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Special Issue Call for Papers:

Title: **Cyberbullying: Definition, Measurement, Correlates and Development**

Guest Editors:

Ersilia Menesini – University of Florence

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Call for Papers:

With the increase and diffusion of modern technologies a new form of aggression and bullying has emerged. Many researchers refer to these new forms with the term *Cyberbullying, Electronic Bullying or Internet Bullying*. These terms refer to intentional and repeated assaults against another person through electronic means, which can be: the use of offensive e-mail or text messages, insulting through chat rooms or instant messaging, isolating and excluding members from a virtual community and shooting photos or videos posted to the web.

Recently, in parallel with the widespread use of new technologies, some studies have been conducted in different cultural contexts to understand the characteristics of cyberbullying. One of the first interests was to realize the impact of the new phenomenon and its possible links with traditional bullying. So far two special issues on this topic have been published in the *Journal of Adolescence Health* (2007) and the *Journal of Psychology* (2009). Results show some consistence in findings e.g., that those who are traditional bullies and victims have a higher probability for being also cyberbullies and cybervictims than other students. The age of adolescence was shown to be the most risk period for cyberbullying. However, it is concerning that many issues, approaches and findings are inconsistent, and furthermore, that many relevant topics have not yet been investigated at all.

Based on the existing research findings, there is primarily a need for a clear and accepted definition of cyberbullying taking into account the definition of traditional bullying. As different measurement approaches are applied, a systematic discussion about why what approach may be used and what findings may be expected is needed. Furthermore, more knowledge on correlates and the development of cyberbullying is needed.

We openly invite contributions to a topical special issue of the *European Journal of Developmental Psychology* on "Cyberbullying: Definition, Measurement, Correlates and Development"

With this issue, we pursue a discussion on:

1. How cyberbullying should be defined taking into account the definition of traditional bullying;
2. What measurement approaches are appropriate to get valid and reliable information about the prevalence and different forms of cyberbullying;
3. What are the most relevant correlates of cyberbullying and whether they are similar or different to correlates of traditional bullying;
4. How cyberbullying develops in comparison to traditional bullying

Original contributions to any of these aims are invited. As the special issue will be published in the European Journal of Developmental Psychology contributions should provide a developmental perspective. Before submitting a complete article, please submit a 350-word abstract, by October 15th, 2010. The abstracts will be reviewed by the guest editors within 4 weeks of this deadline, and authors will be invited to submit complete papers by March 15th, 2011. Decisions about principle acceptance of articles will be made within 6 weeks of the second deadline. Final versions of the selected articles are due on August 31st, 2011.

Papers will be subjected to full double-blind peer reviewing, and should adhere to the journals regular requirements for submission. Manuscripts should be no longer than 5000 words. This word limit excludes the title, abstract (which should not exceed 150 words), table and figure text, and references. In keeping with the usual guidelines for the journal, research should focus on developmental perspectives.

For further information, or if you have any questions on whether your work is in line with the proposed special issue contact the guest editor Dr Ersilia Menesini, menesini@psico.unifi.it