



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

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

**Featured Spotlight—Dr. Christian Berger**

**Christian Berger (Ph.D.)** is an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, where he also serves as Associate Chair for Research and Graduate Programs. Dr. Berger received his PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US, in 2008. He also serves as the editor-in-chief of *Psykhē*.

Dr. Berger's research interests focus around peer relations, including dyadic and group interactions among children and adolescents. In particular he has addressed the interplay between social behaviors (i.e. aggression and prosociality) and social status, analyzing how these are part of and shape the peer culture. He also focuses on how contexts affect the development of positive or negative interpersonal relationships such as friendships, antipathies, and bullying, and has developed educational interventions to promote socioemotional development and reduce school violence. Overall, his research aims to identify key factors at the individual, interpersonal and contextual levels that are associated with children and adolescents' positive development and wellbeing.

Currently, Dr. Berger is co-investigator of a three-year study (2019-2022) funded by the Chilean government to develop and evaluate an educational intervention to promote social cohesion through prosocial behavior among adolescents. This study focuses on the promotion of a positive school climate and prosocial interactions among classmates as a way to foster civic development and ultimately social cohesion, and also to lower discrimination and victimization rates. This study follows a longitudinal, multilevel, multi-informant and mixed-methods design. In addition to their theoretical importance, these findings may have relevant psycho-educational implications for anti-bullying programs, for example, by understand peer process that underlie positive interactions and are capable of shaping positive social norms.

Dr. Berger's interest in peer relations has also involved other forms of both positive and negative interactions, such as the protective role of friendships and the specificity of peer relations within extracurricular activities, the overlap of different social networks, ethnic discrimination and homophobic bullying. He has also studied the role of specific contexts in the emergence of bullying and more broadly aggressive behavior. His current work addresses the interplay of different types of social relations (friendships and antipathies), perceptions of aggression and victimization, and focuses on specific profiles associated to aggression, prosociality and bullying/victimization with their specific individual experiences. For instance, a recent study found that adolescents who experience victimization by peers are likely to select prosocial peers as friends, and that befriending a victimized peer does not imply the risk of becoming victimized.

Dr. Berger dedicates his research efforts to disseminating knowledge about peer relations and their implications for school bullying, but also for positive interactions. Recently, he gave a keynote address at the World Anti-Bullying Forum in Dublin (June 2019). Additionally, he just authored a chapter entitled "Children's friendships and social development" with Dr. Olga Cuadros and Dr. Antonious Cillessen, to appear in the forthcoming *Sage Handbook of Developmental Psychology and Early Childhood Education*.

### Selected Recent Publications

**Berger, C.,** Gremmen, C. A., Palacios, D. F. & Franco, E. (2019). 'Would you be my Friend?' Friendship Selection and Contagion Processes of Early Adolescents who Experience Victimization. *Journal of Early Adolescence*, 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0272431618824753>

**Berger, C.,** Poteat, P., & Dantas, J. (2019). Should I report? The role of general and sexual orientation-specific bullying policies and teacher behavior on adolescents' reporting of victimization experiences. *Journal of School Violence*, 18(1), 107-120. doi:10.1080/15388220.2017.1387134.

Dijkstra, J. K., & **Berger, C.** (2018). Friendship Selection and Influence Processes for Physical Aggression and Prosociality: Differences between Same-Gender and Mixed-Gender Contexts. *Sex Roles*, 78, 625-636. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-017-0818-z>

Poteat, V.P., **Berger, C.** & Dantas, J. (2017). How victimization, climate, and safety around sexual orientation and gender expression relate to truancy. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 14(4), 424-435, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2017.1365037>

Cuadros, O. & **Berger, C.** (2016). The protective role of friendship quality on the wellbeing of adolescents victimized by peers. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 45, 1877-1888. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-016-0504-4>

**Berger, C.,** Lisboa, C., Cuadros, O., & De Tezanos-Pinto, P. (2016). Adolescent peer relations and socioemotional development in Latin America: Translating international theory into local research. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, 152, 45-58. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cad.20161>

Tropp, L., O'Brien, T., González, R., Valdenegro, D., Migacheva, K., de Tezanos-Pinto, P., **Berger, C.,** & Cayul, O. (2016). How school norms, peer norms, and discrimination predict inter-ethnic experiences among ethnic minority and majority youth. *Child Development*, 87, 1436-1451. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12608>

**Berger, C. & Caravita, S. (2016).** Why do early adolescents bully? Exploring the influence of prestige norms on social and psychological motives to bully. *Journal of Adolescence*, 46, 45-56. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2015.10.020>

**Berger, C., Batanova, M. & Cance, J. D. (2015).** Aggressive and prosocial? Examining latent profiles of behavior, social status, machiavellianism, and empathy. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 44, 2230-2244. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-015-0298-9>

Webpage: <http://www.psicologia.uc.cl/persona/christian-berger/>

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### **BRNET New Members!**

BRNET has a current total of 225 members! Welcome to the BRNET, **Drs. Wei, Lee, Beckman, Navarro, & Kim!**

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

BRNET has a current total of 78 'Friends!' Welcome, **Nathalie Noret!**

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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) Post-Doctoral Research Position**

Please refer to the attached PDF for information on a post-doctoral research position with Disability & Psychoeducational Studies in the College of Education at the University of Arizona. This research associate will assist in managing a 3-year project funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Jina Yoon is the primary investigator on this study and will serve as the supervisor. This project will examine the complex ways in which teachers' characteristics, practices, and actions affect (1) students' beliefs and attitudes, (2) the classroom ecology, and (3) victimization and defending behaviors. The postdoc will be involved in all the research aspects of the projects. The position calls for a creative and self-motivated postdoctoral fellow interested in conducting cutting edge research, capable of developing research projects independently, but also capable of working effectively as a team member. Critical and independent thinking is very important for this position, as well as having the ability to analyze data, write manuscripts and proposal grant writing. Postdoc will interact with and supervise graduate and undergraduate students under the direction and supervision of Drs. Jina Yoon, Sheri Bauman, and Russell Toomey.

### **(2) Paper of Interest**

Attached to this email is a PDF of a study examining individual and classroom collective social cognitive processes in relation to bullying perpetration, featuring BRNET members Drs. Thornberg & Hymel.

### **(3) Paper of Interest**

Attached to this email is a PDF of a meta-analytic review of individual and peer-relational characteristics in defending behavior of peer victimization, featuring BRNET members Drs. Ma & Meter.

### **(4) Journal of Child and Family Studies Special Issue**

The Journal of Child and Family Studies is featuring a special issue this month, titled, "Bullying, Peer Victimization, and Child and Adolescent Health." Guest editors of this issue are BRNET members Drs. Jun Sung Hong, Dorothy L. Espelage, and Chad A. Rose. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information.

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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,

Handwritten signature of Shelley Hymel in black ink.

Dr. Shelley Hymel  
University of British Columbia  
BRNET Co-Director

Handwritten signature of Susan Swearer in black ink.

Dr. Susan Swearer  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
BRNET Co-Director