



BRNET March 2019 Newsletter

Dear BRNET Members and Friends of BRNET:

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

Be sure to check out our website at <http://cehs.unl.edu/BRNET/> for additional resources and announcements.

Featured Spotlight—Dr. Simona Caravita

Simona Caravita (Ph.D.) is Associate Professor of Developmental and Educational Psychology at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Milan and Brescia, Italy), where in 2007 she received her Ph.D. in Psychology of the Communication and Linguistic Processes. Her research interests focus on bullying and aggressive behavior among peers in late childhood and adolescence, with the main goal to investigate the psychological processes explaining pro-bully behaviors.

In her studies she has devoted particular attention to how individual's moral dimensions (moral disengagement, empathy and moral motives) interact with peer-context factors (popularity and group norms) in promoting involvement in bullying with different roles.

Recently, Dr. Caravita started to investigate the phenomenon of ethnic bullying involving immigrant youths, and she realized some of the first studies on this topic in Italy and Europe. Over the past decade, in European countries, as Italy, there has been an increase of immigration. One of the challenges in the interethnic peer relationships is represented by prejudicial ethnic bullying. Recent studies indicate that besides causal mechanisms already identified for general bullying, this type of bullying is influenced by specific psychological and socialization processes that are connected to prejudice (Caravita et al., 2016). Hence, we need to further study ethnic bullying in order to design interventions able to tackle this phenomenon effectively.

On this theme, Dr. Caravita is currently the principal investigator of a national three-year research project, funded from the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (grant line PRIN 2017). This project involves a network of three research units (Catholic University unit, led by Simona Caravita; University of Florence, led by Prof. Ersilia Menesini; University of Udine, led by Dr. Marina Camodeca), and it aims at examining the prevalence, the correlates, and the causal mechanisms of ethnic bullying in the Italian context, in order to develop specific evidence-based interventions.

To the research work Dr. Caravita combines the intervention activity. She has been involved in several institutional committees, organized by Italian national and local authorities with the aim to promote and implement anti-bullying actions at school and community levels. Since 1998 Dr. Caravita has also been disseminating knowledge on contrasting bullying through public talks for parent and teachers, and she has been supervising and realizing anti-bullying interventions at schools, in which a "train the trainer cascade" approach is used and the role of teachers as the main agents of the intervention is stressed.

For her studies Dr. Caravita works within international networks of scholars and she has been collaborating with several researchers with relevant experience in studying and tackling bullying, including Prof. Christina Salmivalli (Finland), Prof. Dagmar Strohmeier (Austria), Prof. Antonius Cillessen (The Netherlands), Prof. Robert Thornberg (Sweden), Dr. Christian Berger (Chile), Dr. Jelle Sijtsema (The Netherlands), Prof. Gianluca Gini and Dr. Marina Camodeca (Italy), Dr. Angela Mazzone (Anti-bullying Research and Resource Centre, Ireland).

Dr. Caravita would be glad to share research ideas and to increase her research collaborations with other BRNET colleagues, in particular on the topics of ethnic bullying, morality related to bullying, and the promotion of teachers' engagement in anti-bullying actions.

