Cyber bullying

Current research findings

Georges STEFFGEN
Université du Luxembourg

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COST IS0801 – Vice chair
Prof. Dr. G. Steffgen

What is cyber bullying?

defined as…

- the wilful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices (Hinduja & Patchin, 2008)

  and

- an aggressive act carried out by a group or individual, against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself using electronic forms of contact (Smith, 2007)

Cyber bullying – a covert-psychological bullying?

Differences between bullying and cyber bullying:

- to remain anonymous
- unique sense of power and control
- cyber bullies feel they are impervious to sanctions
- is more pervasive (at any time, at any place)

(Willard, 2007)

- no place to hide
- breadth of audience
- invisibility of those doing the bullying

(Smith, 2007)

Tools of cyber bullying

- **CB by cell phone**
  - Phone call bullying
  - Text message bullying
  - Picture / video clip bullying

- **CB by using the internet**
  - Email bullying
  - CB through instant messaging
  - Bullying via websites
  - Chat room bullying

(Smith, Mahdavia, Carvalho & Tippett, 2007)

Forms and actors

- Flaming / Trolling
- Harassment / Cyberstalking
- Denigration
- Impersonation / identity theft
- Outing
- Photoshopping
- Exclusion
- Threatening with physical harm
- Happy slapping

➡ **Actors**: students, teachers, heads, parents …

Prevalence of cyber bullying

- 6 to 42 % of students reported being bullied (c-victimisation; Hinduja & Patchin, 2008)
- 3 to 29 % admitted to saying something mean or hurtful to someone else (c-bullying; Steffgen, 2009)
- cyber victims are also victims of traditional bullying (Li, 2005)
- cyber victims are more often females
- cyber bullies are males are females
- majority of victims and bystander did not report the incidents

Cyber bullying is emerging as one of the more challenging issues facing educators and parents as young people continue to embrace mobile communication technologies (Nancy Willard)

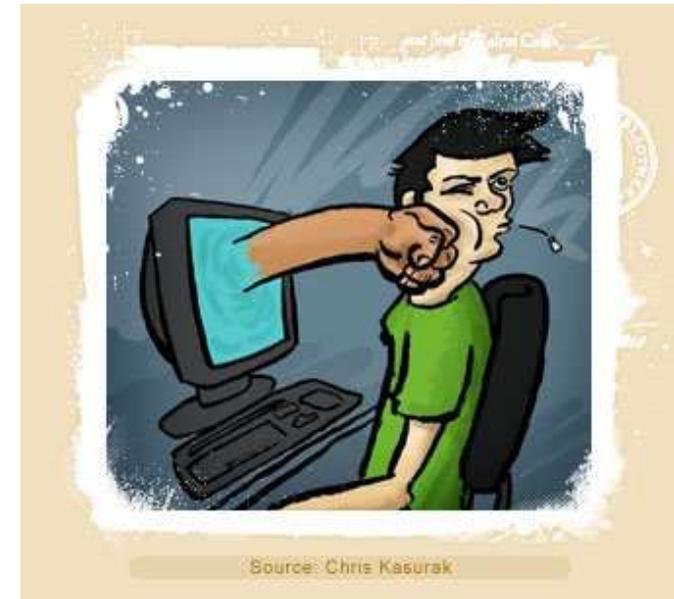# Current research topics

1. Overlap with traditional bullying

2. Reasons for cyber bullying

   - self-esteem, narcissism

   - empathy, moral disengagement

3. Effects of cyber bullying on the victims and perpetrator

Main objectives of COST-Action IS0801

1. Sharing of expertise in knowledge base and measurement techniques,
2. Sharing of input from outside the research community,
3. Sharing of already (nationally) published guidelines and coping strategies countries,
4. Increased awareness of the issue to likely beneficiaries of the Action.

Source: Chris Kasurak

How to react ?

- technical, juridical/legal and educational steps to undertaken
- lack of awareness by parents/school professionals
- **Guidelines for educators**:
  - Children must be taught to report cyber bullying
  - Schools should play an instrumental role in educating parents
  - Importance of building and further strengthening a trusty relationship between students and school staff
  - To be engaged in developing social norms (empathy)
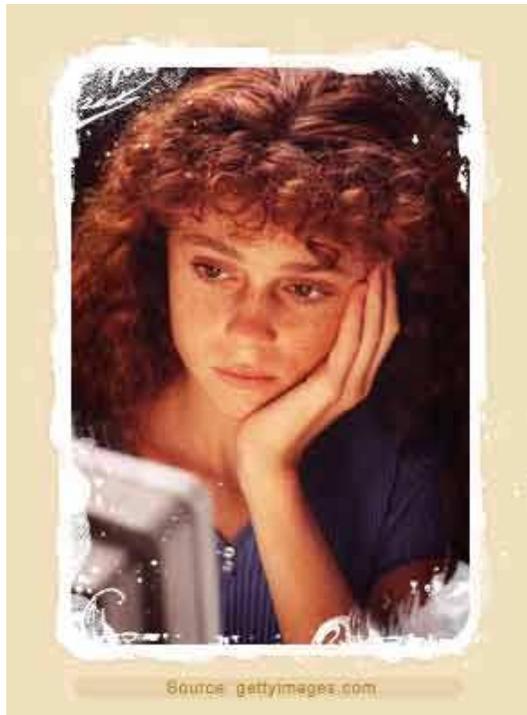 - To support a comprehensive internet and cell phone use

… the internet service providers and cell phone companies?

- To support prevention of cyber bullying (lack of awareness, need of information)
- To develop a clear, well-communicated policy

  - How to detect cyber bullying and how to react (bullies/victims) (to be proactive)?

  - How to deal with a complaint of cyber bullying (reactive)?

- To be in collusion with the other actors

STOP cyberbullying

Source: gettyimages.com

Thanks for your interest and attention!

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georges.steffgen@uni.lu