



BRNET February 2020 Newsletter

Dear BRNET Members and Friends of BRNET:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! In our February 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. Michael Kyobe

Michael Kyobe PhD is a Professor of Information Systems at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is the former Acting deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation (2018) and former Deputy Dean for Research and Internationalization in the Commerce Faculty (2014-2017). He holds a PhD from the University of Free State (SA), an MBA from the University of Durham (UK) and other professional qualifications in Computer science and Information Management. Prior to joining academia in 2000, Michael worked in various managerial and operational positions in the IT industry. Michael is a rated researcher by the South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF) and his research focuses mainly on Mobile bullying, Cyber-security and digital forensic readiness. He is the principal investigator for a grant project on mobile bullying in South Africa, funded by the South African National Research Foundation.

The mobile bullying project addresses issues related to bullying committed using mobile technology/phones, among high school and undergraduate university students. We aim to clarify the theories that explain the mobile bullying phenomenon and its complexity. We examine the inter-actions of the influencing forces, develop frameworks to represent these interactions and identify key variables that can be used in the development of digital applications/interventions. We believe that digital interventions can assist greatly in addressing the many challenges relating to bullying committed using mobile phones.

Recently, our research has been extended to examine female mobile bully-victims. The focus on bully-victims is important because this category of bullies is under-researched yet increasing in schools. Bully-victims are difficult to identify, face high risks and have been associated with suicidal tendencies. Understanding the characteristics of female bully-victims is particularly important in a country like South

Africa, where the level of crime against females is among the highest in the world.

Our mobile bullying project also aims to develop human capacity. There are 2 Post-docs, 5 PhD students and 3 Master's students researching various aspects of mobile bullying and developing mobile based applications to be used as interventions. Their topics include: development of forensic readiness capabilities of schools to minimize mobile bullying in rural township schools; Identifying characteristics of socially integrated mobile bully-victims through a mobile application; Development of mobile applications to enhance awareness of mobile bullying in South African High Schools; and development of mobile application to aid law enforcement in diagnosing and preventing mobile bully-victim behavior.

Michael collaborates with a number of international scholars. He is a member of the International Bullying Prevention Association (IBPA) and coordinates an initiative to promote cooperation among African researchers engaged in bullying prevention and intervention in Africa. He works with various schools and community policing forums in South Africa to create awareness of mobile bullying and to develop effective interventions. He is also a keynote speaker at leading forums, e.g. the World Anti-bullying Forum in Dublin, Ireland (2019).

Michael would be pleased to share thoughts and ideas about his work with BRNET members interested in bullying committed using mobile phones.

Selected Recent Publications

Kyobe, M. and Lusinga, S. (2018). Factors in Reporting Mobile Victimization in South African schools, in *Bullying prevention and intervention at school: Integrating Theory and Research into Best Practices*. Editor: Gordon, Jacob U'Mofe (Ed.), Springer, ISBN 978-3-319-95413-4

Kyobe, M., Mimbi, L., Nemandona, D., and Mtshazi, S. (2018). Mobile Bullying Among Rural South African Students: Examining the Applicability of Existing Theories and Policy Implications. *The African Journal of Information Systems*, 10(2) ISSN: 1936-0282

Ndyave, Z.C. & Kyobe, M.E. (2018). Examining social network applications features that enhance mobile bullying behaviour, *Proceedings of the African Conference on Information Systems & Technology 2018, ACIST 2018 - CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 9th – 10th July 2018*, ISSN: 2467-8988.

Ndyave and Kyobe (2019). Mobile Bully-victim Behaviour on Facebook: The case of South African Students. *IEEE IEMCON2019*, October 16-19 2019, Vancouver, Canada (IEEE Xplore Digital Library)

Lusinga, S. and Kyobe M. (2017). Testing a Typology of Mobile Phone Victimization Using Cluster Analysis. *The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries* (2017) 78, 6.

Kyobe, Oosterwyk, & Oluyomi. (2016). The Nature Of Mobile Bullying & Victimization In The Western Cape High Schools of South Africa, *The African Journal of Information Systems*, Vol. 8: Iss. 2, Article 3, 2016.

BRNET New Members!

BRNET has a current total of 234 members! Welcome to the BRNET, **Drs. Wright & Fung!**

New Friends of BRNET!

BRNET has a current total of 83 'Friends!' Welcome, **Raluca Balan & Dr. Liesbeth Mercken!**

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) Scandinavian Journal of Psychology Special Issue

BRNET member Dr. Thornberg has organized a special issue of the Scandinavian Journal of Psychology, titled “School Bullying and Cyberbullying Among Children and Adolescents.” Please refer to the following link for the articles and further details: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14679450/2020/61/1>

(2) Journal of School Violence Special Issue

BRNET members Drs. Hong & Espelage have guest-edited a special issue of the Journal of School Violence, titled “Firearms, Homicide, and Perceptions of Safety in American Schools Post-Columbine.” Please refer to the following link for the articles and further details: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wjsv20/19/1?nav=tocList>.

