UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
Research Assistantship Directory (Spring 2017)

Updated 11/30/2016

Faculty

Researcher
Irving Biederman
bieder@usc.edu; Lab web page: geon.usc.edu
(310) 614-3903 (Cell, preferred); (213) 740-6094 (Office); (213) 740-6102 (Lab)

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
The core mission of the Image Understanding Laboratory is to understand how we get mind from brain. The current major projects are:

1. Understanding how a scene or object can be recognized in a fraction of a second, even when we have never encountered that image previously.
2. How we are able to identify people on the basis of their face or voice.
3. An investigation of the neural basis of perceptual and cognitive pleasure, based on a gradient of opioid receptors in the same pathway by which image understanding is achieved.
4. Creativity, in the specific domain of humor generation.

We employ a variety of methodologies, such as neuroimaging, research with patients, cross-cultural investigations, and, in collaboration, single unit recording in and behavioral studies in monkeys and pigeons. We are planning to initiate studies in intracranial recordings of individual neurons in patients undergoing surgery for epilepsy.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
We seek bright, motivated students, the earlier in their academic career, the better. Technical skills, such as programming and math are a plus but we can train you. The ultimate goal is for the student to be able to make a contribution to the research that is sufficient to qualify as a coauthor on a peer-reviewed journal publication and/or or a presentation at a world class conference. So we don’t want drones. Do look at recent students and alumni from the lab to see how much they have accomplished.

Office Location: NHB 316 Office Hours: By appointment; Tuesday & Thursday afternoons best or call cell.

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

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Cognitive and emotional factors in alcohol abuse prevention, therapeutic alliance and rapport, and prosocial behavior. Some projects involve video gaming and computer
Assessment of cognition and affect involve both questionnaires and my think-aloud method, Articulated Thoughts in Simulated Situations.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Careful attention to details, strong interest in cognitive factors in clinical psychology. Reliability. Coursework in intro and abnormal psychology.

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Commitment to the project

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

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Researcher
Morteza Dehghani
mdehghan@usc.edu
Contact: Katie Horton (Lab Manager); katelynh@usc.edu; (310) 947-1262

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
Research assistants are encouraged to have passion for interdisciplinary work between computational science and social science to bridge multiple research topics and techniques in a new way. A few main and current focuses of the Computational and Social Science Lab include:

1. Human values and natural language processing in various medias using both human coders and computer programs.
2. How language is processed in the brain, utilizing natural language processing, machine learning, and fMRI in the USC Brain and Creativity Institute
3. Taking natural language processing techniques one step further to conduct more sophisticated studies.

More information can be found at our website: http://dornsife.usc.edu/labs/cssl

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
- Detail oriented and interest in interdisciplinary work.
- Independent, diligent, hard-working.
- 3.3 GPA or higher.
- Able to commit to a minimum of 10 hours of research per week.
- A minimum commitment of one semester, but a preferred commitment of one year.

**Office Location:** SGM 607 **Office Hours:** Flexible, by appointment

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Researcher
Vita Droutman
vdrootman@gmail.com
(310) 382-4140

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
I have number of different research interests, the following topics are the ones I am currently focus on:
1) understanding risky adolescent decision making in social contexts and its neural bases.
2) examining effects of Mindfulness meditation on risky tendencies in children, adolescents and young adults.
3) fMRI study on risky decision making by men who have sex with men.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Students who are planning to apply to graduate school with an interest in Social or Developmental Psychology or Neuroscience. Interest in data collection and working with subjects, opportunity to learn fMRI technique.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Detail oriented, self-motivated, able to commit 4-8 hrs a week.

Researcher
JoAnn M. Farver
Farver@usc.edu

Current Topics Under Investigation
1. Stress and coping in immigrant populations; especially Asian, Latino families and adolescents
   RAs will be assisting with a range of tasks, including literature searches (and screening of studies), coding of qualitative and quantitative data, recruitment of participants, and data collection.
2. Affluenza among adolescents (early middle late; emerging adults) in Hong Kong, PRC, Hawaii, US college students

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Interest in research on culture and mental health.
Reliable, conscientious/detail-oriented, self-motivated, and able to work independently.
Ability to commit approximately 6 – 10 hours a week for at least one semester.
Dedication; interest; energy; informed opinions (or the ability to develop them); critical thinking skills.

Phone Number: (213) 740-3965 Office Location: SGM 1006

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

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**Researcher**
Jonathan Gratch,
gratch@ict.usc.edu,  www.ict.usc.edu/~gratch

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
Current studies examine the role of emotion in decision making, both intrapersonal perspective and with regard to how emotion displays impact the decisions of others in interdependent tasks. Much of this work uses advanced computer technology to simulate or measure aspects of human interpersonal behavior (e.g., simulating and measuring emotional expressions and gestures). We also explore the use of computer technology for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of mental health.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
GPA 3.3 or higher, two semester min 8hr / week commitment
Ability to travel to lab either by car or via USC shuttle.

