



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.

Researcher Spotlight—Dr. Phillip Slee

Dr. Phillip Slee, Ph.D., is a professor in Human Development in the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work at Flinders University, South Australia. He is a trained teacher and registered psychologist. His early post-graduate research focused on the family relations of physically disabled young children and his Ph.D involved naturalistic observations of mother-infant emotional interaction. Phillip's university appointments embrace teaching developmental psychology and research methods (multi-level modelling and qualitative data analysis) across the fields of education, psychology, and social work as reflected in his text book on child, adolescent & family development (Slee et al, 2012). A particular focus of his research has been the development of prosocial behavior including how we help, share, comfort, and cooperate in our social relationships with others. This focus is reflected in his book *'School Bullying: Teachers helping students cope* (2017), which opens with chapters addressing how we best promote prosocial behavior at school. Phillip commenced a private practice in clinical child and family psychology in the early 1990s. He subsequently spent sabbaticals in Canada where he undertook internships in the Department of Psychiatry, Foothills Hospital, Calgary working with social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists in a family therapy unit specializing in the application of systems theory. This experience of working with families and their children significantly influenced his outlook regarding psychological practice and research. The privilege of working with children and adolescents experiencing the pain of depression, anxiety suicidal ideation, family violence and struggles with sexuality opened his eyes to the strengths and resources of individuals and families in the face of extra-ordinarily difficult circumstances. Working with a colleague (Prof. Ken Rigby) research was undertaken into the issue of school bullying resulting in the publication of the first empirical study of bullying in Australia (Rigby, & Slee, 1991). Drawing on systemic theory and his clinical and school based research into bullying he produced a resource called the P.E.A.C.E. Pack. The P.E.A.C.E. framework (Preparation, Education, Action, Coping and Evaluation) was developed in consultation with teachers, students, principals, parents and school administrators from day-care centers, kindergartens and primary and secondary schools. It is a

successful intervention program dealing with bullying in schools (Slee, 2001; Slee, 1997; Slee & Mohyla, 2007) widely used in Australia and has been translated and evaluated in countries such as Japan (Slee, 2008); Malta, (Slee, et al, 2017) and Greece (Skrzypiec et al, 2011). It is now being trialed and evaluated in Italian schools. The program was developed in consultation with teachers, students, principals, parents and school administrators from day-care centers, kindergartens, and primary and secondary schools. Phillip's research teams have undertaken national consultancies and evaluated the KidsMatter Primary Mental Health Initiative (Slee, et al, 2009) <http://caef.flinders.edu.au/kidsmatter/> and the KidsMatter Early Childhood Mental Health initiative (Slee et al, 2012), and KidsMatter for Students with Disability (Dix, et al 2010). Phillip has presented his work nationally and internationally. A strong focus of his research is how mental health and anti-bullying programs are implemented in school and classroom contexts (Dix, et al, 2011). Phillip has a particular interest in the practical and policy implications of his research.

I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply.
Being willing is not enough; we must do. (Leonardo da Vinci)

This interest has included invitations to advise Ministers of Education in Japan (1999) , Korea (2016), France (2010), and Malta (2015) and he has presented his research to the Australian Commonwealth Government Senate on inquiries into bullying, cyberbullying and advised State and Commonwealth Ministers of Education regarding policy addressing bullying. Most recently Phillip has been engaged with a colleague (Dr. Grace Skrzypiec) to provide the Commonwealth Government with a professional learning module for teachers for the national 'Student Wellbeing Hub' titled '*Resilient and Inclusive Classrooms*' professional learning module.

<https://www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/educators/professional-learning/resilient-and-inclusive-classrooms#/>

Phillip along with Dr. Grace Skrzypiec is Co-Director of the Flinders Centre for 'Student Wellbeing & Prevention of Violence' (SWAPv) linked to BRNET. <http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/swapv/>
The Centre has international research projects in a range of countries including China, Canada, European Union, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Italy, Malta, Philippines, Indonesia, New Zealand, and USA.

Selected Recent Publications

Dix, K.L., Slee, P.T., Lawson, M.J. & Keesee, J.P. (2011). Implementation quality of whole-school mental health promotion and students' academic performance. *Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 3-26.

