Welcome to the Lab Preview. We believe that the chance to participate in research is one of the best opportunities that our department has to offer. By joining a lab, you will see how research projects are conducted. Depending on the lab, you may also see how projects are developed, how data is analyzed, and how presentations are put together for conferences and publication. If you are involved in a lab for the long term, you may even contribute to a project that enables you to be a published researcher yourself. After today’s presentations, you may want to learn more about particular labs. You can do so at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/psychology/research/facultyresearch/researchlabs.html

Ways to be involved

There are three ways to get involved in a research lab:

1) Volunteer – Many students volunteer in research labs. Some labs require that students volunteer for a period of time before becoming more “official” members of the lab.

2) Register for Supervised Individual Research (PSYC 3950) – Many students register for supervised research. You may register for up to 4 points of supervised research per term. In general, you should figure that you will be working in a lab for approximately 3 hours per week per credit. This is not set in stone and must be negotiated with the specific lab that you will be working in. Different labs have slightly different requirements. As part of your supervised research, you will be expected to do some independent academic work related to the lab work you are doing. This may be a paper or an oral presentation, depending on the lab.

3) Work-study/Paid work – Sometimes labs will hire undergraduates as work-study students to work in their labs. Occasionally non-work study positions are available for students with very special skills that are needed (e.g., programming). This must be arranged with a particular lab on an individual basis.

What we are doing today

Today representatives from the psychology department research labs will talk with you about their labs and the role that you might play. Our presenters include faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and lab managers. Contact information for these individuals is included below. As you hear about projects that interest you, be sure to make a note by the name of the person who you would like to speak to about the project. Towards the end of the session, you will have an opportunity to talk with our presenters about getting involved in their research projects. If you are unable to speak with someone today, use the contact information that we have provided to get in touch with them later. In general, the best
person to contact is the person who presented the project or the lab manager. If a graduate student presented the project, he or she is probably a better contact person than the faculty member who oversees the lab.

Some of our presenters will tell you about their labs even though they do not currently need any research assistants. If you are interested in the research in these labs, you may want to contact them before the spring semester to see if they are looking for research assistants at that time.

Contact Information for Labs

In many cases, the best contact person for the lab is the lab manager or one of the graduate students listed below. For labs without a lab contact listed, you should contact the faculty member directly. Many of the graduate students and other contact people listed are presenting today. In most cases, labs that are not represented today are not currently looking for research assistants, though this may not be true in all cases.

(bus) indicates faculty affiliated with the business school.

