

CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE: BYSTANDERS OF ONLINE AGGRESSION

Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace invites submissions for a special issue on the theme of **Bystanders of Online Aggression**.

Bystanders play an important role in events that include cyberbullying and other types of aggressive behavior conducted through Information and Communication Technology. Online aggression often takes place in the virtual presence of bystanders or intends to harm the victim publicly with degrading posts or pictures. The reactions of cyberbystanders — who can support the victim, reinforce the aggressive acts, or remain passive — influence the interaction between the perpetrators and victims. The specific features of online aggression, which include a distance between the actors, mediated responses, and the large possible audience, emphasize the relevance of focusing on bystanders in online aggressive incidents.

Topics suitable for the special issue may include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- A thorough examination of the different types of responses to online aggression
- An examination of the role of and interplay between individual and contextual factors
- The assessments of incidents (e.g., factors that affect the perceived severity of the incidents)
- Empirical analyses of theoretical models (e.g., bystander intervention model, attribution theory, social identity theory)
- Studies that focus on less-researched constructs in cyberbystanding, such as self-efficacy, moral emotions, and norms
- Different bystander populations: peers, teachers, parents
- Studies that use less common and innovative methods (e.g., observational studies in social networking sites, analysis of meta-data from service providers, social network analyses, a combination of methods, such as self-reported data with physiological measurements)
- Studies that utilize peer, teacher, or parent reports for measuring cyberbystanding behavior
- An examination of the effectiveness of the responses of bystanders and the outcomes for the cybervictim
- Prevention studies on cyberbystanders

Other topics not specifically mentioned are welcome if they fit within the scope of the special issue. If unsure about the topic, please contact Hana Machackova (hmachack@fss.muni.cz).

The special issue will be published in **October 2018** and it will be edited by Hana Machackova (Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia), Jan Pfetsch (Technische Universität, Berlin, Germany), and Georges Steffgen (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg).

Submission Process and Deadlines

Expressions of interest should be submitted to Hana Machackova (hmachack@fss.muni.cz) in an e-mail attachment with the subject "Special Issue: Bystanders of online aggression" no later than **February 18, 2018**. Please include a 500-word abstract (including justification, short introduction, method, and preferably a brief description of results, if possible), full contact information, and a short biographical note (up to 75 words) for the author(s). The authors of the accepted abstracts will be notified by **February 28, 2018** and they will then be invited to submit a full paper. Full paper submissions should be between 7,000 and 8,000 words (including tables and references). The authors have to follow the *Cyberpsychology style guidelines*. Please note that the journal requires using APA style, which concerns formatting of references as well as overall structure of the articles.

Manuscripts that will not follow APA won't be accepted. Full papers should be submitted by **April 30, 2018**. All papers will be subject to a blind peer review process.

About the Journal

Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace is a web-based, open-access, peer-reviewed scholarly journal that focuses on social science research about cyberspace. The journal is interdisciplinary, and it publishes works written by scholars of psychology, media studies, sociology, political science, nursing, and other disciplines. The journal is indexed with the Web of Science (Social Science Citation Index and Current Contents - Social & Behavioral Sciences), SCOPUS, ERIH PLUS, EBSCO Academic Search Complete, the Directory of Open Access Journals, and the Czech Database of Scientific Journals. For further information, see <http://www.cyberpsychology.eu>

About the Editors of the Special Issue

Hana Machackova, Ph.D., is a researcher at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, where she works at the Institute for Research of Children, Youth, and Family. She is a member of the [Interdisciplinary Research Team on Internet and Society \(IRTIS\)](#), which researches the social-psychological implications of the internet and technology. Her research interests include cyberbullying and online aggression (with specific focus on cyberbystanders), online communities, online participation, and self-disclosure and privacy on the internet. She has participated in several projects concerning the use of ICT, such as EU Kids Online and the COST project Coping Strategies with Cyberbullying among Adolescents.

Jan Pfetsch, Ph.D., is a guest professor and the deputy head of the Department of Educational Psychology at Technische Universität, Berlin, Germany. He developed a bystander intervention training program in the context of offline bullying at school. His current research focuses on cyberbullying (especially cyberbystanders), empathy in offline and online contexts, media use and media literacy, the development of competencies in teacher training (especially diagnostic competence), learning with digital media, and aggressive and prosocial behaviour in children and adolescents.

Georges Steffgen, is a professor of social psychology and the head of the research group Health Promotion and Aggression Prevention. His current research focuses on aggression (cyberbullying) and anger regulation. He has been the project manager of national and international scientific projects on violence in school, victimization, and the quality of work. He has authored more than 50 papers in international journals, and he is the editor or co-editor of 16 books. He co-chaired COST Action IS0801 on Cyberbullying.