Rigby, K. and Slee, P.T. (1991). Bullying among Australian school children: Reported behaviour and attitudes towards victims. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 131, 615-627.

Skrzypiec, G., Roussi-Vergou, C. and Andreou, E. (2011). Common problems, common solutions? Applying a foreign 'coping with bullying' intervention in Greek schools. In Shute, R. H., Slee, P. T., Murray-Harvey, R., & Dix, K. L., ed. *Mental health and wellbeing: Educational perspectives*. Adelaide, SA: Shannon Research Press, pp. 263-274.

Slee, P.T. (1996). The P.E.A.C.E. Pack. A program for reducing bullying in our schools. *Australian Journal of Guidance and Counselling*. 6, 63-69.

Slee, P.T. (2017). *School Bullying: Teachers Helping Students Cope*. Routledge, Park Square, London.

Slee, P.T. Campbell, M., & Spears, B. (2nd. Ed.) (2012). *Child, Adolescent and Family Development*. Cambridge University Press. Melbourne.

Slee, P.T. & Mohyla, J. (2007). The PEACE Pack. An evaluation of a school based intervention to reduce bullying in four Australian primary schools. *Educational Research*, 49, 2 103-115

Slee, P.T., Skrzypiec, G., Cefai, C., & Fabri, F (2017) Coping with bullying, and promoting well-being and positive peer relations. IN P. Sturmey (Ed.) *The Wiley Handbook of Violence and Aggression*, Part xv11, Chapter 125.

BRNET New Members!

BRNET has a current total of 199 members! Welcome to the BRNET, **Drs. Danielle Law, Stephanie Secord Fredrick, and Lyndsay Jenkins.**

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 Ana Damme, 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) The Empowerment Initiative at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln is Recruiting Students

Please help us spread the word! The University of Nebraska—Lincoln is currently recruiting motivated, bright, hard-working undergraduate students to the developmental, neuroscience, and translational research graduate specializations in the Department of Educational Psychology. **Please see the attached flyer.** Interested students can apply here: <http://cehs.unl.edu/edpsych/how-apply>.

(2) PREVNET's 9th Annual Conference

You are invited to Canada's premier conference on bullying prevention and promoting safe and healthy relationships for children and youth. The conference objective is to ensure that all adults involved with children and children (e.g., educators, mental health professionals, parents, volunteers) have evidence-based knowledge, strategies and tools to promote children's well-being and prevent bullying. Together we can make a difference in the ongoing efforts to stop bullying in Canada and to promote well-being for all Canadian children and youth. Conference highlights include:

- **November 15—Evening Wine and Cheese Reception at the Canadian Museum of History:** Hosted by PREVNet's Scientific Co-Directors Dr. Debra Pepler and Dr. Wendy Craig
- **November 16—Conference Keynotes** by Shelley Cardinal (Canadian Red Cross), Dr. Jean Clinton (McMaster University), Lisa Wolff (UNICEF), Drs. Debra Pepler and Wendy Craig (PREVNet) and a choice of 7 morning and 7 afternoon workshops
- **November 17—Additional Professional Development Training Opportunities:** PREVNet is offering a choice of two **full day workshops** to bring state-of-the-art knowledge to your setting and promote healthy relationships and a positive social climate with children and youth: **Healthy Relationships Training** and **PREVNet's Bullying Prevention: Tools for Schools**

Register soon—early bird rate ends October 5th! See the attached flyer and following website for more information: <http://www.cvent.com/events/canada-coming-together-to-promote-children-s-well-bring/event-summary-dbeb9c409d72476ca25bb0f36d5f8b6b.aspx>.

(3) Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunity at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Children's Hospital at Philadelphia (CHOP) is excited to announce a postdoctoral opportunity, mentored by Drs. Stephen Leff and Tracy Waasdorp, focusing on their relational aggression and bullying prevention programs for minority youth living in urban environments. The ideal candidate is one who is seeking a 2-3 year postdoctoral research fellowship and who has strong writing and quantitative research skills (qualitative research skills would be a plus). The fellow will receive mentorship in community-based participatory research (CBPR), conducting statistical analyses, writing research papers, and writing grants. There may be opportunities to work in the schools implementing our interventions; however, this is a **research-oriented postdoc** and thus, unlike other clinical or clinical/research fellowships, the fellow in this position would not be accumulating hours for licensure. The ultimate goal for this fellow is to build a systemic line of research related to relational aggression interventions for minority youth living in urban environments. This is a **diversity postdoctoral fellowship with an application due date of November 2nd** (see details attached). The mentor for the postdoc must also develop a specific research and mentorship plan for the potential candidate by Nov. 2nd. Given this, please let us know as soon as possible if you have anyone who may be interested in applying so we can begin to determine whether this would be a match.

