

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. Kirandeep Kaur received her Ph.D. in Cyber Psychology and Mental Health in 2019 from Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India. Dr. Kaur served as Assistant Professor at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India and Akal University, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, Punjab, India. Her research focus is child and adolescent development, cyber psychology and mental health. As a researcher, she brings breadth and depth of international exposure, experience, and outputs to her field. Dr. Kaur has worked in the field of bullying/cyber bullying and child and adolescent well-being with leading international scholars. Her credentials, whilst modest on the one hand, as an early career academic, are also reflective of her ability to capitalize on the opportunities afforded to her, and of her ability to communicate and collaborate across all levels of academe. Her research work on bullying,

cyberbullying and mental health has been published by Cambridge University Press, Wiley and Blackwell, Elsevier, Sage and Nova Science Publishers etc.

Dr. Kaur's latest publication is in the form of a chapter in a book entitled 'The Psychology of Cyberbullying' edited by Dr. Michelle Wright published by Nova Science Publishers in 2024. Dr. Kaur is a part of many international networks including Indian-European Research Networking- India's first multilateral agreement in social sciences; Australia-India Well-being Studies research group at Flinders University Adelaide; International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD) and many other prestigious international research consortiums on bullying, cyberbullying and child and adolescent well-being. Dr. Kaur has presented her research at various global platforms. Dr. Kaur moved to Canada couple of years back and developed her career in Rehabilitation as a Clinical Counsellor. Currently, Dr. Kaur works with diverse populations including people from different cultures, communities, age groups and sexual orientations. Dr. Kaur works in the best interests of her clients as well as continues pursuing her research interests.

May | 2025

DEAR BRNET MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network!



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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Kaur, K., & Sandhu, D.** (2024). Social and Emotional Discriminant Factors among Cyberbullying Perpetrators and Cyber Controls in a North Indian Adolescent Sample. In M. Wright (Ed.), *The Psychology of Cyberbullying* (pp. 193-222). New York, NY: Nova Science Publishers, Inc.
- Sandhu, D., **Kaur, K.**, & Sundaram, S. (2021). Bullying Research and Intervention in India. *The Wiley Blackwell Handbook of Bullying: A Comprehensive and International Review of Research and Intervention*, 2, 587-607.
- Pronk, J., Lee, N. C., Sandhu, D., **Kaur, K.**, Kaur, S., Olthof, T., & Goossens, F. A. (2017). Associations between Dutch and Indian adolescents' bullying role behavior and peer-group status: Cross culturally testing an evolutionary hypothesis. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 41(6), 735-742.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0165025416679743>
- Blaya, C., **Kaur, K.**, Sandhu, D., & Sundaram, S. (2018). Cyberbullying in Higher Education in India and France: An Empirical Investigation. In P. K. Smith, S. Sundaram, B. Spears, C. Blaya, M. Schafer, & D. Sandhu (Eds.), *Bullying, cyberbullying and student well-being in schools: Comparing Western, Australian and Indian Perspectives* (pp. 107-129). London, UK: Cambridge University Press.
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BRNET MEMBERS

BRNET has a current total of 292 members
from 33 countries.

**Welcome Drs. Temesgen Demissie Eijigu
& Jacob Oqusu Safro**

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

If you 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 that can be posted on the website;
3. current/ongoing projects in this area;
4. an annotated bibliography of your work or curriculum vitae that can be posted on the website.

AFFILIATES OF BRNET

BRNET has a current total of 137 affiliates
from 21 countries.

Welcome Sherwin Fraser! & James Moran

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 with the following information: name, title, address, and email address.

AUTHOR EXCHANGE

We would love to share your research articles or other publications in our newsletters. If you'd like your work featured, please email Melanie Willis at 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)

Veenstra, R. (2025). Harnessing peer influence: A summary and synthesis of social network and peer-led intervention research. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/01650254251331201>

This article synthesizes recent research on social network dynamics and peer-led interventions to address adolescent behaviors in five domains: bullying, internalizing problems, substance use, healthy lifestyles, and sexual behaviors.

Slee, P., Pill, S., & Agnew, D. (2025). Big talks for little people: A pilot study of a classroom based mental health program. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 36(2). <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpja.70014>

This project was funded by the Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation and Little Heroes Foundation.

