UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED
Spring 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 January 13, 2017.
Spring 2017 School of Communication Projects

Project title: Avatar sexualization in video games
Faculty supervisor: Brad Bushman
Contact information: 614-688-8779
Email: bushman.20@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 2
Project location: Derby Hall DB, Building 025, 154 N Oval Mall, 43210

Minimum commitment per week: 6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: the candidate should be able to be conscientious and to focus on small details.

Project description:
The project consists in an evaluation of the sexualization of video games avatars. The research assistant will have to evaluate four pictures per selected video game and analyzed several elements in these pictures. These elements are a measure of the proportion between hips and waist, between chest and waist, between biceps and head, between shoulders size and head. Nudity and revealing clothing will also be evaluated. We will also code the presence of a weapon. All these measures will allow us to compute a score that will describe the general sexualization present in the video game. All pictures will be selected beforehand.

To avoid any risk of bias, we are looking for one male and one female research assistant.

Project title: Cues of Aggression
Faculty supervisor: Brad Bushman
Contact information: Kevin Collier, PhD student
Email: collier.262@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 10-12
Project location: Derby hall and Journalism 339

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours/week

Preferred qualifications:

Project description:
Dr. Brad Bushman is looking for 8-12 undergraduate volunteers (academic credit possible) for at least 3-4 hours a week and in no less than 2 hour periods. The lab explores aggression and the various ways it affects daily lives.
Students will have the opportunity to run experimental sessions and conduct scientific research, enter data, and use Qualtrics. Experienced and outstanding students have the potential to gain leadership experience.

Project title: The Effect of Masculine Video Games on Risk Taking Behavior
Faculty supervisor: Brad Bushman
Contact information: Michael Gilbert; Room 3075 Derby Hall; 154 N Oval Mall
Phone #: 313-682-4594
Email: gilbert.611@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 6
Project location: Journalism Building and/or Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 5 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: We prefer -but do not require -a semester of research experience. Preference given to those majoring in Communication. Must be able to set a schedule and keep to it consistently throughout the semester. Must complete training modules online before involvement in the project can begin.

Project description:
Research suggests that video games -especially those rated Teen or Mature -contain many examples or risky behavior, such as dangerous driving, drug and alcohol use, and risky sex. Furthermore, research has found that playing risky driving games has an effect on risky behavior in simulated traffic situations. Some correlational links between video game use and other types of risk, such substance abuse and delinquent behavior have also been found.
It is unclear, however, how masculine content in video games could influence gamer’s risk taking behavior. Content analyses have found that a large amount of video games are highly masculine in nature, with disproportionate amounts of muscular male characters, aggression, and violence. Other researchers have connected traditional masculinity with risk-taking behaviors, which indicates that playing masculine game may also influence risk-taking behavior. Therefore, this project aims to examine if masculine video game play is associated with higher risk-taking behavior.
Research assistants will be responsible for running participants through the study. The tasks involved include obtaining consent, debriefing participants, and leading participants through the study. This means that RAs will directly interact with participants directly.

Project title: Meta-analysis on the effect of pornography and sexualized content on aggression
Faculty supervisor: Brad Bushman
Contact information: 614-688-8779
Email: bushman.20@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 1
Project location: Derby Hall DB, Building 025, 154 N Oval Mall, 43210

Minimum commitment per week: 6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: the candidate should be able to be conscientious and to focus on small details.

Project description:
In this project, the research assistant will have to code studies for a meta-analysis. The meta-analysis will be on the effect of pornography and sexualized content on aggression (arousal, cognition, behavior, affect). For a study to be included in the review, it needed to include a manipulation or measure of exposure to sexually explicit media and it needed to include a measure of aggression-related thoughts, feelings, attitudes, or behaviors. We also included studies that tested the effects of sexually explicit media on physiological arousal. The research assistant will have to code these studies according to a coding frame. Study characteristics are divided into five categories: (a) source characteristics, (b) participant characteristics, (c) stimulus characteristics, (d) response characteristics, experiment characteristics, and (e) primary study results. All studies will be selected beforehand.

---

Project Title: Instagram Study
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 hours/week

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

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help run an experiment about responses to social media. You will interact with study participants and learn about experimental and survey-based research.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:
http://goo.gl/forms/YMwyjEVVdK
**We will start reviewing applications mid-November.**
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 hours/week

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

**We will start reviewing applications mid-November.**

________________________________________

Project Title: Channel Study
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:
Project Location: Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hours/week

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

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help run an experiment about interpersonal encounters through different media. You will interact with study participants and learn about experimental and survey-based research.

