

Presentation title:

Cyberhate in adolescents. Their schoolteachers as a protective factor

Speaker: Vicente J. Llorent (University of Cordoba, Spain)

Co-authors: Mariano Núñez-Flores & Francisco Yuste

Cyberhate is an antisocial cyberbehaviour in which messages of hate are generated on the Internet towards social groups and their members, usually wanting to cause exclusion, contempt, or degradation. Different studies show that cyberhate is present and prevalent among adolescents worldwide. Therefore, it is relevant to prevent this antisocial cyberbehaviour, requiring studies on its protective factors among schoolteachers, which was the objective of this research. The sample was composed of 3550 secondary education students and 294 of their teachers. The 3550 students (48.4% females, 50.4% males, and 1.2% who did not report "other" or did not report their sex) were aged from 11-16 years old (Mage = 12.73, SD = 1.05). The 294 secondary education teachers (58.5% females, 38.4% males, and 3.1% who did not report their sex) were aged between 24 and 64 (Mage = 43.52, SD = 10.00). 40 Spanish schools participated in this study. The instrument for the students collected information about cyberhate. In the case of the teachers, the instrument focused on the teaching of social and emotional competencies and other teaching characteristics. This ex-post-facto cross-sectional, descriptive, and multilevel study was conducted with self-report surveys. Besides descriptive analyses, multilevel regressions by classroom and school were run, where the dependent variables were individual scores of cyberhate in students. The results showed significant and negative relationships between students' cyberhate and the different characteristics of the teachers. This research has interesting implications for helping to identify protective factors in cyberhate, educational policies and school practices to reduce and prevent cyberhate from school.