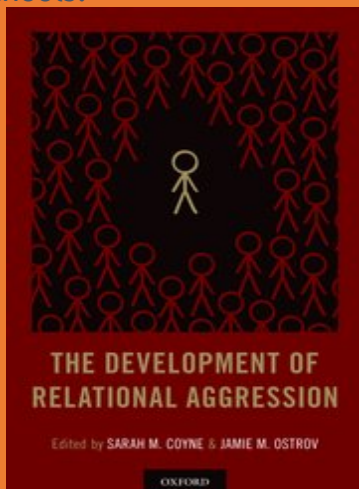


About the PEERS Project

Our ongoing NSF (National Science Foundation) funded project examines how preschoolers' personality, empathy, emotion regulation, and prior behavior influence their aggressive and prosocial behavior. This past year we have collected teacher and research assistant reports of children's behavior as well as observed children's behaviors in the classroom and on the playground. We have also had a number of families come into our lab for one short visit in which social development data is collected from both a parent and child. During the fall and spring we will be continuing to collect data from teachers and participating children at schools.



The PEERS Project

Newsletter Summer/Fall 2018

Recent Findings from the project

It has been a busy year for the Social Development Lab!

This summer, some results from our project were presented at the 7th Research Conference on Relational Aggression in Philadelphia, PA. One presentation focused on the physiological data collected from children who visited the lab over the summer and found that relational victimization (being harmed in a way that uses the relationship such as social exclusion) was linked to relational aggression only for children who were highly reactive (i.e., sweat more) while watching a social exclusion video where Big Bird is not included by other birds. Another presentation at this conference explored relational “aggressive victims” and how different reasons for displaying aggression interact with the receipt of aggression from peers to produce differing effects on social behaviors in the classroom.

Members from our lab also shared some results at the 23rd International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA) World Meeting in Paris, France! Our recent paper written for a special issue of the *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, which explores differences between general aggression (aggression without power differences between the children involved in the behavior) and bullying, was presented. We found that the propensity to engage in relational aggression relative to relational bullying was associated with increases in relational victimization, and children who were high in both relational aggression and relational bullying showed increases in problem behavior (e.g., lying or being disliked by other peers). This work was featured in a recent UB press release, which you may read [here](#) (insert link). Another presentation at this conference found that associating more with female or male play partners in the classroom may change the type of aggression that children use over time. Congratulations to doctoral student Kristin Perry who was part of a prestigious Young Investigators program at the meeting.

Finally, our Lab Director Dr. Ostrov co-edited a book, entitled *The Development of Relational Aggression*, which was published by Oxford University Press this year!

Staff members as of Fall 2018

Director:

- Dr. Jamie Ostrov

Graduate students on the project:

- Kristin Perry, M.A.
- Samantha Kesselring, B.A.
- Gretchen Perhamus, B.A.
- Gabriela Memba, B.A.

Current Research Assistants:

- Emily Logsdon
- Allison Koenig
- Hannah Roberts
- Sydney dela Rosa

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Staff Changes

We would like to congratulate two of our undergraduate research assistants, Amanda Levy and Melanie Jean-Louise, on graduating this spring! Amanda completed her Honors Thesis in our lab and has future plans to attend medical school, and Melanie has been a huge help in the lab and is looking forward to attending graduate school. We wish both of them all the best in their future endeavors!

The Social Development Lab is excited to welcome two new graduate students who will be starting this fall: Gretchen Perhamus (from Penn State) and Gabriela Memba (from NYU). We are excited to begin working with Gretchen and Bri!

We are also saying goodbye to both of our Sarahs this fall.

Six-year Social Development Lab veteran Sarah Blakely-McClure will be leaving to begin a clinical internship at Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, ON. Sarah will also be finishing up and defending her dissertation in the coming year. Sarah has been an integral part of this lab and we will miss her dearly!

Our project coordinator for the past year, Sarah Probst, is also leaving in order to begin a PhD program in developmental psychology at the University of Michigan. We wish Sarah well!

We are also happy to report that our former PhD student Dr. Kimberly Kamper-Demarco is now an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Buffalo State College. We are thrilled to have Kim in the area and look forward to future collaborations.

We thank you for your ongoing support and participation!