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

**We will start reviewing applications mid-November.**

________________________________________
**Project Title: Social Media Study**  
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox  
Contact Information: Mackenzie Kibbe; Dr. Jesse Fox  
Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): kibbe.10@buckeyemail.osu.edu  
Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3  
Project Location: Journalism Building

*Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hours/week*

Preferred qualifications: Good interpersonal skills, timely & reliable, blocks of daytime availability (at least 3 continuous hours in between 9 and 5).

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help run an experiment about responses to social media feedback. You will interact with study participants and learn about experimental and survey-based research.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link:  
[http://goo.gl/forms/YMwyjEVVdK](http://goo.gl/forms/YMwyjEVVdK)  
**We will start reviewing applications mid-November.**

**Project title: Studies in Interpersonal Interaction, Relationships and Media**
Faculty supervisor: Susan Kline  
Contact information: 3106 Derby Hall  
Email: kline.48@osu.edu  
Total number of research assistants sought: 1-4  
Project location: 3106 for mtgs/lab if necessary

*Minimum commitment per week: 1-3 credit hours*

Preferred qualifications: Comm Major

Project description: I need help with several projects this semester:

1. Assistance in facilitating lab interaction experiment that involves students (dating partners, or friends).
2. Interviewing peers about communication skills
3. Administering questionnaires targeted to international students.
4. Assistance in administering questionnaires that involves students on persuasive communication skills (dating partners, or friends).
Project title: Talking politics as an election approaches
Faculty supervisor: Hillary Shulman
Contact information: 3140 Derby Hall
Email: hillaryshulman@gmail.com
Total number of research assistants sought: 3
Project location: 3140 Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications: Students with a focus in Public Affairs Journalism or Communication Analysis and Practice

Project description: Students will read short paragraphs about recent political conversations people have had. Students will then learn how to code qualitative data by coding for the motivations behind these political discussions. This study should be of interest to students interested in political communication, public opinion, or interpersonal communication. This project will require approximately 6 hours of work per week. After the initial training sessions held in Derby Hall, students will complete this project at home. In order to obtain credit, students must complete the work by the deadlines specified.

Project title: Media use and youth
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Joyce Wang
Contact information: Shan Xu, PhD student
Email: xu.1724@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 2
Project location: Journalism building and Derby hall

Minimum commitment per week: 6 hours/week

Preferred qualifications:
(1) Strong interest in media research
(2) Motivated, reliable, friendly
(3) GPA > 3.5 preferred

Project description:

The Communication and Psychophysiology (CAP) Lab consists of Professor Joyce Wang, doctoral students, undergraduate research assistants and a high school research assistant. We meet weekly to discuss research projects (the meeting is voluntary for undergraduate collaborators).

For the spring semester, we seek assistance with a research project on the following research topics:
- How the use of media technologies, especially smartphones, influences young people’s psychological wellbeing in a long run?
- How media multitasking during eating affects food choice?

Undergraduate research assistants may gather experiences in the following research activities:

- Certification in collecting longitudinal data from research participants
- Assisting with developing research procedures (questionnaires, instructions)
- Learning and conducting content analysis
- Brainstorming research ideas and approaches
- Discussing and presenting research publications
- Recruiting and interacting with research participants

---------------------------------------------

**Project title:**  Mobile Communication, Health, and Decision Making  
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Zheng Joyce Wang  
Contact information: Contact Alex Hedstrom  
Email: Hedstrom.1@osu.edu  
Total number of research assistants sought: 2  
Project location: Journalism 211, CAPLab

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours/week*

Preferred qualifications: Experiment management and data collection

Project description: Mobile communication is the new frontier for health interventions. We are looking to experiment on ways in which to enhance health communication and behavior change via mobile health messages and app designs. This project will include both experiments and research syntheses to jump start long term research on mobile health intervention research.

---------------------------------------------
**Project title: The Limits of Empathy**  
Faculty supervisor: Dr. McDonald and Dr. Moyer-Guse  
Contact information:  
Email: mcdonald.221@osu.edu  
Total number of research assistants sought: 3  
Project location: Derby Hall/computer access  

*Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours*

Preferred qualifications: A or B in Research Methods  
Project description:  

Drs. McDonald and Moyer-Guse are interested in having up to 3 undergraduate research assistants as coders for a project involving the use of media and personal memories that people have related to the events portrayed in videos. The project will involve computer assisted coding and comparison to human coding so that we can develop a reliable and valid coding scheme. Assistants will need to complete CITI training.