Selected Publications

- Mazzone, A., Yanagida, T., Caravita, S. C. S., & Strohmeier, D. (2018 – first online). Moral emotions and moral disengagement: Concurrent and longitudinal associations with aggressive behavior among early adolescents. *Journal of Early Adolescence*, 1-25. Doi: 10.1177/0272431618791276
- Mazzone, A., Thornberg, R., Stefanelli, S., Cadei, L., & Caravita, S. C. S. (2018). "Judging by the cover": A grounded-theory study of bullying towards same-country and immigrant peers. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 91, 403-412. Doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.06.029
- Caravita, S. C. S., Donghi, E., Banfi, A., & Meneghini, F. (2016). Essere immigrati come fattore di rischio per la vittimizzazione nel bullismo: uno studio italiano su caratteristiche individuali e processi di gruppo [Being immigrant as risk factor to be bullied: An Italian study on individual characteristics and group processes]. *Maltrattamento e abuso all'infanzia*, 18, 59-87. doi: 10.3280/MAL2016-001004
- Berger, C., & Caravita, S. C. S. (2016). Why do early adolescents bully? Exploring the influence of prestige norms on social and psychological motives to bully. *Journal of Adolescence*, 46, 45-56. doi: 10.1016/j.adolescence.2015.10.020
- Sijtsema, J. J., Rambaran, J. A., Caravita, S. C. S., & Gini, G. (2014). Friendship Selection and Influence in Bullying and Defending: Effects of Moral Disengagement. *Developmental Psychology*, 50(8), 2093-2104. doi: 10.1037/a0037145
- Caravita, S. C. S., Sijtsema, J. J., Rambaran, J. A., & Gini, G. (2014). Moral Disengagement Development: Peer Influences on Cognitive Self-Justification Mechanisms of Social Transgression. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 43(2), 193-207. doi: 10.1007/s10964-013-9953-1
- Caravita, S. C. S., & Cillessen, A. H. N. (2012). Agentic or communal? Developmental differences in the associations among interpersonal goals, popularity, and bullying. *Social Development*, 21(2), 376-391. doi: 10.1111/j.1467-9507.2011.00632.x
- Caravita, S. C. S., Di Blasio, P., & Salmivalli, C (2009). Unique and interactive effects of empathy and social status on involvement in bullying. *Social Development*, 18(1), 140-163. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9507.2008.00465.x

FEEDBACK REQUEST:

The Colorado Department of Education was asked by the Colorado Legislature to develop a model bullying prevention and education policy to serve as guidance for school districts across the state. The policy won't be mandated for adoption since Colorado has a local control law, but it will hopefully be something that provides districts with good direction. CDE has worked with several statewide education organizations over the past several months to develop a policy that balances best practices and real world considerations (e.g., potential liability and lawsuits, burden on schools). The draft of the policy is up on the CDE website for a public comment period through April 12. **Please consider providing feedback by April 12, 2019:** https://www.cde.state.co.us/mtss/model_bullying_prevention_policy.

BRNET New Members!

BRNET has a current total of 209 members! Welcome to the BRNET, **Drs. De Pedro, Farrell, & Williford!**

Please send recommendations for potential BRNET members (i.e., faculty, researchers, and clinicians who are conducting research on bullying or related topics) to Drs. Shelley Hymel, Susan Swearer, or to bullyresearchnet@gmail.com.

If you have recently joined BRNET and 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;
 - 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), and;
 - 5) relevant web-based links you would like to share.
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Friends of BRNET

Friends of BRNET is a group of graduate students, administrators, parents, and individuals who are interested in learning more about the Bullying Research Network. Friends of BRNET receive our monthly e-newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of BRNET or want to refer someone to Friends of BRNET, please email Alia Noetzel, the BRNET Coordinator, at bullyresearchnet@gmail.com with the following information: name, title, address, and email address.

BRNET Member Grant/Funding Announcements

Receipt of funding facilitates the BRNET mission to conduct interdisciplinary research related to bullying and aggression, with particular attention being paid to the link between basic and applied research. Thus, the BRNET directors are excited to offer members a new opportunity to share grants (and other sources of funding) they have received for their research projects.

Funding varies across countries and is not limited to federal grants. If you are interested in sharing your grants or funding with other BRNET members, please send an abstract of the research funding along with the funding source to bullyresearchnet@gmail.com and we will post the information on our website.

BRNET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Paper of interest from Drs. Zych, Ttofi, & Farrington and colleagues

A recent publication authored by multiple BRNET members examining stability and transitions among bullying roles may be of interest. You can find the PDF attached to this email. The article citation is as follows:

Zych, I., Ttofi, M. M., Llorent, V. J., Farrington, D. P., Ribeaud, D., & Eisner, M. P. (2018). A longitudinal study on stability and transitions among bullying roles. *Child development*, doi: 10.1111/cdev.13195.