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Experience using SPSS, SAS or R statistical programs, computer programming experience a plus. Specific knowledge of findings and theories in emotion research (esp. from social psychology perspective) and/or experience with peripheral psychophysiology are a plus.

**Office Location:**
Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT)
12015 Waterfront Drive
Playa Vista, CA 90094
**Phone:** (310) 574-5700

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**Researcher**
Karen Hennigan
Hennigan@usc.edu

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
Our current studies are focused on:
1) reducing street gang violence in Los Angeles, Central America, and the Eastern Caribbean; and
2) adapting some of what we have learned from efforts to reduce street gang violence in Los Angeles to address issues of radicalization and extremism in Tunisia (we are working to help develop and support new programs in this context).

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Interest in violence reduction in marginalized communities here in LA and elsewhere.
Self-motivated, willing to commit to a regular schedule, and proficiency with SPSS.
Ability to read and speak French and Tunisian Arabic is a bonus.

**Office Location** SGM 1004

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**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:** Mondays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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**Researcher**
Richard John
richardj@usc.edu
213-740-4011

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
Risk Perception, Deterrence. Jury Decision Making

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Interest in judgment and decision making, risk analysis, decision analysis, legal decision making, or behavioral economics. You should be able to devote 6-8 hours per week to research.

**Office Location:** SGM 621  **Office Hours:** by appointment

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**Researcher**
Adam Leventhal, PhD- Lab Director
adam.leventhal@usc.edu
(323) 442-2732

**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. We have several current smoking and vaping studies looking at several factors that might contribute to addiction:

1. Understanding how variations in certain genes influence tobacco withdrawal symptoms in African American smokers.
2. Investigating the effects of oxytocin—a naturally produced hormone—on smoking.
3. Learn more about how e-cigarette flavorings impact respiratory health.
4. Examine the patterns and mechanisms of ovarian hormone variation effects on smoking across the menstrual cycle.
5. Studying the effect of happiness and other emotions on drug use and health.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Volunteers are required to come in for either one full 8 hour day or two 4 hour blocks (either 9:00 am -1:00 pm or 1:00 – 5:00 pm).
- We also require that our volunteers be able to commit two semesters (minimum) at the lab; this could include the summer and fall, though we prefer to bring on volunteers who can stay with us for a full academic year.
- Our other requirement is that all volunteers and lab staff attend lab meeting every Monday from 3:30-5 pm.
- 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.
- Students can apply for research assistantships here: https://heal.usc.edu/undergraduate_assistantships.php

**Office Location:** Health Science Campus: CSA 270/271 & SSB 302C  **Office Hours:** by appt

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**Researcher**

Susan Luczak  
luczak@usc.edu  
(213) 740-9192

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**

I have three projects students can become involved in that examine risk and protective factors for alcohol, smoking, and gambling behaviors: 1) a longitudinal family study in Mauritius now focused on adolescent and young adult drinking and smoking, 2) using technology (iPhones, breath analyzers, transdermal alcohol monitors) to assess real-time drinking behaviors of college students, and 3) a drinking education program for Asian American college students based on flushing response to alcohol.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Highly motivated, reliable, and detail-oriented. Able to commit 8 hours per week.

**Desired qualifications for Research Assistants**

Knowledge of SPSS and Excel preferable. GPA 3.0 or higher.  
If interested, please email Dr. Luczak with a copy of your resume and your unofficial transcript.

**Office Location:** SGM 826  **Office Hours:** By Appointment
Researcher
Gayla Margolin
margolin@usc.edu
(213) 740-2308

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
In the Family Studies Project, we aim to identify factors that affect how young adults behave in close relationships—with dating partners, with friends, and even with their own children. We look particularly closely at the influences based on childhood experiences of aggression and adversity. To delve deeply into young adults’ romantic relationships, we collect data on their physiological reactivity, compassion, and also capture behavioral samples of how dating partners talk with one another. If you are interested in becoming a research assistant, please read our webpage, submit a resume and fill out the form available on our website on the Prospective Students page: http://dornsife.usc.edu/labs/margolinfamilystudies/admission/

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
Research assistants will be involved with processing physiological data as well as coding real-life discussion collected in either the lab or in couples’ homes. Research assistants should have 8 hours minimum per week (10 or more preferred) to work on the research. The ability to work as part of a team and attention to detail are essential.

