



# THE BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION

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*The European Editor produced this issue*

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**Editorial**  
**Katja Bertsch**  
**European *Bulletin* Editor**



*Welcome to the December 2019 edition of the **ISRA Bulletin**.*

*It is almost Christmas and I am happy that we were able to collect and present some of this year's ISRA members' achievements and news in the Bulletin! I would like to thank all people who contributed to this edition and would like to invite all of you to submit reports, information, pictures about your recent work, awards, books, and upcoming meetings that might be of interest to ISRA members. For me, 2019 has been an exciting year, as I moved from Heidelberg to Munich building up a new research group and lab.*

*In this **Bulletin**, we will start with messages from our President-Elect, Eric Dubow, our President, Barbara Krahe, our Past-President, Mike Potegal, our Executive Secretary, Dominic Parrot, and the Editor-in-Chief of Aggressive Behavior, Craig Anderson. I would like to particularly thank Eric for his*

report about the regional ISRA meeting in Jerusalem last October – but see yourself – the pictures look fantastic!

*Next, I am happy to present information about the next ISRA World Meeting which will take place in July 2020 in Ottawa, Canada. Thank you, Tracy Vaillancourt for keeping us in the loop and providing us all relevant information regarding the scientific and social program, venue, registration and so on...*

*Following this, I included some information of ISRA members current work: First John Hamel writes about his work on intimate partner violence. Then Wayne Warburton presents a new book on video games and media violence written by Courtney Plante, Craig A. Anderson, Johnie J. Allen, Christopher Groves and Douglas A. Gentile. This is followed by further news about books from ISRA members, awards and prizes won by ISRA members as well as messages from and to ISRA members, and a section on Emerging Aggression Researchers.*

*This is followed by a call for all members to contribute a blog to our website, information about new books by ISRA members, news about ISRA members, and descriptions of the research programs of a few of our emerging aggression researchers. Thanks, Dominic, for your outstanding work and to all of the bloggers – you can find some titles of the most recent postings below!*

*Finally, we included flyers of upcoming meetings and workshops that may be of interest to ISRA members as well as the ISRA Flyer that is designed to describe our Society, increase our exposure, and attract new members; **be sure to share this flyer with your colleagues and students.***

*Please remember that our goal for the **Bulletin** is to keep our members informed of scholarship in the area of aggression and to share each other's work. So, please email me with any materials you would like us to include in the next issue of the **Bulletin**.*

Having said this, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020!  
Best wishes, Katja

**A Message from Our President-Elect  
Eric F. Dubow**



**Greetings, and Happy Holidays 2019!**

Exciting things are happening at ISRA. First, I attended the very successful regional ISRA meeting in Jerusalem at the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus from October 22-24.

We're happy to report that the meeting was well attended: 56 attendees in the following categories: 10 ISRA members (including 6 new or renewing members); 12 non-members from abroad (US, Finland, UK, Luxembourg, Turkey, Serbia); 19 non-members; 7 student members (3 new members); and 8 student non-members.



Tom Gumpel, the local organizer, and Mike Potegal organized a high-quality scholarly conference packed with 5 plenary addresses, 2 symposium sessions, and 10 paper sessions over 2 ½ days. The 5 plenary sessions set the stage for a diverse set of topics: Azar Gat spoke on the historical nature of violence; I presented findings from our longitudinal study (along with Rowell Huesmann, Paul Boxer, Simha Landau, Shira Dvir Gvirsman, and Khalil Shikaki) of Israeli and Palestinian children's exposure to political violence; Mike Potegal reviewed data on the biology of aggression in humans and animals; Paul Frick reviewed findings from his long-term research program on youths' callous-unemotional traits; and Kaj Bjorkqvist reviewed studies on sex differences in human aggression. As we have come to expect from our World Meetings, the topics covered in the regional meeting included aggression in the workplace, family, schools, residential care settings, the media, and between intimate partners; the role of contextual factors including crowding, terrorism, and societal violence; and the role of individual-

personal factors such as social identity, moral disengagement, self-efficacy, and neuro-physiological reactivity. Another highlight was the open discussion on the psychology of evil. And if you didn't attend, you also missed out on some great social activities including a tour of the Old City; a boat ride, swimming, and even *walking* on the Dead Sea; and a closing dinner at a wonderful Palestinian restaurant in East Jerusalem. Thanks to Tom and Mike for a memorable conference!



So, now it's on to planning the next conference, the July 2020 World Meeting in Ottawa, Canada, hosted by local organizers Tracy Vaillancourt, Patti McDougall, and Shelly Hymel. As you'll see in this Bulletin, the meeting will be held from July 28-31 at the University of Ottawa. Mentoring and support for the next generation of aggression researchers continues to be a key goal for ISRA. Dom Parrott and Tom Gumpel are planning the Young Investigators program (see the information on applying for the YI program), and ISRA again has committed funds for Student Travel Awards (see the World Meeting announcement for details). The council members, officers, local organizers, and I are pleased to announce the four distinguished plenary speakers: Brad Bushman (self-esteem, narcissism, and aggression), Wendy Craig (prevention of bullying), Ute Habel (neurobiology of aggression), and Gary Slutkin (reducing gang violence). Their bios are included in the Call for Abstracts in this Bulletin. I'm sure you'll agree this is an amazing group of scholars! Make note of these key dates: **Registration**—will open January 15, 2020; **Symposia proposals**—due February 15, 2020; **Papers/posters proposals**—due March 15, 2020; **YI program applications**—due March 15, 2020. Speaking on behalf of the scientific program committee, we pledge to plan another World Meeting that lives up to ISRA's standards of presenting diverse, cutting-edge research findings. Plus, Ottawa is Canada's beautiful capital, and Tracy, Patti, and Shelley are also planning a social program that you won't want to miss. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for the scientific committee as we continue to plan the World Meeting program. Looking forward to seeing you in Ottawa!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and productive New Year! Eric

## A Message from Our President Barbara Krahé



**Dear ISRA Colleagues and Friends,**

I hope you are all well and looking back on a successful and productive year.

