More Simply Human than Otherwise

Psychologist Harry Stack Sullivan (1947) wrote: “In most general terms, we are all much more simply human than otherwise, be we happy and successful, contented and detached, miserable and mentally disordered, or whatever” (p. 7). He believed that troubled humans often delude themselves into thinking that they are alienated—alone in the world—that they have problems and concerns unlike those of anyone. This construct, known as the “delusion of uniqueness,” seems to be at the root of school violence—where young people, often alienated from their peers, feeling unconnected with the school community and the world around them, resort to planning and implementing violent acts that win the attention and notoriety of their immediate worlds (and beyond, through constant and thorough media coverage).

This may seem to some an overly simple view of what causes school violence, and, in fact, it is only a small part of the picture. Scholars and practitioners have analyzed the causes of school violence, created and managed programs aimed at preventing violence, and have outlined sophisticated interventions to cope with the devastation of school violence when it occurs. The Journal of School Violence will become a center for this discussion, drawing from the best thinking around the world to discover new solutions to school violence and to use the Internet as creatively as possible to disseminate our discoveries.
THE EDITORIAL TEAM

The editorial team for this venture comes from around the world, some of the leading scholars on the topic. This has been a remarkable, inventive group to know, and over the next few months their views will be widely expressed in the journal along with the views of other scholars across the world who have already expressed interest in contributing to the journal.

Let me speak about the editorial team in place. This journal would not exist were it not for the vision of Dr. Pam Riley, whom I first met when she was the Director of the Center for the Prevention of School Violence. (Pam is now the Executive Director of SAVE–Students Against Violence Everywhere.) Pam’s desire to help others, to make a difference, coupled with here energy and tenaciousness brought me together with the forward looking team at The Haworth Press, led by publisher Bill Cohen, to create a plan for making the Journal of School Violence not only a scholarly product in print but the electronic Internet Center for thinking about the causes, prevention, and intervention.

Joining Pam Riley as an associate editor for the journal is Joanne McDaniel, the current director of the Center for the Prevention of School Violence, whose special skills with managing and analyzing data on school violence will be a valuable resource for the journal.

Because I have purposely put together a large editorial team for this journal, I confess that I do not know everyone well, but here’s what I know so far. (I will get to know each member much better over the next few years.)

First, I have had the privilege of getting to know many scholars around the world associated with marvelous centers, observatories, and institutes that have made impressive contributions to the study of school violence. These scholars (and their affiliations) include:

Ilene R. Berson
Department of Child and Family Studies
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
University of South Florida
13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
berson@fmhi.usf.edu
http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/
Catherine Blaya-Debarbieux  
Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2  
3ter, place de la victoire  
33076 Bordeaux Cedex, France  
obsviolence@aol.com  
http://www.obsviolence.pratique.fr/indexgb.html

Brett E. Chambers  
TechTeach Initiative  
North Carolina Central University  
School of Education  
712 Cecil Street  
Durham, NC 27707  
bchambers@wpo.nccu.edu  
http://www.nccu.edu/

Dewey G. Cornell  
405 Emmet Street  
School of Education  
University of Virginia,  
Charlottesville, VA 22903-2495  
dcornell@virginia.edu  
http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/curry/centers/youthvio/subpages/staff/  
cornell/index.html

Stephanie R. Hawkins  
Research Triangle Institute  
Crime, Justice Policy, and Behavior Program  
3040 Cornwallis Road  
P.O. Box 12194  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194  
hawkins@rti.org  
http://www.rti.org/

Paul Kingery  
The Violence Prevention Network  
vze3yfq7@verizon.net  
http://www.violenceprevention.net
Brenda Morrison  
Centre for Restorative Justice  
Faculty of Law  
Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200  
Australia  
Brenda.Morrison@anu.edu.au  
http://crj.anu.edu.au/people.html

Dr. Egide Royer  
Centre de recherche et d’ intervention sur la reussite scolaire (CRIRES)  
Bureau 1250  
Faculte des sciences de l’éducation  
Universite Laval  
Quebec G1K 7P4  
Canada  
Egide.Royer@fse.ulaval.ca  
http://www.ulaval.ca/sg/annuaires/fac/sed.html

Jeffrey R. Sprague  
Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior  
College of Education  
Postal Code 1265  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1265  
jeffs@oregon.uoregon.edu  
http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ivdb/

Nan D. Stein  
Center for Research on Women  
Wellesley Research Center  
828 Washington Street  
106 Central Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481  
nstein@wellesley.edu  
http://www.wcwonline.org/keypeople/stein.html

Mark D. Weist  
Center for School Mental Health Assistance  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
680 West Lexington Street, 10th Floor
In this group, my special thanks goes to Paul Kingery, former Director of the Hamilton Fish Institute at George Washington University. Paul has introduced me to scholars who in one way or another have been affiliated with this fine Institute. He and his staff have been very encouraging of this new journal venture. Jeffrey Sprague and Dewey Cornell have also given me a variety of interesting leads for collaborators with this journal project. Others in this group, including, Ilene Berson, Stephanie Hawkins, Nan Stein, and Mark Weist have already submitted manuscripts that will soon be published in the journal. Ilene Berson has undertaken a special issue on cyberviolence for the journal. More interesting manuscripts and ideas are to come from Catherine Blaya-Debarbieux, Brett Chambers, Brenda Morrison, and Egide Royer.