Desired qualifications for Research Assistants
Desired qualifications include interest in and/or experience with learning about psychological methods such as physiological measurement and/or behavioral observation. GPA of 3.5 or higher is desired. If interested, please email Dr. Margolin with a copy of your resume and your transcript (unofficial is fine).

Phone Number: (213) 740-2308 Office Hours: By Appointment

Researcher
Mara Mather
mara.mather@usc.edu.

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
We use functional neuroimaging and behavioral methods to investigate how emotion influences memory and cognition. We also examine age and sex differences in these processes. For more information see: http://www.matherlab.com

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 the starting semester.

Desired qualifications for Research Assistants
Should be professional, enthusiastic, hardworking, committed, and interested in our areas of research. Have experience working with older adults. Software programming skills

**Phone Number:** (213) 740-9543 to reach lab manager Rico Velasco  
**Office Location:**  
USC Davis School of Gerontology  
3715 McClintock Ave Room 341  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191

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**Researcher**  
Henrike Moll  
hmoll@usc.edu  
(213) 740-2270

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**  
- Young children’s demand for reciprocal engagement  
- The emergence of counterfactual reasoning  
- The development of perspective-taking

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**  
Be interested in questions of development  
- Wanting to learn about experimental methods

**Office Location:** SGM 704  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:30 – 1:30

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**Researcher**  
Daniel Nation, Ph.D.  
danation@usc.edu  
(213) 740-4503

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**  
- Neuroimaging (MRI)-based biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease and cerebrovascular disease  
- Age-related cognitive decline

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**  
- Interest in age-related cognitive disorders and dementia (including Alzheimer’s disease and stroke/cerebrovascular disease), neuropsychological testing, or brain imaging  
- Psychology, biology, computer science or other related majors  
- Some proficiency with Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Powerpoint) required

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**  
- Computer skills and interest in computer programming strongly desired but not necessary

**Phone Number:** (213) 740-4503  
**Office Location:** SGM 1010
Researcher
Joe Priester, Associate Professor of Marketing and Psychology
priester@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
There are several on-going projects, all of which have to do with how mindfulness influences our psychological experience of different life events and situations. Mindfulness is typically defined as a psychological state in which is attuned to a task in the absence of a wandering mind. Often mindfulness is developed through meditation and other similar activities. Research Assistants will be asked to do the following:
1) Help with literature search
2) Assist in collecting data. Data will be collected both in a laboratory and internet settings.
3) Perform data entry.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Have taken Introduction to Social Psychology
Have a 3.5 GPA.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Either have worked as a Research Assistant or have taken a research methods class.

Office Location: HOH 605 Phone: best contacted by email: priester@usc.edu

Researcher
Stephen J. Read
read@usc.edu

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: SGM 821 Office Hours: Mon/Wed 10A – 12P

Researcher
Darby Saxbe
dsaxbe@usc.edu
Contact: Katie Horton; katelynh@usc.edu (Lab Manager); (310) 947-1262

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
The NeuroEndocrinology of Social Ties (NEST) Laboratory research consists mainly of parenting and relationship stressors during pregnancy.
1. The Hormones Across the Transition to Childrearing (HATCH) Study explores the potential family dynamic of first-time parents from prenatal to postpartum events to relate psychological factors and hormonal levels.

2. The “Fathering the Brain” project explores the neurological stimulation in a father throughout the course of his partner’s pregnancy.

3. By looking at a broad range of samples (including saliva, blood, and hair), the NEST laboratory explores interrelated levels of cortisol, testosterone, oxytocin, and prolactin during the transition to parenthood.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

3.3 GPA or higher.
Interest in family psychological relationships.
Interest in biopsychology.
Willingness to learn how to code, use SPSS, and work independently.

**Office Location:** SGM 716 D **Office Hours:** Flexible, by appointment

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**Researcher**
Norbert Schwarz
norberts@usc.edu

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**

*What makes life meaningful?* How do people decide whether their life is meaningful? How might culture, religion, and our own decisions influence our well-being?

*How do people come to believe things are true?* Why do people believe weird things? And how does misinformation stick? We examine the variables that bias people to think things are true and why false information often takes hold. *What is the role of feelings in all of this?* How do moods, emotions, and bodily sensations influence our thoughts?

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

We are looking for motivated psychology students who are interested in gaining research experience for course credit (PSYC 290 or PSYC 490). Our research assistants can gain experience with all aspects of conducting research in psychology. At the planning stage, they help develop and pretest materials for our studies; at the data collection stage, they run experiments in our labs, recruit participants on campus and sometimes collect data in other locations; at the data analysis stage, they help with data entry, statistical analysis, and the graphing of results; they also help with programming online surveys and laboratory experiments.

