



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED Autumn 2020

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 28, 2020.

## Autumn 2020 School of Communication Projects

**Project title: “Hangry” Meta-analysis**

Faculty supervisor: Brad Bushman

Contact information: Sophie Kjaervik (kjaervik.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

Email: kjaervik.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Remote work/Online

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Organized; close attention to detail; strong reading comprehension

Project description: This project explores the relationship between the “hangry” and aggression. The term “hangry” is a combination of two words: hungry plus angry. In the Oxford English Dictionary, it is defined as “bad-tempered or irritable as a result of hunger.” We didn’t come up with the term “hangry,” but we conducted the first research on the topic. (If you are interested, you can watch this TEDx talk I gave.) The goal of this project is to gather all relevant studies on this topic and include them in a meta-analysis in order to understand the association between hanger and aggression. The term meta-analysis literally means “analysis of analyses.” It is a literature review that combines the statistical analyses (e.g., correlations) from different studies conducted on the same topic. This opportunity can be taken on a voluntary basis or for credit in Communication (COMM 4998) or Psychology (PSYCH 4998).

Format of remote interaction: Online; email; occasional Zoom meetings

Stable on-going Internet access required?: Yes

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**Project Title: User Experiences**

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Ms. Kelsey Woods, Lab Manager

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): woods.654@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4-6

*Minimum commitment per week: 6+ hrs (2-3 credits)*

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; ability to self-manage, including making steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision and meeting deadlines; availability for up to 3 training meetings between 10 AM & 5 PM Eastern time (times to be determined). Students with an interest in human-computer interaction, user testing, or science communication are strongly encouraged to apply.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with coding videos of people interacting with a web-based science app. You will develop coding and analysis skills that are useful for careers in UX/UR/HCI, user experience, and market research more broadly. We may also be running remote live UX testing sessions with participants; if so, you can choose to run remote studies or not.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). We will maintain contact by email and you will upload your progress weekly or bi-weekly. If we run live sessions, you would be using Zoom to interact with participants and conduct user testing. Stable ongoing internet access required? You will need to watch or download video files, so it is recommended. If you want to run live UX testing sessions it will be necessary.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/cswmKVxna7nPKE56A>

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**Project Title: Coding Experiences**

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Mr. Kelly Merrill Jr.

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): merrill.155@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4

*Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; mindful; can meet deadlines; ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision; availability for up to 3 training meetings between 10 AM & 5 PM Eastern time (times to be determined).

Project description: This position will entail coding sensitive data tied to experiences in health and educational settings. Some data will include negative emotional experiences tied to one's sense of self.

**\*\*Trigger warning\*\***: please note these descriptions can be upsetting. You will be exposed to offensive and hurtful language, including slurs.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). We will maintain contact by email and you will upload your progress weekly or bi-weekly. Stable ongoing internet access required? You will need to have stable synchronous access for the online human subjects training and the training meetings (we expect 2-3). Otherwise you can mostly work offline if needed.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/cswmKVxna7nPKE56A>

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**Project Title: Organizing Scientific Research**

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Ms. Kelsey Woods, Lab Manager

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): woods.654@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 2-3

*Minimum commitment per week: 6+ hrs (2-3 credits)*

Preferred qualifications: Excellent organizational skills; meticulous and attentive to detail; ability to self-manage, including making steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision and meeting deadlines.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with a research project that will involve searching for, coding, and organizing research materials. You will be working with spreadsheets and organizing digital files.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). We will maintain contact by email and you will upload your progress weekly or bi-weekly. Stable ongoing internet access required? You will need to upload documents and datasets, so good connectivity is needed.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/cswmKVxna7nPKE56A>

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**Project title: Coding for incivility**

Faculty supervisor: Kelly Garrett

Contact information: Kelly Garrett

Email: garrett.258@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1

Project location: Remote

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours (perhaps as many as 10 hours)*

Preferred qualifications: Good writing skills; attentive to detail; strong organizational skills; ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision; GPA of 3.0.

