



# BRNET August 2021 Newsletter

## Dear BRNET Members and Affiliates of BRNET:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! In our August 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. Amanda Nickerson

**Amanda Nickerson, Ph.D., NCSP**, is a Professor of School Psychology and Director of the Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York (UB). She received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 2002. Dr. Nickerson's scholarship focuses on understanding, preventing, and intervening with school crises, with an emphasis on addressing interpersonal violence (aggression, bullying, abuse) and promoting social-emotional strengths. Dr. Nickerson has published original empirical studies on bullying involvement and its concurrent and longitudinal associations with school climate perceptions, social and emotional maladjustment, attachment relationships, substance use, revictimization, and gun violence attitudes. She served as co-Principal Investigator of an NIH-funded longitudinal, multi-method, multi-informant study of a high-risk sample of youth examining developmental pathways to violence and victimization from birth to late adolescence. One of the lines of her programmatic research examines the process and correlates of bystander intervention, including developing and validating the *Bystander Intervention Model in Bullying and Sexual Harassment* measure. She is currently principal investigator of an Institute of Education Sciences grant to develop and test NAB IT! (Norms and Bystander Intervention Training) to reduce bullying and sexual harassment. Dr. Nickerson and her colleagues have also examined the effectiveness of school-based procedures and programming (e.g., lockdown drills, SEL techniques, Second Step Child Protection Unit). Dr. Nickerson and her colleagues have synthesized and highlighted research advances in books (e.g., *Handbook of school violence and school safety: International research and practice (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*, Routledge; *School Crisis Prevention and Intervention: The PREPaRE Model* (National Association of School Psychologists) and special issues of journals (e.g., *Journal of School Violence*, *School Psychology Review*).

Dr. Nickerson is a fellow of the American Psychological Association (Division 16) and Coordinator of Research for the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) School Safety and Crisis Prevention Committee. She has served as associate editor of the *Journal of School Violence* and is a member of several other editorial boards (*International Journal of Bullying Prevention*, *Journal of*

*School Psychology, School Psychology Review*). Dr. Nickerson has received numerous awards for her work, including the NASP Presidential Award, the UB Exceptional Scholar: Sustained Achievement Award, the UB President's Medal, the NASP Crisis Management Interest Group Award for Excellence, the STAR Research Award from the UB's Graduate School of Education, and the Tom Oakland Mid-Career Scholarship Award (APA Division 16). As a licensed psychologist in New York state and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist, Dr. Nickerson is committed to translating research to practice. Dr. Nickerson has conducted hundreds of presentations for educators and mental health professionals in the United States and other countries. She has also worked in close collaboration with schools and community, state, and national organizations, particularly related to improving social-emotional and behavioral functioning and preventing bullying and violence. Dr. Nickerson values and welcomes connections with other BRNET members. To learn more about her work, please see the [Alberti Center website](#), her profile on [Google Scholar](#), or connect via social media @DrAmandaNick and @UB\_BullyPrevCtr.

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### **BRNET New Members!**

BRNET has a current total of 255 members from 25 countries! Welcome to the BRNET, **Dr. Chan!**

### **New Affiliates of BRNET!**

BRNET has a current total of 90 Affiliates (formerly known as 'Friends of BRNET') from 7 countries! Welcome **Angela Kinahan!**

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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](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com). Additionally, you may direct potential BRNET members toward our website for further information: <https://cehs.unl.edu/BRNET/become-member-or-affiliate/>.

*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.
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### **Affiliates of BRNET**

Affiliates of BRNET (formerly known as 'Friends 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 Catie Carney, the BRNET Coordinator, at [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com) with the following information: name, title, address, and email address.

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## **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](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com) and we will post the information on our website.

### **(1) Interest in Sibling Bullying Research**

The Abrons Foundation is interested in making grants to promote research and awareness about sibling bullying. If you are interested, please reach out to Prentice Zinn at [pzinn@gmafoundations.com](mailto:pzinn@gmafoundations.com).

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## **BRNET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(1) DCU Anti-Bullying Centre is Recruiting Four New Funded Positions**

Senior Research Fellow in Bullying and Cyberbullying  
Senior Project Manager  
Research Assistants in Bullying and Cyberbullying (2 posts)

For more details, see the following link: <https://www.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies-current-vacancies-external-applicants>

### **(2) International Journal of Bullying Prevention Accepted to Scopus**

Drs. O'Higgins Norman and Hinduja are delighted to inform you that after only 2 full years in existence, the International Journal of Bullying Prevention has been accepted to Scopus. This is a big achievement for such a new journal and is mostly due to the high standard of contributions from scholars across the globe.

