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CROSS-NATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN BULLYING – HOW WE CAN MEASURE THEM AND HOW TO EXPLAIN THEM

The study of school bullying is an international endeavour, with studies across all continents of the globe. How similar is the phenomenon of bullying in different countries? I will start by mentioning some findings on this, contrasting absolutist, relativist and universalist approaches. Focussing next on the prevalence of bullying in different countries, I summarise the kinds of data available from large cross-national surveys, notably HBSC, EU Kids Online, TIMSS, GSHS, and PISA. These have yielded substantial prevalence differences in bullying rates between countries. However there are issues in comparing countries, even within one survey. In addition, there are many issues in comparing different surveys, and in fact agreement on country differences among the five surveys is generally only moderate to low. Consistent country differences from two or more surveys will be more convincing than findings using just one survey. Finally, explanations of country differences are considered in terms of the EU Kids Online model, considering Socio-economic stratification, Regulatory framework Education system, Technological infrastructure, and Cultural values. Some findings from research on Hofstede's dimensions of cultural values are discussed in a bit more detail.

Der Vortrag kann auf www.kija.steiermark.at/mobbing nachgehört werden.