

**Research Assistant Positions
For Spring 2002
University of Rochester**
Research Fair - Fall 2001

Professor/Graduate Student: Loisa Bennetto (grad students: Laura Silverman, Josh Diehl)

Contact info: bennetto@psych.rochester.edu, 5-8712, Meliora 492

Brief description of research project: We are interested in undergraduate research assistants to help with several studies on the neuropsychology of autism. Current research projects include studies of imitation and motor functioning, facial movement and emotional facial expression, and verbal and nonverbal communication skills (including analysis of narratives). All studies involve high-functioning children and adolescents with autism, who are compared to typically-developing children of similar ages and IQs.

Undergraduate RAs would assist with some aspects of testing, help with transcribing narratives and coding videotaped data of motor movements (gestures, facial movement), data entry and data checking. In addition, RAs would attend our weekly lab meeting, in which we review of weekly research questions, do reliability scoring for diagnostic measures (i.e., a good way to learn about current diagnostic practices), as well as discuss new research ideas and review papers. RAs may also be involved in on-going collaborative studies of genetic and environmental causes of autism at the URM, and would have a chance to visit those labs and/or shadow clinicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. We are particularly interested in RAs who have a background in neurobiology, cognitive science, and/or linguistics, as well as RAs who have had previous experience in working with individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities.

Professor/Graduate Student: Martin Lynch

Contact info: MEL 498, x32404, mfly@psych.rochester.edu

Brief description of research project: I am planning to conduct a study on the phenomenon of "interpersonal compartmentalization", and will need a research assistant, and perhaps two of them, to help in administering survey instruments. I am hoping to get a sample of approximately 150 undergraduate students, and a sample of approximately 50 nursing home residents, from one or two local nursing homes. I expect that one RA would be responsible for administering the student surveys, and another would assist with the nursing home surveys. So these will be fairly responsible positions. I am planning this as a cross-cultural study, and I will be gathering similar data ('younger generation' and 'older generation' samples) in Russia. Research assistants will *not* be expected to travel to Russia.

Professor/Graduate Student: Geoffrey Williams/Chantal Levesque

Contact info: (716) 275-8684, levesque@psych.rochester.edu, Mel 498B

Brief description of research project: *Smokers' Health Study:*

The Smokers' Health Study is a 4-year longitudinal study funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in which we examine the process of behavior change in smokers. The theoretical framework we are using is Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan). Students will be asked to work on various tasks, such as recruitment phone calls, assisting with randomization of participants, data entry, data management, filing and copying. We will have up to 6 positions available. These positions are first offered as Independent Study opportunities. It is possible that we would have one paid position available, but it is not certain.

Professor/Graduate Student: Kirk Warren Brown

Contact info: kirk@prodigal.psych.rochester.edu

Brief description of research project: Looking for one, possibly two, students to help with a student questionnaire study, a national survey study, and possibly a psychophysiology study. The work will involve running questionnaire sessions, doing survey mailings to people across the country, and data entry (plus some analysis if interested). There is also an opportunity to get involved in a psychophysiology of emotion study.

Professor/Graduate Student: Cheryl Carmichael (grad student w/ Harry Reis)

Contact info: carm@psych.rochester.edu, 273.3271, 470 Meliora

Brief description of research project: My research is concerned with the experience, expression, and detection of emotions in close and intimate personal relationships. As a research assistant, responsibilities will include data collection (both student and non-student populations), data entry, library work, and literature searches at minimum. However, the level at which you choose to become involved in the project is up to you, if interested, there is potential for more in-depth participation in all aspects of the research.

Professor/Graduate Student: Patrick Davies

Contact info: davies@psych.rochester.edu

Brief description of research project: The overarching goal of this course is to bridge the gap by providing a balance between: (a) gaining psychological knowledge through readings, discussions, and lectures in a class setting, and (b) applying this knowledge to better understand the research project. Thus, to achieve goal (b), RAs will be heavily involved in conducting a multi-method, multi-informant prospective study that examines the interplay between family relations and children's academic and psychosocial adjustment in the transition to the early elementary school years. The main focus of the course is to provide direct, hands-on experience in working with families and children in research projects.

Thus, specific responsibilities include: (a) administering survey and interview measures to parents, (b) organizing observational tasks involving parents and children, (c) overseeing and recording interactions between family members, and (d) coding, entering, cleaning, and preparing data for analysis through the use of various statistical programs. Opportunities might also be available for coding family observations and interviews if students are interested. To achieve a better understanding of why "you are doing what you are doing," a weakling small, seminar class is held to familiarize students with the conceptualization, design, measurement, and analysis of research on child development and family relations.

