

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

September / 2024



**Dr. Annis Fung**

**Professor Annis Lai Chu FUNG** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong. She recently published two significant books: *Cyber and Face-to-Face Aggression and Bullying among Children and Adolescents: In the East and West School Contexts* (Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group) and *Handbook of School Violence, Bullying and Safety* (Edward Elgar Publishing), co-authored with Hong J. S., Chan H. C., and Lee J. Annis has secured US\$2.62 million across 26 projects, serving as Principal Investigator for 23 projects and Co-Investigator for 3. She has over 80 publications in top-tier international peer-reviewed journals and books.

Annis's extensive research, publications, and contributions to policy and practice have established her as an expert in school aggression, violence, and bullying, making significant strides in both academic and practical realms. Annis's research areas encompass face-to-face and online aggression, school bullying, reactive and proactive aggression, victimization, peace and positive education, children and youth mental health, children's suicide, psychopathy and homicide, and evidence-based counseling interventions. Her research adopts the two-factor model (two subtypes of aggression and victimization: reactive and proactive aggression; aggressive and pure victimization).

### DEAR BRNET MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES:

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



### INSIDE

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

BRNET TRIBUTE

AUTHOR EXCHANGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annis has received 10 international and local awards for impactful research, knowledge transfer, policy changes, and societal contributions. Notable awards include:

- QS Reimagine Education - Silver Winner in Nurturing Wellbeing and Purpose Award (2022, University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School)
- HERO Award, School-University Leader (2013, Auburn University, U.S.)
- Research Impact Award (2019, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences [CLASS], CityU)
- Excellence in Knowledge Transfer Award (2012, 2017, 2020, 2022, CLASS, CityU)
- Teaching Excellence Award (2009, CityU)
- Outstanding Project Award (2008, The Quality Education Fund of the Education Bureau [EDB] of the HKSAR)

Annis's research has had significant impacts across various domains:

- Policy Changes: Her findings on narcissism in proactive aggression among single children in April 2023, influenced the relaxation and eventual cancellation the State Council of the People's Republic of China's one-child policy relaxed the one-child policy in November 2013 and canceled it in October 2015.
- School Bullying and Violence: Annis advocated the two-factor model has been adopted by around 200 local schools, leading to changes in school policies and counseling strategies. Kwai Chung Methodist College, which implemented her work, received the Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence (CEATE) Certificate of Merit in 2023.
- Law Enforcement: Developed an assessment tool for the Hong Kong Police Force to distinguish reactive and proactive aggression among suspects, training around 4,000 officers since 2012.
- Social Movements: Analyzed young protestors in the 2019 social movements, revealing that 95% were reactive aggressors. This research, funded by the Public Policy Research Fund, informed policymakers on youth protestor profiles.
- Child Suicide and Protection: Served as Convenor in the child suicide unit under the Child Fatality Review Panel (2018-2024), advising the government on policies to reduce child suicide and improve child protection and development.
- Educational Excellence: Appointed Chairman of the Chief Executive Award for Teaching Excellence (Guidance and Discipline) and member of the High-level Advisory Panel (2022/23), assessing teachers' competencies and improving school counseling policies.
- Evidence-Based Interventions: Developed interventions for reducing school bullying and peer victimization, which are available on the Education Bureau website. These interventions are based on various approaches, including cognitive-behavioral therapy, Chinese martial arts, Omega-3 supplementation, storytelling, parental efficacy, and filmmaking. Longitudinal studies have demonstrated their effectiveness.
- Training and Development: Long-term trainer for the Education Bureau (since 2009) and Social Welfare Department (since 2015), promoting innovative, evidence-based interventions for aggression and victimization.

**A TRIBUTE TO A BELOVED BRNET MEMBER****DR. ANDY M. HORNE**

Dear Bullying Research Network Members and Affiliates,

Some of you may know that Dr. Andy Horne passed away a few weeks ago. For those who don't know, we are sorry to have to share this news. Andy was most well-known for his book series, *Bully Busters*, a widely used bullying prevention approach used in hundreds of schools world-wide (<https://www.researchpress.com/product/bully-busters/>). Dr. Dorothy Espelage shared this memory of Andy, "In 2004, Professor Arthur "Andy" Horne joined other scholars dedicated to the prevention of bullying for the first "Bye-Bye Bullies" conference in Anchorage, Alaska. As a young, early career scholar who organized the conference, I was honored to invite Professor Horne to highlight his groundbreaking intervention program "Bully Busters" and to set the stage for decades of scholarship, practice, and policy for early, mid, and late career researchers. I will forever be grateful for his mentorship, guidance, and support for several decades. My heart will forever be warmed as I recall him calling me "buddy" when he greeted me at APA and other conferences. Thank you, Andy." Dr. Susan Swearer remembers Andy fondly as a mentor, confidant, and friend. "Andy often visited Lincoln, Nebraska when his son, Kevin and his family, lived in Lincoln. He always made a point to call when he was in town, and we'd get together for coffee and talk about bullying prevention and life. He will be sorely missed by all of us who were fortunate to call him colleague and friend." His daughter, Sharon, also a counseling psychologist, wrote this tribute below and we're sharing it with the Bullying Research Network community. We've lost a luminary in the field who was a pioneer in bullying prevention and intervention research.



"I'm sorry to share news of Andy Horne's passing via the listserv for those who knew him and may not have heard.