In my message in the summer edition of the Bulletin, I requested your input to three projects that I would like to move forward during my time as ISRA president:

- (1) reaching out to individuals and professional organizations in fields of aggression research and parts of the world that are currently underrepresented in ISRA, and especially looking for promising young researchers in our field,
- (2) putting together a knowledge base of evidence-based interventions that we can offer to other researchers as well as policy makers who strive to reduce aggression and violence in different fields, and
- (3) to propose topics for Expert Statements through which we can introduce state-of-the-art knowledge about aggression into public discourse. Thank you very much to all who have responded to this request. Your input is much appreciated and will be put to good use in the coming weeks and months.

As you can see from the information in this Bulletin, the Call for Submissions for the 2020 World Meeting in Ottawa is now out. All members will also receive a personal email announcing the call and inviting them to the meeting. When you receive that email, please take a moment to think about the names of colleagues and/or collaborators who are not yet involved in ISRA as members or contributors to our meetings but who would be great members to have in the Society, bearing in mind the goal of broadening the range of disciplines and regions.

**To do:** Please forward the Call for Submissions to at least 1 or 2 colleagues who are not currently part of the ISRA community and invite them to join as members and/or contributors to the Ottawa meeting. Please also think about young researchers who are at the beginning of their career and whom we hope to keep committed to exciting, high-quality research on aggression by offering them a welcoming and stimulating environment in ISRA.

In this context, you may be interested to hear that we are currently working on a revision of the membership fees to bring them in line with the World Bank classification of countries, so that members from middle- and low-income countries will pay reduced fees. Provided the initiative is approved by the Council and the membership at the Ottawa meeting, it will come into effect

from 2021 onwards. And if you have further ideas to increase the appeal of ISRA as a professional home for aggression researchers around the world, please drop me a line.

I very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Ottawa meeting next summer. For now, I wish you and your families a happy holiday season and all the best for 2020!

Cordially,  
Barbara Krahé

**A Message from our Past-President  
Mike Potegal**



The regional ISRA meeting at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem over 2 1/2 days in October was a great success with a range of topics being covered, from intimate partner violence and bullying to chemosignals modulating human aggression and reconciliation. High points among the 40+ presentations included Azar Gat's opening plenary overview of aggression in human history and Paul Frick's up to date summary of outstanding research on callous-unemotional traits as precursors of aggression. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a background to life in Israel, as attested to by the armed Israeli soldiers on the streets and public transportation, and was addressed in the meeting by a number of presentations, including one featuring a video of a street attack as well as symposia organized by Eric Dubow and others on the effects of chronic violence on society in general and on Israeli and Palestinian youth in particular. A new feature of the meeting was an open workshop on evil hosted by Tom Gumpel & Mike Potegal in which opinions were exchanged on what behaviors might be defined as evil and whether it could be defined at all from a scientific perspective. We look forward to organizing a similar workshop in Ottawa in 2020. One set of presentations ended with a video of a thrilling drum-therapy session for individuals with combat related PTSD.

Tom was a wonderful host and guide, organizing trips to the Dead Sea and to the old city for those who were interested. As advertised, the food at the final banquet and elsewhere in Jerusalem was great. Tom is looking forward to developing future meetings among Israeli aggression researchers and their colleagues, We wish him success.

## A Message from our Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott



### Greetings ISRA Colleagues!

'Tis the Season to renew your ISRA membership! All 2019 members should have received an email with instructions for how to renew your membership. As in the recent past, annual memberships can be renewed entirely online. ISRA's annual membership dues remain extremely low relative to other scientific societies, and (among other benefits) include an electronic subscription to *Aggressive Behavior* as well as discounted website design and development services from our friends at Science Sites (<https://www.sciencesites.org/>), a nonprofit organization specializing in building digital platforms to facilitate the communication of scientific research. Please renew your membership soon! And encourage your colleagues, peers, and students to join ISRA!

It is also that time of the biennium to begin preparing for the upcoming World Meeting in Ottawa. You can find the "Call for Submissions" in this issue of the Bulletin as well as on the World Meeting webpage. I'd also like to call your attention to two key initiatives for junior scholars that ISRA will continue to support at the 2020 World Meeting.

First, for the World Meeting in Paris, ISRA supported **student travel awards** that provided partial financial support to students to attend the 2018 World Meeting. As I reported in a prior Bulletin, approximately \$10,000 was awarded to 38 students from around the world. I'm happy to announce that ISRA is making a similar commitment in 2020. I encourage all eligible students to apply for this award!

