

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED Autumn 2017

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 25, 2017.

Autumn 2017 School of Communication Projects

Project Title: Coding & Online Research

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: 2-3

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

Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; experience with photo apps; 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 coding projects and some online tasks, such as identifying, downloading, and coding images.

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

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

Project Title: Video 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: 1-2

Project Location: Derby Hall & on your own

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hrs.

Preferred qualifications: Experience and skill in shooting and editing videos. Most videos will be computer screen capture with narration and basic video effects such as titles and annotating. For some of these videos we are very open to creative approaches. We're seeking someone with strong time management skills who can work on their own and make steady progress on a longer-term project.

Project description: We are seeking an individual to help assist with the creation of several videos. This will include a few dates shooting videos at Derby Hall, occasional meetings to discuss and view progress, and working on your own to edit the video. The videos you create would include training materials shared online. Some videos you will have a lot of creative license and would be able to demonstrate your skills (in case you wanted them as part of a professional portfolio).

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:
<https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Links to samples of video work are strongly recommended.

Project Title: Earth Viewer

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: 3-6

Project Location: Journalism Building, Research Commons (in the 18th St. Library), and possibly off-campus at the STEAM Factory, 400 West Rich St.

Minimum commitment per week: 6+ hrs.

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. 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: Environment Simulations

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

Project Location: Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hrs.

Preferred qualifications: Good interpersonal skills, timely & reliable, blocks of daytime availability (at least 3 continuous hours in between 9 and 5), interest in video games or virtual environments

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help run participants in an experiment using an immersive virtual environment. You will interact with study participants and learn about different forms of immersive environments.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:
<http://goo.gl/forms/YMwyjEVVdK>

Project title: Media Preferences During Life Events

Faculty supervisor: Kelly Garrett (& Jessica Frampton)

Contact information: email (see below)

Email: frampton.22@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Derby Hall & Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 5 hours

Preferred qualifications: Minimum 3.0 GPA, punctual, and detail-oriented

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: Brain Network Organization and Behavior

Faculty supervisor: Richard Huskey, Cognitive Communication Science Lab

Contact information: <http://cogcommscience.com/get-involved/>

Email: huskey.29@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1

Project location: Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging (Psychology Building)

Minimum commitment per week: 5-10 hours

Preferred qualifications: You must have a strong GPA and an interest in research. It is desirable that you have previous experience in experimental research or customer service. You must be comfortable working and interacting with adult research

participants in an environment that some participants may find stressful. This means that you will need to adopt a professional yet casual demeanor with research participants (think about your favorite health care professional). Moreover, you must have excellent attention to detail, ability to follow directions exactly, and strong commitment to safety. This project requires a flexible schedule as research days/times will depend on participant availability (however, research hours will be constrained to Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm). Prior experience working with brain imaging technologies is **not** mandatory. This project will carry over into the Spring18 semester, so **we are only considering students who can commit to two semesters as a research assistant.**

Project description: This is a brain imaging study that uses functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to understand the relationship between the brain, mind, and human behavior. In this study, subjects will play an experimental video game while undergoing fMRI scanning. As a Research Assistant on this project, you will be involved in all aspects of data collection. This includes helping set up the fMRI scanner, administering questionnaires to research participants, helping participants train on the video game, and cleaning up after each fMRI session. You will need to undergo fMRI safety training and will need to complete IRB training as well.

This project will be a lot of work. But it will also be a tremendous experience! You will get to see how people’s brains respond to video games. You will learn how to use a sophisticated research technology, and you will have regular interactions with the PI and grad students on this project. Your participation in this will look great on both job and grad school applications.

Project title: Having a Great Life! Older Adult LifeStyle Blogs

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan Kline

Contact information:

Email: kline.48@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2-3

Project location: 3106 Derby

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs/week

Preferred qualifications: comm major

Project description:

Previous work with undergraduate students has identified a sample of older adult lifestyle blogs, and produced a general analysis of the communication practices

involved in these blogs. We now need to apply a more precise coding system to the sample. After learning the coding system and obtaining interrater reliability, coding work can be completed independently.