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Research Lab</th>
<th>Lab Contact</th>
<th>Lab phone and faculty e-mail</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balsam, Peter</td>
<td>Adaptive Behavior Lab</td>
<td>Kathleen Taylor</td>
<td>646-774-5219 <a href="mailto:balsam@columbia.edu">balsam@columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kt200@columbia.edu">kt200@columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td>Bolger, Niall</td>
<td>The Couples Lab</td>
<td>Shoshana Jarvis</td>
<td>212 854-0127 <a href="mailto:coupleslab@psych.columbia.edu">coupleslab@psych.columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td>212-854-2490 <a href="mailto:fchampag@psych.columbia.edu">fchampag@psych.columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td>Champagne, Frances</td>
<td>Behavioral Neuroscience, Maternal Behavior, Epigenetics</td>
<td>Kathryn Gudsnuk</td>
<td>212-854-2490 <a href="mailto:fchampag@psych.columbia.edu">fchampag@psych.columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td>Curley, James</td>
<td>Social Neurobiology</td>
<td>Cait Williamson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jc3181@columbia.edu">jc3181@columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cmw2166@gmail.com">cmw2166@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Downey, Geraldine</td>
<td>Social Relations Lab</td>
<td>Shoshana Jarvis</td>
<td>212-854-6923 <a href="mailto:srlmgr1@gmail.com">srlmgr1@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Graham, Norma</td>
<td>Mathematical Models of Visual Processes</td>
<td>Norma Graham</td>
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<td>E. Tory</td>
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<td>Metcalfe</td>
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<td>Fear, Anxiety, and Biosocial Behavior</td>
<td>Ellen Tedeschi</td>
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<td>Morris</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Culture, Judgment and Decision Making, Organizational Psychology</td>
<td>Jackson Lu</td>
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<td>Kevin</td>
<td>SCAN Lab</td>
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<td>Purdie-Vaughns</td>
<td>Valerie</td>
<td>Intergroup Relations and Diversity Lab (LIRSM)</td>
<td>Paula Aguti</td>
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<td>Shohamy</td>
<td>Daphna</td>
<td>The Learning Lab</td>
<td>Lucy Owen</td>
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<td>Silver</td>
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<td>Neurobiology of Behavior</td>
<td>Joseph LeSauter</td>
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<td>Stern</td>
<td>Yaakov</td>
<td>Taub Institute Cognitive Neuroscience Division</td>
<td>Dan Barulli</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<td>Contact Person</td>
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<td>Terrace, Herbert</td>
<td>Primate Cognition Lab</td>
<td>Greg Jensen <a href="mailto:ggj2102@columbia.edu">ggj2102@columbia.edu</a></td>
<td>212-854-8785 <a href="mailto:hst1@columbia.edu">hst1@columbia.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tottenham, Nim</td>
<td>Developmental Affective Neuroscience Lab</td>
<td>Kaitlin O'Sullivan Kaitlino@<a href="mailto:n@gmail.com">n@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>212-854-3608 <a href="mailto:nlt7@columbia.edu">nlt7@columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td>Weber, Elke</td>
<td>CRED; Preferences As Memory (PAM); Center for the Decision Sciences (CDS)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@cred.columbia.edu">info@cred.columbia.edu</a></td>
<td>212-854-9889 <a href="mailto:euw2@columbia.edu">euw2@columbia.edu</a></td>
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<td>Woolley, Sarah</td>
<td>Neural Basis and Behavior of Social Communication</td>
<td>Sarah Woolley <a href="mailto:sw2277@columbia.edu">sw2277@columbia.edu</a></td>
<td>212-851-0184 or -0185 <a href="mailto:sw2277@columbia.edu">sw2277@columbia.edu</a></td>
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**Current Lab Advertisements**

The following list includes further descriptions of ongoing research in just some of the labs above, as well as listings for specific research positions. Not all positions have a listing. If a lab does not have a listing here, there may still be positions available.

**Adaptive Behavior Lab**

The Adaptive Behavioral Laboratory, under the direction of Peter Balsam, studies how animals learn the relationships between important events. Using classical and operant conditioning procedures in rodents, we are interested in the behavioral and neural mechanisms of learning and motivation. You can learn more about what we do on our lab website: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/psychology/balsam/index.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/psychology/balsam/index.html) We are looking for additional research assistants. We require a commitment of 10-12 hours a week (minimum) and need people who are available for at least 3-4 hour blocks of time on 2 days other than Friday or weekends, and some availability for lab meetings on Fridays. Please contact Peter Balsam (balsam@columbia.edu) and tell us why you’re interested in our work, when you are available, and your background in psychology.

**Center for Research on Environmental Decisions**

The Earth Institute’s Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED) is accepting applications for new research assistants and interns. RAs and interns support the research of the center through literature reviews, development of surveys and educational materials, data processing, and direct support to experimental games and interviews. Essential qualifications
include experience or a strong interest in social science research, and interest in sustainable
development, climate change, and decision science. Additional specialized qualifications (not
required by all applicants) include: experience running behavioral experiments, strong statistical
ability, computer programming and/or web design, and fluency in foreign languages. To learn
more about current CRED research visit cred.columbia.edu. To submit your application for
volunteer, work for credit, and hourly positions, visit cred.columbia.edu/jobs

