Faculty

Researcher
Gerald C. Davison, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and Gerontology
gdaviso@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Application of my think-aloud paradigm (Articulated Thoughts in Simulated Situations) to a range of psychological issues in which complex social cognition is believed to play a role. Content areas include post-decision regret, jealousy, anxiety, depression. In some instances comparisons are made between younger and older adults.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Strong motivation to become involved in psychological research that relates to clinical issues. Reliability and conscientiousness.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Spanish language skills a plus

Office Location: SGM 902
Phone: 213-740-2235

Researcher
JoAnn Farver
farver@usc.edu
Current Research Topics Under Investigation

*RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED ASAP*
This part time position involves carrying out language and math assessments with kindergarten and first grade students in elementary school classrooms in Los Angeles (primarily in the area near the USC campus), Glendale, and Pasadena. Some children will be assessed in Spanish, so strong language skills in both English and Spanish are essential. Assessors will be trained by project staff and will be paid during training. This is an opportunity to learn about research and assessment with young children. Position will last approximately 6-8 weeks, with a possibility of more work throughout the 2012-2013 school year, depending on performance.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
- Bilingual English/Spanish fluency
- Prior experience with young children, familiarity with testing/assessment situations, and/or research experience in educational settings
- Reliable car and California Driver’s License (some travel time may be reimbursed)
- Availability before 12 noon weekdays; hours approx. 20-30 per week *Start date: ASAP*
- Pay: To be determined based on qualifications (range $10-$13/hour)

-Send resume/CV to Dr. Farver by email at farver@usc.edu

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Researcher
Jesse Graham
jesse.graham@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
At the Values, Ideology, and Morality Lab we are trying to find empirical answers to questions regarding people's deepest core beliefs and worldviews. Why do we care so passionately about what's morally right and wrong, and why do we so often disagree about this? How do shared ideological narratives influence our sense of right and wrong, and how do our moral convictions influence our political choices? If you are a USC undergrad interested in becoming a research assistant, please fill out the form available on our website:
http://www.usc.edu/grahamlab .

Specific qualifications for research assistants
GPA 3.3 or higher, two semester commitment, room in schedule for 10 hours per week, inquisitive mind.

Desired qualifications for research assistants
Experience using SPSS, SAS or R statistical programs, computer programming experience a big plus.

Phone Number (213) 740-9535
Office Location SGM 804
Researcher
Karen Hennigan
hennigan@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
We are working to learn more about the social psychological dynamics of joining or leaving a street gang. We are applying past empirical findings and social psychological theory to real world situations in an effort to advance knowledge useful for strengthening prevention and intervention efforts.
Research projects currently underway include:
1) Development and implementation of a gang risk assessment for secondary gang prevention programs.
2) A prospective test of the gang risk assessment for youth living in high risk environments—second wave in progress.
3) Conceptual and empirical development of an approach to document levels and changes in gang embeddedness over time among gang-involved clients in gang intervention programs.

Specific qualifications for research assistants
Interest in prevention and intervention of youth delinquency and violence; attention to detail; reliable and accurate.

We will be reviewing, scoring, and entering data for assessments and interviews from clients in Los Angeles gang prevention and intervention programs and from a prospective study underway. Periodically we train interviewers from the prevention and intervention programs around the city of Los Angeles. Research Assistants may attend and assist with these orientations.

Desired qualifications for research assistants
Commit to at least 10 hours per week. Experience with SPSS is desirable. Work study funding is desirable.

Phone Number (213) 740-9535
Office Location SGM 1004 (office) SGM 1015 (lab)
Office Hours – Email Dr. Kathy Kolnick (kolnick@usc.edu) to set up an appointment

Researcher
Stan Huey
hueyjr@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Current studies address: (1) effectiveness of therapy with youth and adults; (2) interventions with delinquent youth; (3) culture, mental health problems, and therapy effects.

Duties might include: (1) data collection; (2) data entry; (3) reviewing/coding journal articles; (4) assisting with therapist training workshop; (5) transcribing/coding therapy sessions

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
At least a 3.0 GPA; Commit at least 8-10 hours/week
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Spanish language skills a plus

Office Location: SGM 905
Office Hours Weds 8:30-10:30 for Fall 2012

Researcher
Kimberle A. Kelly
akimkelly@gmail.com

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Evaluating the effectiveness of teaching and learning interventions in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data. Projects span the educational spectrum (elementary school through undergraduate degree programs), and there are opportunities for students to participate on reports and presentations.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Willing to commit to 4 hours per week (1/2 day) minimum to work on individual or group projects.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Detail-oriented, effective time-management, interested and enthusiastic.

