

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT



Dr. David Finkelhor

David Finkelhor is Director of the Crimes against Children Research Center and Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire.

David's research has focused on various forms of violence and abuse in childhood including sexual abuse, physical abuse, homicide, kidnapping, peer and sibling aggression and exposure to domestic violence. He has tried to knit these problems together into a field he has called developmental victimology, showing how the mix and dynamics of exposures change with development. He has drawn attention to the fact that the most negatively affected children are "poly-victims" who are exposed to multiple forms of violence and abuse.

Finkelhor, D. (2008). *Childhood victimization: Violence, crime, and abuse in the lives of young people*. Oxford University Press.
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/childhood-victimization-9780199359158?cc=us&lang=en&>

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R. K., & Turner, H. A. (2007). Poly-victimization: A neglected component in child victimization. *Child abuse & neglect*, 31(1), 7-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2006.06.008>

FEBRUARY / 2024

DEAR BRNET MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES:

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! In our February newsletter, you will find updates from the network.

Be sure to check [our website](#) for additional resources and announcements.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



David has written about several important bullying and peer victimization issues.

- 1) Bullying as child maltreatment. He has urged more attention to bullying and peer victimization among those working on issues of generic child maltreatment and adverse childhood experiences (ACE). His research has demonstrated that peer victimization has developmental effects that are as harmful as parental child maltreatment. He has helped create an ACE measurement tool that includes peer victimization to improve the identification of distressed youth. He has highlighted the close connection between bullying and other kinds of childhood victimization.

Finkelhor, D., Shattuck, A., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. (2015). A revised inventory of adverse childhood experiences. *Child abuse & neglect*, 48, 13-21. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.07.011>

Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K. J., Jones, L. M., & Henly, M. (2020). Strengthening the predictive power of screening for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in younger and older children. *Child abuse & neglect*, 107, 104522. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104522>

Finkelhor, D., Shattuck, A., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. (2013). Improving the adverse childhood experiences study scale. *JAMA pediatrics*, 167(1), 70-75. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104522>

- 2) Peer victimization online. He has urged more attention to peer victimization in the recent online safety field. In several publications, he has pointed out an unfortunate stranger-danger emphasis to a lot of online safety education. (Key warning: "Don't give out personal information.") His group's research shows that acquaintance offenders greatly outnumber strangers, and peer offenders are very common as well, not just for cyberbullying and online harassment but also for online sexual abuse. He has urged incorporating online safety content into existing dating violence and bullying prevention programs, rather than creating new standalone online safety programs.

Finkelhor, D., Walsh, K., Jones, L., Mitchell, K., & Collier, A. (2021). Youth internet safety education: Aligning programs with the evidence base. *Trauma, violence, & abuse*, 22(5), 1233-1247. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020916257>

Finkelhor, D., Walsh, K., Jones, L., Sutton, S., & Opuda, E. (2022). What works to prevent violence against children online? <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240062061>

- 3) New conceptualization of bullying. He has suggested broadening the research and advocacy focus of the field to peer victimization in general and not just bullying. The conventional focus on bullying conceptually excludes many very harmful single episodes of peer aggression like injurious physical assaults, sexual offenses, and bias crimes. He proposed a new concept called aggravated peer victimization and showed that peer aggressions have distinct elevated harm not just due to repetition and power imbalance, but also due to physical injury, sexual content and bias content. It is evident that parents, educators, and child safety advocates are concerned about and try to prevent all these forms of harm, not just the narrower category of bullying behaviors.



Finkelhor, D., Shattuck, A., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. (2016). A behaviorally specific, empirical alternative to bullying: Aggravated peer victimization. *Journal of adolescent health, 59*(5), 496-501.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2016.05.021>

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H. A., & Hamby, S. (2012). Let's prevent peer victimization, not just bullying. *Child abuse & neglect, 36*(4), 271-4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2011.12.001>

David also likes to write humorous songs about doing research on violence and child maltreatment. <https://www.unh.edu/ccrc/david-finkelhors-songs>



BRNET MEMBERS

BRNET has a current total of 277 members from 30 countries.

Please send recommendations for potential BRNET members (i.e., faculty, researchers, and clinicians who are conducting research on bullying or related topics) to Drs. Wendy Craig, Susan Swearer, or to the BRNET Coordinator, at bullyresearchnet@gmail.com.

Additionally, you may direct potential BRNET members toward [our website](#) for further information.

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 that can be posted on the website;
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) or curriculum vitae that can be posted on the website;
5. relevant web-based links you would like to share.

AFFILIATES OF BRNET

BRNET has a current total of 117 affiliates from 19 countries.

Affiliates of BRNET is a group of graduate students, administrators, parents, and individuals who are interested in learning more about the Bullying Research Network. Affiliates of BRNET receive our monthly e-newsletter. If you are interested in becoming an Affiliate of BRNET or want to refer someone to Affiliates of BRNET, please email Catie Carney, the BRNET Coordinator, at bullyresearchnet@gmail.com with the following information: name, title, address, and email address.



AUTHOR EXCHANGE

If you would like to share research articles or other publications to be highlighted in our monthly newsletters, please email Catie Carney at 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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue of *Comunicar*

1

Call for papers for a special issue entitled, "The Role of Teachers and Schools in Reducing Antisocial Cyberbehavior." in *Comunicar*. Manuscripts examining characteristics of teachers and of school guidelines that could prevent or reduce antisocial cyberbehaviours are encouraged. The deadline for submission is February 28, 2024. For more information, please see the attached PDF.



Special Issue of *BMC Public Health*

2

BMC Public Health invites submissions for their special issue on Bullying Prevention. Researchers are encouraged to submit papers addressing school-based educational interventions, workplace awareness and knowledge improvement, promotion of family interventions for parental recognition and support, prevention of bullying in adolescents from disadvantaged households, anti-bullying legislations across social contexts, and community-based interventions targeting risk factors for effective bullying prevention. Submission deadline is August 15, 2024. Please see the attached PDF for more information.





MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Yozgoo: Bullying Prevention Game

3

Dr. Sue Limber (BRNET member, Clemson University) and colleagues have worked with Gamify to help develop Yozgoo, a bullying prevention game. Feel free to contact Dr. Sue Limber (slimber@clemson.edu) for a free 2-week trial of the whole game for educators and researchers.

Yozgoo is a research-based bullying prevention game for elementary and middle school-aged children. Set in a captivating school environment, students embark on a journey to complete 5 quests and create a school atmosphere that rejects bullying. To learn more, see the following link: <https://yozgoo.org>.

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

Dr. Wendy Craig
Queen's University
BRNET Co-Director