



Dear BRNET Members and Friends of BRNET:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! In this newsletter you will find updates from our network. Be sure to check our website at <http://brnet.unl.edu> for additional resources.

Two Tenure-Track Bullying Prevention/Intervention Faculty Positions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

For the past decade the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln has supported the Bullying Research Network (BRNET), an international network of bullying prevention and intervention researchers. Building upon the success of BRNET, the College has developed the Empowerment Initiative that conducts translational research on bullying prevention and intervention. These two tenure-track faculty positions are integrally aligned with BRNET and the Empowerment Initiative and will be part of a **cluster hire of bullying prevention/intervention-related researchers**. We are seeking two scholars to contribute to our translational research foci on youth empowerment, youth engagement, and bullying prevention/intervention across homes, schools, and communities. For more information, please contact Dr. Susan Swearer (search co-chair) at: sswearer@unl.edu or by phone: [402-472-1741](tel:402-472-1741) (office). The two link can be found here:

Educational Psychology – <http://employment.unl.edu/postings/47296>

Candidates wishing additional information are encouraged to contact Dr. Susan Swearer (Co-Director, Bullying Research Network; Director, Empowerment Initiative) by phone (402-472-1741) or email (sswearer@unl.edu) or Dr. Mike Scheel (Program Director, Counseling Psychology) by phone (402-472-0573) or email (mscheel2@unl.edu).

College of Education and Human Sciences – <http://employment.unl.edu/postings/47307>

Candidates wishing additional information are encouraged to contact Dr. Jon Pedersen (Associate Dean for Research, CEHS) by phone (402-470-7360) or email (jep@unl.edu) or Dr. Susan Swearer (Co-Director, Bullying Research Network; Director, Empowerment Initiative) by phone (402-472-1741) or email (sswearer@unl.edu).

Thanks!

Researcher Spotlight – Dr. Jennifer Shapka

Jennifer D. Shapka is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education, at the University of British Columbia. She received her PhD in Applied Development Psychology from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of The University of Toronto. Her teaching and research are in the area of developmental psychology, but she is particularly interested in exploring the developmental impact of growing up in an Information/Digital era. To this end, her research focuses on cyberbullying, as well as kids understanding of online privacy.

Her research project, TeenTech, was one of the first to explore how kids were using the internet, and how it was related to their peer relationships. One of the most interesting aspects to emerge from this work was the finding that if parents over-controlled or micromanaged their teenagers online activities, it had the potential to undermine the parent/child relationship, and was associated with HIGHER reports of cyberbullying. More recently, since younger and younger children are being given online access, Dr. Shapka has commenced a new research project, CyberKids, which is a longitudinal study exploring online aggression for younger kids.

In terms of applying her research, Dr. Shapka has partnered with the Access to Media Education Society to develop workshops and outreach programs that are designed to help build young people's capacities to become leaders in creating safer, more socially responsible online environments (<http://accesstomedia.org/projects/present/her-digital-visions>). Many of these workshops occur in an intensive or afterschool capacity; however, youth-lead school-based workshops are also being developed.

Regarding knowledge mobilization, Dr. Shapka is a member of PREVNet (www.prevnet.ca), which is a pan Canadian network of researchers and organizations who are focused on bullying prevention and the promotion of healthy relationships among children and youth. Dr. Shapka is the lead for one of PREVnets knowledge mobilization projects, which focuses on developing parent resources for cyberbullying. A first step in this was developing an online resource for parents: <https://primus.ca/cyberbullying/>. Dr. Shapka is also active in other areas of knowledge translation, and is regularly asked to give media interviews, engage in workshops, or give talks to local interest groups and schools.