Second, Tom Gumpel and I are extremely proud to co-chair the **Young Investigators Program** for the 2020 World Meeting. Application instructions can be found on the World Meeting webpage. ISRA began its Young Investigators (YI) Program at the 2008 World Meeting in Budapest to encourage and assist young scholars who are getting started or are in the early stages of their aggression research career. In that spirit, we encourage graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty within 3 years of their terminal graduate degree to apply for the program. In addition to receiving funding to attend the World Meeting, the 2020 YI class will participate in a pre-conference Workshop that includes didactic and group activities designed to support and facilitate YIs professional development and, ultimately, research-based career trajectories. Activities will include a focus on manuscript and grant writing, reviewing and evaluating research, strategies for building a research program, and being competitive on the job market. There will also be numerous opportunities to network with senior aggression scholars.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Parrott'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dominic Parrott, ISRA Executive Secretary

## A Message from the Editor-in-Chief of Aggressive Behavior Craig Anderson



**Hello again, ISRA friends and colleagues.**

The end of this calendar year also denotes the end of my first year as Editor-in-Chief of *Aggressive Behavior*. It has been an interesting year, largely because of the fascinating variety of manuscripts that have been submitted. We've had a few changes in Associate Editor. Justin Carré stepped down as an AE for *Aggressive Behavior* in order to take on similar duties for *Hormones and Behavior*. Many thanks to Justin for his years of excellent service for us, and good luck with the new journal. We added two new AEs. Christopher Barlett, of Gettysburg College (USA) joined our editorial team in January, and S. Alexandra Burt (Alex) joined us in August (Michigan State University, USA). The other continuing AEs are Tom Denson (U. of New South Wales, Australia), Jane Ireland (U. of Central Lancashire, UK), and Tracy Vaillancourt (U. Ottawa, Canada). I hope to add one more AE in the coming year, to broaden our range of expertise, to reduce the load on the team, and thereby to further reduce the turn-around time on manuscripts.

As promised last year, we haven't made any major changes to the journal. As I noted in last December's *Bulletin*, we adopted the wise albeit grammatically challenged philosophy of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." One minor change is that we (mostly me, as Editor-in-Chief) have slightly increased the proportion of new manuscripts that are triaged, that is, rejected without being sent out for review. There are several reasons for doing so, including getting feedback as quickly as possible to authors of papers that have little to no chance of being published. In many such cases, we are able to provide concrete suggestions to the authors that could result in high quality papers, such as the need to add a specific study to rule out key alternative interpretations. I can think of at least two such cases in which the authors of an initially triaged manuscript did as suggested, and then submitted a new paper that was subsequently accepted.

My editorial team and I thank our Consulting Editors and all of the *ad hoc* reviewers for their assistance in helping authors and the editorial team to keep *Aggressive Behavior* as a leading journal publishing high quality research. We couldn't do it without you. Finally, I thank the folks at Wiley for patiently dealing with my many ignorance-based questions about how to navigate through the Scholar One manuscript system, and for keeping me on track with the various tasks required to publish the journal.

Regards,

Craig



## The 2020 ISRA World Meeting in Ottawa, Canada, July 28-31

Dear ISRA members and friends,

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to Ottawa next summer for the 2020 ISRA World Meeting. We have an excellent scientific program organized that includes experts on diverse topics related to aggression. We are also happy to announce that our social program will include a barbeque gala dinner under a huge tent in the heart of uOttawa's campus. Please tell you colleagues, coworkers, as well as new investigators about ISRA 2020 and actively participate at the meeting by submitting symposia, talks, or posters. Please find all relevant information about the meeting below as well as at <https://www.isra2020.ca/>. See you in Ottawa!

Tracy, Patti, and Shelley

### Call for Submissions | ISRA 2020 | July 28-31



## Local Hosts



**Tracy Vaillancourt, Ph.D.**  
Full Professor and Tier 1  
Canada Research Chair,  
Counselling Psychology,  
Faculty of Education and  
School of Psychology, Faculty  
of Social Sciences  
Brain and Mind Research  
Institute  
University of Ottawa



**Patti McDougall, Ph.D.**  
Vice Provost, Teaching,  
Learning, and Student  
Experience  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Psychology  
University of Saskatchewan



**Shelley Hymel, Ph.D.**  
Edith Lando Professorship in  
Social-Emotional Learning  
Department Head,  
Educational and Counselling  
Psychology, and Special  
Education, Faculty of  
Education, University of  
British Columbia

## Call for Abstracts and Symposia

Submission portal—will open January 15, 2020: [www.w-lab.de/isra2020](http://www.w-lab.de/isra2020)

Symposia proposals—due February 15, 2020

Papers/posters proposals—due March 15, 2020

YI program applications—due March 15, 2020

## Registration Dates

Early registration begins February 1, 2020 (reduced fees)

Late registration begins July 1, 2020 (additional fees)

ISRA World Meeting: July 27 to 31, 2020

## Fees

World Meeting Registration Fees per Person (Canadian Dollars, \$)

Type	With BBQ Gala Dinner			Without BBQ Gala Dinner		
	Early	Late	On-Site	Early	Late	On-Site
Member	\$450	\$510	NA	\$420	\$480	\$500
Non-Member	\$530	\$590	NA	\$500	\$560	\$590
Member-Student	\$220	\$280	NA	\$190	\$250	\$270
Accompanying persons BBQ gala dinner only	\$75	\$95	NA	NA	NA	NA

## Social Program

Monday	Opening reception
Tuesday	Optional dinner cruise on Ottawa River
Wednesday	Free night
Thursday	Presidential address and cocktail hour + free museum trip
Friday	Barbeque gala dinner & Sound and Light Show, Parliament Hill

## Meeting Venue

University of Ottawa, 145 Jean-Jacques-Lussier Private, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5 Canada  
[www.uottawa.ca](http://www.uottawa.ca)

The University of Ottawa (uOttawa) is the largest French–English bilingual university in the world, with 10 faculties and 43,000 students registered for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral studies. uOttawa ranks among the top 10 leading research universities in Canada and is a proud member of the [U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities](#) representing Canada’s top research-intensive universities.

Our beautiful campus is located at the heart of the capital of Canada, a G8 nation. On the main campus, adjacent to the world-famous Rideau Canal, guests will find themselves surrounded by century-old buildings and state-of-the-art new construction, all on lovely open grounds. Holding a conference on our campus allows attendees to walk to Parliament Hill, several national museums, the Byward Market, shops and boutiques, as well as many restaurants offering a wide variety of cuisines.

