

## BRNET March 2018 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.

### Researcher Spotlight—Dr. Ann DeSmet



**Dr. Ann DeSmet, Ph.D.**, is a postdoctoral fellow at the Ghent University, Department of Movement and Sport Sciences (Belgium) and supported by a fellowship from the Research Foundation Flanders. She holds a Master degree in Psychology and obtained her PhD in Health Sciences in 2015, on the topic of bystanders in cyberbullying among adolescents. During her Phd project, she developed a serious game together with the project team ([www.friendlyattac.be](http://www.friendlyattac.be)), to promote positive bystander interventions and discourage negative bystander interventions when adolescents witness cyberbullying. The game was effective, but unfortunately only on determinants of positive behavior. The team is currently

investigating whether an adaptively tailored intervention (that provides more exercise on negative behavior if the player often chooses to remain passive, laugh at cyberbullying, join in with the bully, etc.) can enhance its effectiveness to also discourage negative bystander behavior. Apart from research on bystander behavior in cyberbullying, her interest also goes out to specific populations at risk for being bullied or cyberbullied, and in the mental health consequences for these groups. She published a paper on bullying and cyberbullying among severely obese youth, and recently also published a paper on cyberbullying among non-heterosexual adolescents. In future research, she wants to more closely investigate mediating and moderating factors that can buffer against the negative outcomes of bullying and cyberbullying, such as healthy lifestyles (e.g. physical activity, sleep, healthy diet) and parental support (e.g. autonomy-supportive parenting), specifically in populations that are at high-risk and already face higher mental stress. In terms of interventions, she is particularly interested in interventions that are media-enabled, such serious games, mobile apps, or entertainment education using popular media as an outlet.

She is an editor for the Games for Health journal, an associate editor for BMC Public Health, and a committee member of the special interest group on e-&m Health of the ISBNPA organization.

### Selected References

**DeSmet, A.,** Rodelli, M., Walrave, M., Soenens, B., Cardon, G., & De Bourdeaudhuij, I. (2018). Cyberbullying and traditional bullying involvement among heterosexual and non-heterosexual adolescents, and their associations with age and gender. *Computers in Human Behavior*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2018.02.010>.

**DeSmet, A.,** Bastiaensens, S., Van Cleemput, K., Poels, K., Vandebosch, H., Deboutte, G., ... & De Troyer, O. (2018). The efficacy of the Friendly Attac serious digital game to promote prosocial bystander behavior in cyberbullying among young adolescents: A cluster-randomized controlled trial. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 78, 336-347.

**DeSmet, A.,** Bastiaensens, S., Van Cleemput, K., Poels, K., Vandebosch, H., Cardon, G., & De Bourdeaudhuij, I. (2016). Deciding whether to look after them, to like it, or leave it: A multidimensional analysis of predictors of positive and negative bystander behavior in cyberbullying among adolescents. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 57, 398-415.

**DeSmet, A.,** Aelterman, N., Bastiaensens, S., Van Cleemput, K., Poels, K., Vandebosch, H., ... & De Bourdeaudhuij, I. (2015). Secondary school educators' perceptions and practices in handling cyberbullying among adolescents: A cluster analysis. *Computers & Education*, 88, 192-201.

**DeSmet, A.,** Deforche, B., Hublet, A., Tanghe, A., Stremersch, E., & De Bourdeaudhuij, I. (2014). Traditional and cyberbullying victimization as correlates of psychosocial distress and barriers to a healthy lifestyle among severely obese adolescents—a matched case–control study on prevalence and results from a cross-sectional study. *BMC public health*, 14(1), 224.

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### BRNET New Members!

BRNET has a current total of 202 members! Welcome to the BRNET, **Drs. Mubarak Rahamathulla, Scott Ross, and Ryan Broll.**

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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 Ana Damme, 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) Call for Action to Prevent Gun Violence in the United States of America.**

The Bullying Research Network and many BRNET members have signed the attached “Call for Action” to demand that federal and state authorities take immediate action to prevent gun violence in the United States. The call for action can be found here: <https://curry.virginia.edu/prevent-gun-violence>.

