

## BRNET July Newsletter

Dear BRNET Members:

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>.

**BRNET 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Think Tank at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. June 21-22, 2012.**

On behalf of the Bullying Research Network, we would like to thank Dr. Dewey Cornell and Dr. Patrick Tolan for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual BRNET Think Tank in Charlottesville, VA! The Think Tank followed a very successful public conference, “Bullying Prevention in the Promotion of a Positive School Climate: Effective Principles and Practices” that attracted over 500 participants! The public conference was followed by the Think Tank for BRNET members. We had a great day-and-a-half meeting discussing research directions and outcomes of this year’s Think Tank. We are pleased to announce the partnership between BRNET and the *Journal of School Violence*! One product from this year’s Think Tank will be four papers that will be published in JSV in January 2013. Another product will be an edited book submitted to Oxford University Press. Dr. Ian Rivers will be the lead editor on this volume and we started outlining the focus for the book. We enjoyed several lovely meals at UVA, a tour of the campus, and a tour of Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home. It was a fabulous, productive time and we’re looking forward to next year’s 3<sup>rd</sup> annual BRNET Think Tank! Below are this year’s participants:

Michael Baly	University of Virginia
Amy Bellmore	University of Wisconsin
Catherine Bradshaw	John Hopkins University
Dewey Cornell	University of Virginia
Dorothy L. Espelage	University of Illinois
Karin Frey	University of Washington
Michael Furlong	University of California-Santa Barbara
Jennifer Green	Boston University
Laura Hanish	Arizona State University
Anna Heilbrun	University of Virginia
Melissa Holt	Boston University
Arthur Horne	University of Georgia
Shelley Hymel	University of British Columbia, BRNET Co-Director
Kathryn Jens	Cherry Creek Public Schools - Colorado
Elena Kryzhanovskaya	University of Virginia
Anna Lacey	University of Virginia
Susan Limber	Clemson University

Peter Lovegrove	University of Virginia, Youth-Nex
Erin Nekvasil	University of Virginia
Amanda Nickerson	University at Buffalo, State University of New York
Jamie Ostrov	University at Buffalo, State University of New York
Katherine Raczynski	University of Georgia
Philip Rodkin	University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign
Dena Sacco	Harvard University
David Smith	University of Ottawa
Susan Swearer	University of Nebraska, BRNET Co-Director
Patrick Tolan	University of Virginia, Youth-Nex Director

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### BRNET Welcomes Six New Members!

BRNET is happy to welcome six new members this month. This brings our network to 100 members from 13 countries! Please see below for a brief biography of each of our new members.

#### Dr. Robert Thornberg - Linköping University – Sweden

Robert Thornberg is an Associate Professor of Education at the Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning, Linköping University in Sweden. Dr Thornberg's current research is on school bullying, especially in relation to social processes, peer norms, moral disengagement, and children and adolescents' perspectives. His second line of research is on school rules and everyday moral life of school. Dr Thornberg uses a range of methods including questionnaires, psychological assessments, qualitative interviewing, focus groups, ethnographic fieldwork, grounded theory, and statistical methods.

#### Dr. Jennifer Neal – Michigan State University – United States

Jennifer Watling Neal is an Assistant Professor of community psychology at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on associations between children's peer social networks, classroom contextual factors, and aggressive behaviors. She is also interested in understanding how social networks can facilitate the dissemination of school-based interventions.

#### Dr. Cindy Simpsons – Sam Houston State University – United States

Cynthia Simpson, Ph.D., is an associate professor of special education in the Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations at Sam Houston State University. Her current research focuses on bullying prevention strategies within a multi-component framework, gender discrepancies within the bullying dynamic, and protective factors for individuals with low incidence disabilities. Dr. Simpson has been recognized for her scholarship, service, and civic engagement at the international, national and state level. She has multiple publications to her name which include several manuscripts, book chapters, books and training manuals encompassing a range of critical issues in the field of special education.

#### Dr. Kathryn Jens – Cherry Creek School District – United States

Dr. Jens is both a School Psychologist in the Cherry Creek School District, Greenwood Village, Colorado and a Clinical Psychologist with an independent practice in Denver, Colorado. She is an author, trainer, and researcher with the Bully-Proofing Your School program. Dr. Jens received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her Ph.D. in Clinical-Community Psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Jens' current interest areas include how to integrate bullying prevention efforts

with positive climate change programs, discipline that teaches, moral development, diversity training and literacy.

*Dr. Erika Felix – University of California – Santa Barbara – United States*

Erika Felix is research faculty in the Department of Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Her research interests in the area of school bullying and peer victimization include improving self-report measurement of bullying versus peer victimization, the mental health impact of poly-victimization, and gender-related bullying and harassment. She also conducts program evaluation research with local Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative grantees.

