

**BULLYING RESEARCH NETWORK**  
UNITING RESEARCHERS IN BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The mission of the Bullying Research Network (BRNET) is to **connect** international and national researchers, **serve** as knowledge translators, and **share** evidence-based knowledge in bullying prevention and intervention.

## RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT



**Dr. Maria Sapouna**

**Dr. Maria Sapouna** is Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of the West of Scotland. She received her PhD in Criminology from the Panteion University in Athens in 2007. Her research interests include bias-based bullying, school-based bullying prevention programmes, coping with and resilience to bullying victimisation, bystander behaviour, and understanding the role of adverse childhood experiences in bullying. Most recently she led a large-scale, European-funded project that aimed to develop a tailored, school-based intervention programme against bias-based bullying. This programme was evaluated in three European countries and results from the evaluation were recently published in the International Journal of Bullying Prevention.

She currently supervises a PhD project on coping with racist peer victimisation. She has also recently published work on teacher responses to racist bullying. Maria works closely with Respectme, Scotland's national anti-bullying service, and her research has fed into their training programmes and anti-bullying campaigns. Together with Professor Peter Smith and Dr Roy Willems, she is currently editing the Cambridge Handbook in Bias-based Bullying.

JULY / 2024

### DEAR BRNET MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! In our July newsletter, you will find updates from the network.

Be sure to check [our website](https://cehs.unl.edu/BRNET/) for additional resources and announcements.



### INSIDE

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

AUTHOR EXCHANGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Selected Publications**

Hay, N., Davies, E., & **Sapouna, M.** (2024). Teacher responses to racially motivated bullying in Scotland. *Frontiers in Education, 9*, Article 1376017.  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2024.1376017>

**Sapouna, M.**, De Amicis, L., & Vezzali, L. (2022). Bullying victimization due to racial, ethnic, citizenship and/or religious status: a systematic review. *Adolescent Research Review*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40894-022-00197-2>

Willems, R. A., **Sapouna, M.**, De Amicis, L., Vollink, T., Dehue, F., Dimakos, I., Priovolou, K., Nikolaou, G., & Rosinsky, R. (2024). Encouraging positive bystander responses to bias-based bullying in primary schools through a serious game approach: a non-randomized controlled evaluation of the 'GATE-BULL' program. *International Journal of Bullying Prevention*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42380-024-00243-8>



## **BRNET MEMBERS**

BRNET has a current total of 285 members from 32 countries.

**Welcome Dr. Dorit Olenik-Shemesh!**

Please send recommendations for potential BRNET members (i.e., faculty, researchers, and clinicians who are conducting research on bullying or related topics) to Drs. Wendy Craig, Susan Swearer, or to the BRNET Coordinator, at [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com). Additionally, you may direct potential BRNET members toward [our website](#) for further information.

If you have recently joined BRNET and have not yet provided your information, please send the following to [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com):

1. contact information that can be posted on the website;
2. a brief biography of you and your work that can be posted on the website;
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) or curriculum vitae that can be posted on the website;
5. relevant web-based links you would like to share.

## **AFFILIATES OF BRNET**

BRNET has a current total of 123 affiliates from 21 countries.

**Welcome Abby Kelsen!**

Affiliates of BRNET is a group of graduate students, administrators, parents, and individuals who are interested in learning more about the Bullying Research Network. Affiliates of BRNET receive our monthly e-newsletter. If you are interested in becoming an Affiliate of BRNET or want to refer someone to Affiliates of BRNET, please email Melanie Willis, the BRNET Coordinator, at [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com) with the following information: name, title, address, and email address.



## AUTHOR EXCHANGE

If you would like to share research articles or other publications to be highlighted in our monthly newsletters, please email Melanie Willis at [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com) with the following information:

- Your article citation (with a link to the DOI, if possible)
- Your article abstract
- Your email (so individuals who receive our newsletter can request further information, if desired)

Lubon, A., Finet, C., Demol, K., van Gils, F. E., ten Bokkel, I. M., Verschueren, K., & Colpin, H. (2024). Do classroom relationships moderate the association between peer defending in school bullying and social-emotional adjustment? *Journal of School Psychology, 105*, 101315. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsp.2024.101315>

