UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED
Spring 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 January 12, 2018.
Spring 2018 School of Communication Projects

**Project title: Anger Management Meta Analysis**
Faculty supervisor: Brad Bushman  
Contact information: Michael Gilbert  
Email: gilbert.611@osu.edu  
Total number of research assistants sought: 1  
Project location: Flexible

*Minimum commitment per week: 9 hours/week*

Preferred qualifications: Applicants should have experience reading academic papers, preferably related to social science. Applicants must be detail-oriented and should have a fundamental knowledge of statistics. Previous research experience is unnecessary, but preferred.

Project description: This project is a meta-analysis on anger management, meaning it is a compilation of all previous studies about that topic. RAs will be expected to help code, which means reading relevant studies and categorizing them based on certain aspects, such as outcome variables, participant pool, and measurement method. Unlike most other RA appointments, this study does not require interacting with participants or coming to a specific lab. Work hours are flexible.

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**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

*Minimum commitment per week: 6+ hrs. (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. 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

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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

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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 hrs.*

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

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**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*

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

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**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
Project Location: Derby Hall & on your own

*Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hrs.*

Preferred qualifications: Experience and skill in shooting and editing videos. 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/f4z1AbBOAxEtePhch1
Links to samples of video work are strongly recommended.

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

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: Discussing the state of the world, with friends.
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan Kline
Contact information:
Email: kline.48@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 1-2
Project location: Derby, Journalism buildings.

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs./week

Preferred qualifications: Comm major
Project description: helping to collect and analyze interaction data from friends

This study expands on previous work in interpersonal persuasion. This particular project has students help collect discussion data in the lab involving other students discussing current event/global issues.

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 Relationships Development
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:

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: News & 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. (Some projects may have specific qualification requirements, see below)

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 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)

- How do individuals choose to select news articles online and how do various cues in the online environment affect the selection process (RAs wanted for collecting data, giving feedback on stimuli, testing survey functioning)

- Does exposure to political media, and conversation about politics, influence attitude, 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: Interaction on social networking sites
Faculty supervisor: April Li
Contact information: 3058 Derby Hall
Email: li.6836@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 3
Project location: Journalism building or Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 6 hours

Preferred qualifications: Punctuality; strong interpersonal skills; meticulous attention to detail.
Project description: This is an experiment examining how people communicate on social networking sites. The RAs will be trained to run the experiment in lab. Please send a resume and unofficial college transcript to li.6836@osu.edu.

Project title: Media technology and happiness
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Zheng Joyce Wang
Contact information: Shan Xu, xu.1724@osu.edu
Email: xu.1724@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 3
Project location: OSU campus

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours

Preferred qualifications:

1. Able to communicate effectively with teenagers and parents
2. Detail oriented
3. Accountable

Project description:

1. Will actively involve in a research project on adolescents’ everyday media use and happiness
2. Design and prepare training materials for teen participants
3. Give training to teen participants