Office Location: SGM 529A
Office Hours Mon 10:00A – 1:00P, Wed 10:45A – 1:45P

Researcher
Bob G. Knight

Please send an email to our lab (usc.knightlab@gmail.com) regarding all questions.

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
The Stress, Emotion, and Aging Lab (SEAL) has several research projects currently in progress. Selected research assistants will have the opportunity to work on two projects. One project examines how mood affects the interpretation of ambiguous information differently among older and younger adults. This study aims to understand possible cognitive manifestations of emotional disorders.

The other study focuses on age, stress, coping, and emotion regulation during middle and late adulthood. More specifically, this study examines how daily experiences within various social contexts influence individual health and well-being. In comparison to major life events, such as experiencing the death of a loved one or marital disruption, this study targets the health effects of everyday minor stressors.

Duties: participant recruitment, screening, data collection, entry, and analysis. Exact duties will be discussed after initial meeting.
Funding: Compensation provided. To receive funding, research assistants must be willing to commit to at least 10 hours a week for one year. Positions for volunteer research assistants are also available.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Gerontology or Psychology major
- Interested in research on psychology, aging, and health.
- Sophomore standing
- GPA 3.25 or above
- Able to commit 10hrs/wk for at least one semester (preferably one year)
- Hard working, enthusiastic and with good interpersonal skills
- No previous research experience necessary

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Have taken at least one statistics course
- Interested in going to graduate school

**Phone Number** 213-740-6887 (Ask for Christine or Nick for more details.)

**Office Location** GER 217

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**Researcher**
Adam Leventhal
adam.leventhal@usc.edu

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
The USC Health, Emotion, and Addiction Laboratory (HEAL) conducts translational research on the determinants of addiction. A broad emphasis of the laboratory is to uncover why some people are prone to addiction while others are not. To that end, the USC-HEAL conducts two major lines of research. One focus is to collect and analyze data from population-based, community, or clinical samples to identify novel psychosocial and genetic factors that influence addiction risk. Building off of that work, another major focus is to examine interactions between predisposing factors (e.g., emotional disturbance, genes) and the acute effects of drugs in order to identify whether individuals who carry genetic or psychosocial vulnerabilities are more sensitive to addictive properties of drugs. Visit http://www-hsc.usc.edu/~amlevent/ for more information.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Reliable, enthusiastic, bright, and professional. Our lab is at the USC Health Sciences Campus (HSC); thus, ability to travel to either via the USC shuttle or by car to HSC is required. Minimum of 8 hours per week availability required. One year commitment preferred.

**Phone Number** 323-442-2732
**Office Location** Health Science Campus(HSC), Clinical Science Annex(CSA) building, Rm 219
**Office Hours** Email to arrange an appointment.
Researcher
Gayla Margolin
margolin@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Family conflict and violence and how that affects adolescents; transition from adolescence to adulthood; understanding family process; how family interaction affects health and peer interaction.

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
GPA >3.5; detailed oriented; interested in learning how to work with data as well as work with participants; good at working as part of a team; interested in psychophysiological data;

Office Hours
Wed 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. (email for appointment)

Researcher
Mara Mather

Please contact lab manager Rico Velasco regarding all interests and questions:
rico.vel@gmail.com

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Arousal-biased Competition: a new theory that addresses why arousal sometimes enhances and sometimes impairs memory for neutral information.
http://www.usc.edu/projects/matherlab/

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
No previous research experiences necessary, but should be able to commit at least 10 hours per week (preferably doing two blocks of 4-5 hours).

If interested, contact our lab at least two to three weeks prior to starting date. Please do take note that our lab does not have open positions right now. Email us toward the end of Spring Semester if interested in summer internship.

 Desired qualifications for Research Assistants
Should be professional, enthusiastic, hard working, committed, and interested in our areas of research. Have experiences working with older adults.

Phone Number (213) 740-9543 to reach Rico Velasco

Office Location:
USC Davis School of Gerontology
3715 McClintock Ave Room 341
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191

Office Hours
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Researcher
Stephen J. Read
Current Research Topics Under Investigation
1) Legal and everyday decision-making. We are conducting a series of studies on the role of emotion and motivation in various decision-making situations, including legal situations.