Project title: Mindfulness in Interpersonal Influence

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan Kline

Contact information:

Email: kline.48@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1-2

Project location: 3106 Derby

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs/week

Preferred qualifications: comm major

Project description:

This study expands on previous work on social cognitive abilities useful in interpersonal persuasion. This particular project requires interviewers to talk with students about their expertise in persuading friends and family members. Students will need to qualify as interviewers for the project.

Project title: Christmas Television Movies and Romantic Relationship

Development

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan Kline

Contact information:

Email: kline.48@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2-3

Project location: 3106 Derby

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs/week

Preferred qualifications: comm major

Project description:

Previous work with undergraduate students has identified a holiday television movies that focus on romantic relationship development. We've produced a general analysis of the communication practices involved in these movies, but now need to apply a more precise coding system to the sample. After learning the coding system and obtaining

interrater reliability, coding work can be completed independently.

Project Title: Entertainment Research Lab

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick

Contact Information: George Pearson (pearson.325@osu.edu), Dr. Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick (knobloch-westerw.1@osu.edu)

Minimum Commitment: 6 hours per week.

Preferred Qualifications: Strong interest in social scientific research, specifically communication and media. No previous research experience necessary although beneficial. We like to have motivated, reliable, friendly people on the team. GPA > 3.5 preferred but not a requirement.

Project Descriptions:

The Entertainment Research Lab in the School of Communication is looking for a number of undergraduate researchers to work on various research projects led by graduate students and faculty. The lab's research focusses on a number of areas including: social media, politics, journalism, gender identity, self-perception and other media related issues. Information on specific projects being recruited for our below.

- How do role models help change **women's self-concepts** via media messages to increase their interest in science and motivation to pursue **science careers**? (RAs wanted for testing study, coding, and conducting literature searches.)
- How do different types of **affect** and **self-concept** predict selection and **social comparison**; for instance if I'm happy, am I more likely to read stories about successful people? (RAs wanted for designing the study, setting up and testing experimental procedures, running experiments with participants and conducting literature searches.)
- How does the media affect **political issues** we believe to be important? In what way do our political interests shape our **news consumption**? (RAs wanted for creating stimuli (e.g. news articles) for use in study, settings up questions on Qualtrics, running experiments with participants.)
- How well do we remember important political information? How do our **memories of the news** we read affect our **political attitudes**? (RAs wanted for creating stimuli (e.g. news articles) for use in study, settings up questions on Qualtrics, running experiments with participants)
- Does exposure to **political media** influence **attitudes**, perceptions of public opinion and **political engagement**? (RAs wanted for testing and developing study design, running experiments with participants, and potentially conducting data analysis)

Experience Gained

Undergraduate research assistants can expect to gather experience in the following areas:

- Certification in conducting Human Subjects Research
- Assisting with developing research procedures
- Setting up research procedures
- Experience and knowledge with research procedures such as experiments, coding, literature review
- Brainstorming and creating research
- Discussing and presenting research publications

Undergraduate researchers are also invited to attend the weekly lab meetings where we discuss and review ongoing projects. The lab will meet every Tuesday during the Autumn semester (exact time to be confirmed). However, attendance at the weekly meetings is not required.

The Entertainment Lab has had a number of undergraduate researchers present work at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum and we are always happy to support students looking to achieve this.

Getting In Touch

If you are interested in any of the above research projects, or working with the Entertainment Lab in general, email George Pearson at pearson.325@osu.edu with: projects you may be interested in working on, your Major, your GPA, any relevant research experience you have, any other useful skills you may have (e.g. coding, graphic design)

Project Title: Selective Media Exposure: What drives attention to online messages?

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick

Contact Information: Dr. Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick (knobloch-westerw.1@osu.edu)

Minimum Commitment: 6 hours per week.

Preferred Qualifications: Programming, HTML, JavaScript, JQuery

GPA > 3.5 preferred but not a requirement.

Project Descriptions:

Collaborative setting:

Undergraduate researcher(s) will have the opportunity to work under immediate guidance of faculty mentor. Work in this position could be performed in teams of undergraduate researchers or individually.