U.S. Political/Policy Updates

BULLYING DEBATE COMES TO CAPITOL HILL: On the heels of the Senate HELP Committee's markup of No Child Left Behind, Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) is looking for ways to get his proposed language on bullying into the education bill. "It's a great opportunity to finally - at long last - put this issue right on the front burner," Casey told Morning Education. "Because it's a pretty difficult issue to ignore if it gets to the Senate floor and you have to cast a vote on it." Both Casey and Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) withdrew proposals aiming to curb bullying in schools during the markup after the amendments garnered little Republican support. Republicans cited concerns about federal overreach. Casey's proposal would require states to have policies that prohibit bullying based on students race and LGBT status, among other things. It is based on a bill that had two Republican cosponsors - Sens. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) - in 2013. But during last week's markup, Murkowski expressed doubt about the measure. And a national debate over Indiana's religious freedom law makes for a charged climate when it comes to debating federal policies meant to protect gay and lesbian youth.

- Casey plans to keep in talks with Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander and others as NCLB moves ahead, but he said he doesn't think Alexander's proposed language on bullying is strong enough. "It might be we're still at loggerheads" by the time the bill gets to the floor, Casey said.
- Meanwhile on K Street: The Human Rights Campaign hired Epplin Strategic Planning's Robert Epplin, former legislative director for Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), to lobby issues including bullying of LGBT youth. HRC Government Affairs Director David Stacy said the group is "strongly urging" lawmakers to include both Franken and Casey's anti-bullying language in NCLB. "We will continue to push for those bills to be included when the bill moves to the Senate floor," Stacy said.
- And in bullying news outside the beltway: Montana is no longer the only state in the country without an anti-bullying law. The law Gov. Steve Bullock signed into law will ban students and teachers from bullying students in all K-12 public schools and give parents and authorities a path to go after bullies and others that break the law. More: <http://gftrib.com/1DAXmRy>.

BRNET New Members!

BRNET has a current total of 163 members! One new member has joined this past month. Welcome to BRNET, Dr. Kim Storey! Please see below for her brief biography:

Kim Storey, EdD, is a child development specialist, educator, and researcher whose expertise includes bullying prevention and the cognitive and social/emotional development of children. Dr. Storey has developed, produced, and evaluated research-based programs, videos, websites, toolkits, national television series, and educational materials that have had a major impact on the lives of millions of families, educators, and professional organizations. She is a regular consultant for education, media, and technology organizations, frequently serves as a featured speaker, and conducts workshops and trainings throughout the country and internationally. In the field of bullying prevention, Dr. Storey has created research-based programs and educational resources for children, parents, and teachers, including [Eyes on Bullying](#), [Eyes on Bullying in Early Childhood](#), [What You Can Do to Prevent and Stop Bullying at Camp](#), and [Bullying Prevention: A Guide for Grandparents](#).

- 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.

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.

BRNET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) SAVE THE DATE!

The 6th Annual Bullying Research Network Think Tank will be June 13, 14, and 15, 2016 at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL). The public conference on June 13th is being co-hosted by the College of Education and Human Sciences and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. The Think Tank will be held at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute on UNL's campus. Stay tuned for more details!

(2) Bullies, Bullied, and Bystanders Conference



**Bullies, Bullied
and Bystanders:**
Advancing Knowledge,
Understanding and Practice
in Education

9th - 10th June 2016
ABC, National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre
School of Education Studies
Dublin City University

CALL FOR PAPERS

education, comparative studies, business studies, media and communications, law, geography, art, literature, comparative literature, visual studies, psychology, sociology, anthropology, intercultural studies, women studies, gender studies, history, bio-medicine, neuroscience, ICT and the natural sciences.

Call for Papers

Papers are invited from those who are undertaking research that seeks to reconceptualise or present new theoretical or empirical research perspectives related to bullying, especially (but not confined to) those that focus on cultural and ethnic differences and/or the role of bystanders in online and offline environments.

We invite abstracts related to the above topic from academic fields such as

Deadline for Submission of Abstract proposals: Friday 4th December 2015.

Submission of Abstracts and Registration: www.bully.ie

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