### **(2) New Job Opportunity—National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre**

The Dublin City University (DCU) is a research-intensive, globally-engaged, dynamic institution that is distinguished by both the quality and impact of its graduates and its focus on the translation of knowledge into societal and economic benefit. The National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre is offering a full-time postdoctoral research who will work with colleagues at the Centre on a study related to tackling workplace bullying in healthcare professions and services. For more information about the position, please visit the following website:

[http://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/hr/postdoctoral\\_researcher\\_in\\_bullying\\_abc\\_4.5\\_year\\_contract.pdf](http://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/hr/postdoctoral_researcher_in_bullying_abc_4.5_year_contract.pdf).

### **(3) World Anti-Bullying Forum in Dublin, Ireland**

The second World Anti-Bullying Forum will take place in Dublin, Ireland on June 4-6th 2019. This is an international peer-review conference with a particular focus on bullying among children and adolescents. Opening of abstract submission starts on June 2018 and the closing date of abstract submission is 30 November 2018. See the website of the conference: <http://wabf2019.com>. BRNET co-founders, Dr. Susan Swearer and Dr. Shelley Hymel, are among the keynote speakers.

### **(4) New Job Opportunity—Bullying Prevention and Education Senior Implementation Consultant**

A new position is currently open at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for a Bullying Prevention and Education Senior Implementation Consultant. This position involves working as part of

the School Bullying Prevention and Education Grant (BPEG) team at CDE to improve the implementation and evaluation of the Bullying Prevention in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (BP-PBIS) program in grantee schools. For more information including minimum qualifications, major duties and responsibilities, and salary range, please view the job posting on CDE's website here: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdemgmt/hr/jobs>

### **(5) Open Positions for Senior Program Administrators**

The School Climate Transformation Project (SCTP) is currently seeking two Senior Program Administrators to provide training and consultation to schools in school climate assessment; school climate improvement planning, implementation, and progress monitoring; and the evaluation of school climate support. SCTP is a partnership between the New Jersey Department of Education and Rutgers University to promote school climate improvement in schools.

Both Senior Program Administrators will provide consultation, technical assistance, and training to New Jersey schools. One of the Senior Program Administrators will also support the implementation of an ongoing program evaluation. Each position requires a Master's degree or equivalent in education, psychology, social work, or related field; strong written and verbal communication skills; the ability to travel and work independently with schools across New Jersey; and knowledge of organizational change and school climate improvement. Position Posting Links: <http://jobs.rutgers.edu/postings/58500> and <http://jobs.rutgers.edu/postings/58501>

### **(6) Several Papers of Interest by Dr. Frey and Colleagues**

Papers about bullying, revenge, and class norms were recently published and you might find them interesting. The articles are:

Frey, K. S., & Strong, Z. H. (2018). Aggression predicts changes in peer victimization that vary by form and function. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 46(2), 305-318.  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10802-017-0306-5>

Frey, K. S., Strong, Z. H., & Onyewuenyi, A. C. (2017). Individual and class norms differentially predict proactive and reactive aggression: A functional analysis. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 109(2), 178.  
<http://psycnet.apa.org/record/2016-26870-001>

### **(7) HRSA Unveils Bullying Prevention Resource**

A HRSA-led team of bullying and violence prevention experts has created *Assessing Bullying Prevention Capacity and Implementing Change*. This resource helps state health departments and others assess the current capacity to address bullying and determine any gaps and needs. It contains two main tools: the Bullying Prevention Capacity Assessment, and the Bullying Prevention Change Package of evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies. Schools, summer camp programs, and other venues where youth convene can also use this resource to find meaningful strategies to promote empathy, civility, and inclusion. Download it here: [Assessing Bullying Prevention Capacity and Implementing Change](#).

### **(8) 50th International Conference on Behavioural Science**

Attached you will find a two-page brochure for the upcoming 50th Banff International Conference on Behavioural Science to be held at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta on March 18th – 21st, 2018. This year's topic is "Ideal Mental Health Services". The attached brochure describes the program for the conference, how to register, accommodation information and a link to our website for more information.

Feel free to circulate the attached brochure to colleagues who you think might be interested. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Ray DeV. Peters at [ray.peters@queensu.ca](mailto:ray.peters@queensu.ca).

**(9) New Article by BRNET Members—The Toxicity of Bullying by Teachers and Other School Staff**

Drs. Datta, Cornell, and Huang recently published an article about the toxic effects of peer bullying by teachers and school staff. The study compared the prevalence and school adjustment of students bullied by teachers/staff, students bullied by peers, and students who were not bullied. To read about the study and findings, you can access the article here: <http://www.naspjournals.org/doi/abs/10.17105/SPR-2017-0001.V46-4?code=naps-site>.

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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  
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