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, health-risk behaviors, and alcohol abuse prevention. 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

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Researchers

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

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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

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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
Susan Luczak
luczak@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Familial, genetic, biological, cultural, ethnic, and psychosocial risk and protective factors for alcohol use and problems. I have two projects students can become involved in: 1) longitudinal family study in Mauritius and 2) using technology to assess real-time drinking behaviors of college students.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
Highly motivated, reliable, and detail-oriented. Knowledge of SPSS and Excel preferable. Able to commit 10 hours per week.

Researcher
Gayla Margolin
margolin@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Intergenerational transmission of aggression; compassion and biological reactivity during intense couple discussions; emotional and biological co-regulation in young couples; peer talk about risky behaviors; daily family life and the implications for mental and physical health

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
GPA > 3.6; conscientious and detail oriented; interested in working as part of a research team; able to work 8 or more hours/week

Phone Number (213)740-2308
Office Hours
By 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
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 Location: SGM 821
Office Hours Mon/Wed 10A – 12P

Researcher
Darby Saxbe
saxbe@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Stress and social neuroscience; fMRI scanning of adolescents; pregnancy and the transition to parenthood
Because my lab is still under construction, I will not take any RAs until May 2013.

Researcher
Nicole Sintov
Sintov@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
My research focuses on the development and use of new technologies to promote engagement in sustainable behaviors, particularly energy conservation. Specific projects include:

1) Developing and testing persuasive messages to promote participation in energy conservation events
2) The design and implementation of a website-enabled goal-setting energy conservation intervention among Los Angeles electric customers
3) Investigating mechanisms of behavior change related to energy use

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
- No prior research experience necessary
- Able to commit to 10 hours per week
- Reliable, organized, and detail-oriented
- Interested in sustainability issues
- Minimum 3.3 GPA
- RA duties may include participant recruitment, literature searches, entering and analyzing data

Office Location: RTH 312

Researcher
Steve Sussman, Ph.D., FAAHB, FAPA
Professor of Preventive Medicine and Psychology
ssussma@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Substance and behavioral addictions; etiology, prevention, and cessation among teens. International translation of teen tobacco use cessation.
Specic Qualifications for Research Assistants
Having taken my HP410 course on Issues in Drug Abuse or an equivalent. Willingness to go over to the Health Science Campus. Strong interest in research on the addictions.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants
Spanish language skills a plus, literature search skills a must, writing skills helpful.

Phone Number: 323-442-8220
Office Location: SSB 302A

Graduate Students

NOTE: STUDENTS SEEKING PSYC 490 CREDIT FOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE MUST BE WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A FACULTY MEMBER. THE INDIVUALS 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
Kalina Babeva
babeva@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
My research examines age difference in emotional and cognitive reactions to situations encountered within the context of romantic relationships using Dr. Davison's think-aloud paradigm (Articulated Thoughts in Simulated Situations).

RA duties include recruiting and running participants, conducting literature searches, as well as entering and analyzing data.

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
- Strong interest in research on romantic relationships
- Reliable, punctual, conscientious
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to commit 8 - 10 hours per week for at least one semester (preferably 2 semesters)
- Sophomore or junior standing
- Minimum 3.3 GPA
- No prior research experience necessary

Office Location: SGM 1011
Office Hours: By appointment

Researcher
Daryaneh Badaly
Current Research Topics Under Investigation
How peer relationships relate to a multitude of adjustment outcomes (e.g., depression, body dissatisfaction, academic success)

Specific qualifications for Research Assistants
Available at least 10hrs/week for 15 weeks of Spring 2013. Self-motivated to complete tasks and good with time management. Detail-oriented, reliable, and conscientious. Duties include scanning, entering data into a spreadsheet, and literature searches.

Office Location: SGM 625
Office Hours: By appointment

Researcher
Vita Droutman
vdroutman@gmail.com

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
I am interested in understanding risky adolescent decision making in social contexts and its neural bases. I am also examining effects of Mindfulness meditation on risky tendencies in children, adolescents and young adults.

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.

Phone Number: 310-382-4140
Office Location: SGM 817
Office Hours: By appointment

Researcher
Aubrey Rodriguez
aubreyro@usc.edu

Current Research Topics Under Investigation
Our current project assesses parent-adolescent relationships in military families, as it relates to the adjustment of parents and teens to military family life and military deployment. We employ observational methodology to examine how families relate to one another in their natural home environment. We also assess a variety of mental and behavioral health outcomes in military youth and their civilian parent, including depression, anxiety, and risky substance use behavior.

Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants
GPA >3.5, conscientious and detail-oriented. Research assistants will devote an average of 8 hours per week to the project. The demands of the military project will range from week to week (contingent upon the rate of data collection), so RAs must be willing to work on other tasks in the Family Studies Project when data collection is slow. For the military project, RAs will be expected to attend up to two weekly meetings, to contribute actively to group/team meetings, and to track their progress and observations about the data.

**Desired qualifications for research assistants**
RAs who can make multiple-semester commitments will receive additional consideration.

**Phone Number:** 213-740-2306  
**Office Location** SGM 922  
**Office Hours:** Tue 1-3PM (email for an 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