My Dad was a man of many hats and being a counseling psychologist was one of his favorites. He was one of the core group of founders of CCPTP and was honored to serve as SCP President in 2013. He mentored generations of counseling psychologists and thought of Division 17 as his professional home.

Over the last few years, my Dad and Mom, Gayle, had taken care of our kids so that my spouse, Heidi, and I could both attend APA. Soon after APA and a vacation with us on Cape Cod, Andy was scheduled for emergency surgery at Emory University Hospital, and he called the night before the procedure. I was in the car with my teenage kids, and we shared with him that we had just played trivia at a local restaurant (our chosen team name: Tan Suit). He got a kick out of that, and we told him all the questions we thought we would have gotten right had he been there with us. He did indeed know the answers. He was positive and hopeful about the upcoming surgery; he believed in the promise of science. He lived a life dedicated to compassionate clinical care, supportive teaching, and mentoring, and building a more just and equitable world. After all, he was a counseling psychologist.

Thank you to the many who have reached out and offered kindness and compassion to my family during this difficult time. It has been a comfort to know the many lives he touched. We are hoping to plan a Celebration of Andy's Life in the near future and information about these arrangements will be here: <https://www.lordandstephens.com/>."

Sharon G. Horne, PhD, ABPP (she/they)  
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Professor & Co-Director, Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Program  
Department of Counseling and School Psychology  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
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### **BRNET MEMBERS**

BRNET has a current total of 287 members  
from 32 countries.

**Welcome Dr. Violaine Kubiszewski!**

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](mailto: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](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. 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 127 affiliates  
from 21 countries.

**Welcome Mansoor Ali Darazi, Ahmad Islam Ahmad, Liqun "Jenny" Feng, & Taylyn Petsche!**

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

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

Schacter, H.L., Bakth, F.N., Johnson, J., & Hoffman, A.J. (2024). Longitudinal effects of peer victimization on adolescents' future educational and work expectations: Depressive symptoms as a mechanism. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.13012>

This six-wave study examined the effects of 9<sup>th</sup> grade peer victimization on adolescents' future work and education expectations, testing depressive symptoms as a mechanism. Participants (N=388, Mage=14.05; 61% female; 46% White) completed surveys from ninth through 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Results indicated that adolescents who experienced more frequent relational, but not overt, peer victimization in 9<sup>th</sup> grade were subsequently more pessimistic about their educational and occupational prospects; depressive symptoms mediated this link. The findings suggest that relational victimization and its psychological harm may undermine adolescents' confidence in achieving postsecondary success.

Siddiqui, S., & Schultze-Krumbholz, A. (2023). The Sohanjana Antibullying Intervention: Pilot results of peer-training module in Pakistan. *Social Sciences*, 12(7), Article 409,  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci12070409>

This study evaluated the effectiveness of a peer-training module in four schools in Pakistan. To determine the impact of the peer mentor training on improving the school environment, data were also collected from students (N = 219, boys = 152, girls = 67) before and after the implementation of the program. The pilot implementation of the peer-training module was considered successful, indicating that the training was effective in improving the knowledge of peer mentors and could be used in a similar way in future cases. The results also showed a significant improvement in the development of prosocial bystanders.

Movahedi, N., Hosseinian, S., Rezaeian, H., & Nooripour, R. (2024). Mediating role of alexithymia in relationship between cyberbullying and psychotic experiences in adolescents. *BMC Psychology*, 12(1), 465.  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40359-024-01960-x>

The aim of the study was to investigate the mediating role of alexithymia in the relationship between cyberbullying and psychotic experiences in middle school students in Tehran during the 2022-2023 academic years. The Cyber-Bullying/Victimization Experiences questionnaire, Community Assessment of Psychic Experiences, and the Toronto Alexithymia scale were applied. A total of 602 samples were gathered by using multi-stage cluster sampling from Tehran in Iran.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****1****World Anti-Bullying Forum (WABF) 2025**

The fifth World Anti-Bullying Forum will be held in Stavanger, June 11-13, 2025. The call for abstracts will open September 10th. Submission will close November 10th, 2024. Learn more here:

<https://worldantibullyingforum.com/wabf-2025/call-for-abstracts/>

**2****Question for the group: Does anyone know of research examining outcomes linked to school transfers for bullied children?**

I've tried to find research on this question and have come up relatively empty. Many states, as I understand it, allow for school transfers when requested by parents of students who are being bullied, but I'm not aware of how common a practice this is, the circumstances when it is most likely to occur, or the expected outcomes. If you have suggested literature for this topic, please email [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com) and/or [timcavell@gmail.com](mailto:timcavell@gmail.com).

**3****BRNET Member, Paul Downes has published an open-access book.**

Check it out below!

Downes, P. (2024). *Towards a Concentric Spatial Psychology for Social and Emotional Education Beyond the Interlocking Spatial Pillars of Modernism*. Eighth Monograph in Resilience and Health, Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health, University of Malta.

[https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/124426/1/Towards\\_a\\_concentric\\_spatial\\_psychology\\_for\\_social\\_and\\_emotional\\_education\\_beyond\\_the\\_interlocking\\_spatial\\_pillars\\_of\\_modernism\\_2024.pdf](https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/124426/1/Towards_a_concentric_spatial_psychology_for_social_and_emotional_education_beyond_the_interlocking_spatial_pillars_of_modernism_2024.pdf)

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](mailto: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