2) fMRI study on risky decision making by men who have sex with men. Individuals needed who can help us conduct a study in the scanner of components of decision making.

3) Neural network models of social behavior and social reasoning. We are constructing neural network models of human motivation and personality, social perception and impression formation, and decision-making.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
For 3, NN modeling, programming or math background would be highly desirable.

Phone Number: 213-740-2291
Office Location: SGM 821
Office Hours Mon/Wed 10A – 12P

Researcher
Bosco Tjan
btjan@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Bosco Tjan and his group uses a combination of behavioral experiments, brain imaging, and computer modeling to study the neural mechanisms related to reading, object recognition, scene perception and other visual functions. Their work contributes to the basic understanding of human vision and inform on the treatments of different types of visual impairments.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Excited about science, creative, "handy", good at mathematics, comfortable with computers, good writing skills, and willing to learn new analytical, experimental and programming skills. Sophomore and junior years are the best time to start in the lab.

Phone Number: 213-821-2953
Office Location: SGM 1017
Office Hours Open, but call/email first

Graduate Students

NOTE: STUDENTS SEEKING PSYC 490 CREDIT FOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE MUST BE WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A FACULTY MEMBER. THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED BELOW ARE GRADUATE STUDENTS AND MAY NOT SERVE AS YOUR PRIMARY SUPERVISOR TOWARDS 490 CREDIT. CONSULT WITH THEIR SUPERVISING FACULTY MEMBER CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF 490 CREDIT.
Researcher
Zhisen Jiang
zhisenji@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Our research examines visual working memory and long-term memory for objects, scenes, and actions. We specifically aim to know about the capacity, fidelity level, architecture, etc., of the representations of these visual entities in human memory, and their impact on human cognition, social interactions, and legal practice e.g., eyewitness testimony.

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
Research assistants are expected to collect data with computer-based experiments and might be also expected to do a certain amount of simple data analysis. A research assistant should be able to commit about 12 hours per week.

Desired qualifications for research assistants
Enthusiastic, reliable, professional

Phone Number: 213-740-7561
Office Location: SGM 532
Office Hours: Wed 1:30P – 3:30P

Researcher
Gilly Koritzky
Koritzky@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Prediction of Weight Management Outcomes

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
Proficient in Visual Basic programming language, or a similar language. The project involves the programming of an application to be used in laboratory studies.

Desired qualifications for research assistants
Reliable, punctual, Able to work independently

Phone Number 323-348-6439
Office Location SGM 708B
Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
Fluent in English, able to run a study and administer psychological tests, willing to travel between campuses (part of the research is conducted at HSC).

Desired qualifications for research assistants
Reliable, punctual, Able to work independently

Phone Number 323-348-6439
Office Location SGM 708B

Researcher
Carlos Rodriguez
rodrigca@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Knowledge of Aging Among Latinos, community education, dementia literacy

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Must speak and write Spanish fluently

Desired qualifications for research assistants
Available means of transportation.

Phone Number: 213-740-0726
Office Location SGM 523
Office Hours By appointment

Researcher
Jacqueline Lee Tilley
mannhual@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Stress and Coping in Asian and Asian Americans.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Highly motivated, reliable, and detail-oriented. Interest in cross-cultural research. Able to commit 8 - 10 hours per week for at least one semester. Duties include recruiting participants, running experiments, literature searches, and entering/analyzing data.

Phone Number Please email
Office Location SGM 532
Office Hours By appointment

Researcher
Alexandra Ycaza
ycaza@usc.edu
Current Research Topics Under Investigation
I am currently conducting a study examining how post-menopause estrogen treatment may alter the degree to which stress affects working memory and emotional memory processes. The study is being run at the Health Sciences Campus through an ongoing double-blind clinical trial held through the Atherosclerosis Research Unit. Research Assistants will be required to lead sessions with subjects at the clinic on HSC and will be interacting with doctors and nurses. They will also be required to dress appropriately for such a setting (e.g. business attire, no jeans or t-shirts).

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
- Good interpersonal skills (will be interacting with subjects, doctors, and nurses in a clinic setting)
- Detail oriented
- Reliable
- Independent worker
- Good time management
- Available to work at least 10 hours per week
- Available to run sessions as early as 7am at least 2 mornings per week
- Able to start training immediately

Phone Number: 213-821-5703
Office Location: GER 351
Office Hours: By appointment