Position tasks:

- Develop an application (or 'supplement' for a commercial survey tool) that simulates mediated communication environments (e.g., news aggregators like GoogleNews, social media such as Facebook or Instagram) for the purpose of tracking what messages individuals select.
- Overall purpose of research projects in which the platform will be utilized is to study the factors that lead individuals to consume or avoid messages, e.g. messages with a particular political leaning or that portray certain social groups positively/negatively.
- The platform needs to log what messages an individual users clicks on and how much time is spent with messages. Total time individuals spent on browsing messages will be limited.
- Platform must follow logic of particular experimental study (e.g., randomize the sequence in which certain messages are displayed, counterbalance how often messages of a certain type are displayed).
- The application will likely be embedded in a commercial online software tool. Further, the platform should be adaptable for future study designs.
- The position entails meetings to discuss platform requirements, as well as individual work on setting up, improving and testing the platform. After initial meetings, the work can be primarily be performed independently, with regular check-ins based on a progress timeline.

Position incentives:

Academic credit, gaining research and work experience, resume building, entry-level scholarly publication, and faculty mentor will happily serve as reference in future applications for jobs/graduate programs.

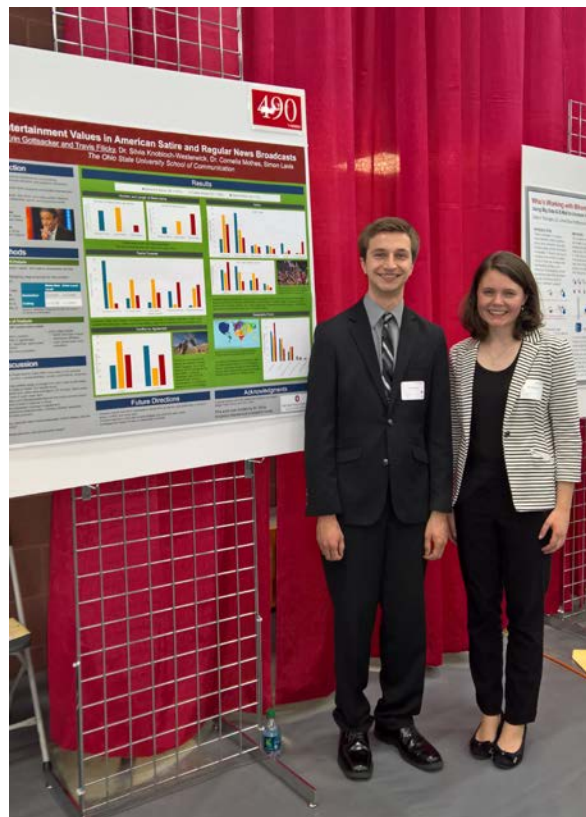
Upon completion of programming of the application, it will be used to collect data from human participants. The undergraduate researcher will have the opportunity to present the project at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. These presentations will be prepared with thorough support as desired, e.g., rehearsal presentations in mentors'

research lab group. Undergraduate researchers have presented work with this faculty mentor many times and even won awards/co-authorship on scholarly publications for their work.

DENMAN FORUM 2017



DENMAN FORUM 2016



Experience Gained

Undergraduate research assistants can gather experience in the following areas:

- **Assisting with developing research procedures**
- **Setting up research procedures**
- Experience and knowledge with research procedures such as experiments, coding, literature review
- Brainstorming and creating research
- Potentially: Discussing and presenting research publications

- Potentially: Certification in conducting Human Subjects Research

Undergraduate researchers are also invited to attend the weekly lab meetings where we discuss and review ongoing projects. The lab will meet every Tuesday during the Autumn semester (exact time to be confirmed). However, attendance at the weekly meetings is not required.

The Entertainment Lab has had a number of undergraduate researchers present work at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum and we are always happy to support students looking to achieve this.

Project title: Online social support

Faculty supervisor: Siyue April Li

Contact information: 3058 Derby Hall

Email: li.6836@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1

Project location: Journalism building

Minimum commitment per week: 4 hours/week

Preferred qualifications:

- Strong graphic design skills. Proficiency in graphic design software (e.g., Photoshop).
- Attention to details.
- Excellent time management, prioritization and organizational skills.

Project description: This project examines how people communicate social support online. Need someone who can create static study stimuli based on existing web pages.