**The Couples Lab**

In the Columbia Couples Lab we study dyads and dyadic processes, particularly those that are
evoked when dyad members are facing stressful experiences. We look not only at romantic
couples, but also at friends and roommates, patients in the hospital and their primary caregiver,
parents and their children, etc. We use intensive repeated-measures designs to study dyad
members and their interactions and to explore how daily transactions of social support and
stress affect processes such as satisfaction, self-regulation, self-efficacy, and overall
psychological & physiological functioning. We use both lab-based experimental studies and
naturalistic, longitudinal studies of daily experiences. Finally, we work with multilevel models,
structural equation models, and dynamic process models that are suitable for the study of
change processes in individuals and dyads, both between and within persons.

Overall, we look at how people support each other, both effectively and ineffectively. Support
can have costly effects for both the giver and the receiver. We want to know how to maximize
the effectiveness of a partner’s supportive behaviors in a given scenario.

If you have any questions about the lab or our research, or if you are interested in applying for a
research assistant position with us, feel free to email Shoshana Jarvis at
coupleslab@psych.columbia.edu.

**Couples Lab Psychophysiology Studies.** In addition to recruiting Research Assistants to
assist in The Couples Lab in general, we are also looking for RAs to work specifically on two
psychophysiology studies (no previous research experience necessary). These studies will
examine connections between people’s interpersonal interactions and their cardiovascular
responses during times of stress. This position would be an excellent fit for individuals
interested in social psychology, affective science, clinical or counseling psychology, and/or
psychophysiology. As an RA on these studies, you will be trained on tasks such as recruiting
participants, creating experimental stimuli, applying physiological sensors to participants,
collecting saliva samples, guiding participants through our experimental paradigm, and cleaning
and scoring physiological data (e.g., heart rate and blood pressure) and self-report data.
Applicants should be responsible, reliable, and able to commit a minimum of 10-15 hours per
week (with preference given to those with greater availability/flexibility in their schedule) to the
project for at least two semesters. Due to the nature of these studies, we are primarily looking
for female Research Assistants; however we do have a few positions open for male RAs.
Availability to work in the lab Thursdays and Fridays is a major plus, but not required. To apply,
please send your CV and a brief message describing your interest in the project to Katherine Zee (kzee@psych.columbia.edu) and Abdiel Flores (abdielflores@psych.columbia.edu). Please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

**Stranger Interaction Studies.**

**What happens when people meet for the first time?** Data collection is underway for a series of studies on how strangers interact. We are looking for RAs who are interested in helping run participants (strangers) this semester. We aim to bring together 200 strangers and see what happens when they meet for the first time. What individual differences predict positive and negative interactions? Do strangers engage in meaningful, supportive and emotional conversations after even just a brief interaction? What group differences affect the success of these interactions?

**Skills.** We will be training RAs in the use of video and audio recording equipment, as well as computer-based stimuli presentation. This is an excellent project for people who are interested in studying social interaction, language, nonverbal behavior, gender differences, intergroup contact and individual differences. We are looking for 1-2 RAs who could assist us running these studies, which includes preparing the laboratory, interacting with the participants and monitoring their interactions. Successful RAs working on this project have gone on to present posters testing their own original hypothesis at national conferences, and have been accepted to graduate school.

**Contact.** Lexi Suppes, Ph.D. ([suppes@gmail.com](mailto:suppes@gmail.com)) or project coordinator Zach Heinenmann ([zch2101@columbia.edu](mailto:zch2101@columbia.edu))

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**Developmental Affective Neuroscience Lab**

In the Tottenham Lab, we study human emotional development and its associated neurobiology, using behavioral, physiological, and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) methods. Our research focuses on emotions like fear and stress responses and how these become regulated across development. Our research participants range in age from 3 years to adulthood and we study both typical populations of children and teens as well as those with a history of severe early life stress. Some specific topics of research we are currently pursuing include: 1) characterizing normative development of amygdala-cortical connections within the human brain, 2) testing the effects of early-life adversity on brain development, 3) examining the role of the gut microbiome in emotion development, 4) mapping the development of fear learning and memory, and 5) understanding how children learn from their parents and how parents regulate learning in their children.

