



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>.

Researcher Spotlight – Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt

Tracy Vaillancourt is a Canada Research Chair in Children’s Mental Health and Violence Prevention at the University of Ottawa where she is cross-appointed as a Full Professor in the Faculty of Education (counselling program) and in the School of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences. Dr. Vaillancourt is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, & Behaviour at McMaster University and a core member of the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University. She received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia (human development), her post-doctoral diploma from the University of Montreal and Laval University (developmental psychology), and post-doctoral re-specialization in applied child psychology (clinical) from McGill University.



Dr. Vaillancourt’s research focuses the links between aggression/victimization and children’s mental health functioning, with a particular emphasis on social neuroscience. She is an Associate Editor for the journal *Aggressive Behavior*, an expert panelist for Ontario’s Bill 13 (Accepting Schools Act), and is on the executive committee for PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Centre of Excellence) and the International Society for Research on Aggression. Dr. Vaillancourt’s research on peer victimization, aggression, and children’s mental health appear in high impact clinical psychology/psychiatry journals (e.g., *Archives of General Psychiatry*, *Development and Psychopathology*, *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*), general psychology journals (e.g., *Child Development*), education journals (e.g., *Educational Researcher*), and specialty journals (e.g., *Brain and Cognition*, *Aggressive Behavior*).

Recent Projects

Dr. Vaillancourt is the primary investigator on a Canadian Institutes for Health Research funded study examining key mechanisms associated with bullying and victimization through the use of a multi-level, accelerated longitudinal study of over 600 children followed from Grade 5 (age 10 Time 1) until Grade 12 (age 17 Time 8). Five waves of data have been collected and Time 6 data collection is just beginning. This study includes important information about children at critical transition times in development (transition

into middle school and high school) and it includes information from multiple sources (children, parents, official school records) on children's mental health functioning and academic achievement as it relates to bullying perpetration and peer victimization. Dr. Vaillancourt is also conducting an EEG/ERP study on bullied children in partnership with Dr. Sid Segalowitz (Brock University), Dr. Louis Schmidt (McMaster University) and Dr. Michael Crowley (Yale University), funded by Canadian Institutes for Health Research Canada Research Chair program. Finally, in close partnership with Dr. Charles Cunningham (Principal Investigator; McMaster University), the factors that contribute to bullying prevention program success and failure are being examined using a mix-method approach. Specifically, Drs. Cunningham and Vaillancourt are looking at the features of bullying prevention programs that elicit *reactance* (the elicitation of an unintended negative response). This study is also funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

BRNET Welcomes Two New Members!

BRNET is happy to welcome two new members this month, Dr. Marc Brackett and Dr. Andre Sourander. These additions put BRNET at 114 members! Please see below for their brief biographies.

Dr. Marc Brackett – Yale University

Marc Brackett, Ph.D., is Deputy Director of the Health, Emotion and Behavior Laboratory at Yale University. Dr. Brackett is an author of 90 scholarly publications and is the developer of The RULER Approach to Social and Emotional Learning (“RULER”), a CASEL SElect program. RULER fosters the development of social and emotional skills in children from pre-kindergarten to high school and involves training for all stakeholders, including leaders, teachers, and support staff, as well as families. Dr. Brackett is on the Research Advisory Boards of both CASEL and Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation. Currently, he is working with Facebook to both prevent and decrease cyberbullying. In 2013, Dr. Brackett will become Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. He also holds a 5th degree black belt in Hapkido, a Korean martial art.

Dr. Andre Sourander– Turku University & Columbia University

Dr. Sourander is an MD and professor in Child Psychiatry, Turku University, Finland, and adjunct professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University, New York, USA.

His research activity in bullying research has focused on the following areas:

- 1) Long term consequences of bullying (from childhood to adulthood) based on epidemiological Finnish birth cohort study
- 2) Research about cyberbullying
- 3) Cross-cultural research about bullying
- 4) Early web based parent training intervention focusing on oppositional behavior among 4-year olds (including peer aggression), population based RCT study

Dr. Sourander has published several articles about my research findings about associations between childhood bullying behavior and adult psychiatric disorders, suicidality and crime (published for example in Archives of General Psychiatry, J of American Academy of Child and adolescent Psychiatry, Pediatrics). His other research activity is focusing on prenatal epidemiology and birth cohort studies. He has several international fundings, e.g. NIHM, Narsad, Autism Speaks, Canadian Research Foundation, Finnish academy, Norwegian research Council, etc.

Position Statement Regarding the Connecticut School Shooting

BRNET members Drs. Cornell, Espelage, Furlong, Jimerson, and Nickerson were co-authors on the Connecticut school shooting position statement that was released on December 19th in the wake of the tragic school shooting in Newtown, CT.

The press release for the statement can be found here: <http://www.div17.org/december-2012-connecticut-school-shooting-position-statement/> and the position statement itself can be accessed at this link: <http://curry.virginia.edu/articles/sandyhookshooting>

SWAPv Research Centre Evaluation

Below is a link to a report just released related to an evaluation conducted by the members of the SWAPv Research Centre. The report is available at: <http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/early-childhood/kidsmatter-early-childhood-evaluation>

The December 20, 2012 media release (http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=105.1441&tmp=FileDownload&fid=2556) states:

A pioneering national project that builds the resilience of young children in preschools and long day care and reduces their risk of experiencing mental health problems has delivered significant results.