## Scientific Program – Call for Papers

The scientific program of the 2020 World Meeting aims to represent multidisciplinary research on aggressive behavior. The foundation of the scientific program will include oral paper presentations, poster sessions, and invited talks. The World Meeting will also include a pre-conference workshop for young investigators from all around the world; a presidential symposium; the [Scott Award Address](#); our plenary distinguished keynote speakers to discuss their varied perspectives and different levels of analyses in the study of aggression; networking opportunities; and a meeting of members. We invite you to register for the World Meeting and submit abstracts for symposia, oral presentations, and/or poster presentations on the World Meeting registration and submission portal: [www.isra2020.ca](http://www.isra2020.ca)

### Further Information

Visit [www.isra2020.ca](http://www.isra2020.ca) for more information.

### Young Investigators Program

ISRA began its YI Program at the 2008 World Meeting in Budapest to encourage and assist young scholars who are getting started or are in the early stages of their aggression research career. The YI program at the July 2020 meeting in Ottawa, Canada, will continue this tradition via a focus on supporting and facilitating the professional development of young aggression scholars. The YI Program will include:

1. A Pre-Conference YI Workshop (July 27, 2020 – 12pm-4pm): The 2020 Workshop will bring together YIs and group leaders to engage in didactic and group activities designed to support and facilitate YIs professional development and, ultimately, research-based career trajectories. Activities will include a focus on manuscript and grant writing, reviewing and evaluating research, strategies for building a research program, and being competitive on the job market. YIs will be encouraged to read assigned articles prior to the Workshop and submit their own work (e.g., a manuscript or grant proposal in preparation) to be discussed in the Workshop.
2. Meet with mentors: YIs will meet with a different panel of senior mentors during lunch or dinner each day for informal discussion. Mentors may include plenary speakers who will be available for follow-up questions about their presentations.
3. Networking: YIs will meet with senior members of ISRA. They will also have opportunities to interact professionally and socially with other young investigators during and outside of the pre-conference workshop. Mutual support and fruitful collaborations have developed out of past YI interactions.
4. Financial support: Awardees will receive partial monetary support to attend the 2020 ISRA World Meeting.

## YI PROGRAM APPLICATION: WHO AND HOW (Deadline March 15, 2020)

We encourage graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career faculty within 3 years of their terminal graduate degree to apply. The YI Review Committee selects YI participants based on the originality and promise of their work in human or animal, observational, experimental, or theoretical analyses of aggression.

Please submit the following materials via email to YI Co-Chair Dominic Parrott at [parrott@gsu.edu](mailto:parrott@gsu.edu) by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

1. The **abstract** of the scientific work you have submitted for presentation at the ISRA 2020 meeting.
  - a. *Note: You will submit this abstract twice: (1) A formal submission through the World Meeting submission portal (be sure to check the box to indicate that you wish to be considered for the YI Program), and (2) inclusion of this same abstract as part of your overall YI application materials submitted via email as indicated above.*
2. A standard **Curriculum Vitae**
3. A **250-word statement** summarizing your research interests and how participating in the YI Program would advance your professional development.
4. **Predoctoral students only:** Please include a letter from your advisor verifying your student status.

Direct any questions about the Young Investigators Program to YI Co-Chair Dominic Parrott at [parrott@gsu.edu](mailto:parrott@gsu.edu). Interested applicants can find more information about the Young Investigators Program and previous YI's on the [ISRA website](#) and at the [Young Investigator's Corner](#).

### Student Travel Awards

Students who first author any presentation at the World Meeting can apply for a monetary award to support their travel to the World Meeting. Applicants must indicate that they wish to be considered for a travel award when they submit their abstract. A current CV must also be sent to [israpych@bgsu.edu](mailto:israpych@bgsu.edu).

## Plenary Speakers



**Dr. Brad J. Bushman** is a Professor of Communication at The Ohio State University. For over 30 years he has studied aggression and violence. He was a member of President Obama’s committee on gun violence, and has testified before the U.S. Congress on youth violence. In 2014 he received the Distinguished Lifetime Contribution to Media Psychology and Technology from the American Psychological Association. In 2017 he received the Kurt Lewin Award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues for “outstanding contributions to the development and integration of psychological research and social action” (with Craig Anderson). He has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, which have been cited over 40,000 times. His research has challenged several myths (e.g., guns make people safer, venting anger reduces aggression, aggressive people suffer from low self-esteem) exposure to violent media has a trivial effect on aggression). A colleague calls him the “myth buster.”



**Dr. Wendy Craig** is a leading international scientist and expert on bullying prevention and the promotion of healthy relationships. As co-founder and Scientific Director of PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network), she has transformed our understanding of bullying and effectively translated the science into evidence-based practise, intervention, and policy. In recognition of her work, she has won numerous awards such as the Canadian Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contributions to Community Service, the Queen’s Excellence in Research Prize, and the Order of Ontario. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and was recently awarded the Order of Canada for her work on bullying, victimization, and knowledge mobilization. She is a professor and Head of the Department of Psychology, Queen’s University.



**Dr. Ute Habel** received her PhD in Psychology at the University of Tübingen. She did her postdoctoral lecture qualification in Vienna, Austria and has become professor for neuropsychological gender studies in 2009 at the Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics of the Medical Faculty, RWTH Aachen University. She is head of section Neuropsychology in this department as well as the Director at the INM 10, Forschungszentrum Jülich - Joint JARA-BRAIN Institute: Brain Structure-Function Relationships of RWTH Aachen and Forschungszentrum Jülich. Her research focus lies on neurobiological correlates of emotion, specifically aggression and impulsivity in the recent years and social cognition as well as gender differences in healthy individuals and psychiatric patients. She is speaker of the International Research Training Group funded by the DFG in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA “The Neuroscience of Modulating

Aggression and Impulsivity in Psychopathology”. Since 2018 she has been elected Vice Rector for International Affairs at RWTH Aachen University.



