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dept of Teaching, Learning & Teacher Ed
Henzlik 27
Phone: (402)472-2229
Fax: (402)472-2837
tcatalano2@unl.edu

(7) Call for Proposals: Special Issue of *International Journal of Developmental Science*

Dear All,

Please find attached a call for a Special Issue of *International Journal of Developmental Science* (IJDS) on: "Cultural Issues in Bullying and Cyberbullying among Children and Adolescents: Methodological Approaches for Comparative Research". Deadline for Abstracts is 15th April and for full manuscripts is 1st July.

Best wishes,
Muthanna

Thank you for your involvement in the Bullying Research Network! If you have any news, information, research, suggestions for new members, or other materials that our members would find useful, please do not hesitate to email us at bullyresearchnet@gmail.com

Most sincerely,



Dr. Shelley Hymel
University of British Columbia
BRNET Co-Director



Dr. Susan Swearer
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
BRNET Co-Director