The present study piloted and evaluated a classroom based mental health and well-being programme in primary schools. A mixed- method quasi- hybrid design methodology was utilised. An online survey was completed by students from five schools pretest (n = 173) and three schools matched post- test (n = 68) with semi- structured interviews with teachers (n = 4) and a focus group of students (n = 18) conducted at the completion of the programme. Student questionnaire data included the use of three measures of well- being. Students at post- test self- reported significant improvements in positive emotional state, recognising, and expressing emotions, and reductions in anxiety. The findings suggest the programme was effective in relation to promoting aspects of student well- being, emotional development and in reducing elements of anxiety.

Bell, M., & Fandrem, H. (2025). "It Takes a Village": Parental Experiences with Cooperation to Overcome Cyberbullying in Norwegian Schools. *Int Journal of Bullying Prevention*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42380-024-00277-y>

This study investigated parental beliefs and experiences with cooperation among adults to overcome cyberbullying in Norwegian schools. Data comprised 17 semi-structured interviews conducted with parents of adolescents. Reflexive thematic analysis revealed four themes: (1) individual and (2) organizational aspects influencing cooperation, (3) cyberbullying as a form of aggression, and (4) interactional dimensions of cooperation. These findings highlight the complexity of cyberbullying characteristics and mesosystemic cooperation, which require expertise in various fields.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1

World Anti-Bullying Forum (WABF) 2025 Registration

The fifth World Anti-Bullying Forum will be held in Stavanger, Norway June 11-13, 2025. Registration for the conference is still open. Learn more here: <https://worldantibullyingforum.com/wabf-2025/registration/>

Over three inspiring days, more than 600 participants worldwide — including researchers, policymakers, teachers, educators, and students, individuals will gather to share knowledge, best practices, and strategies to prevent and address bullying.

The World Anti-Bullying Forum (WABF) is a global initiative that, every other year, brings together participants from over 35 countries to address bullying in various settings, such as preschools, schools, leisure activities, and online environments. In 2025, the National Centre for Learning Environment and Behavioural Research at the University of Stavanger will host the forum, collaborating with Partnership Against Bullying Norway and the Swedish child rights organization Friends.

Conference opening speech by the Norwegian Minister of Education Kari Nessa Nordtun. Presentations from world-leading researchers, including Robert Thornberg, Tracy Vaillancourt and Anthony Peguero.

2

Co-editors Andrea Frazier, Jonathan Wai and Jennifer Cross have finalized a **call for proposals for a special issue of *Gifted Child Quarterly***, the premiere research journal in the field. Gifted children and adolescents have unique issues in their peer relationships that are sometimes overlooked in research on general populations. While definitions vary of who can be labeled "gifted," everyone recognizes there are some individuals who have exceptional abilities or potential. The special issue is intended to attract authors from outside our small field of gifted education whose work has implications for us. We welcome your ideas for research that can be shared with our community. Contact: jennifer.cross@louisiana.edu.

3

A new special issue has been published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* on teacher responses to bias-based bullying. The issue focuses on teachers' responses to bias-based bullying, barriers to intervention and strategies teachers can use to support victims and create more inclusive school environments. The special issue's guest editors are Dr Maria Sapouna of the University of the West of Scotland, Professor Hildegunn Fandrem of the University of Stavanger and Dr Roy A. Willems of the Open Universiteit, Netherlands. To read the articles click [here](#).

New Merrill-Palmer Quarterly Focus on Peer Relations

Exciting news: The focus of *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly* has changed. ***Going forward, the journal will now emphasize quantitative developmental research on peer interactions, relationships, and groups.*** The journal will also publish research on interpersonal factors that impact socioemotional development, particularly those relevant to peer relations.

4

Merrill-Palmer Quarterly has a long and rich history as one of the oldest journals in developmental psychology. We seek to restore the journal to its former glory, with an innovative mission and streamlined editorial procedures. More details are available at the *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly* [homepage \(https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/mpq\)](https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/mpq).

Manuscripts on topics germane to peer relations are now being accepted. Questions and inquiries should be addressed to the editorial team at MPQeditor@gmail.com.

Editor-in-Chief: Brett Laursen (Florida Atlantic University, USA)



University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Queen's University

BULLYING RESEARCH NETWORK

MAY / 2025

Associate Editors: Hannah Schacter (Wayne State University, USA), René Veenstra (University of Groningen, The Netherlands), and Melanie Zimmer-Gembeck (Griffith University, Australia)
Managing Editor: Donna Rose Marion (Florida Atlantic University, USA)

Thank you for your involvement in the Bullying Research Network! If you have any news, research, new member recommendations, or materials that our members would find useful, please email us at bullyresearchnet@gmail.com. We will include it in our newsletter, on our website, and/or social media.

Most sincerely,

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

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