Successful research assistants will work closely with graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to assist in a variety of stages of the research process, including participant recruitment, data collection, and analyses. In particular, we are looking for enthusiastic, confident RA’s that can make two semester commitments (starting both this fall or in the spring 2016 semester) of 10 hours per week. If you are interested in an RA position with us (volunteer or credit), please contact Kaitlin O’Sullivan (kaitlinosull@gmail.com) with your resume/CV.
Fear, Anxiety and Biosocial Behavioral Lab
Dr. Dean Mobbs

The Fear, Anxiety and Biosocial Behavioral (FABB) Lab is inspired by insights from behavioral ecology, social and clinical psychology and endeavors to understand the central determinants of the human emotional experience. We employ brain imaging (e.g. fMRI) and behavioral techniques to examine the neurobiological systems that coordinate fear in humans. We are looking for volunteer research assistants to help in several projects including how perception of others influences our fear responses, and how we balance risk and reward when facing threats. Depending on motivation and ability, research assistants will help in every aspect of research from research design, collection of data, analysis of brain-imaging data and writing of papers. This will be invaluable first-hand experience to any students who wish to have a career in academic research. Experience with coding and/or computer programming is encouraged but not required.

Please contact Ellen Tedeschi (MobbsLab@gmail.com) with your CV, a 200-word statement about why you’re interested in this lab, and your Fall semester availability.

The Higgins Lab

We embrace a motivated social cognition framework in pursuing both basic and applied questions relating to self-regulation. We study the motivational underpinnings of perceptions, judgments, decisions, and behaviors, in a wide range of contexts, from romantic relationships to military training:

**Interpersonal Processes:** What makes people ‘click’? What are the motivational processes underlying the development and maintenance of romantic relationships? How do we effectively provide and receive social support?

**Motivational Effectiveness & Performance:** What makes us likely to succeed, or likely to fail? What are the motivational underpinnings of performance in different contexts and across different cultures? How do the ways in which individuals engage in goal pursuit affect effectiveness?

**Self-Regulation & Emotion:** What are the emotional consequences of effectively managing or disastrously mismanaging ourselves in the pursuit of our goals? How does succeeding or failing at meeting our motivational needs influence our emotions?

Higgins Lab Research Assistants will be given the chance to work closely with graduate students and help out with different stages of projects, including research design, data collection, analysis and interpretation, thereby acquiring a variety of methodological skills.

We have work-study, volunteer, and for-credit (SIR) positions open, each for a 10-hour/week commitment, at least 2 semesters. Any interested students should contact Maya Rossignac-
Milon at cuhigginslab@gmail.com and attach your resume, unofficial transcript, and a brief (~250-word) statement of interest. Applicants are evaluated on a rolling basis. For more info, please see http://www.columbia.edu/cu/psychology/higgins/index.html.

Laboratory of Intergroup Relations and the Social Mind (LIRSM)
Dr. Valerie Purdie-Vaughns

Work on research exploring identity, diversity, and intergroup cooperation and how these processes affect individual performance and health. Gain valuable research skills using a variety of methods, from field studies to psychophysiological measures. Prepare yourself for graduate school with mentoring and journal discussions.

Identity Threat, Health, and Intervention: What is the effect of contending with negative stereotypes or other threats to identity on subjective stress, physiological stress, health outcomes, and intellectual performance? How can we intervene to mitigate these harmful effects?

Structure of equality: What structural factors influence racial and gender diversity, or lack thereof, in hiring? How do institutions influence the public’s understanding of race-related events and perpetuate inequality?

Intersectionality: Do people ignore or pay closer attention to people with multiple stigmatized identities?

Computational Social Science: How can we best use computational methods to study questions about the social environment?

Volunteer, work study positions, and credit positions available. We are especially interested in candidates who have skills in computer science or programming. We also have an exciting new fellowship program open to CC undergraduates who have worked in the lab for at least one semester that awards research assistants with a year-round stipend.