**Dr. Gary Slutkin, M.D.** is the Founder of Cure Violence Global (one of the top ranked NGOs in the world), Professor of Epidemiology and International Health at the University of Illinois/Chicago School of Public Health, and former head of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Intervention Development Unit. He received his M.D. from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, and did his internship and residency at San Francisco General Hospital. He served as Medical Director for the Tuberculosis Program for the San Francisco Health Department (1981 – 1985), where he learned infectious disease control methods, and from 1987 to 1994 worked for the World Health Organization reversing epidemics. He applied lessons learned from more than a decade fighting epidemics in Africa and Asia to the creation of a public health model to reduce violence through behaviour change and disease control methods. He is an Ashoka Fellow, a Professor of Epidemiology and International Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a senior advisor to the World Health Organization and the 2009 Winner of the Search for a Common Ground Award. Recognized as an innovator in violence prevention, Dr. Slutkin has presented his solution-oriented understanding to the World Bank, the State Department, the World Health Organization, the Institute of Medicine, MIT SaxeLab, Harvard Law School and the National Intelligence Council. His Cure Violence Model has led to reductions in shootings in some of the most violent cities in the U.S. and internationally.

(Compiled from [https://www.who.int/violenceprevention/about/participants/cure\\_violence/en/](https://www.who.int/violenceprevention/about/participants/cure_violence/en/))

## **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Perpetrator Groups: Client Engagement and the Role of Facilitators**

*Note by the editor:*

John Hamel has worked on several research projects related to evidence-based practice in the area of intimate partner abuse perpetrator treatment, also known as batterer intervention. He has published a row of book chapters and journal articles on this topic (see below) . The first findings from a worldwide survey of perpetrator programs he conducted with colleagues at Tulane University and University of California at Davis are currently in press. He is also conducting a field study of perpetrator programs that focuses on the relationship between the quality of group facilitation and client engagement and motivation and was recently awarded with the 2019 Outstanding Papers by Emerald Publishing for his review of the intimate partner homicide literature and is the founder of the Association of Domestic Violence Intervention Providers (ADVIP), a web-based association of domestic violence scholars and treatment providers (with 217 members in 18 countries worldwide; <https://domesticviolenceintervention.net/>)

*by John Hamel*

Multiple reasons have been given for the weak treatment effects of domestic violence perpetrator programs, also known as batterer intervention programs (BIPs). Given that recidivism rates are significantly higher among program drop-outs, it would make sense to identify factors than increase client engagement in the group process. Findings from randomized clinical trial (RCT) research indicates that the application of Motivational Interviewing and similar client-centered principles to the group process strengthen the working alliance between client and facilitator and predict greater group compliance. A separate line of methodologically-sound ethnographic research has been conducted by various investigators, in which male BIP clients were interviewed about their group experiences. BIP clients favor facilitators who are caring and committed; are non-judgmental; maintain a safe, working group environment; are honest, humble and genuine; are willing to challenge client behaviors, but in non-confrontational in respectful, non-confrontational ways; and who are knowledgeable about IPV and able to provide information and tools with which to change

From these findings, we developed a questionnaire, the Client Rating of Facilitator (CRF) that enumerates those qualities. We created another client questionnaire, the Client Perceived Benefits of Group (CPDBG), to measure improvements in areas of functioning that are may be related to, or an essential requirement for violence desistance – e.g., better impulse control, acquisition of pro-social interpersonal skills, and increased self-efficacy. We are currently administering these questionnaires to clients in approximately 40 BIPs in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. As part of the study, we also we are also asking group facilitators to rate each client’s level of engagement with the Group Engagement Measure (GEM), and are directing each facilitator to take the short-form NEO personality questionnaire online. We want to know the following:



1. Do CRF ratings correlate with GEM ratings? For example, when a group member gives a high positive rating to a facilitator's group leadership abilities, is the facilitator likely to rate that member as positively engaged in group?
2. How well do GEM ratings predict outcomes on the CPBG measure, compared to CRF?
3. Do any NEO category correlate with CRF or GEM ratings, or with the DPBG outcome measure?

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Hamel, J. (in press). Beyond gender: Evidence-based batterer intervention. In B. Russell (Ed.), *Gender and Sexual Orientation: Understanding Power Dynamics in Intimate Partner Violence*. New York: Springer.

Hamel, J. (2019.) The evolution of evidence-based treatment for domestic violence perpetrators. In E. A. Bates & J. C. Taylor (Eds.), *Intimate Partner Violence: New Perspectives in Research and Practice* (pp. 89-106). Routledge.

Hamel, J. & Sonkin, D. (2018). Domestically violent offenders: Treatment approaches. In: R. Morgan (Ed.), *The Sage encyclopedia of criminal psychology*. Thousand Oak, CA: Sage.

Hamel, J. (2017). Understanding and intervening with partner abuse. In: J.L. Ireland, C.A. Ireland, N. Gredecki & M. Fisher (Eds.), *Routledge International Handbook of Forensic Psychology in Secure Settings* (pp. 362-373). Routledge, Abingdon: Oxon.

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Hamel, J., Cannon, C., Buttell, R., & Ferreira, R. (in press). A survey of IPV perpetrator treatment providers: Ready for evidence-based practice? *Partner Abuse*.

