



**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 our network. Be sure to check our website at <http://brnet.unl.edu> for additional resources.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bullying Research Network Think Tank will be June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL). The theme of this year’s Think Tank is: **Bullying Prevention and Early Childhood**. On Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> a public conference, “Bullying Prevention: Identifying and Intervening in Early Childhood” will be co-hosted by the College of Education and Human Sciences and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. Confirmed keynote presenters for the public conference include: Dr. Dan Olweus, Dr. Marjorie Kostelnik, and Cynthia Germanotta. The Think Tank will be held at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute Collaboratorium at UNL and the public conference will be held at Nebraska’s Innovation Campus. Stay tuned for more details in future newsletters! Scholars interested in participating in the Think Tank will need to register at <http://cyfs.unl.edu/conference/2016/ThinkTank/> by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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## **Researcher Spotlight – Dr. Paul Poteat**

Dr. Paul Poteat is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology at Boston College. He earned his PhD at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. One of his areas of research has focused on bias-based harassment, specifically homophobic bullying and harassment. In collaboration with a number of colleagues and graduate students, these studies have applied an ecological framework to consider individual and peer group factors that contribute to such behavior and that could buffer against its negative effects. In addition, this work has led to research on LGBT-affirming behavior and factors that are associated with supportive attitudes and behaviors toward LGBT youth.

Recently, Dr. Poteat and his colleagues, Drs. Jerel Calzo and Hiro Yoshikawa, have begun to focus on Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) and how they promote resilience among members of these school-based extracurricular groups. Several of their studies have identified specific components of GSAs (e.g., types of activities, social processes, advisor characteristics, school factors) that relate to better health for GSA members. This has led to an NIH-funded grant to examine specific mechanisms by which GSAs promote health among youth, with a particular focus on youth of color. This project will aim to identify how GSAs can best meet the varied needs and promote the strengths of their diverse members. Ultimately, this work will seek to provide guidance on how to maximize the utility and services of GSAs and to develop programming that can be delivered within this setting.

Outside of his direct research, Dr. Poteat is an editorial board member for the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, and *Journal of Counseling Psychology*. He is also an Associate Editor for *The Counseling Psychologist* (APA Division 17 Journal), and is currently a guest Co-Editor with Drs. Nicholas Heck and Carol Goodenow for a special section on *Advances in Research with LGBTQ Youth in Schools in Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity* (APA Division 44 Journal). Dr. Poteat and his colleagues, Drs. Ian Rivers and Olivier Vecho, were recently honored to have their publication recognized as the article of the year in *School Psychology Review* (Poteat, Rivers, & Vecho, 2015: The role of peers in predicting students' homophobic behavior: Effects of peer aggression, prejudice, and sexual orientation identity importance). They hope that this will help to raise awareness of the ongoing concern of homophobic harassment in schools and how it can be countered through efforts such as GSAs and other individual- and systems-level approaches.

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## **Annotated Reading List on Authority and Marginalization of Youth in Schools and Education**

In October 2015, following a violent incident against a young female student at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, South Carolina, Prudence Carter, Jacks Family Professor of Education and Faculty Director of the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University, put out a call to educational researchers and other social scientists “to make informative research more widely known to educators, parents, students, activists, community-based organizations and many others, as they continue to eradicate disparate treatment in discipline, suspensions, and expulsions in schools.” We are pleased to release the resulting collective effort of many around the nation--an annotated reading list on authority and the marginalization of youth in schools and education--and encourage you to share it broadly.

Here's the link to the #EdResearch4SpringValley Bibliography: <https://goo.gl/dEvg4B>

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## **BRNET New Members!**

BRNET has a current total of 166 members!

- 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](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com).

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

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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.

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## **BRNET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(1) Looking for Research Masters Students**

Dear colleague,

First, we are looking for new Research Master students. See attached the brochure. So, if you have students that want to learn about social network analysis, please recommend our program.