Interested? Email Paula Aguti (aguti.paula@gmail.com) for an application!

Positions are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so apply soon!

Sexuality and Gender Psychology

"An intellectual is a person who's found one thing that's more interesting than sex”
-Aldous Huxley

And what about an intellectual researching sexuality and gender? That's just too interesting!

I am looking for highly-motivated volunteer RAs that are passionate about the psychology of sexuality and gender and especially LGBTQ psychology. Most of my studies lie in the intersection of positive psychology and LGBTQ psychology, specifically the strengths of
LGBTQ people. Involvement with other projects in sexuality and gender psychology is also available.

The research assistants will help in designing research studies, data collection, and data analysis. Publication and conference presentation opportunities in collaboration with the Principal Investigator (Nadav Antebi-Gruszka) will be offered to RAs who demonstrate excellent research skills. Selected RAs will receive training and mentoring about quantitative and qualitative methods and will gain in-depth knowledge about sexuality and gender, positive psychology, stigma, and LGBTQ populations.

Interested individuals should send their cover letter and resume/CV to:
Nadav Antebi-Gruszka
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University
722 West 168th Street, Office 911
New York, NY 10032
na2453@cumc.columbia.edu

The Learning Lab
Prof. Daphna Shohamy

Our research is focused on the intersection between learning, memory and decision making. We are interested in characterizing when and how different brain systems for learning interact and whether this interaction is competitive or cooperative. We focus on two main brain systems for learning - one in the striatum and the other in the hippocampus. Traditionally, the striatum and hippocampus were thought to support independent and distinct learning systems. We have demonstrated that there is cross-talk between these systems during learning, raising questions about the nature of this interaction and its significance for learning and decision making. We are now investigating how this cross-talk is impacted by several key factors, including: motivation and feedback, social context of learning, aging, and genetic differences between learners. We study several populations, including: undergrads, Parkinson's Disease patients, older adults (50 - 85 years old), children, and adolescents. For more information, please see our lab website: [http://shohamylab.psych.columbia.edu/](http://shohamylab.psych.columbia.edu/)

The current position will be responsible for a wide-range of tasks, including: recruitment, running subjects, and data entry. RA’s would also be invited to attend lab meetings. With experience, qualified RAs may be eligible to take on projects with greater responsibility and autonomy. Ideally, RAs will commit to working 8 - 10 hours/week for a minimum of two semesters. Interested candidates are encouraged to email Lucy Owen (lucywowen@gmail.com), attaching their resume.

Mathematical Models of Visual Processes
Dr. Norma Graham
Flexible position involving tasks in research on visual perception. Depending on a person's interests and skills, these tasks might include data analysis and running mathematical models. (Familiarity with Excel and Matlab as well as an interest in research on visual processing would be useful for these tasks, but previous knowledge is not required.) These tasks generally also include miscellaneous administrative and clerical tasks (e.g., scanning, proofreading, running errands). 5-15 hours per week, flexible hours. (Can be done through work-study or otherwise.)

Contact: Prof. Norma Graham [nvg1@columbia.edu]

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Metacognition and Memory Lab  
Dr. Janet Metcalfe

Metacognition refers to (a) our ability to monitor our own cognitive states (e.g., assessing how well we understand a text or how likely we are to remember a set of facts) and (b) the ways in which we use the output of this monitoring to make strategic decisions about how to study or what to study next.

We have two main lines of research in the lab:
1. Studying the metacognitive processes that contribute to effective self-guided learning in young adults, with emphasis on mind wandering and examining how/when one mind wanders.
2. Investigating the causes and consequences of the feeling of being in control of one's behavior and through it, effects in the environment.

RAs tasks include, but are not restricted to: recruitment, running subjects, attending lab meetings, and literature searches. More experienced RAs (typically those who have spent more than a year with us) may sometimes take on their own research project. Ideally, we hope that RAs can commit to working 5-10h weekly for two semesters.