Hamel, J. (2019). Intimate partner violence: Gender issues and the adjudication of homicide and other cases. *Criminological Research Policy and Practice*.

Sonkin, D., Hamel, J., Ferreira, R., Buttell, F., & Frietas, M. (2019). The relationship between attachment anxiety, attachment avoidance and psychological violence in a sample of male and female court-mandated batterers. *Violence and Victims*, 34 (6).

## Book Review

by Wayne Warburton

### *Game On! Sensible Answers about Video Games and Media Violence*

Authors: Courtney Plante, Craig A. Anderson, Johnie J. Allen, Christopher Groves and Douglas A. Gentile.

Print version: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B082W2672K>

Electronic version: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1700281941>

This book makes a unique contribution to the media violence literature by using a format designed to appeal to a wider range of lay readers and professionals than previous books in this field. Specifically, this book answers 57 questions around video game use (most are about media violence but some address video gaming disorders) in a Q&A format with each question being addressed with both a short and a long answer. The short answer is brief and in plain language. The long answers tend to be quite long, using lay language too, but going into far more detail about the scientific underpinnings for the answers given.

In such a book, which will likely attract the criticism of researchers opposed to the idea that video game play can have any non-trivial negative impact on the player, it is important to be objective, scientific and moderate, and this book does find a well-informed middle ground. It deals with a number of contentious issues (e.g., studies that find no effects; catharsis; direction of causality; use of laboratory aggression measures; whether media violence effects can be proven conclusively) in a moderate and measured way that is careful not to extend arguments beyond the borders of known research findings.

In structure this book has a general introduction and six chapters – understanding what aggression and violence are and how they link to violent video games; issues related to the player and their psychology; misconceptions about media violence research; possible positive and negative impacts of violent video game exposure; parenting digital media; and bigger picture issues. Across such topics it is hard to know just what questions are important to potential readers and how they should be grouped. In my view, the questions addressed in this book cover a fair representation of the questions I hear from parents and professionals who work with children, although no book can cover every question, and there are some questions for which there is insufficient research evidence to provide an evidence-based answer. Bearing such limitations in mind, this book should be a valuable resource to parents, professionals and policy makers wanting to make evidence-based decisions about video game use.

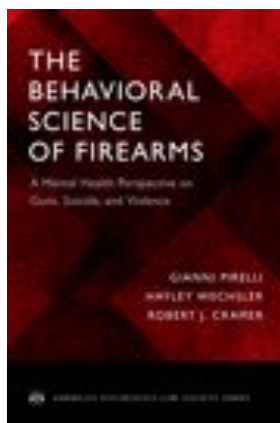
The authors note that their aims are to produce an accessible, scientifically accurate resource; that this resource corrects misinformation about media violence and puts the authors research into the world where it can make a difference; and that the content meets a public demand. For me the book meets the first three aims well, with the 4<sup>th</sup> to be determined once it is published.

Most notably, Craig has been at the forefront of media violence research for decades, as has Doug, and their thorough and nuanced understanding of media violence effects, along with the contributions of the other authors, underlie a series of valuable insights that should help readers make sense of the current miasma of misinformation, selective reporting and self-serving material that currently muddies public understanding of this debate. Indeed, Courtney, Craig and the team are at their best addressing this ‘debate’, putting it into context, pointing out concordances with similar ‘debates’ (such as tobacco and climate change), and providing incisive and clear insights, all backed by scientific findings.

In my view *Game On! Sensible Answers about Video Games and Media Violence* will be an accessible, affordable, valuable, evidence-based resource for parents, professionals who work with children, and, dare we hope, policy makers.

## News About ISRA Members

### New Books and Articles



Pirelli, G., Wechler, H., and Cramer, R. J. (2018) *The Behavioral Science of Firearms. A Mental Health Perspective on Guns, Suicide, and Violence*. New York: Oxford University Press.

The following reviews are from:

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-behavioral-science-of-firearms-9780190630430?cc=us&lang=en&>

"Too often the intersection of the topics of firearms and mental illness is the subject of misconceptions or approached with political partisanship. Dr. Pirelli and his colleagues have provided a thorough and apolitical exposition of the history and many clinical, legal, and behavioral issues associated with the topics of firearms and behavioral health. This book is a welcome addition to the new, cutting edge literature that relies on research evidence, some designed and conducted by the authors themselves, to examine and draw conclusions regarding best practices in managing the public health problems presented by violence, suicide, and firearms." --*Liza Gold, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Georgetown University School of Medicine*

"This is a timely, thoughtful, and encyclopedic analysis of firearms for mental health practitioners. Striving to be even-handed and objective, the authors carefully navigate the many controversies over firearms research, law, and policy. They present the social and cultural factors supporting gun ownership yet also review research on the role of guns in domestic violence, suicide, and mass murder. They break new ground in forensic mental health assessment for questions of firearms ownership and safety that can arise in many different legal contexts." --*Dewey Cornell, Ph.D., Forensic clinical psychologist and Bunker Professor of Education, Director, Virginia Youth Violence Project, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia*



**EVIDENCE-BASED  
WORK WITH VIOLENT  
EXTREMISTS**



**Herzog-Evans, M. and Benbouriche M. (Eds.) (2019). *Evidence-Based Work with Violent Extremists: International Implications of French Terrorist Attacks and Responses*. London, UK: Lexington Books - An Imprint of Rowman & Littlefield.**

The following reviewers are from:

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498581653/Evidence-Based-Work-with-Violent-Extremists-International-Implications-of-French-Terrorist-Attacks-and-Responses>

Problem-oriented, evidence-based and theoretically-informed, this text sets a benchmark for our understanding of the treatment and management of violent extremism. Academics, practitioners and policy-makers alike will benefit greatly from this edited collection.