If you are interested in applying for a Research Assistant position with us please see our website: [http://dornsife.usc.edu/mindandsociety/ra-opportunities/](http://dornsife.usc.edu/mindandsociety/ra-opportunities/)

**Office Location:** Mind & Society Center, Suite 205, VPD Building.
**Office Hours:** Please email ertynewm@usc.edu for more information on RA positions.

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**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**

**Adolescent School Adjustment Project:** This study examines how adolescents cope with their peers to determine how various coping strategies impact adjustment over time.

**Other Projects:** We also have several other projects that look at various aspects of social relationships during childhood and adolescence. Topics include bullying, conformity and popularity, perceptions of social competence, etc.

**RA Activities:** Data collection, data entry, literature searches, participant recruitment, study design

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
- Experience with SPSS, Excel
- GPA 3.5 or higher
- Two semester minimum; 6-8 hours per week
- Detail-oriented, reliable, motivated

**Office Location:** SGM 625 **Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Researcher**
Gale M. Sinatra
gsinatra@rossier.usc.edu
702-303-4328

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
1) public understanding of controversial issues in science
2) text and graphics used to communicate complex or controversial issues in science
3) science learning in K-12 and higher education
4) the psychology of science denial

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Data collection and analysis
Will be trained and supervised by graduate students
To learn more about our lab’s research see: [http://motivatedchangelab.com](http://motivatedchangelab.com)

**Office Location:** 600C Waite Philips Hall **Office Hours:** by appointment, but in most days

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**Researcher**
Donna Spruijt-Metz
dmetz@usc.edu
213-821-1775 (but email is better)

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
My lab will be working on several projects: One is the monitoring and modeling of family eating behaviors and dynamics, using mobile health technologies in the lab and in the home. The second is using virtual humans on mobile technologies to help youth and young adults in several areas, including dealing with depression and a suite of virtual humans we hope to
develop for survivors of childhood cancers. We are also working with Scripps on the new Precision Medicine Initiative. It is not yet clear what kind of tasks that will involve

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Students should be reliable and enjoy individual as well as collaborative tasks. There are several opportunities for extended involvement in lab projects. We therefore require a minimum of one full semester commitment (prefer two semesters) with at least 6-8 hours free per week for lab participation.

**Office Location:** VPD 405  **Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Researcher**  
Bosco S. Tjan, Ph.D.  
btjan@usc.edu  
213-821-2953  
https://tlab.usc.edu

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**

We study the human visual system to address basic and translational questions pertaining to vision loss, restoration, and rehabilitation. We use a variety of techniques, including structural and functional neuroimaging, psychophysics, computational modeling, psychophysiology, human electrophysiology, and patient-based methodologies to make contributions in the areas of object and face recognition, reading, attention, visual navigation, and remediation of visual impairments. We have extensive expertise in psychophysics, system identification, Bayesian observer modeling, large-scale computational simulation, and structural and functional magnetic resonance imaging.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Interested in visual or computational neuroscience. 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). Good with math and/or computer programming (any language).

**Office Location:** SGM 1017  **Office Hours:** Irregular, but you can usually find me in the lab between 12:00-16:00 M-Th.

**Researcher**  
Sarah Townsend  
sarah.townsend@marshall.usc.edu

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**

At the Culture, Diversity, and Psychophysiology Lab we explore the how people’s social and cultural environments shape the ways they think, feel, and act. Specifically, our research examines cultural differences by race/ethnicity, gender, and social class. Additionally, we investigate how people experience and respond to being the target of discrimination. In our work, we use multiple methodologies, including asking people what they are thinking and how they are feeling, watching their behavior, and measuring their cardiovascular and neuroendocrine responses (e.g., heart rate, blood pressure, and hormones). If you are interested, please email Mindy Truong at (mindytru@marshall.usc.edu) for an application.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
GPA 3.3 or higher. No previous research experiences necessary, but RAs are asked to give a minimum 1-year commitment.

** Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Should be professional, detail-oriented, hard working, and broadly interested in culture, diversity, and/or psychophysiology.

**Office Location:** HOH 403  **Phone:** (213) 740-8420

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**Researcher**
Scott Wiltermuth
wiltermu@usc.edu
703-304-3075

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
The IDEA (Interpersonal Dynamics and Ethical Applications) Lab researches how socio-environmental factors affect people’s reactions to unethical behavior and their likelihood of behaving unethically themselves. We also research how interpersonal dynamics, such as synchrony and dominance, affect people’s willingness to cooperate with others.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
GPA 3.3 or higher. No previous research experiences necessary, but RAs are asked to give a minimum 1-year commitment with at least 5 hours per week free to conduct research activities.