KidsMatter Early Childhood has improved the mental health and wellbeing of children, helped staff care better for children and improved links with mental health professionals according to a two year Flinders University evaluation funded by *beyondblue* (p. 1).

Thank you to BRNET member Dr. Rosalind Murray-Harvey from Flinders University for sharing this report!

The Kinder & Braver World Project: Research Series - Eight Papers on The Role of Youth Organizations and Youth Movements for Social Change

The Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University is pleased to announce the publication of eight new of papers in [*The Kinder & Braver World Project: Research Series*](#) (danah boyd, John Palfrey, and Dena Sacco, editors) as part of its collaboration with the Born This Way Foundation (BTWF), and generously supported by the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. *The Kinder & Braver World Project: Research Series* is comprised of short papers that are intended to help synthesize research and provide research-grounded insight to the variety of stakeholders working on issues related to youth empowerment and action towards creating a kinder, braver world.

The eight new papers focus on [The Role of Youth Organizations and Youth Movements for Social Change](#), and were selected among submissions from a [call for papers](#) that the Berkman Center put out in June 2012. They include:

- "[The Value of Youth Organizing](#)" by Jerusha Conner
- "[Youth and Social Movements: Key Lessons for Allies](#)" by Sasha Costanza-Chock
- "[Cultivating Young Women's Leadership for a Kinder, Braver World](#)" by Anna Rorem and Dr. Monisha

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- "[How Participatory Action Research Can Promote Social Change and Help Youth Development](#)" by Cara Berg Powers and Erin Allaman
- "[Engaging Youth, Serving Community: Social Change Lessons from a 4H Rural Youth Development Program](#)" by Donna J. Peterson, Barbara A. Baker, JoAnne Leatherman, Michael E. Newman, and Sally Miske
- "[Youth Organizations and Positive Development: Lessons Learned from a Century of Girl Scouting](#)" by Kamla Modi, Judy Schoenberg, and Kallen Tsikalas of the Girl Scout Research Institute
- "[Out of the Box: Positive Development & Social Change Through the Arts](#)" by Ping Ho
- "[How to Engage Young People: Lessons From Lowell, MA](#)" by Sopheap Linda C. Sou, Darcie DeAngelo, Masada Jones, and Monica Veth

In addition to being published on the *The Kinder & Braver World Project: Research Series* [site](#), the eight new papers soon will be published on SSRN as part of the Berkman Center's Working Paper Series. Stay tuned for details.

In early 2012 we published a group of papers related to [Meanness and Cruelty](#), including:

- "[What You Must Know to Help Combat Youth Bullying, Meanness, and Cruelty](#)" by danah boyd and John Palfrey
- "[Bullying in a Networked Era: A Literature Review](#)" by Nathaniel Levy, Sandra Cortesi, Urs Gasser, Edward Crowley, Meredith Beaton, June Casey, and Caroline Nolan
- "[An Overview of State Anti-Bullying Legislation and Other Related Laws](#)" by Dena Sacco, Katharine Silbaugh, Felipe Corredor, June Casey, and Davis Doherty
- "[Bullying Prevention 101 for Schools: Dos and Don'ts](#)" by Susan Swearer, Mia Doces, Lisa Jones, and Anne Collier
- "[Implementing Bullying Prevention Programs in Schools: A How-To Guide](#)" by Lisa Jones, Mia Doces, Susan Swearer, and Anne Collier
- "[Changing the Culture: Ideas for Student Action](#)" by Anne Collier, Susan Swearer, Mia Doces, and Lisa Jones

We welcome ongoing conversations about these topics.

Best, danah boyd, John Palfrey, and Dena Sacco

Children's Safety Network eNewsletter

CSN's eNewsletter serves as a forum for sharing information about child and adolescent injury and violence prevention. CSN provides weekly listings of events, journal articles, news items, and reports on specific injury-related topics.

The January 3, 2013 newsletter can be accessed at this link:

<http://www.childrendefensanetwork.org/news/archive/2013-01-03>

Several of the studies spotlight topics such as bullying and food allergies, weight-based victimization, and outcomes for kind youth. Injury topics include drowning prevention, drug misuse, teen dating violence, and child maltreatment. These articles are published in journals such as *Pediatrics*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, and *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

Upcoming BRNET Think Tanks

Several BRNET members were at the annual conference of the American Psychological Association in Orlando, Florida. Susan met with Dr. Jane Close Conoley, Dean of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara. We are pleased to announce that UCSB will host the 3rd annual BRNET Think Tank in June 2013 in sunny Santa Barbara! BRNET members, Dr. Mike Furlong and Dr. Shane Jimerson will help coordinate the BRNET Think Tank, which has become a very productive and rewarding meeting. We extend our heart-felt “thank you!” to Jane, Mike, and Shane for hosting our next BRNET Think Tank. Stay tuned for a save-the-date announcement, but plan on joining us in late June 2013 in Santa Barbara, CA.

For the advance planners in the group: We are pleased to announce that the 2014 BRNET Think Tank will held in Canada and jointly hosted by BRNET and PREVNet (<http://www.prevnet.ca>). More information will be provided at the 2013 BRNET Think Tank at USCB in June 2013.

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,



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