*Dr. Elise Cappella – New York University – United States*

Elise Cappella is a clinical and community psychologist whose research integrates education and psychology with the goal to better understand what disrupts, and alternatively, promotes children's positive adaptation in schools and communities. Cappella has identified academic and social-emotional functioning among low-income children as priority areas of interest, with a particular focus on the social processes of schooling. With grants from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Spencer Foundation, she has studied predictors of children's achievement among students at risk for failure, and has designed and examined an intervention to enhance girls' social development and reduce relationally aggressive behavior. With colleagues at the University of Illinois at Chicago Institute for Juvenile Research, and funding from the Institute for Education Sciences, the American Psychological Association, and NIMH, Cappella has worked with school and community partners to implement and study a mental health model focused on learning for disruptive children in high poverty schools. Cappella was awarded an Early Career Research Award from the Society for the Study of School Psychology, and a Community Collaborative Grant from the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, to adapt and study a teacher consultation model focused on improving classroom processes in urban elementary schools. Within the context of a NIMH-funded developing center, she examined the effectiveness of this program – BRIDGE – on classroom interactions and child behaviors in NYC schools. Finally, as co-PI on an IES Goal 3 study, Cappella is participating in a school-randomized control trial of a theory-based program to align parents and teachers around temperament-based strategies to promote children's behavior and learning. Beyond intervention research, Cappella studies children's social behaviors (aggression, victimization, prosocial) and social networks in classrooms, with the long-term goal to create ways to activate peer leaders toward the development of positive peer environments for learning. Methodological approaches include community-based participatory research, mixed method research, systematic observational methods, social network methods, and RCTs. Cappella studied history as an undergraduate at Yale University and received her doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley.

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**Hong & Espelage: A Review of Bullying in Schools**

BRNET member Dr. Dorothy Espelage and her colleague Jun Sung Hong have just published an article in *Aggression and Violent Behavior*. Using an ecological model, the article reviews a wide variety of risk factors associated with bullying. The citation and abstract are below. Interested readers are encouraged to contact Dr. Espelage at [espelage@illinois.edu](mailto:espelage@illinois.edu) to obtain a copy of the article.

Hong, J. S. & Espelage, D. L. (2012). A review of research on bullying and peer victimization in school: An ecological system analysis. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 17, 311-322. DOI: 10.1016/j.avb.2012.03.003

Abstract: Bullying and peer victimization in school are serious concerns for students, parents, teachers, and school officials in the U.S. and around the world. This article reviews risk factors associated with bullying and peer victimization in school within the context of Bronfenbrenner's ecological framework. This review integrates empirical findings on the risk factors associated with bullying and peer victimization within the context of micro- (parent–youth relationships, inter-parental violence, relations with peers, school connectedness, and school environment), meso- (teacher involvement), exo- (exposure to media violence, neighborhood environment), macro- (cultural norms and beliefs, religious affiliation), and chronosystem (changes in family structure) levels. Theories that explain the relationships between the risk factors and bullying behavior are also included. We then discuss the efficacy of the current bullying prevention and intervention programs, which is followed by directions for future research.

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### Research Fellowships Available at the University of Padua

The University of Padua is currently offering research fellowships for foreign students to attend Doctoral Schools. During the 3-year doctoral programme, successful candidates will be offered full board and lodging. The link to the call for applications can be accessed at the BRNET website here:

<http://cehs15.unl.edu/cms/index.php?s=2&p=146#391>

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### Research Position Opening at Committee for Children

The Committee for Children has an opening for a research scientist. Potential candidates are encouraged to access the link below for more information.

<http://www.cfchildren.org/advocacy/about-us/contact-us/job-opportunities/research-scientist.aspx>

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### NPEIV Partners with the Stop Abuse Campaign

The National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV)

(<http://www.uncg.edu/psy/npeiv/>) is a collection of organizations whose mission is "To make the prevention of interpersonal violence a national priority and to encourage healthy relationships by linking science, practice, policy, and advocacy." Recently, NPEIV has partnered with the Stop Abuse Campaign (<http://stopabusecampaign.com>). The Stop Abuse Campaign is a collaboration between many businesses and organizations whose purpose is to eradicate abuse in America.

Together, NPEIV and the Stop Abuse Campaign have pledged to eliminate abuse in America within 25 years (by the year 2036). Together, these groups advocate three strategies to achieve this goal:

1. Educating all adults on how to create safe environments for themselves and those who they love.
  2. Providing easy access to enhanced mental health treatment and advocacy to all survivors who need it.
  3. Ensuring all abuse is reported into the system and effectively handled.
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### Alberti Center Annual Conference to be Held in September

Please mark your calendars for the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention 2012 Annual Conference, "Understanding and Addressing Cyberbullying," which will be held on September 19, 2012. Additional

details are attached in the event flyer, which can be found here:

<http://cehs15.unl.edu/cms/index.php?s=2&p=146#384>

To ensure that you receive the official conference invitation, be sure to sign up for the center's newsletter by visiting <http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter>.

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### Alberti Center Early Career Award

There is a call for applications for the Alberti Center Early Career Award for Distinguished Scholarly Contributions to Bullying Abuse Prevention. Details about eligibility, application, and selection procedures for this \$1,000 award can be found in the attached and at <http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter/awards>

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### Updated Analysis of Bullying, Depression, and Later Offending

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention has recently released an updated meta-analytic study on the connection between bullying, victimization, depression, and later offending. The article is entitled "School Bullying, Depression and Offending Behavior Later in Life: An Updated Systematic Review of Longitudinal Studies. BRNET members Drs. David Farrington and Maria Ttofi are authors on the paper. Please download the article here: <http://cehs15.unl.edu/cms/uploads/2-792-2-754-swed12f.pdf>.

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### New BRNET Graduate Assistant

BRNET would like to welcome Paige Lembeck as the new graduate assistant. Paige is a 4th year doctoral student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is working under Dr. Susan Swearer. She is looking forward to being involved in BRNET and working with its members.

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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](mailto: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