(4) International Bullying Prevention Conference

The International Bullying Prevention Conference will take place in Nashville on November 5th-7th. **BRNET members and Friends of BRNET are being offered a \$100 discount to attend the conference.** Use the **ID Code: BRNET**, which will take \$100 off the registration fee. Currently the early-bird pricing is in effect until September 15th. Registration is \$225 with the discount being provided and the code is available to only new registrations. For more information and to register: www.ibpaworld.org/events. Please see the attached brochure for more information. **Thank you, IBPA!!!**

(5) So You Want to Study Bullying? Recommendations to Enhance the Validity, Transparency, and Compatibility of Bullying Research

Dr. Anthony Volk, Dr. Rene Veenstra, and Dr. Dorothy Espelage recently had their manuscript accepted to the journal of *Aggression and Violent Behavior*. The paper aims to promote thoughts and insights about the critical issues and concepts facing those who seek to gain a better understanding of bullying. The researchers advocate that bullying researchers produce data that are more easily communicable to the broader community. **Congratulations!**

(6) Bullying in Australian Schools: The Perceptions of Victims and Other Students

Dr. Ken Rigby is currently an Adjunct Research Professor in the School of Education at the University of South Australia. He also conducts research through the Hawke Research Institute and he recently published *Bullying in Australian Schools: The Perceptions of Victims and Other Students* and he requested to share the article with fellow BRNET members.

https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1007/s11218-017-9372-3?author_access_token=QXg_KcSd6fIbjIjPRJDE5ve4RwlQNchNBiyi7wbcMAY5KylyDl11sa4xcGhPOqoZ_c-EY_W2t7YY7zRuxTFWko173gi8sGjdBv1Ve4EGKb45CEW_vuISg-TugYRzADiiRHjCqStJAxE_yJYPmrRID1A

(7) Cyber Bullying: A Critical Overview by Dr. Dan Olweus

Dr. Olweus has a new book chapter (position paper), *Cyber Bullying: A Critical Overview*, that you might be interested in reading. A shortened version of the paper with Dr. Sue Limber as co-author is in press in *Current Opinions in Psychology*. The following aspects are highlighted in the book chapter:

- research on cyberbullying is plagued by inconsistent findings and exaggerate claims;
- a consensual definition is important to build a coherent body of knowledge;
- cyberbullying greatly overlaps with traditional bullying;
- it is important to measure cyberbullying in a bullying context, and;
- cyberbullying should (tentatively) be regarded as a subcategory of bullying.

If you are interested in getting a copy of the book chapter, you can send an email to olweus@uni.no.

(8) National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports in 2017

The Center for Mental Health in Schools at UCLA has developed two new major resources to aid school improvement planning for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and for re-engaging disconnected students. They are called, *Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide* and *Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Developing a Unified, Comprehensive, and Equitable System*. To access these resources as well as other **free** resources, visit this website:

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>.

(9) Research Scientist Position Available at Committee for Children (CFC)

Committee for Children (CFC) is a nonprofit working globally to prevent bullying, violence, and child abuse. They developed research-based social-emotional learning programs that are used in more than 25,000 schools in 70 countries around the world. CFC is looking for a **research scientist** to join their team in Seattle! Visit this website to learn more about the ideal candidate, primary responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply. <http://www.cfchildren.org/about-us/contact-us/job-opportunities/research-scientist>.

(10) Consider joining this important TwitterChat on Tuesday, October 10th, 1pm EST!



#SaludTues
TWEETCHAT



Latino Kids & The Problem of Bullying
1p EST, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017

w/ @SaludAmerica @StopBullyingGov @bully_research @pacer_nbpc @ChapCareOrg

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