

Fall 2025 - Psychology Department Research Assistant Opportunities (PSYC 161 or PSYC 393)

- Students may sign up for a maximum of three 161 or 393 credits per semester.
 - You should expect to work about 3 hours per week for each credit.
 - Students should email the faculty member whose research area overlaps with their interests directly to discuss a supervised research opportunity.
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Cognitive Area:

Kate Arrington – cma205@lehigh.edu

studies cognitive control in multitask environments. Have you ever wondered whether you really can do two things at once? Or why do you choose to do one thing versus another? This research is aimed at answering questions like these by understanding the basic cognitive processes that underlie our performance in complex environments. These environments include controlled laboratory settings and complex real-world environments such as use of intelligent tutoring systems or electron microscopes. Undergraduate research assistants are needed to help in all aspects of this research.

Nancy Carlisle - nbc415@lehigh.edu

studies the cognitive processes of attention and working memory. How are we able to control which objects we attend to in our environment, especially when there are so many distractions around? How can we be sure we will maintain relevant information in working memory, at the exclusion of other irrelevant information? In the lab, we use behavioral techniques including eye-tracking as well as cognitive neuroscience techniques (EEG) to address these questions.

Patrick Cox – pac323@lehigh.edu

studies visual perception and how past experience, current environment, and individual differences interact to determine task performance. Research questions range from basic science (e.g., how is light on the retina transformed into meaningful representations of objects and categories in the visual system?) to applied (e.g., what are the factors that make it harder to find cancer in a chest X-ray or illegal items in luggage at an airport security checkpoint?). He uses behavioral testing, EEG, data mining, and computational modeling to answer these questions. He is seeking motivated undergraduate research assistants to help in all aspects of his research.

Almut Hupbach - alh309@lehigh.edu

studies the malleability of memory in children and adults (e.g., what causes memory change in children and adults; does sleep support memory formation/updating; can suppression of remembering cause forgetting, etc). She is looking for several undergraduate research assistants who are interested in memory and would like to work with either children or adults or both.

Jessecae Marsh - jem311@lehigh.edu

studies how people's personal theories affect how they reason about categories and causal relationships. She applies this interest to studying how people think about health disorders as categories in the world. She

is currently conducting studies looking at the causal beliefs of health and the structure of misplaced beliefs. Undergraduate research assistants are needed to help in all aspects of this research.

Developmental Area:

Danming An - daa422@lehigh.edu

studies the interplay between contextual factors and children's social cognition and temperament in the development of social competence and behavioral problems. Our research focuses on both the United States and international contexts. Current projects include: 1) Kenya Study, which focuses on local childrearing practices in Kenya and their impact on attachment and child development, and 2) (under planning and will launch this summer) a local study in the Lehigh Valley on children's socio-emotional development, in which we will invite families and children to the lab and observe their behaviors and interactions during specific tasks. We are looking for a diverse group of research assistants who can contribute to various aspects of these projects, such as decorating the lab space to be family friendly, designing flyers that introduce the study to families and children, recruiting participants, conducting in-lab experiments, developing computer programs used in data collection, and coding observational data of children's behaviors/interview data collected locally and in Kenya.

Susan Barrett - seb6@lehigh.edu

is interested in how families experience stigma. Associative, or courtesy stigma, which extends from an individual with a stigmatized condition to other family members, can influence both disclosure and access to support. There is an opportunity for an undergraduate to assist with a project focusing on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Sarah Borowski – sab522@lehigh.edu

studies support behaviors and physiological processes within adolescent friendship interactions. This research considers how adolescents respond to friends' disclosures about personal problems (do they provide support?; are they dismissive?) and how these behavioral responses relate to physiological responses (heart rate; respiration; skin conductance/sweat). Undergraduate research assistants transcribe video-recorded friendship interactions, edit physiological data, and assist with recruiting/collecting data with adolescent friends.

Amanda Brandone - acb210@lehigh.edu

studies what infants and young children know and understand about the world and how that knowledge is shaped by their early experiences. Current projects are focused on how infants' early learning and brain development is shaped by interactions with caregivers. Motivated and reliable research assistants are needed to help transcribe and code video recordings of parent-infant interactions. Experience with young children is encouraged.

Deborah Laible - del205@lehigh.edu

studies the social, emotional, and moral development of children and adolescents in the context of close relationships with parents. Our lab is currently interested in understanding how White European American children are acquiring racial attitudes from parents and how these attitudes and parental socialization surrounding race predict children's compassionate and prosocial behavior towards racial outgroups. We are

looking for research assistants who are interested in helping us code lab data that we've already collected on these and related topics, although we would eventually like to be back to collecting data in person in the lab sometime soon. We are hoping to find students who are passionate about social justice to join our lab.

Alexis Smith-Flores - als625@lehigh.edu

studies how babies and children reason and learn about the world around them. Current projects focus on how babies and children understand emotions and social relationships as well as how babies' detection of inconsistencies in the world relates to their learning and curiosity. Our studies are run online and in-person. Research assistants will gain experience with participant recruitment, data collection, and behavioral coding. Experience with young children is not required, but highly encouraged.

Social Area:

Christopher Burke - ctb208@lehigh.edu

studies how social relationships influence the experience of stressful events. Much of his recent research has examined how individuals respond to getting help and why. Some of his current work is focused on better understanding campus climate issues through the lens of stress and coping. And as director of the Community Health Research Group, he is also working with an interdisciplinary team to better understand health and health disparities in South Bethlehem. He is looking for several enthusiastic and dedicated research assistants for these and other projects.

Michael Gill mjg6@lehigh.edu

studies the psychology of blame and punishment. When an individual or group engages in morally offensive conduct (e.g., harming others), what factors determine an observer's response? In particular, when will an observer be overwhelmed by feelings of blame, anger, and spite? In contrast, what are the psychological factors that can temper such potentially destructive blame reactions? These questions are relevant for understanding social domains ranging from close relationships, to criminal justice attitudes, to intergroup prejudice and hatred. Several undergraduate research assistants are needed every semester to help make progress on these questions.

Jiin Jung – jjj324@lehigh.edu

studies how minority voices spread to society and potentially change social norms and cultural practices. In Fall 2024, she launched the [Group Dynamics & Social Change Lab](#), which is dedicated to investigating psychological explanations for social change. The lab explores topics such as minority influence on social change, minority responses to identity uncertainty and threat, and minority contribution to collective adaptation. Dr. Jung is currently seeking students eager to explore research related to minority influence and its impact on social change.

Gordon Moskowitz - gbm4@lehigh.edu

studies the cognitive processes involved in interpersonal perception with a particular focus on the infiltration of stereotypes into our judgments of others. The control over unwanted (such as stereotypic) and desired (such as notions of being a fair person) thoughts is also examined. A limited number of research assistants are needed to help with these projects.

Lucy Napper – lun214@lehigh.edu

studies substance use, risky sexual behaviors, and responses to health risk information. Projects focus on the influence of peers and parents on emerging adults' alcohol and marijuana attitudes and behaviors. She is looking for motivated research assistants interested in the topic area to help with all aspects of her research.

Dominic Packer - djp208@lehigh.edu

studies how people's social identities – their sense of self grounded in the groups they belong to – influence their thoughts, feelings, and actions. Our lab's research investigates how identities affect conformity and dissent, racism and ageism, solidarity, health, and leadership.