(3) BRNET Member Forthcoming Books

BRNET member Dr. Peter K. Smith has edited a new book titled, “Making an Impact on School Bullying.” This invaluable book looks at a range of practical interventions that have addressed the problem of school bullying. Each chapter examines the context in which the intervention took place, how theoretical knowledge transferred into practice, and the impact and legacy of the work. Covering the most important and widely-used strategies to combat bullying, the book provides readers with a roadmap to developing practical and impactful interventions, as well as examining the lessons learned and the challenges still to be met. Please refer to the attached PDF for additional information and a 20% discount code.

BRNET members Drs. Cohen & Espelage have a new book titled, “Feeling Safe in School: Bullying and Violence Prevention Around the World,” to be published in April 2020. Featuring analysis and commentaries from experts in public health, psychology, and school improvement, “Feeling Safe in School” addresses social, emotional, and intellectual aspects of safety as well as physical safety. The experts offer candid and unique insights into the way eleven different countries view and define what it means to feel safe in school, the types of goals and strategies that are being used to promote safety, and whether and how measures are being used to gauge progress. Please refer to <https://www.hepg.org/hep-home/books/feeling-safe-in-school#> for more information.

BRNET member Dr. Nassem has a new book titled, “The Teacher’s Guide to Resolving School Bullying: Evidence-Based Strategies and Pupil-Led Interventions.” In this book, new approaches are recommended which have arisen from Dr. Nassem’s research into the complexity of school bullying from the child’s perspective. Dr. Nassem states that these approaches will help school practitioners who are responsible for dealing with bullying to feel confident and equipped to do so. Please refer to <https://www.amazon.com/Teachers-Guide-Resolving-School-Bullying/dp/1785924192> for more information.

(4) Article of Interest

Attached, please find a new article featuring BRNET member Dr. Elizabeth Nassem. Below, you will find the citation.

Nassem, E. M. (2017). The complexity of children’s involvement in school bullying. *Journal of Children's Services*.

(5) Job Opportunity

The Department of Child and Youth Studies at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario invites applications for a SSHRC Canada Research Chair Tier 2 position in Children and Youth: Performance and Mental Health at the rank of assistant or associate professor level to commence July 1, 2020. Please see attached PDF for additional information.

(6) Save the Date—Workshop on Aggression 2020 in Turku, Finland

The 25th Workshop on Aggression will take place on **November 13-14, 2020** in Turku, Finland, with the overarching theme “Prevention of aggression and violence among and against youth.” Please come to meet researchers studying bullying, dating violence, online abuse and grooming, child maltreatment, and other types of aggression, and evidence-based prevention of these global challenges. This workshop is hosted by BRNET member, Dr. Christina Salmivalli.

(7) Save the Date—Bullying Research Symposium 2020 in Vienna, Austria

The Bullying Research Symposium (BRS) will take place on **November 6-7, 2020** at the University of Vienna (Austria) and addresses scholars on all career stages with a research focus on school bullying. The aim of the symposium is a more intensive exchange about the ongoing research and to set up a closer network between the individual researchers and/or research teams.

Besides the keynotes the program will include shorter presentations, symposia, databased workshops and a poster session. The thematic focus is set around teachers and school bullying. We are very proud to welcome Prof. Dr. Sheri Bauman (University of Arizona, USA) and Prof. Yuichi Toda (Osaka Kyoiku University, Japan) in Vienna as keynote speakers, who will provide input from an international perspective.

More information on registration and submission follows in early 2020.

Contact: antonia.paljakka@univie.ac.at.

(8) Article of Interest

Attached, please find a new article featuring BRNET member Dr. Mark Van Ryzin. Below, you will find the citation.

Van Ryzin, M. J., & Roeth, C. J. (2019). Effects of cooperative learning on peer relations, empathy, and bullying in middle school. *Aggressive Behavior*, 45(6), 643-651.
<https://doi.org/10.1002%2Fab.21858>

(9) Article of Interest

Attached, please find a new article featuring BRNET member Dr. Ann DeSmet. Below, you will find the citation and a brief description.

DeSmet, A., De Bourdeaudhuij, I., Walrave, M., & Vandebosch, H. (2019). Associations between bystander reactions to cyberbullying and victims' emotional experiences and mental health. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 22(10), 648-656.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2019.0031>

To underscore the importance of bystander actions in cyberbullying, often studies from traditional bullying are cited. This study shows that negative bystander actions are also in cyberbullying associated with more negative emotions and mental health problems among victims - but we did not find an association with positive bystander behaviour. This indicates a need to better understand how to reduce negative bystander behaviour, which may not be necessarily be reached by interventions focusing on increasing positive, as adolescents sometimes use both negative and positive forms of bystander behaviour. We moreover found more negative emotions, mental health harm and associations with negative bystander behaviour among self-identified victims, than among adolescents who had reported experiencing a potentially offensive internet practice but did not identify as 'cyberbullying victims.'

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