

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED Autumn 2018

The School of Communication both welcomes and encourages undergraduate student involvement in the research programs of faculty and graduate students by serving as undergraduate research assistants. Research assistants play a vital role in the research of any university, by helping with data collection and analysis, computer programming, library research, and writing of research reports for presentation and conferences and for publication. Undergraduates in the social sciences with research experience (especially in the form of an undergraduate thesis) and who meet other entry requirements are often highly sought out by graduate schools, including the graduate program in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. Furthermore, people with research skills are also sought out in industry and the corporate world. Thus, serving as a research assistant can give you a competitive advantage in your quest for furthering your education in the social sciences or obtaining employment upon graduation. **If you need a letter of recommendation from a faculty member for graduate school or a job, you will get a much stronger letter if you work in a faculty member's research group.** Because there is no such thing as too much experience, we especially encourage students to get involved early in their education, *at least* a year before graduation. It sounds a lot better for a faculty member to say that that you worked in their lab for two, three, or even four years than only a semester.

The School of Communication is currently recruiting undergraduate research assistants for ongoing research projects described below. You may earn 'independent study' course credit by working on these projects or get involved on a voluntary basis—details are to be discussed with the faculty/project contacts. **If you see a project description that interests you, please contact the faculty member directly (unless otherwise indicated in project description).** Most projects fill on a first-come basis until full.

The application deadline for all positions is August 24, 2018.

Autumn 2018 School of Communication Projects

Project title: I am a Scientist: Ask Me Anything

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Robert Bond

Contact information: Austin Hubner will respond to email inquiries

Email: Hubner.9@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 3

Project location: Remote

Minimum commitment per week: 2 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: None.

Project description: We are examining scientists' perceptions of the public after they participated in an "Ask Me Anything" session on Reddit. We need help from students coding and classifying the variables related to the scientists who participated in AMA sessions.

Project Title: Earth Viewer & Virtual Ice

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3-4

Project Location: Journalism Building, Research Commons (in the 18th St. Library), and possibly off-campus

Minimum commitment per week: 6+ hours/week (2-3 credits)

Preferred qualifications: Good interpersonal skills, timely & reliable, blocks of daytime availability (at least 3 continuous hours in between 9 and 5). Students with an interest in human-computer interaction, user testing, educational technology, or science communication are strongly encouraged to apply.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with user testing of a web-based app for teaching people scientific principles. Later in the semester we hope to also be testing an immersive virtual environment. You will interact with study participants and get firsthand experience with various user testing methods. You will develop the type of research skills that are useful for careers in HCI, user experience, and market research more broadly.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Project Title: Photoshop Assistant

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 1-2

Project Location: A few meetings at Derby Hall; most work done on your own

Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; strong Photoshop skills; strong organizational skills; ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision.

Project description: This position will entail identifying, downloading, and coding images. It will also involve creating experimental stimuli using Photoshop.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Project Title: Graphic Design & Photoshop

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 2

Project Location: Derby Hall & on your own

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Experience and skill in creating graphics for various digital platforms and using Photoshop. We're seeking someone with strong time management skills who is responsible, creative, and independent. You must be able to ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision. If you have experience with or have taken courses in data visualization, that's a plus but not necessary.

Project description: We are seeking individuals to help assist with the creation of graphics and templates for various projects. Specifically, some of the jobs including creating experimental stimuli using photographs; creating PowerPoint templates; and creating different graphics to illustrate research findings.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Links to samples of your work are strongly recommended.

Project Title: Avatar Creation

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 2

Project Location: Derby Hall & on your own

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Experience and skill in creating avatars using modeling software. We are looking for people who are skilled at using platforms such as Adobe Fuse, Autodesk, Mixamo, etc., rather than avatar creators embedded within a particular game or world. We're seeking someone with strong time management skills who is responsible, creative, and independent. You must be able to ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision.

Project description: We are seeking individuals to help assist with the creation of graphics and templates for various projects. Specifically, some of the jobs including creating experimental stimuli using photographs; creating PowerPoint templates; and creating different graphics to illustrate research findings.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Links to samples of your work are strongly recommended.