Professor/Graduate Student: Stephen Jenkins

Contact info: jenkins@psych.rochester.edu, Meliora 458

Brief description of research project: I am interested in hiring 1-2 advanced psychology students as RAs in the spring to help administer surveys and enter data in a study of sexual behavior. The study involves surveys, not experiments, and requires individuals who are mature and comfortable discussing and dealing with the psychology of this personal and sensitive topic.

Professor/Graduate Student: Andrew Elliot

Contact info: andy@scp.rochester.edu

Brief description of research projects:

Project #1: This project involves manipulating participants' goals for an achievement task and seeing how the different goal manipulations affect performance. RAs will run subjects for this study.

Project #2: This is a 4-year longitudinal study of the development of motivation in children. RAs will learn a coding system for mother-child interactions, and will code data using the system.

Professor/Graduate Student: Scott McIntosh, PhD, Assistant Professor, Dept. Community and Preventive Medicine

Contact info: scott_mcintosh@urmc.rochester.edu; (Office location): Helen Wood Hall, Medical Campus, Fourth Floor, room 4W208

Sign up for the Independent Study (after first talking with Dr. McIntosh) under Health & Society (HLS) 396

Brief description of responsibilities: We need Independent Study students and some paid Research Assistant positions for the following projects:

1) Adolescent Project: Training MD's to deliver stop-smoking advice to smoking teens at "well visits" and then refer them to use self-help treatments (telephone quitline, interactive chat website, and mailings). Research Assistants on this project help with physician office materials development and maintenance, contact with physician offices, tracking research subject data, and reporting to multidisciplinary research team.

2) Project 50 Plus: Randomly assign 1,200 smokers over the age of 50 to one of two treatment groups: "Usual Care" and "Proactive Treatment". All subjects get some combination of self-help materials and services, including telephone "quitline" and interactive website. Research Assistants on this project help subject recruitment, research project advertising, website intervention development and maintenance, tracking research subject data, and reporting to research team.

3) Cardiovascular Health Promotion: A website and annual training program for health care workers in all 50 states. Research Assistants on this project help with online educational materials development and maintenance, contact with American Heart Association and State Department of Health professionals, and reporting to the Centers for Disease Control.

4) Nutrition and Cardiovascular Health Promotion: A website / distance learning program for health care professionals, medical students, and the public. Research Assistants on this project help with online educational materials development and maintenance, contact with University-based Nutrition and Cardiovascular experts, and reporting to the National Institutes of Health.

5) Behavioral Therapy for Obese Children and their parents: This is a randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of Behavioral Group therapy with obese children (white, African American, and Hispanic) to see if changes in eating and exercise can delay or prevent the onset of Type II diabetes. Will probably start in early, 2002. Research Assistants on this project help with subject recruitment, assist with group therapy sessions, and data management. Work with multidisciplinary team, including endocrinologists, physicians, behavioral therapists, and social scientists.

Professor/Graduate Student: Barbara Ilardi

Contact info: ilardi@prodigal.psych.rochester.edu

Brief description of research project: This project involves coding data and tracking down library references for a study being conducted at another school which addresses parents' and students' perceptions of their gender roles and of their work roles and work aspirations, as well as satisfaction with their work. These variables are linked to a variety of outcomes for students, such as well being, self-esteem, body image, etc. The work commitment is about 8 hours per week evenly spread through the semester. The time includes training. Two students are needed for this project. Upper level writing credit is available with a small amount of additional work.

Professor/Graduate Student: Barbara Ilardi (Honors Student: Eileen Leuthe)

Contact info: ilardi@prodigal.psych.rochester.edu

Brief description of research project: Eileen's Honors Project topic is Leadership in Decision-Making Groups. Students who volunteer as RAs will be running groups, coding data and assisting in analysis. The workload is about 8 hours average per week, with more work toward the first half of the semester than the second. The time includes training. One student is needed for this project. Upper level writing credit is available with a small amount of additional work.

Honors Student: Jennifer Sommer

Contact Info: js009h@mail.rochester.edu; 529-9381

Brief description of research project: I am looking for one or two highly motivated students to help me with my honors thesis. The study deals with how the level of relationship functioning among romantic couples affects women's' body image. A research assistant would be required to help with obtaining data, data coding, research, and data collection. The independent study would be for 4 credits in the Spring or 2 credits this Fall. This project would especially benefit those who are interested in self-determination theory, romantic relationships, or body image.

ANOTHER OPTION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDIT

Position: Psych of Sex TA (4-6 needed)

Contact: Barbara Ilardi @ ilardi@prodigal.psych.rochester.edu

Description: This TA position requires an 8-hour commitment per week, including attending class, holding office hours, running two recitations, and grading short student papers. Upper level writing credit is available with a small amount of additional work.