



**Dear BRNET Members and Friends of BRNET:**

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! In our October 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.

**In Memoriam  
Dan Olweus  
April 18, 1931 – September 20, 2020**



Dan Olweus, the founding father of research on bullying, died on September 20 in Oslo, Norway at the age of 89. Born in Nässjö, Sweden, Olweus received training in psychology from the University of Stockholm. For nine years (1962-1970) he was director of the Erica Foundation, a training institute for clinical child psychologists in Stockholm. In 1969, he received a PhD from the University of Umeå in Sweden, with a dissertation focusing on aggression among young boys. From 1970 to 2010, he was professor of psychology and research professor at the University of Bergen in Norway. Since 2010, he had been a researcher and professor emeritus, affiliated with the Department for Health Promotion and Development at the University of Bergen.

In 1970, Olweus conducted what is widely viewed as the first scientific study in the world on bullying. Findings from the study were published in a book in Scandinavia in 1973 and in the U.S. in

1978 under the title *Aggression in the Schools: Bullies and Whipping Boys*. In the early 1980s, he developed and evaluated a school-wide bullying prevention program (later known as the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program or OBPP) which was implemented as part of a nationwide campaign against bullying in Norwegian schools. The campaign, sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry of Education, was launched after three adolescent boys died by suicide in 1983 after having been severely bullied by peers.

The evaluation documented dramatically positive reductions in bullying victimization and perpetration, as well as improvements in aspects of school climate. A description of the program and its results were published in 1993 in the book, *Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do*, which has been published in at least 25 languages. In 2001, the Norwegian government offered the OBPP to all comprehensive schools in Norway, and more than 600 of them implemented the program during a 10-year period. His evaluation of this widescale implementation focused on the first six cohorts of 300 schools (including 55,000 students). Findings from this large-scale replication of the OBPP supported the very positive findings from his earlier research (Olweus & Limber, 2010).

After the initial success of the OBPP in Norway, the program has been successfully implemented in several other countries, including the U.S. (where it has been implemented in more than 7,000 schools), Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, and Sweden. Pilot projects in several other countries are ongoing. The OBPP also served as inspiration for the development of initiatives in several other countries. In addition to his groundbreaking work to implement, disseminate, and evaluate school-based bullying prevention efforts in Scandinavia, Olweus was involved in other critical areas of bullying research, including the definition and measurement of bullying; outcomes of bullying on perpetrators and victims of bullying; cyberbullying; long-term school-level effects of the OBPP; and a large-scale evaluation of the OBPP in Pennsylvania. He was actively conducting research and publishing with colleagues until his recent death.

Olweus was among the first to recognize bullying as a violation of human rights, noting in 1994 that “it is a fundamental...right for a child to feel safe in school and to be spared the oppression and repeated, intentional humiliation implied in bullying. No student should be afraid of going to school for fear of being harassed or degraded, and no parent should need to worry about such things happening to his or her child!” (Olweus, 1994, p. 1183).

Olweus received numerous awards and recognitions for his research and intervention work. For his general research on aggression, he received the award for "outstanding aggression research" by the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA) in 1976, and he was elected President of ISRA from 1995-1996. In 2000, the Spirit of Crazy Horse award was conferred on him for “bringing courage to the discouraged" by the U.S. Reclaiming Youth International organization. In 2002, he received the “Nordic Public Health Prize” by the Nordic Minister Council for his achievements to promote public health in the Nordic countries. In 2003, Olweus was given the award for “Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy for Children by the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCDD). In 2005, he was awarded the Queen Sofia of Spain Medal for his contributions as well as the Honorary Prize of the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Bergen. In 2011, he received the American Psychological Association (APA) Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology, and in 2012, he received the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy. In 2018, he was awarded the Christie Prize from the University of Bergen.

His pioneering research, writings, and prevention program have changed the lives of countless schoolchildren around the world and inspired the work of scores of researchers and professionals, including my own. As impressive and important as these accomplishments are, I will remember Dan for his humanity. He was a “natural” with children, easily engaging my 7- year-old in conversation over dinner. He had a wry sense of humor and his eyes twinkled when he was amused. He empathized deeply

with those who had been bullied, once pausing in the midst of a Q&A session with a large audience to acknowledge the pain experienced by a young man who shared that he had been tormented years earlier by his peers. He was an accomplished jazz pianist, who easily could be persuaded to play a few standards wherever a piano could be found. And he was a kind and generous mentor to me and many colleagues. Olweus is survived by his wife, two daughters, and several beloved grandchildren. He also is mourned by a global family of researchers, collaborators, Olweus Bullying Prevention Program trainers, and educators in schools who will carry on his important work.