This three-wave longitudinal study examined the association between peer nominated defending behavior and later self-reported depressive symptoms and self-esteem. Peer nominated positive and negative teacher-student relationships (i.e., closeness and conflict) and peer relationships (i.e., acceptance and rejection) were included as moderators.

van Gils, F., Demol, K., Verschueren, K., ten Bokkel, I., & Colpin, H. (2024). Teachers' responses to bullying: A person-centered approach. *Teaching and Teacher Education, 148*, 104660. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2024.104660>

This three-wave longitudinal study investigated profiles of teachers' responses to and prediction of bullying. Person-Centered analyses revealed three profiles: Highly Active, Moderately Active, and Passive. Concluding, teachers may reduce bullying by using a variety of active responses.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REQUESTS



#### **Request for Research on Reporting of Bullying**

We have a request from Stuart Green who is the founder of the New Jersey Coalition for Bullying Awareness and Prevention. He's looking for research on the "issue of whether children who report having been bullied do so truthfully. I've done a literature review but haven't found much directly on point. It does seem clear that substantial percentages of children bullied do not report, and that the decision to report is critically influenced by context (school climate, e.g.), to whom they can report and (for surveys, etc.) the type of questions asked. But the extent to which false reporting occurs, whether it does to any significant degree, seems relatively uncovered. My clinical experience and interactions with families and students suggest that false reporting is rare and that students who report bullying should be believed. But I'm interested in the evidence. Can you or BRNET colleagues help?"



If you have articles to share on this topic, please share with Stuart Green ([Stuart.Green@atlantichhealth.org](mailto:Stuart.Green@atlantichhealth.org)). Thank you!

2

The Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention, University at Buffalo is accepting applications for the Alberti Center Early Career Award. This award recognizes a scholar who has contributed to bullying abuse prevention and conducted research that can influence policy and practice. The winner will receive a plaque and \$1,000. Early career professionals (no more than seven years from receiving a doctoral degree) in psychology, education, and related fields who work in an accredited college or university setting are invited to apply. See the attached flyer for application details.

3

**Journal of Aggression and Violent Behavior Special Issue on Historical Perspectives on Violence, Aggression, and Bullying**

Peter K Smith, Goldsmiths, University of London, U.K. ([p.smith@gold.ac.uk](mailto:p.smith@gold.ac.uk))

Manuscripts regarding historical perspectives of violence, aggression, and bullying. Historical can be interpreted in a broad way – over centuries, decades, or years (for example thinking of cyber aggression). The Special Issue papers can be empirical articles or review articles. Submissions from a variety of disciplines are encouraged. Topics mentioned are homicide (serial, spree, and mass murder: sexual homicide), sexual deviance and assault (rape, serial rape, child molestation, paraphilias), child and youth violence (fire setting, gang violence, juvenile sexual offending), family violence (child physical and sexual abuse, child neglect, incest, spouse and elder abuse), genetic predispositions, the physiological basis of aggression, and bullying (in various settings). Full manuscripts should be submitted by Monday 2nd September 2024.

4

**Postdoctoral Fellow Opportunity at the School Bullying Research Group at Linköping University in Sweden**

We are pleased to share that we are recruiting a postdoctoral fellow at the School Bullying Research Group at Linköping University in Sweden. This is a 2-year position in which the postdoctoral researcher is expected to develop and conduct quantitative research on school bullying in collaboration with other researchers of the School Bullying Research Group. Deadline for the application is August 23rd. For more information, see: <https://liu.se/en/work-at-liu/vacancies/24819>. Please spread the word about the postdoc opportunity to your networks or potential candidates. For further information or questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Robert Thornberg: [robert.thornberg@liu.se](mailto:robert.thornberg@liu.se)



**Wiley Book Series – Book Proposals**



Please see the attached flyer for more information on the Wiley book series, ***Psycho-Criminology of Crime, Mental Health, and the Law.***

For those who are interested in submitting a book proposal or have initial thoughts on publishing a book, please feel free to get in touch with Dr. Oliver Chan ([h.c.chan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:h.c.chan@bham.ac.uk)).

---

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) and we will include it in our newsletter and/or on our website or social media pages.

Most sincerely,

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

Dr. Wendy Craig  
Queen's University  
BRNET Co-Director