IJBP is a peer reviewed academic journal published by Springer and edited by Sameer Hinduja (Florida Atlantic University) and James O'Higgins Norman (Dublin City University). It is focused on research about bullying in any context. In 2020, there were over 90,000 downloads from the journal.

We would love to share this good news with you and BRNET members and encourage bullying researchers to contribute original research to the journal. Details on how to submit to the journal can be found here: <https://www.springer.com/journal/42380>. We would also be happy to hear from interested potential reviewers.

### **(3) Irish Government Committee Explores Bullying and Mental Health**

**Invited Presentations and Submissions to the Irish Joint Oireachtas (Parliament and Senate) Committee on Education regarding School Bullying and the Impact on Mental Health**

Associate Professor Paul Downes, Dublin City University, Professor Shelley Hymel, University of British Columbia, and Professor Carmel Cefai, University of Malta, gave invited expert presentations to the Irish Joint Oireachtas (Parliament and Senate) Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science: Meeting on International evidence and best practice regarding School Bullying and the Impact on Mental Health, June 8th, 2021. Members of the Parliament and Senate Committee then interrogated the experts on a broad range of issues related to school bullying prevention and intervention.

Paul Downes, Shelley Hymel, and Carmel Cefai also provided invited formal submissions to the Parliament and Senate Education Committee on this theme in advance of the meeting. See here for their submissions:

<https://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/inline-files/dublin-joint-committee-submission-feb-2021.pdf>

[https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint\\_committee\\_on\\_education\\_further\\_and\\_higher\\_education\\_research\\_innovation\\_and\\_science/submissions/2021/2021-06-08\\_opening-statement-dr-paul-downes-associate-professor-of-psychology-dublin-city-university\\_en.pdf](https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_education_further_and_higher_education_research_innovation_and_science/submissions/2021/2021-06-08_opening-statement-dr-paul-downes-associate-professor-of-psychology-dublin-city-university_en.pdf)

The full video of their Irish Parliament and Senate Education Committee meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/oireachtas-tv/video-archive/committees/4330>

Based on this meeting and a series of other meetings with key national stakeholders, the Irish Parliament and Senate Education Committee will produce its *Report on School Bullying and the Impact on Mental Health* in the coming months with specific key recommendations for government.

#### **(4) The International Committee of Society for Research on Adolescence – “Survey of Scholars”**

ISRA is disseminating the information below in hopes that you will complete the "Survey of Scholars." The survey was developed by the International Committee of the Society for Research on Adolescence. The aim of the survey is to understand the experiences of scholars **from outside North America** in conducting and publishing research to identify barriers. ISRA hopes that our non-North American colleagues will participate by completing this survey.

The International Committee of Society for Research on Adolescence hopes to understand the challenges researchers might face in conducting and publishing research with international populations in the leading journals in our field. If you are a scholar in psychology, education, human development and family studies and related fields, and work at an institution of higher education or research institute located in low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North, Central and South America, or Oceania, we want to hear from you. Please complete this online [survey of scholars](#) describing your current work distribution, resources available, experiences of conducting and publishing your research, and potential barriers you might face.

Completing this survey is voluntary. Please contact Dr. Vaishali Raval ([ravalvv@miamioh.edu](mailto:ravalvv@miamioh.edu)), co-chair of the committee with any questions.

#### **(5) Job Opening and Two Reviews on Social Networks and Internalizing Behaviors and Peer Victimization or Bullying**

Come and work with Essi Viding, Pasco Fearon, and René Veenstra on an exciting new intervention study for promoting adolescent mental health:

JOB OPENING: 4-YEAR POSTDOC IN LONDON: <https://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/CGT172/research-fellow>. They are looking for two early-career scientists: one with a strong interest in longitudinal social network analysis:

Please see the attached PDFs for a systematic review on network selection and influence effects on children's and adolescents' internalizing behaviors and peer victimization. The findings provide some evidence of both peer selection and peer influence related to internalizing behaviors and peer victimization. Additionally, the results of this review point to further directions for research including specific tests of peer selection and influence mechanisms, consideration of developmental and gender differences, examination of individual and contextual moderators, exploration of multiplex relationships, efforts to increase methodological quality, and replication studies.

- Neal, J. W., & Veenstra, R. (2021). Network selection and influence effects on children's and adolescents' internalizing behaviors and peer victimization: A systematic review. *Developmental Review*, 59, 100944, doi: 10.1016/j.dr.2020.100944.

And a chapter (one of the 74!) from the Handbook of Bullying. An overview of social network research, the way to examine bullying as a group process.

- Veenstra, R., & Huitsing, G. (2021). Social network approaches to bullying and victimization. In P. K. Smith, & J. O'Higgins Norman (eds.). *The Wiley Blackwell Handbook of Bullying*. Volume 1 (pp. 196-214). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

If you have related manuscripts (in press or submitted), please let us know. We would be glad to receive it.