Second, please find attached two social networks new papers:

Rambaran, J.A., Hopmeyer, A., Schwartz, D., Steglich, C., Badaly, D., & Veenstra, R. (2016). Academic functioning and peer influences: A short-term longitudinal study of network-behavior dynamics in middle adolescence. *Child Development*.

This study showed that friendships were formed and maintained when adolescents had low levels of achievement or high levels of truancy. Particularly, it was found that individuals who had high levels of truancy were relatively more negatively assessed by peers through receiving fewer friendship nominations from peers who had low levels of truancy. Considering that truant adolescents extended more friendship nominations to these peers themselves, this can be seen as a form of peer rejection, which puts them in a disadvantaged and potentially isolating social position. Similarity in academic functioning was also explained by peer influence. It was found that adolescents influenced one another to increase rather than decrease achievement as well as truancy. Moreover, it was found that individuals that occupied central positions in the network exerted more influence in mutual friendships than other peers. If norm-breaking behavior related to poor academic functioning such as truancy is valued by popular youth, other individuals may be more motivated to conform to these behaviors and attitudes to enter or remain part of the popular group.

Van Rijsewijk, L.G.M., Dijkstra, J.K., Pattiselanno, K.L., Steglich, C.E.G. & Veenstra, R. (2016). Who helps whom? Investigating the development of adolescent prosocial relationships. *Developmental Psychology*.

This study investigates adolescent prosocial relations by examining social networks based on the question “Who helps you?”. The effects of individual characteristics (academic achievement, symptoms of depressive mood, and peer status) on receiving help and giving help were examined, and the contribution of (dis)similarity between adolescents to the development of prosocial relations was investigated. Results from longitudinal social network analyses (RSiena) revealed tendencies towards reciprocation of help and exchange of help within helping groups. Furthermore, boys were less often mentioned as helpers, particularly by girls. Depressed adolescents were less often mentioned as helpers, especially by low-depressed peers. Moreover, lower academic achievers indicated that they received help from their higher achieving peers. Rejected adolescents received help more often, but they less often helped low-rejected peers. Lastly, low- and high-popular adolescents less often helped each other, and also high-popular adolescents less often helped each other. These findings show that (dis)similarity in these characteristics is an important driving factor underlying the emergence and development of prosocial relations in the peer context, and that prosocial behavior should be defined in terms of benefitting particular others.

If you have related manuscripts (in press or submitted), please let us know.

Best wishes,  
René Veenstra, Ashwin Rambaran, Loes Van Rijsewijk, and others

## **(2) International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference**

***CCRC and FRL Announce:***

**INTERNATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE AND  
CHILD VICTIMIZATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE  
JULY 10-12, 2016**

**RECENTLY UPDATED:**

## **INVITED SPEAKERS PAGE IS NOW POSTED!**

We are pleased to announce the invited speakers for our 2016 conference:

**Dr. Elizabeth Gershoff**

“Violence against Children is Preventable: Interventions to Reduce Physical Punishment across Family, School, and Medical Contexts”

**Dr. Lisa Goodman**

“How do we know whether domestic violence programs work? Lessons from the Domestic Violence Program Evaluation and Research Collaborative”

**Dr. Kathleen Kendall-Tackett**

“Family Violence and the Frontiers of Mind-Body Medicine: Psychoneuroimmunology and Health”

**Dr. Elizabeth Miller**

“Rethinking Sexual and Dating Violence Prevention: Sex, Gender, and Trauma”

**Dr. Michele Ybarra**

“The Role of Technology in Contextualizing Youth Violence”

For more information: <http://cola.unh.edu/frl/2016-invited-speakers>

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS! DEADLINE: MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Inviting abstracts on all areas of family violence, research on methodological issues, as well as research on special populations with a particular emphasis on minority issues in family violence and child victimization research. For more information visit our website at <http://cola.unh.edu/frl/conference>. Continuing education will be available for many professional groups. Additional information can be provided by contacting our conference staff at [frl.conference@unh.edu](mailto:frl.conference@unh.edu) or [\(603\) 862-0767](tel:6038620767).