Second, I have become acquainted with another group of scholars on the editorial team representing some of the finest universities across the world. These individuals have contributed significantly to our understanding of school violence. They include:

David P. Aday, Jr.
Department of Sociology
P.O. Box 8795
Morton Hall 230
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795
dpaday@wm.edu
http://www.wm.edu/CAS/SOC/Aday.htm

Ron Avi Astor
School of Social Work
School of Education
1080 South University, Room 3692
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106
rastor@umich.edu
http://www.ssw.umich.edu/faculty/rastor.html

Rami Benbenishty
Paul Baerwald School of Social Work
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
msrami@pluto.mscc.huji.ac.il
http://www.sw.huji.ac.il/Staff/home_p/BENBENISHTY, RAMI/
index.shtml

Joan Burstyn
Cultural Foundations of Education
School of Education
350 Huntington Hall
Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13244
jburstyn@syr.edu
http://soeweb.syr.edu/departments/CFE/faculty/

Seymour Feshbach
UCLA Department of Psychology
Franz Hall
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563
sfeshbac@ucla.edu
http://www.psych.ucla.edu/Faculty/feshbac/default.htm

Michael J. Furlong
Graduate School of Education
School Psychology
University of California-Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9490
mfurlong@education.ucsb.edu
http://www.education.ucsb.edu/people/faculty/furlong.html

Shashank V. Joshi
Director, School-based Services
Assistant Director of Residency Training
Div. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Child Development
Stanford University School of Medicine
401 Quarry Road
Stanford, CA 94305-5719
svjoshi@leland.stanford.edu
http://www-cap.stanford.edu/
Rick Lovell  
Criminal Justice Programs, Enderis Hall  
2400 E. Hartford Ave.  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
rolovell@uwm.edu  
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SSW/facstaff/bio/lovell.html

Yohji Morita  
Department of Sociology  
Osaka City University  
3-3-138 Sugimoto Sumiyoshi-ku  
Osaka City 558-8585 Japan  
sociomrt@mahoroba.ne.jp  
http://www.osaka-cu.ac.jp/

Graham Ousey  
Department of Sociology  
University of Kentucky  
529 Patterson Office Tower 0027  
Lexington, KY 40506  
gousey@pop.uky.edu  
http://www.uky.edu/~gousey/

Dawn Schrader  
Department of Education  
407 Kennedy Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
des14@cornell.edu  
http://www.cornell.edu/

Peter K Smith  
Unit for School and Family Studies  
Department of Psychology  
Goldsmiths College  
New Cross  
London SE14 6NW  
England  
pss01pks@gold.ac.uk  
http://www.gold.ac.uk/academic/ps/smith.htm
Hans Steiner  
Division of Child Psychiatry and Child Development  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
401 Quarry Road  
Stanford, CA 94305-5719  
steiner@stanford.edu  
http://www.stanford.edu/group/adolescent.ctr/Research/steiner.html

Nicole Vettenburg  
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
Research group on juvenile criminology  
Hooverplein, 10  
B 3000 Leuven (Belgium)  
http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/studeng/

In this group, special thanks goes to Peter Smith, a leading expert on bullying behavior, who has introduced me to many scholars across the world, some connected with the European Observatory of School Violence. I am also grateful to Ron Astor and Rami Benbenishty whose initiative and splendid ideas and manuscripts have added immeasurably to getting the journal off the ground. Joan Burstyn’s marvelous scholarship and sense of humor as well as Michael Furlong’s uplifting spirit have made a sometimes difficult journey an enjoyable experience. Hans Steiner has introduced me to many important scholars and has contributed to a fine manuscript for the journal. David Aday, Seymour Feshbach, Shashank Joshi, Rick Lovell, Yohji Morita, Graham Öusey, Dawn Schrader, and Nicole Vettenburg have added much encouragement and many ideas during the initiation of the journal.

Next, I also want to acknowledge two long time colleagues of mine from the counseling profession:

Richard Hazler  
Department of Counseling and Higher Education  
McCracken Hall Room 201  
College of Education  
Ohio University  
Athens, OH 45701  
hazler@ohio.edu  
http://www.ohiou.edu/education/faculty/hazler.html
Both Richard Hazler and John Horan have sent manuscripts to launch the journal’s first volume year. I have known John since my doctoral years at Penn State and Richard over my long years of professional affiliation with the American Counseling Association.

Finally, I want to acknowledge some friends whom I have come to know at N.C. State University:

Cheryl L. Mason  
Peabody Hall CB#3500  
School of Education  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599  
clmason@unc.edu  
http://www.unc.edu/depts/ed/

Joan J. Michael  
Department of Psychology  
640-E Poe Hall  
Box 7801  
NC State University  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7801  
joan_michael@ncsu.edu  
http://www.ncsu.edu/psychology/

Raymond Taylor  
NC State University  
Associate Chaplain of St. George’s  
Malaga, Spain  
rtaylor@profsonline.edu  
http://www.profsonline.edu/ncsu/ELP732DE/instructor.htm
Cheryl Mason, while a PhD student at NC State helped launch a marvelous, student-edited, electronic journal, *Meridian: A Middle School Technologies Journal* ([http://www.ncsu.edu/meridian/](http://www.ncsu.edu/meridian/)) that continues to grow and flourish. She has been an invaluable source of ideas for launching the *Journal of School Violence*. Raymond Taylor, Professor Emeritus from NC State and a remarkable researcher and theologian, is among the most creative and interesting individuals I have been privileged to know during my academic career. I have said to him many times how I wish I had met him early in my academic career. Better late than never! Finally, I thank Joan Michael, former Dean of the College of Education at NC State. Her guidance and friendship during my years as Associate Dean and her continuing support have been of much help in developing ideas and direction for this journal.

Welcome to Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Journal of School Violence*. This initial offering reflects the international flavor, the research emphasis, and the creative spirit that we hope will mark new discoveries for preventing school violence and innovative ways to intervene when violence occurs in schools. We invite your comments and your contributions. Please join us as we launch this print and Internet center of invention and discovery.

**REFERENCES**


*Edwin R. Gerler, Jr.*  
North Carolina State University