**--Sue Limber**

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### **NEW BRNET Article Sharing Policy**

BRNET has very recently changed our policy regarding sharing BRNET members' articles in our newsletters. Due to the lack of consistency across publishers regarding the permissibility of sharing full articles via email (e.g., [Elsevier's Policy](#), [APA's Policy](#)), we are now opting to share our members' citations (including the DOI link, if possible) and the article abstracts.

We appreciate how willing BRNET members have been in sharing their important research; we would like to continue this communication. If you would like to share research articles to be highlighted in our monthly newsletters, please email Alia Noetzel at [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com) with the following information:

- Your article citation (with a link to the DOI, if possible)
- Your article abstract
- Your email (so individuals who receive our newsletter can request further information, if desired)

Please let us know if you have any questions!

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### **BRNET New Members!**

BRNET has a current total of 243 members! Welcome to the BRNET, **Dr. Milosevic!**

### **New Friends of BRNET!**

BRNET has a current total of 86 Friends! Welcome **Thomas Keith, Colm Canning, and Reeve Kennedy!**

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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).

*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 want to refer someone to Friends of BRNET, please email Alia Noetzel, 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.

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## BRNET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### (1) Author Exchange—BRNET Member Publications

Dr. Kennedy recently published a paper in the *Children and Youth Services Review*. Please see attached PDF and citation below. Additionally, please contact Dr. Kennedy at [rxk5442@psu.edu](mailto:rxk5442@psu.edu) for additional information.

Kennedy, R. S. (2020). Gender Differences in Outcomes of Bullying Prevention Programs: A Meta-Analysis. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 105506.

### (2) Call for Papers: The Use of Artificial Intelligence to Address Online Bullying and Abuse

The *International Journal of Bullying Prevention* is seeking a variety of submissions from a range of disciplines that examine various aspects of AI applications to address abuse for their special issue. Abstracts (max 500 words) should be submitted by **October 31, 2020** to Tijana Milosevic at [tijana.milosevic@dcu.ie](mailto:tijana.milosevic@dcu.ie). Full manuscripts (typical length between 6,000 and 9,000 words—please seek permission in advance if you need to submit a shorter or longer manuscript) to be submitted by **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. The issue is planned for **June 2021**. Please refer to the following website for additional information: <https://www.springer.com/journal/42380/updates/18127164>.

### **(3) 2020 Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention Conference**

The Alberti Center is hosting the Bullying Abuse Prevention Conference virtually this year (via Zoom Webinar) with the theme *Promoting Mental Health and Positive Relationships (Amidst COVID-19 and Other Crises)*.

The conference will take place on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020 from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. EST**. Detailed information about our 2 panels of speakers is included in the attached flyer. Each panel will run for 90 minutes with Q&A time included. Panel 1 (from 12:30-2) will address *Isolation, Inequities, and Cyberbullying: Evidence-Based Approaches to Promoting Well-Being and Social Justice* and Panel 2 (2:00-3:30) will address *Supporting Schools in Times of Physical Distancing and Crisis: Voices from the Field*.

The conference includes 3 hours of NASP-approved CPD; information about CE credits for Licensed Psychologists, LMSW, LMHC, and LCSW & professional development credits for CRC can be found on the bottom of the flyer as well as on our website. The fee is \$10 and the registration link is: <http://ed.buffalo.edu/alberti/events/annual-conference.html>

### **(4) 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. Please visit the official website for conference registration and submission: <https://woa2020.utu.fi/>. Additionally, please visit the event’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/university-of-turku-finland/25th-workshop-on-aggression-2020/285787245671110/>.

### **(5) Save the Date—Bullying Research Symposium 2020 ONLINE**

Due to the ongoing severe impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our daily lives that includes heavy restrictions on international travel and the necessity to maintain physical distance, the organizers have decided to change the Bullying Research Symposium Vienna 2020 to an **ONLINE conference** for the already set dates (November 6-7, 2020).

The Bullying Research Symposium (BRS) addresses scholars on all career stages whose research focuses on school bullying. The aim of the Symposium is to intensify exchange about current research and to establish closer networks between the individual researchers and research teams.

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

For more information visit: <https://bullyingresearchsymposium.univie.ac.at/>

The registration is still open and the fees for the online participation have been reduced!

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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