

# BROCK UNIVERSITY ADOLESCENT SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS PROJECT

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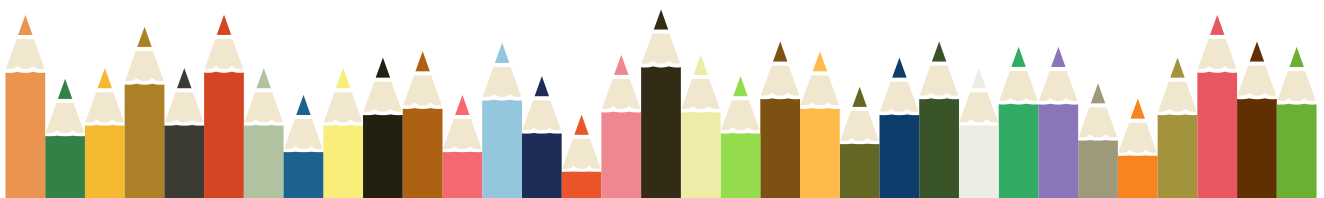
## Note from the Research Team

Dear Members of the Niagara Catholic District School Board Research Committee,

On behalf of my colleagues Andrew Dane and Wendy Craig, I would like to thank you and all of the staff and students in our NCDSB project for your support and encouragement of our Adolescent Social Relationships project over the past several years. We know how challenging these times have been for students and educators alike, including our own team. This last year was a challenging one for our team as COVID safety protocols meant that we had to suspend our in-school data collection from the Spring of 2020 onward.

Due to these delays, we are asking to return to schools (biannually, twice each year, once in the Fall, once in the Spring) for at least the next two years. We still have \$50,000 in funding to support the participating schools and students as we have in the past. This future longitudinal data collection is critical to both continue the work we've already started (i.e., our data collection in the Spring and Fall of 2019) and to establish a clear series of time points that we can use to make developmental conclusions about how students' relationships change over time. We want to be able to (confidentially) see how individuals change their social relationships over time. Is it because of age/maturation? The influence of their peers? The influence of their environment? These are all important questions that we need repeated, longitudinal data to answer. We are happy to work with the protocols and timing needs of the schools involved in order to ensure that this ground-breaking research meets all appropriate guidelines and standards.

In the meantime, in 2021 and 2022 our research has not stood still. Our first two rounds of collection have supported: 19 research publications published or under way, 4 PhD and 8 Masters theses, 10 Undergraduate Honours theses, several media/public presentations, and numerous online conference research presentations. We expect that output will grow over the summer and can



include specific requests for data from the NCDSB board or participating school principals. We have already had informal discussions of general data trends (confidentiality precludes specifics) with most principals and are happy to examine any of the data that might be of interest.

*Tony Volk*

Professor, Child and Youth Studies, Brock University

## Related Theses:

**Doctoral Dissertation – N. Spadafora** - Talking during class, packing up books and name calling: Is it really that big a deal? An exploration of classroom incivility

**Doctoral Dissertation – K. Lapierre** – Cyber aggression and victimization from an evolutionary psychological perspective

**Doctoral Dissertation – K. Brazil** – Psychopathy, personality, and reproductive strategy in males: An evolutionary–developmental integration

**Doctoral Dissertation – E. Al-Jbouri** – Intrasexual aggression amongst adolescent girls

**Master’s Thesis – A. Gustafsson** - Resource Control Theory and Peer Defending

**Master’s Thesis – E. Al-Jbouri** – The nature, nurture, and networks of mean girls: Considering evolutionary, social learning and social network perspectives on girls’ intrasexual relational bullying

**Master’s Thesis – H. McDowell** – The effect of personality and attractiveness on bullying behavior in children

**Master’s Thesis – J. Li** – The relationship between defending and personality

**Master’s Thesis – R. Christopher** – The neurological correlates of low Honesty-Humility

**Master’s Thesis – P. Matusof** – Competition and adolescent development

**Master’s Thesis – F. Amara** – Personality and the use of aggression for different functions.

**Master’s Thesis – N. Prabakaran** – Peer Victimization in Relation to Vulnerability and Peer Esteem: The Role of Balance of Power



## News Items:

- 2022. *An Honest Look at Bad Behavior*. Invited speaker, Pathstone Mental Health Institute, St. Catharines.
- 2022. *The Toronto Star*. "Vladimir Putin is a classic schoolyard bully who must be stopped, not appeased." - <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2022/02/28/vladimir-putin-is-a-classic-schoolyard-bully-who-must-be-stopped-not-appeased.html>
- 2022. *YourTV*. "Putin's Personality." - <https://www.yourtv.tv/node/334646>
- 2022. *The [St Catharines] Standard*. "Police have 'another tool' to use while responding to anti-vaccine protests." - <https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2022/01/21/police-have-another-tool-to-use-while-responding-to-anti-vaccine-protests.html>
- 2021. *The [St Catharines] Standard*. "Escalating online attacks show dark side of social Media, say Brock professors." - <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/the-standard-st-catharines/20210217/281539408664495>

## Peer-Reviewed Publications:

\*Students in bold

**Lambe, L.J.**, & Craig, W.M. (in press). The co-evolution of friendship, defending behaviors, and peer victimization: A longitudinal social network analysis. *Social Development*.