**Office Location:** Hoffman Hall, 405  **Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Researcher**
Dr. Wendy Wood
wendy.wood@usc.edu

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation:**
Why do people continue to perform bad habits even when they don’t want to? How can good habits be used to meet important life goals? What are ways to change unwanted habits? Topics of interest: social media habits, eating habits, exercise habits
http://dornsife.usc.edu/wendywood/research-articles/

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
Seeking reliable students who enjoy collaborating with others and sharing their ideas during our lively, once-a-week lab meetings (usually Mondays at 4pm). We offer many opportunities for extended involvement in lab projects and therefore require a minimum of one full semester commitment (prefer two semesters) with at least 5 hours free per week for lab participation. Commitment to project involvement is essential. Students who participate in the lab often go on to graduate school in social psychology or marketing. Potential honors students encouraged to join. Typically, we have one or more students working on an honors project each year.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Intro psych and social psych coursework, along with a research methods class, may be helpful. Knowledge of basic statistics and experience with SPSS is a plus, though not
required. Anyone with flash programming experience would be a wonderful addition to the team!

**Office Location:** SGM 805  **Phone:** 213-740-5504

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**Researcher**
Name Jason Zevin, PhD  
Email zevin@usc.edu

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**
Our focus is on behavioral and neuroimaging studies of spoken and written word recognition. We are also working on a new way of thinking about “statistical learning” phenomena relevant to language learning. This all fits together somehow, because in all of these projects we are dealing with how domain- and species-general learning abilities shape skilled language ability.

Recently, we also have begun to think about the consequences of language variety for this general approach. That is, how might regional, ethnic, and other sources of variability in the way, e.g., English, is spoken shape the statistics of the language differently for different individuals? How do people negotiate the fact that they are often interacting with others who speak a different variety than they do? What are the consequences of this for tests of perceptual and cognitive abilities that use linguistic stimuli?

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**
There are no special qualifications for this position. We use some specialized software for data collection, modeling and analysis, but we don’t expect you to be familiar with at first. Nonetheless, familiarity with a programming language (Python or Matlab are pretty popular around here), and/or interest in learning to code is a plus, especially if you are thinking of doing an independent project. At weekly lab meetings we often discuss somewhat technical journal articles. A willingness to engage primary research materials critically, even when you’re in way over your head and ask questions, even when they seem naïve will help.

**Office Location:** SGM 724  **Office Hours:** Tues 1-3 or by appointment

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**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

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Researcher
Gabrielle Lewine
lewine@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
The current research is focused on cognitive-dissonance based interventions targeting social problems. Research assistants will be trained to implement a research protocol. They will be responsible for scheduling participants, running participants through experimental manipulations, and assisting with outcome assessment.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Research assistants must have a GPA of at least 3.0, and must be willing to commit 10 hours per week. Year-long commitments are strongly preferred. Prior experience running experimental research and/or acting skills a plus.

Office Location: SGM 918 Office Hours: By appointment (please email if interested)

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Researcher
Jacqueline Lee Tilley
mannhual@usc.edu
(213) 740-2273

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
3. Stress and Coping in Asians/Asian immigrants
4. The effects of immigration on the mental health of children and adolescents
RAs will be assisting with a range of tasks, including literature searches (and screening of studies), coding of qualitative and quantitative data, recruitment of participants, and data collection.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Interest in research on culture and mental health.
Reliable, conscientious/detail-oriented, self-motivated, and able to work independently.
Ability to commit approximately 6 – 10 hours a week for at least one semester.

Phone Number: Please email

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Researcher
Tasha Poppa (Bechara Lab)
npoppa@usc.edu
949-748-0788

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
The overall area of research involves the cortical and subcortical regulation of autonomic efferents and interoceptive representations. This research involves psychophysiology and fMRI methods. Undergraduate RAs would be trained to use psychophysiology equipment (BioPac),
help run experimental sessions (both psychophysiology and/or fMRI). Other responsibilities would involve recruiting and scheduling study participants, data entry and management, data pre-processing.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

1) Someone who can commit ~8 hrs/wk (hours needed on any given week can be variable) for at least 1 semester.
2) **Reliable, organized, self-motivated**
3) Preference will be given to students who have any of the following: plans to apply for research-based graduate programs, have taken Dr. Bosco Tjan’s undergrad fMRI course or Dr. Dawson’s psychophysiology course, or who are comfortable with R, MATLAB, or are getting another minor/major in computer science, engineering, statistics/applied math, neuroscience.

**Office Location:** HNB 28C (Basement level)