(2) Job Opportunity-- National Anti-Bullying Research & Resource Centre and UNESCO Centre for Tackling Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace

Two research funded posts through the National Anti-Bullying Research & Resource Centre and UNESCO Centre for Tackling Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace have been posted. The positions available include:

Post-Doctoral Researcher/Trainer in School Bullying

This post is funded by a donation from Facebook Instagram. The successful candidate will work as part of a team on a newly funded project which is concerned with delivering an anti-bullying and online safety programme in post-primary schools. The post also involves undertaking research related to the programme and contributing to the Centre's wider work in tackling bullying in schools and online safety. The project involves training teachers in post-primary schools to work with their colleagues, students and parents to tackle bullying and online safety. The programme will be delivered through face to face seminars and online resources. The project includes collaboration between DCU and advocacy groups who have partnered to work together to deliver the programme and to collect data related to project. The post-holder will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the project, communication with the partners, and meeting the deliverables of the project (under supervision from the Principal Investigator). The selected candidate will work under the mentorship of the Centre's Director and contribute to the development of the Centre/UNESCO Chair's programme of activities. More information at:

https://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/hr/1142_postdoctoral_researcher_in_school_bullying_and_online_safety_-_ab.pdf.

Online Safety Post-Doctoral Researcher/Lecturer in Social Media, Wellbeing and Society

This post is funded by a donation from Facebook Instagram. The successful candidate will work as part of a team and in collaboration with colleagues across DCU Institute of Education on a newly

funded project which is concerned with researching, developing and delivering a module on social media and the sociological and psychological implications for children and young people's wellbeing. The post also involves undertaking research related to the Centre's wider work in tackling bullying in schools and online safety. The project involves delivering modules to student teachers to support their preparation to work with children, parents and colleagues to tackle bullying and online safety. The selected candidate will work under the mentorship of the Centre's Director and contribute to the development of the Centre/UNESCO Chair's programme of activities. More information at: https://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/hr/1143_postdoctoral_researcher_lecturer_in_social_media_well_being_and_society.pdf.

(3) Job Opportunity—Senior Researcher and/or Post-Doctoral Researcher at the University of Turku

The University of Turku is a world-class multidisciplinary research university which offers interesting challenges and a unique vantage point to national and international research and education. The University's INVEST -Research Flagship Center (<http://invest.utu.fi/>) is seeking 1-2 post-doctoral researchers for fixed-term position for the period of May 1, 2019 – July 31, 2021 and/or 1-2 senior researchers for the period of May 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022. The positions are located in the Department of Psychology and Speech-Language Pathology, in the research group led by Professor Christina Salmivalli. The focus of our research is on evaluating evidence-based preventive interventions to enhance the well-being of children and youth, investigating the uptake and implementation of such interventions, and doing basic developmental research that has potential to lead to the development of new interventions. An important focal research area has for a long time been school bullying. The preventive interventions we have worked with include *KiVa® antibullying program*, *Opintokamu™* program to enhance well-being of secondary education students, and more recently, *Tita* online mindfulness course.

Please refer to attached PDF for more information.

(4) Papers of interest from Drs. Huitsing & Veenstra and colleagues

Papers about bullying and school involvement in intervention were recently published and you might find them interesting. You can find their PDFs attached to this email. The article citations are:

Van der Ploeg, R., Steglich, C., & Veenstra, R. (2019). The way bullying works: How new ties facilitate the mutual reinforcement of status and bullying in elementary schools. *Social Networks*, doi: 10.1016/j.socnet.2018.12.006.

Huitsing, G., Van Duijn, M.A.J., Snijders, T.A.B., Alsaker, F.D., Perren, S., & Veenstra, R. (2019). Self, peer, and teacher reports of victim-aggressor networks in kindergartens. *Aggressive Behavior*, doi: 10.1002/ab.21817.

(5) World Anti-Bullying Forum in Dublin, Ireland

The second World Anti-Bullying Forum will take place in Dublin, Ireland on June 4-6th 2019. Please refer to the following link to read about accommodations: <https://wabf2019.com/accommodation-2/>. Registration is still open: <https://wabf2019.com/registration/>. See the website of the conference: <http://wabf2019.com>. **BRNET co-founders, Dr. Susan Swearer and Dr. Shelley Hymel, are among the keynote speakers.**

REGISTRATION OPEN



**World
Anti-Bullying
Forum** DUBLIN
JUNE 4 - 6, 2019
The Helix, DCU
www.wabf2019.com



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 and we will include it in our newsletter and/or on our website.

Most sincerely,



Dr. Shelley Hymel
University of British Columbia
BRNET Co-Director



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