**Lambe, L.J.**, & Craig, W.M. (in press). Anger and empathy: Explaining the underlying emotional processes of peer defending behaviors, *International Journal of Bullying Prevention*.

**Kim, S.**, Craig, Wendy, M., King, Nathan, Bilz, Ludwig, Cosma, Alina, Molcho, Michal, Qirjako, Gentiana Gaspar de Matos, Margarida, Augustine, Lily, Šmigelskas, Kastystis, & Pickett, William. (in press). Bullying, Mental Health, and the Moderating Role of Supportive Adults: A Cross-National Analysis of Young People in 45 Countries. *International Journal of Public Health*.

**Exner-Cortens, Deinera**, Baker, Elizabeth, & Craig, Wendy M. (in press) Canadian Adolescents' Experiences of Dating Violence: Associations with Power Relations. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

**Brazil, K. J.**, Volk, A. A., & Dane, A. V. (in press). Is empathy linked to prosocial and antisocial traits and behaviour? It depends on the form of empathy. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*. 1-12.

**Spadafora, N.**, Volk, A. A., & Dane, A. V. (in press). Using qualitative methods to measure and understand key features of adolescent bullying. *International Journal of Bullying Prevention*.



- Spadafora, N.** & Volk, A. A. (in press). Child and Youth Classroom Incivility Scale (CYCIS): Exploring uncivil behavior in the classroom. *School Mental Health*. 1-12.
- Lapierre, K. R.**, & Dane, A. V. (2022). Early adolescents' involvement in anonymous relational and cyber aggression: An evolutionary perspective. *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ebs0000294>
- Dane, A. V., **Lapierre, K.**, Andrews, N. C. Z., & Volk, A. A. (2022). Evolutionarily relevant aggressive functions: Differentiating competitive, impression management, sadistic and reactive motives. *Aggressive Behavior*, 48, 331-340.
- Volk, A., A., Andrews, N. C. Z., Dane, A., V. (2022). Balance of power and adolescent aggression. *Psychology of Violence*, 12, 31-41.
- Spadafora, N., McDowell, H., Al-Jbouri, E.**, Andrews, N. C. Z., & Volk, A. A. (2022). Be a little rude, but not too much: Exploring classroom incivility and social network position in adolescents. *Journal of Early Adolescence*, 42, 565-585.
- Lapierre, K. R.**, & Dane, A. V. (2021). Evolutionary functions of cyber and traditional forms of aggression in adolescence. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40806-021-00297-7>
- Spadafora, N., Brandow, I.**, Li, M., & Volk, A. A. (2021). The association between reading motivation and reading achievement in Chinese students: Exploring the role of personality. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, 8, 408-422.
- Volk, A. A., **Schiralli, K., Spadafora, N., Buchner, K.**, & Dane, A. V. (2021). Cooperative versus coercive dominance strategies: Relations with the environment and personality. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, 7(2), 134-150.
- Volk, A. A., **Provenzano, D. A., Farrell, A. H.**, Dane, A. V., & Shulman, E. P. (2021). Personality and bullying: Pathways to adolescent social dominance. *Current Psychology*, 40, 2415-2426.
- Kim, S., Spadafora, N.**, Craig, W., Volk, A. A., & Zhang, L. (2021). Disciplinary structure and teacher support in Chinese and Canadian schools: Examining how authoritative disciplinary practices protect youth involved in bullying at school. *School Mental Health*, 13, 501-517.
- Persram, Ryan, Wong, Tracey, Vargas-Madriz, Luis, Konishi, Chiaki, Dryburgh, Nicole, **Dirks, Melanie**, & Craig, Wendy. (2021). The Development and validation of Teen Dating Aggression Measure among Canadian Youth. *Frontiers in Psychology*, <https://doi.org/10.3389/psyg2021.7632.10>
- Nepon, Tanya**, Pepler, Debra, J., Craig, Wendy M., Connolly, Jennifer, & Flett, Gordon (2021). A longitudinal analysis of peer victimization, self-esteem, and rejection sensitivity in mental health and substance use among adolescents. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 19, 1135-1148.
- Martin-Story Alexa, Dirks, Melanie, Dryburgh, Nicole**, & Craig, Wendy (2021). Family relationship quality during the COVID-19 pandemic: The value of adolescent perceptions of change. *Journal of Adolescence*, 93, 190-201.

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