Best wishes,  
René Veenstra, Jennifer Watling Neal, and Gijs Huitsing

And please check also the latest external newsletter of our research group:  
<http://www.rene-veenstra.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WALM-Newsletter-Summer-2021.pdf>

**(6) The Journal of Genetic Psychology invites the submission of papers for a special issue focusing on Peer Relationships Across Diverse Ethnic, Racial, and Cultural Contexts.**

Relations with peers play many important functions. Peers provide companionship and emotional security, serve as a reference group for establishing standards of behavior and evaluating an individual's own performance, and contribute to self-concepts. From early childhood through adolescence and adulthood, social skills, cognitive abilities, and emotional functioning and self-regulation develop. In addition, throughout development, individuals move into new social context and take on new roles and responsibilities. Through these changing psychological and social processes, the nature and function of peer relationships are transformed. Much of the literature on peer relationships has examined peer relationships in White, Western, industrialized contexts. The proposed volume will seek papers to expand the literature to other peer contexts. The special issue will be edited by Nina Mounts.

The special issue aims to include papers about peer relationships from early childhood through adulthood across diverse ethnic, racial, and cultural contexts within varied settings (school, neighborhood, extracurricular activities, online, workplace, etc.). Papers can focus on peer relationships within specific groups that have not been typically included in the literature (e.g., peer relationships in Africa) or peer relationships among diverse groups of people (e.g., United States peer groups of African-American,

Asian, Latinx, and White children). Please see attached PDF or the following link for further information: [https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special\\_issues/peer-relationships-diverse-ethnic-racial-cultural-contexts/?utm\\_source=TFO&utm\\_medium=cms&utm\\_campaign=JPG15743](https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/peer-relationships-diverse-ethnic-racial-cultural-contexts/?utm_source=TFO&utm_medium=cms&utm_campaign=JPG15743)

### **(7) Call for Papers:**

Dan Olweus' research, prevention efforts, and emphasis on bullying as a violation of human rights have inspired the work of countless researchers and professionals around the world. In commemoration of the one-year anniversary of his death, and in a recognition of the indelible mark he has left on the field, the International Journal of Bullying Prevention (IJBP) invites the submission of abstracts for a special issue to be published in early 2022.

We invite theoretical, empirical, and review papers that have been inspired by the work of Dan Olweus. Such work includes, but is not limited to:

- Definitions and measurement of bullying
- Bullying as a violation of human rights and/or human dignity
- The causes, forms, and contexts of bullying
- Best practices in identification, prevention, and intervention
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To be considered for the special issue, interested authors should send a 1000-word abstract to Dr. Susan Limber ([slimber@clemson.edu](mailto:slimber@clemson.edu)) by August 31, 2021. Submissions should contain a title, author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), and an abstract. Authors will be notified of accepted abstracts by September 15, 2021. Completed papers will be due by November 1, 2021.

Please see attached PDF for further information.

### **(8) Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Youth Mental Health and Violence Prevention**

Applications are invited for a 1-to-3-year Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship under the supervision of Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair, who is located at the University of Ottawa in the beautiful capital of Canada. The start date for the position is flexible. Candidates are not expected to teach and remuneration is based on the guidelines provided by the uOttawa and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and/or the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Fellows will work on a large N multi-method, multi-informant longitudinal study examining links between involvement in bullying (victimization and perpetration) and how it relates to mental health and academic achievement. Fourteen waves of data have been collected (from age 10 to age 24). Our research team includes psychologists, psychiatrists, educators, and statisticians. Requirements include (1) a completed doctoral degree in clinical, developmental, experimental, forensic, evolutionary, or educational psychology, criminology, or statistics and (2) demonstrated statistical competence in applied longitudinal data analysis. Applications will be reviewed starting June 1, 2021 and accepted until the position is filled. Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae, statement of research, and two letters of recommendation to [tracy.vaillancourt@uottawa.ca](mailto:tracy.vaillancourt@uottawa.ca). Please refer to attached PDF.

### **(9) 25<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Aggression**

The 25th Workshop on Aggression, which was supposed to take place last fall, will finally happen in 4-6 November, 2021 in Turku, Finland – right after the WABF in Stockholm. The overarching theme is “Prevention of aggression and violence among and against youth”. We welcome researchers studying

bullying, dating violence, online abuse and grooming, child maltreatment, and other types of aggression, and evidence-based prevention of these global challenges. Submit your abstract and be prepared to join us in Turku. And of course, we are fully prepared to go online if there will be a need!

<http://woa2021.utu.fi>

-Christina Salmivalli and the organizing team

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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.

Most sincerely,



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



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