— *Paul Gill, University College London*

This is an outstanding book on an important and difficult subject. The editors and contributors draw on French and international experience to argue for a criminologically informed and evidence-based approach to violent extremism. Recent attacks have featured ‘home-grown’ perpetrators with often quite extensive criminal backgrounds who have much in common with other offenders, so criminological frameworks for understanding and intervention are promising. The nineteen chapters are presented in three sections covering theoretical background, the French context and ‘reacting to violent extremism’, which includes official actions to manage and reduce threats as well as the possibility of evidence-based intervention with individual offenders. The contributors deploy expertise in psychology, social psychology, criminology, political science, sociology, law, religious studies and evidence-based methods, and together they achieve an ambitious and highly successful interdisciplinary. The book draws additional authority from the fact that the editors and many of the contributors were involved in developing an evidence-based program for use with violent and potentially violent extremists, and they provide an account of its design and rationale. They also give a clear description of the real-world obstacles which, as often happens, obstructed full implementation of the program. Overall this unusually comprehensive collection will be an essential resource for researchers, policy developers and practitioners in this challenging field.

— *Peter Raynor, Swansea University*

Herzog-Evans and Benbouriche have assembled an international panel of scholars that challenge the mainstream perspective of violent extremism as being largely a product of ideological and religious beliefs. The book persuasively argues that terrorists share many of the features of violent criminal offenders and therefore, criminological theories and interventions have much to offer in our understanding of terrorism. Although the title of the book suggests that the content

may be more specific to a French perspective of extremism (France is used mainly as an illustration), this edited collection truly has significant implications for the international community. This highly readable book should be required reading for researchers, policy-makers, legislators and anyone interested in this modern threat to social stability.

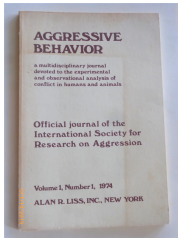
— James Bonta, *Corrections Research, Public Safety Canada* and co-author of *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct*

## Awards and Prices

**Brad Bushman** was made a Fellow of the American Psychological Association "for his outstanding and unusual contributions to the science and profession of Psychology".

**John Hamel** was awarded an Award for Excellence – 2019 Outstanding Papers by Emerald Publishing for my review of the intimate partner homicide literature, published in *Criminological Research Policy and Practice*.

## Messages from and to ISRA Members



**A message from Roger Johnson PhD, Professor Emeritus, San Clemente, California:** Would anyone want an almost complete set of the official ISRA journal, *Aggressive Behavior*, going back to Vol. 1, No. 1, 1974?

I was hoping to donate them to a researcher, library, or department which does not have the journal or the resources to subscribe. It would be about 3 heavy cartons. Please contact me: [r66nj@yahoo.com](mailto:r66nj@yahoo.com)

**A message from Christopher Barlett, PhD, Gettysburg College:** My name is Dr. Christopher Barlett, and my colleague, Dr. Robin Kowalski, and I are doing **two meta-analyses that we are requesting data for**. The first meta-analysis is looking at the **predictors of cyberbullying perpetration** (e.g., any personality variable, beliefs about cyberbullying or aggression, traditional and cyber forms of perpetration and victimization, time spent online, etc.) while controlling for traditional bullying perpetration. The second meta-analysis is looking at the **consequences of cyber-victimization** (e.g., depression, anxiety, anger, suicide ideation, etc.) while controlling for traditional bullying victimization.

Thus, we are requesting any published or unpublished work that you think may be suitable to fit both or either meta-analysis. The data needs to have a measure of cyberbullying perpetration (or victimization), traditional bullying perpetration (or victimization), and any predictor or outcome. If you have any data to contribute, please send an email to Dr. Chris Barlett ([cbarlett@gettysburg.edu](mailto:cbarlett@gettysburg.edu)) with any information. The plan is to start data analysis on this work at the beginning of January.

## Emerging Aggression Researchers

**Gabe Casher, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Carbondale (Supervisor: Lisabeth F. DiLalla).**

My name is Gabe Casher, and I am currently completing my predoctoral internship in child clinical psychology at Denver Health Medical Center in Denver, CO. I will receive my PhD from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in August 2019. My graduate research has been within the Southern Illinois Twins/Triplets and Siblings Study (SITSS), under the guidance of Dr. Lisabeth DiLalla. My program of research has focused on genetic and environmental contributors to externalizing behavior in preschool and school-aged children, which translates well to my clinical work in outpatient and integrated medical settings. Last year, I presented findings to the Midwestern Psychological Association from a study demonstrating that interactions between birth complications and genetic risk predicted children's ADHD symptoms (Casher, Jamnik, Diaz, McCrary, & DiLalla, 2018). My dissertation, which I defended in May 2019, addressed longitudinal relationships between sleep problems, genetic factors, and externalizing problems in school-aged twins. My dissertation also focused on interactions between genetic and environmental factors, and results were consistent with differential susceptibility models in predicting externalizing behavior. In September 2019, I will begin a postdoctoral fellowship in infant mental health and integrated behavioral health at the University of Colorado/Children's Hospital Colorado. I am excited to continue applying my research experience to my clinical work, which will focus on early screening, prevention, and intervention for infants, young children, and families. My long-term ambition is to use my research experience to guide a career in clinical work, including program development and implementation, especially in integrated medical settings (e.g., pediatric primary care).

## **Contribute to the ISRA Website by Writing a Blog!**

ISRA's new website is now just over one year old. Our goal is for the site to become a nexus for interchange on aggressive behavior among scholars & researchers. We typically post 1-2 new blog posts per month, the links for which are then disseminated via Twitter and Facebook. Indeed, ISRA has cultivated a growing audience on these social media platforms whom we can reach immediately. Blog length can range from several paragraphs to a page or more. Please see <http://www.israsociety.com/blog/> to see the archive that has developed over the 18 months!