Project description: The research you will be supporting examines whether we can use “crowdsourcing” (e.g., Amazon Mechanical Turk) to reliably classify social media post as civil or uncivil. A group of trained coders has already classified several thousand posts. The research team seeks to reproduce this coding using crowdworkers. AYou will begin by familiarizing yourself with the “codebook,” which describes the

rules of coding. After that, your primary responsibility will be to help produce training materials for crowdworkers. This will typically involve selecting “training” posts which illustrate key aspects of civility and writing short descriptions that explain why the post should be coded as civil or uncivil. Please note that the coded posts are drawn from the web, which means that you are likely to encounter content expressing ideas or language that you find offensive.

To apply, please complete the survey found here:

[https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6QYy3q9rQnKaZo1](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6QYy3q9rQnKaZo1)

Format of remote interaction: Most work can be conducted on a computer without Internet access. Stable on-going Internet access required? Ability to participate in video conference ever week or two is necessary. Otherwise, email or similar technology is fine.

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**Project title: Humor Online: Analyzing the Discourse of Illness Support Groups – POSITION FILLED**

Faculty supervisor: Susan Kline, PhD

Contact information: 3106 Derby Hall

Email: [kline.48@osu.edu](mailto:kline.48@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: ~~1-2~~ – POSITION FILLED

Project location: 3106 Derby Hall

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs/week*

Preferred qualifications: communication major

Project description: This project will extend the research done on the online humor of hemophiliacs in their support group. A coding system developed for the first study will be applied to one or two other only support groups.

Format of remote interaction: zoom meetings

Stable on-going Internet access required? Absolutely!

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**Project title: Older adult’s self-presentation practices on social media - POSITION FILLED**

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan Kline

Contact information: [kline.48@osu.edu](mailto:kline.48@osu.edu)

Email: [kline.48@osu.edu](mailto:kline.48@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: 1-3 – POSITION FILLED

Project location: 3106 Derby Hall

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs. per week*

Preferred qualifications: Communication major

Project description: This study extends a previous study that analyzed the discourse of older adults' on their own websites and blogs. Students are needed to help with collecting and analyzing blogs that will qualify for this next study.

Format of remote interaction: Zoom meetings

Stable on-going Internet access required? Yes

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**Project title: Obama and Harris: Comparing newspaper coverage of race and identity in 2008 and 2020. - POSITION FILLED**

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan Kline & Dr. Felecia Ross

Contact information: kline.48@osu.edu

Email: kline.48@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1-3 — POSITION FILLED

Project location: 3106 Derby Hall

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs. per week*

Preferred qualifications: Communication major

Project description: This study extends a previous study that analyzed newspaper coverage of Barack Obama's presidential campaign to Kamala Harris's campaign. Students are needed to help with analyzing news-stories for this next study.

Format of remote interaction: Zoom meetings

Stable on-going Internet access required? Yes

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**Project title: Media Coverage during the Pandemic**

Faculty supervisor: Professor and Dr. Joyce Wang

Contact information: Yue Li

Email: li.7232@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Online

*Minimum commitment per week: 6-10 hours per week for each research assistant*

Preferred qualifications:

- (1) Proficiency in English and Microsoft Excel.
- (2) Interests in social science research and learning new research skills.
- (3) Attention to details, punctuality, and accountability.

- (4) Preferably with some research methods experience, such as taking courses in communication or related social science fields (e.g., COMM 3160 or COMM 3163), but this is not required.

Project description: We are conducting research projects on media coverage of COVID-19 related issues. We plan to recruit two research assistants to help with coding some of the media content to validate computer coding. We would prefer candidates who are familiar with research methods in communication or related social science fields. You may gain valuable experience and skills in content analysis, which is a unique skill widely used in the academia as well as in the media industry. You will be working closely with Dr. Joyce Wang and her doctoral students to have first-hand experience with the projects. If you are interested and motivated, there are opportunities to get involved more deeply in the projects and learn many other skills.

Format of remote interaction: Zoom meetings and emails.

Stable on-going Internet access required? Yes, at least have access to Zoom meetings and can check emails regularly.