

BRNET February 2015 Newsletter



Dear BRNET Members and Friends of BRNET:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! Below you will find updates from our network. Be sure to check our website at <http://brnet.unl.edu> for more information as well.

2015 BRNET Think Tank

Save the date! The 2015 BRNET Think Tank will be held at Boston University in Boston, MA on June 9th and June 10th. More details and registration information will appear in subsequent newsletters.



Researcher Spotlight – Dr. Robert Thornberg

Dr. Robert Thornberg, Ph.D., Professor of Educational Research at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, Linköping University in Sweden (<http://www.ibl.liu.se/medarbetare/thornberg-robert?l=en>). He received his master's degree in Education in 2000 and his Ph.D. in Educational Research in 2006. Dr. Thornberg is also an international research faculty member of the Center for Research on School Safety, School Climate and Classroom Management, at the College of Education, Georgia State University in Atlanta, USA. In addition, he is a Board member of the Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA), and the coordinator for NERA Network of Value Issues and Social Relations in Education.

His early research focused on the moral life of school, including values education, school rules, bystander behavior, and student participation. Dr. Thornberg's current research interests include social and moral processes of school bullying and bystander behaviors as well as children and adolescents' perspectives on bullying. One main strand to Dr. Thornberg's research on bullying involves a focus on moral disengagement (socio-cognitive processes that get people to behave inhumanely without feelings of guilt or remorse) in relation to bullying, victimization, and different bystander behaviors. Dr. Thornberg and his lab are beginning to prepare a longitudinal study on bullying including individual and collective moral disengagement, as well as other variables. Another main focus in his research is on examining how children and adolescents explain why bullying occurs, and the peer culture, shared meanings and interactional patterns in which bullying are embedded.

Dr. Thornberg embraces theoretical and methodological pluralism and therefore takes advantage of different theoretical frameworks such as social cognitive theory, social-ecological framework, interactionism, stigma and labeling theory, and social domain theory. As an educational researcher, Dr. Thornberg is engaged in both quantitative and qualitative research, and hence, a range of research methods including questionnaires, qualitative interviews, ethnographic fieldwork, grounded theory and statistical methods.

BRNET New Members!

BRNET has a current total of 159 members! One new member has joined this past month. Welcome to BRNET, **Dr. Gerald White**.

Dr. Gerald J. White is currently working in the Faculty of Education at Memorial University of Newfoundland, NL, Canada. Gerald has a Joint Honours in Political Science and Sociology, Masters of Arts in Sociology, and a Ph. D. in the Faculty of Medicine (Community of Health and Humanities) from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He received the Governor General's Academic Medal (Gold) for his doctoral studies. He has worked with a number of graduate students completing theses on bullying in schools. His doctoral thesis used the social-ecological theoretical framework. He is particularly interested in the role of school leadership and its relationship to bullying in schools. He is currently the convener of a Research Exchange Group on Bullying and Health through the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. His thesis was titled: The impact of individual and school characteristics on types and levels of bullying in Newfoundland and Labrador schools.

- Please send recommendations for potential BRNET members (i.e., faculty, researchers, and clinicians who are conducting research on bullying or related topics) to Dr. Shelley Hymel, Dr. 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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Bullying in the Media

Letter: Talk of ‘building a bully’ sends the wrong message

Source: The Buffalo News (<http://www.buffalonews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-talk-of-building-a-bully-sends-the-wrong-message-20150121>)

Welcome to Buffalo, Rex Ryan! The excitement here is palpable, thanks in large part to the Pegula family’s generosity and the announcement of his new position of head coach of the Bills. His pledge of loyalty to the fans and his guarantee of the pursuit of the Super Bowl are inspiring.

I am writing to request that he carefully consider the messaging he uses regarding bullying. Although I am sure his comments about building a bully were meant to convey a sense of strength, tough competition and a commitment to winning, associating the term “bully” with this is a mistake. We are working tirelessly in our schools and communities to create a culture where bullying is not acceptable, yet #BuffaloBullies is already taking off on social media (complete with some graphic pictures of violence having nothing to do with football).

This seems like a perfect opportunity to take a stand on behalf of the Bills and the Buffalo community. The NFL has clearly needed to address its position on domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other forms of abuse. Bullying is a form of abuse that predicts later violent crime, and associating bullying with anything positive poses risks.

I implore Ryan to focus on playing hard, playing fair and getting it done so that the young people in our community, who are greatly influenced by the actions of professional athletes, learn the best messages. Ryan provided several other one-liners during his press conference that would convey a much stronger message as the Bills move forward: “Start preparing to be playing in January.” “Is this thing on? Well it is now!” “Get ready because we’re going!”

I respectfully request that he consider using his considerable influence to send a more accurate and positive message (e.g., #BuffaloisON, #BuffaloLoyal, #InIt2WinIt?) to replace the #BuffaloBullies.

Amanda B. Nickerson, Ph.D.

Director, Alberti Center for Bullying

Abuse Prevention, University at Buffalo

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 to refer someone to Friends of BRNET, please click on this link: <http://cehs15.unl.edu/cms/index.php?s=2&p=711>

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.

Member Announcements

(1) Call for Proposals: Special Issues of *Theory Into Practice*

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF OUR JOURNAL

Each issue is organized around a single theme and features multiple perspectives and scholarly, yet accessible, discussions of current and future concerns of interest to today's educator. The goal is to stage a forum for the creation of an educational literature that represents the highest quality and excellence in a field of inquiry. Recent and forthcoming topics include: Urban Students' Perspectives; The Policies of Immigrant Education; Integrating English Language Learners in Content Classes; Critical Issues in STEM; Response to Intervention; Current Perspectives on LD and ADHD; Bullying and Cyberbullying.

Information on TIP Aims and Scope are at:

http://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=htip20&#.VE_z8ovF9r1

THE ISSUE THEME

Choosing an issue theme is a creative endeavor. It must be broad enough to fit a range of articles but narrow enough to be clear and focused. Articles should be tightly integrated with the theme, with every article addressing the theme topic but providing different perspectives or facets of the topic. Article topics should be even more clearly focused than the theme and represent the specific interest of the author. For more information about selecting article topics and authors, please email TIP for a sample proposal (tip@osu.edu).

THE ISSUE PROPOSAL

You should submit an outline indicating in some detail the conceptualization for the issue and suggesting possible contributors and article topics. Approximately 8-10 articles should be listed, with a few sentences describing each article.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

Acceptance of the issue proposal is based on the timeliness of the idea, its prospects for success with the TIP audience, and the quality of the proposal in terms of its conceptualization and the approach it takes to the topic. The guest editor's experience and ability to carry out the project are also considerations. When reviewing a proposal, one of our critical concerns is making sure the authors can write for the TIP audience—teachers who aren't necessarily part of the specific discourse community. The writing style should be readable and engaging, with examples used freely to clarify difficult or technical material. All proposal submissions are reviewed by our editors. Once accepted, all papers are blindly peer reviewed by two members of the editorial board and ad hoc review committee.

For specific proposal submission instructions and other inquiries, please email *Theory Into Practice*: tip@osu.edu

TIP recently celebrated 50 years of publication. TIP is a peer-reviewed journal, published quarterly by Taylor & Francis. TIP is indexed in most major social science databases, and its most recent impact factor over a 5-year period was 1.061.

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

Most sincerely,



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



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