## **NEW FOR THIS YEAR OPEN CALL FOR WORKSHOP SUBMISSIONS:**

We are opening up workshop proposals to all prospective presenters. We will select 3 to 5 workshop proposals for inclusion in the 2016 conference. One conference registration waiver will be granted for each selected workshop (may be shared among two presenters, each of whom would receive a 50% discount). If you are interested in submitting a workshop proposal, please email the conference administrator at [frl.conference@unh.edu](mailto:frl.conference@unh.edu).

## **RECENTLY UPDATED:**

### **RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW!**

A room block has been reserved at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth, NH for conference attendees at a rate of \$189 per night. To reserve your room at the special conference rate of \$189, click here <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1511164941&key=1B5D514C> or call [\(888\) 627-7138](tel:8886277138). Reservations must be received no later than June 8, 2016. The hotel will continue to accept reservations after the cut-off date on a space and rate availability basis only. We strongly encourage you to make your reservation early as rooms fill up quickly. The Sheraton Harborside no longer accepts reservations directly. Please do not contact the hotel to make reservations.

Hope to see you in July!

Crimes Against Children Research Center and Family Research Laboratory  
University of New Hampshire  
10 West Edge Drive, Suite 106  
Durham, NH 03824

For more updates follow us on Twitter [@IFVCVRConf](https://twitter.com/IFVCVRConf)

### **(3) International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA)**

This announcement is to invite you to participate in the XXII biennial meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA) in Sydney, Australia, July 19-23, 2016 and to let you know about two opportunities we offer to young investigators at the meeting.

ISRA is a professional society of academic researchers whose members have helped shape our current understanding of conflict and aggression in the broadest contexts. We encourage graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty to pursue the study of aggression thru two opportunities at our meetings. One is the Lagerspetz Awards, which are given for excellence of presentation. These awards honor Kirsti Lagerspetz, ISRA co-founder and contributor to aggression research. No application necessary: Submit an abstract, show up and do your best!

The second opportunity is the ISRA Young Investigators (YI) Program, We provide a special pre-meeting workshop for applicants accepted into the program, arrange interactions with senior mentors, and cover some meeting costs. The material below and the PDF attached provides details about the YI Program. More information about ISRA and our meetings is available on our website: [israsociety.com](http://israsociety.com)

I hope to see you in Sydney next July.

Michael Potegal, Ph.D., L.P.  
Chair, 2016 ISRA Young Investigators Program  
ISRA President-Elect

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#### **ISRA Young Investigators (YI) Program – 2016**

The ISRA YI program began in 2008 to encourage and assist young scholars who are getting started or are in the early stages of their aggression research career. Previous YIs have found the program very enjoyable and helpful. The YI program at our July 2016 meeting in Sydney, Australia will include:

- 1) A Pre-meeting YI Workshop. The 2016 Workshop will focus on supportive group discussion to help YIs plan, write and/or revise grant applications in accord with reviewer criticisms. YIs are encouraged to submit their own proposals to be strengthened. Proposal presentation can be anonymous if desired. Discussion can range from specific editing suggestions to general research issues. General questions about scientific research and publications on aggression can also be addressed, depending on YI interest.
- 2) Meet with mentors YIs will meet with a different panel of mentors during lunch or dinner each day for informal discussion. Mentors will include plenary speakers who will be available for follow-up questions about their presentations

#### (4) SWAPv Conference – Call for Papers

Hello everyone,

We'd like to let you know that we have extended the date for the submission of **Abstracts** which is **24 March 2016**. Attached is the updated Call for Papers flyer.

Please remember that the Early Bird registrations close on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Also attached is the SWAPv Conference flyer.

We'd ask if you'd kindly send this on to your networks, and anyone you know who will be interested in the SWAPv Conference focus. For more information, please visit:

[http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/swapv/swapv-conference-2016/swapv-conference-2016\\_home.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/swapv/swapv-conference-2016/swapv-conference-2016_home.cfm)

Warm regards,

Marja van Breda

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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