Project title: Relationship Events

Faculty supervisor: Jesse Fox (with Jessica Frampton & Michael Gilbert)

Contact information: email Jessica Frampton (see below)

Email: frampton.22@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Derby Hall & Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Minimum 3.0 GPA; punctual; availability on Tuesday and/or Thursday

Project description:

The purpose of this study is to explore how media exposure, social norms, and moral values impact the way people react when they feel jealous. Research assistants involved in this project will run lab sessions to collect data, and if desired, help analyze data. Research assistants will also receive one-on-one mentorship and have the opportunity to participate in the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.

Project Title: Coding & Online Research

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Kelly Garrett

Contact Information: Dr. Kelly Garrett

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): garrett.258@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4-6

Project Location: A few meetings at Derby Hall; most work done on your own

Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; strong organizational skills; ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with content analysis of online discussions in a variety of venues, including Reddit, Twitter, and the comments section of major news sites. Our goal is to use an existing coding system to assess several conversation qualities, including civility, diversity of viewpoints, and coherence. RAs will begin by spending several hours coding practice documents and meeting with other coders to ensure that assessments are consistent across the group. RAs also will have the opportunity to help improve the codebook. Once training is complete, RAs will code discussion threads independently. Please note that the material to be coded is unfiltered, taken from the source websites verbatim. It is almost certain that coders will encounter some content expressing ideas and language that they find offensive.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:

https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bpT3zaGRDOqZYHP

Project title: Media Preferences During Life Events

Faculty supervisor: Kelly Garrett (& Jessica Frampton)

Contact information: email Jessica Frampton (see below)

Email: frampton.22@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Derby Hall & Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Minimum 3.0 GPA; punctual; availability on Tuesday and/or Thursday

Project description:

The purpose of this study is to explore what types of media people prefer when they are faced with an “ending” (i.e., a moment marking a life transition or significant change of activities). Throughout their lifespan, people face a variety of endings such as

graduating college, quitting a job, or breaking up with a romantic partner. Past research indicates that people experience negative or mixed affect in regard to these life events, however, little research has been conducted on positively appraised endings. This study consists of an experiment wherein appraisals of an ending (a romantic relationship breakup) are manipulated, and media preferences are observed. Research assistants involved in this project will run lab sessions to collect data, and if desired, help analyze data. Research assistants will also receive one-on-one mentorship and have the opportunity to participate in the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.

Project title: Prime Time Television: Representations of Older Adults

Faculty supervisor: Susan Kline

Contact information: 3106 Derby Hall

Email: kline.48@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1-3

Project location: 3106 Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours/week (1 credit hour)

Preferred qualifications: Comm major.

Project description: Working from a random sample of television programs, this project involves content analyzing the portrayals of older adults on prime time television. Students will be involved in both quantitative and qualitative coding.

Project title: Narrative Responses Survey

Faculty supervisor: Emily Moyer-Guse

Contact information: frazer.39@osu.edu (Rebecca Frazer, Co-investigator)

Email: moyer-guse.1@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Derby Hall and/or Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 4 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Attention to detail; understanding of research methods; interest in communication research

Project description: This experimental study examines how readers engage with “bad guys” in fictional stories. The study investigates what prompts identification with morally deviant antagonists and explores the potential impact of such identification on attitudes and behaviors toward real-world morally deviant individuals. The potential power of low moral salience and late revelation of morally deviant behavior to promote identification with antagonists will be explored, as well as the real world persuasive effects that such identification may have. Hypotheses will be tested using a 2x2 experimental design varying high/low moral salience and early/late reveal of morally deviant behavior.

Findings from this study will extend our understanding of character engagement with morally deviant characters and will establish connections between character identification and real-world favorability toward morally deviant people. Since the experiment is offered in a lab setting, RAs would help with collecting data by directing lab sessions. RAs may also assist with background research and editing for the study write-up.

Project title: Mobile media use

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Zheng Joyce Wang

Contact information: Shan Xu

Email: xu.1724@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Journalism building and Derby hall

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours/week

Preferred qualifications:

GPA higher than 3.3

People person

Tech-savvy

Comfortable with mathematics.

Project description:

1. Be actively involved in a research project on college students' everyday media use and happiness
2. Configure and prepare iPads for participants
3. Give training to participants
4. Learn how to analyze "big data" if interested.