ISRA is open to our members' ideas about the topic of a proposed blog post. We respect your time and want this contribution to be of minimal burden to you. So, we would suggest that you not prepare something completely new; rather, it should be a blog that is relatively easy for you to write, based in works you have already published, etc. (it can even be in collaboration with a colleague or a student). In the end, it should be a piece that would be easily digestible by scholars and the public. For those of you who might wonder, "How do I write a blog?" – well, we can even provide you with a blog about how to write a blog!

If you are interested, please contact ISRA Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott at [parrott@gsu.edu](mailto:parrott@gsu.edu) and let him know a topic that would work well for you and a month during the upcoming year that you would like to submit it for dissemination on the ISRA website.

### **Some notable blogs from the past few months include:**

Anger, Aggression, and Violence: It Matters That We Know the Difference, by Channelle Tarabay and Wayne Warburton

The Impact of Violent Video Games on the Player's Social Network, by Tobias Greitemeyer

Lean Back and Relax, by Johannes Lutz





## THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION

*Founded in 1972*

### ISRA: an Interdisciplinary Society

*ISRA*, the International Society for Research on Aggression, founded in 1972, is an international interdisciplinary, organization dedicated to the study and dissemination of information on the causes and consequences of aggressive behavior and violence in all of its forms and contexts.

### The Social Burden of Violence

The human capacity for aggressiveness and violence inflicts a considerable burden on society. Obviously, it can lead to death and immediate physical injury, but it also creates long-term physical and emotional disabilities. In addition, violence has a profound effect on those who witness it, such as the families and communities of the victims. Moreover, it impairs the ability of communities to address important public health issues, such as infectious diseases, malnutrition, urban decay, and environmental hazards. Violence and aggression often prevents the delivery of critical public services, such as emergency management and education. Such effects on society tend to exacerbate the very adverse social conditions that promote aggression, facilitating a vicious circle, with violence as a crucial factor.

home page: <http://www.israsociety.com/>

### ISRA's Core Mission

Effectively addressing violence and aggression, whether it be child abuse, domestic violence, homicide, terrorism, sexual violence, or civil wars, requires a sustained focus by international scientists. *ISRA's principal mission* since 1972 is to show that aggression and violence, as well as alternative ways to resolve conflicts, can be successfully studied using scientific methods.

### Members, Meetings and Media

- *ISRA* members gather for *World Meetings* every other year on alternating continents.
- All members receive *Aggressive Behavior* the official journal of ISRA at a discount.
- Members receive the *ISRA E-Bulletin*.

### From Understanding to Solutions

Finding solutions to the pervasive consequences of aggression, requires a multidisciplinary approach. To understand the complex causes, our research addresses brain and other physical processes that underlie the human capacity for violence and the psychological processes that facilitate violent actions. Strategies providing alternatives to violence are studied together with the social factors that serve to promote or prevent violent behavior. Importantly, students of aggression studies are increasingly moving beyond the simple awareness of new results in other disciplines, to develop important research approaches that span multiple disciplines. As a result, novel areas of synergy and convergence

between different disciplines and methodologies emerge. *ISRA meetings* and media provide the forum and the multidisciplinary audience.

**Join ISRA & Turn page! ►**

## A Multidisciplinary Society

*ISRA* is home to virtually all scientific disciplines interested in aggression and violence, such as psychology, neuroscience, anthropology, animal behavior, endocrinology, primatology, psychiatry, genetics, pharmacology, sociology, and criminology. Joining *ISRA* will help you to reach the right audience for your own research. Its meetings provide an optimal forum to learn about novel concepts and advances in other fields. Members enjoy reduced registration fees at *ISRA meetings*.

## Awards

- Each World Meeting the **John Paul Scott Award** is presented to a scientist with a distinguished lifetime contribution to aggression research.
- **Presentation Awards** are granted to young scientists for excellence in presentation of original research to a multidisciplinary audience.

## The ISRA Logo

The ISRA logo reflects our intention to advance the understanding of a deeply rooted behavior. The humanoid figure in the logo was modified from a petrograph called "the warrior" on the Minnesota-Ontario border<sup>1)</sup>. The figure seems to express the ambivalent human attitude towards aggression. The figure faces us, a spear in its left hand, reflecting potential to kill. The tip of the spear points downwards, so the weapon is not about to be thrown. The right hand is up and open,

a stop-signal in many cultures, and often a signal of peaceful intent. The heart-shaped body expresses force and human's emotional nature.

<sup>1)</sup> M Furtman, *Magic on the rocks* (2000) ISBN: 0-916691-02-0

**Home page:** <http://www.israsociety.com/>

## Membership

ISRA has four kinds of members:

- **Fellows** are scientists working in any biological, psychological or social science on problems of aggression.
- **Associates** are scientists or professionals supportive of the Society's goals but who are not actively engaged in aggression research.
- **Student members** are graduate students nominated by a Fellow of the Society.
- **Life Fellows** are chosen on a significant lifetime record in aggression research.

## Joining ISRA

In order to join the society, please visit the ISRA webpage at:

<http://www.israsociety.com/membership/>

If you have any questions please contact ISRA Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott at [parrott@gsu.edu](mailto:parrott@gsu.edu)

Dues including *Aggressive Behavior* subscription

Fellow 60\$  Associate 60\$  Student 30\$

*These are 2010 rates*

Updated Information see *ISRA home page*.

**Official Journal: *Aggressive Behavior***

<http://www.interscience.wiley.com>