If interested, please email us at metalab@psych.columbia.edu.

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The Morris Lab

- Why don’t people mix at professional mixers?
- Why do Chinese immigrants speak English less fluently after recently looking at a Chinese face or a Chinese vase?
- Why do experiences abroad make people more creative yet more unethical?
- Why do women perform worse than men in technical subjects in business schools?
- When a newcomer adapts to local customs like a chameleon, are you impressed or suspicious? And how does it relate to your feelings about multiculturalism?

If you like to think about and study questions at the intersection of culture, gender, cognition, conflict, adaptation, acculturation, and policy, join the Morris Lab!
Morris Lab is open for RA application all year around. RAs will be working closely with other members of the laboratory (including other RAs, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows) on one or more of our ongoing research projects. You may be involved in different stages of research projects, including literature review, study design, preparing stimuli and materials, scheduling and running studies, entering or coding data, and data analysis.

To apply for a research assistant position, please email Jackson Lu (jackson.guannan.lu@gmail.com) with a brief CV and your availability (e.g., Mon, Wed: 8am – 3pm, Tue: after 4pm, Fri, whole day, etc.).

For more information about our lab’s research, please visit: http://www.michaelwmorris.com/ or https://scholar.google.com/citations?sortby=pubdate&hl=en&user=3A9Xo_YAAAAJ&view_op=list_works

SCAN Lab

Research in the Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience lab examines the psychological and neural processes involved in extracting social, emotional, and cognitive meaning from the world. As a research assistant, your involvement may include gathering relevant articles, recruiting participants, running studies, and assisting in data analysis. The requested time commitment is about 10-15 hours per week.

Some current projects in our lab investigate: the cognitive up-regulation of positive emotion and motivation, the development of emotion regulation ability across childhood and adolescence, emotion experience and regulation in young versus elderly participants, emotion- and self-regulation in individuals suffering from depression and suicidal tendencies, the neural underpinnings of perspective-taking, self-regulation of food and alcohol cravings while distracted and in negative moods, social group analyses, consumer decision-making patterns, and psychological and brain-imaging paradigms to predict people’s behavior and health outcomes. The dependent measures we collect include behavior, psychophysiology, and brain imaging (fMRI).

To apply for a research assistant position, please e-mail Chelsea Boccagno (ceb2214@columbia.edu).

Social Relations Lab

As a research assistant in the Social Relations Lab (SRL), you will be working closely with other members of the laboratory (including other research assistants, graduate students and post-doctorate fellows) on one or more of our on-going research projects. Your involvement may
include subject scheduling and running studies. In addition, you may be asked to enter or code data, conduct basic data analysis, prepare stimuli for projects, or do literature searches.

To apply for a research assistant position, please complete an application (go to this link to find the application; http://socialrelations.psych.columbia.edu/join-us). Upon completion, please return the application to the Social Relations Lab mailbox in 406 Schermerhorn (please seal applications in an envelope and address them to the SRL lab) or e-mail the application to srlmgr1@gmail.com.

**Note:** When inquiring about research assistant positions or submitting applications, if you do not receive a reply from us within a week, please email the SRL lab at srlmgr1@gmail.com. Generally, we recruit and interview potential research assistants toward the beginning of each semester but you can submit an application at any time. Applications are reviewed on a first-come first-served basis.

**Taub Institute Cognitive Neuroscience Division**

Research at the Cognitive Neuroscience Division in the Department of Neurology spans the gamut from investigating changes in the brain as the result of healthy aging using fMRI to exploring subtle neuropsychological deficits that result from pathologies like Alzheimer’s disease. Volunteers in our lab are expected to make a substantial commitment to working with us, though we are flexible in schedules. Student volunteers are highly encouraged to pursue independent projects in addition to other lab duties, which often can include administering cognitive tasks to study participants. If you are interested in getting involved, please send an email to Daniel Barulli (djb2168@columbia.edu).