



## BRNET March 2020 Newsletter

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

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

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### **Featured Spotlight—Dr. Laura Hanish**

**Laura Hanish, PhD**, is a Professor of Child Development in the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University. She received her Ph.D. in developmental and clinical psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1997. For over a decade, Dr. Hanish has co-lead – with Drs. Richard Fabes and Carol Martin – a large-scale donor- and grant-funded research and translational enterprise. The primary aims of the enterprise are: (1) to explore how peer relationships, gender, and schooling intersect, considering how best to maximize developmental and academic outcomes and (2) to translate what we learn into programs and products that can be used to promote positive outcomes within schools. This ongoing effort has resulted in the implementation of nearly 20 basic research projects and almost 10 translational research projects. It has also resulted in the development and dissemination of seven evidence-informed products related to student achievement, teacher professional development, and the creation of healthy and harmonious learning communities (preschool through college levels).

Dr. Hanish uses a developmental framework to study aggression and victimization among peers, considering both how aggression and victimization emerge as well as their sequelae. She has a particular interest in examining the relational context of aggression and victimization. Thus, she explores the relationships between aggressors and their victims. For instance, she studies how the identity of the aggressor and victim (who aggresses against whom) matters. She also considers how aggressors and victims are situated within their peer networks and the nature of their relationships with other peers. Important to understanding the relationships of aggressors and victims is understanding the role of gender. Dr. Hanish's work with gender goes beyond considering gender differences to exploring how gender operates within peer relationships, the role of same- and other-gender relationships, and the degree to which children's relationships with peers are gender segregated or gender integrated. In a current IES-

funded research project, for instance, Dr. Hanish and her colleagues are studying how gender integration in elementary school classrooms (including both the positive and negative ways that girls and boys interact with one another) relates to academic outcomes.

Dr. Hanish approaches her intervention work from a positive framework, with the goal of strengthening healthy and harmonious peer relationships. Dr. Hanish's research teams have developed programs and products for use in preschool, elementary school, and middle school classrooms for building relationships among peers. A key feature of her applied work involves the use of a buddy up strategy for encouraging children to interact in positive and supported ways with diverse peers. Her efforts have also led to teacher professional development programs related to bullying prevention and relationship building and to college-level programs for enhancing empathy and compassion.

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### **BRNET New Members!**

BRNET has a current total of 236 members! Welcome to the BRNET, **Drs. Kaur & Lee!**

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

BRNET has a current total of 84 'Friends!' Welcome, **Erica Smith!**

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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) Articles of Interest

Drs. Gregus, Craig, and Cavell have published a paper focusing on chronic victims of school bullying. Their premise, borrowing from Dr. Thornberg, is that chronic victims are caught in a socially constructed narrative of exclusion from the larger peer group. Under this narrative, peers are free to disengage from their usual moral prohibitions against bullying when interactions involve chronic victims. Please refer to the attached PDF and citation below:

Gregus, S. J., Craig, J. T., & Cavell, T. A. (2020). Toward Evidence-Based Interventions for Chronically Bullied Children: Candidate Mechanisms and Potential Strategies. *Evidence-Based Practice in Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 1-19.

Dr. Reeve Kennedy, a colleague of BRNET member Dr. David Finkelhor, has published a meta-analysis of trends in bullying in the United States from 1998 to 2017 based on 91 studies. Please refer to the attached PDF and citation below:

Kennedy, R. S. (2019). Bullying trends in the United States: a meta-regression. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 1524838019888555.

Attached, please find a new article featuring BRNET members Drs. Huitsing & Veenstra. The citation is below:

Kaufman, T. M. L., Huitsing, G., & Veenstra, R. (2020). Refining Victims' Self-Reports on Bullying: Assessing Frequency, Intensity, Power Imbalance, and Goal- Directedness. *Social Development*. doi: 10.1111/sode.12441

Attached, please find a new article featuring BRNET member Dr. Elizabeth Nassem. Below, you will find the citation.

Nassem, E. M. (2017). The complexity of children's involvement in school bullying. *Journal of Children's Services*.

## **(2) Scandinavian Journal of Psychology Special Issue**

BRNET member Dr. Thornberg has organized a special issue of the Scandinavian Journal of Psychology, titled “School Bullying and Cyberbullying Among Children and Adolescents.” Please refer to the following link for the articles and further details: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14679450/2020/61/1>

## **(3) Journal of School Violence Special Issue**

BRNET members Drs. Hong & Espelage have guest-edited a special issue of the Journal of School Violence, titled “Firearms, Homicide, and Perceptions of Safety in American Schools Post-Columbine.” Please refer to the following link for the articles and further details: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wjsv20/19/1?nav=tocList>.

## **(4) BRNET Member Forthcoming Book**

BRNET members Drs. Cohen & Espelage have a new book titled, “Feeling Safe in School: Bullying and Violence Prevention Around the World,” to be published in April 2020. Featuring analysis and commentaries from experts in public health, psychology, and school improvement, “Feeling Safe in School” addresses social, emotional, and intellectual aspects of safety as well as physical safety. The experts offer candid and unique insights into the way eleven different countries view and define what it means to feel safe in school, the types of goals and strategies that are being used to promote safety, and whether and how measures are being used to gauge progress. Please refer to <https://www.hepg.org/hepg-home/books/feeling-safe-in-school#> for more information.

## **(5) Job Opportunity**

The Department of Child and Youth Studies at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario invites applications for a SSHRC Canada Research Chair Tier 2 position in Children and Youth: Performance and Mental Health at the rank of assistant or associate professor level to commence July 1, 2020. Please see attached PDF for additional information.

## **(6) 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/>.

**(7) Save the Date—Bullying Research Symposium 2020 in Vienna, Austria**

The Bullying Research Symposium (BRS) will take place on **November 6-7, 2020** at the University of Vienna (Austria) and 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.

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

For more information on registration and submission visit: <https://bullyingresearchsymposium.univie.ac.at/>

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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