

Psychology Department Lab Preview
September 9, 2009

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 participating in 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.

Ways to be involved

There are three ways you can be involved in a research lab:

- 1) As a volunteer – Many students volunteer in research labs. Some labs require that a student participate as a volunteer for a period of time before they are allowed to become 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 most cases, the best contact person for the lab is the lab manager or one of the graduate students listed below. For labs without graduate students, you should contact the faculty member directly. Most of the graduate students 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.

Faculty	Research Lab	Grad Student Contact	Lab phone and faculty e-mail
Balsam, Peter	Timing	Heather Van Volkinburg hkv1@columbia.edu Vanessa Richards vr2242@columbia.edu	
Bolger, Niall	Columbia Couples Lab	Kenzie Snyder ks2715@columbia.edu	212 854-0127 coupleslab@psych.columbia.edu
Champagne, Frances	Behavioral Neuroscience, Maternal Behavior, Epigenetics		212-854-2589 fchampag@psych.columbia.edu
Downey, Geraldine	Social Relations	Christopher Crew cmc2225@columbia.edu Rainer Romero rr2033@columbia.edu	212-854-6923 gdowney@psych.columbia.edu
Graham, Norma	Mathematical Models of Visual Perception		212-854-3006 nvg1@columbia.edu
Hart, Carl	Human Behavioral Pharmacology		212-854-5313 clh42@columbia.edu
Higgins, E. Tory	Motivation and Social Cognition	Becca Franks becca@psych.columbia.edu Steen Sehnert scs2134@columbia.edu	212- 854 – 8464 tory@psych.columbia.edu
Hirsch, Joy	Functional MRI Research Center		212-342-0291 jh2155@columbia.edu
Hood, Donald	Physiological Bases of Visual Processes		212-854-4587 dch3@columbia.edu
Iyengar, Sheena (Bus)	Culture and Choice		212-854-8539 ss957@columbia.edu
Krantz, David	Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED)	Kirstin Appelt, kca2102@columbia.edu Jenn Logg jl3371@columbia.edu	212-854-7031 dhk@paradox.psych.columbia.edu
Krauss, Robert	Human Communication	Lauren Aguilar laguilar@psych.columbia.edu	212-854-7033 rmk@psych.columbia.edu
Lau, Hakwan	Consciousness and Computation Lab	Brian Maniscalco brian@psych.columbia.edu	212-854-3947 hakwan@gmail.com
Matin, Leonard	Perception of Space and Form	Adam Shavit ays2002@columbia.edu	212-854-4325 martin@columbia.edu

Metcalfe, Janet	Memory and Metacognition	Lab Manager: Brandon Luke bluke.cognitionlab@gmail.com	212 854 4726 jmetcalfe@psych.columbia.edu
Mischel, Walter	Personality Structure, Processes and Development	Amy Cole atb20@columbia.edu	212-854-8450 wm@psych.columbia.edu
Monk, Catherine E.	Perinatal Psychology, and Development Psychopathology	Andrea Vazzano av2322@columbia.edu	212-851-5581 av2322@columbia.edu
Morris, Michael (Bus)	Judgment and Decision Making, culture and identity; psychological dynamics in conflict resolution		212-854-2296 mwm82@columbia.edu
Ochsner, Kevin	SCAN Lab	Natalie Johnston nej2107@columbia.edu and Damon Abraham damon.abraham@yahoo.com	212-854-1860 ochsner@psych.columbia.edu
Purdie-Vaughns, Valerie	Intergroup Relations and Diversity Lab (IRDL)	Anna Lopez ajl2168@columbia.edu	
Putnam, Lois	Psychophysiology of Attention and Emotion		212-854-4550 putnam@psych.columbia.edu
Shohamy, Daphna	The cognitive neuroscience of learning, memory, and decision making, fMRI	Nathan Clement nc2345@columbia.edu	212-854-8859 shohamy@psych.columbia.edu
Silver, Rae	Neurobiology of Behavior		212-854-3909 qr@columbia.edu
Smith, Edward	SCAN Lab effects of stress/social evaluative pressure on working memory	Julie Spicer jspicer@psych.columbia.edu	212-854-9214 eesmith@psych.columbia.edu
Sparrow, Betsy	The Function of Conscious Will and Authorship Processing, Social Interactions, Priming	Kibby McMahon sparrowlab@gmail.com	212-854-8464 sparrowlab@gmail.com
Terrace, Herbert	Primate Cognition	Erin Danly ed2362@columbia.edu	212-854-8785 hst1@columbia.edu
Wager, Tor D.	SCAN Lab	Lauren Atlas lya2103@columbia.edu	212-854-9214 tor@psych.columbia.edu

Weber, Elke	CRED Preferences As Memory (PAM) Center for the Decision Sciences (CDS)	Dave Hardisty djh2117@columbia.edu	212-854-9889 euw2@columbia.edu
Wiedenmayer, Christoph	Developmental Aspects of Fear and Stress		212-854-5973 cpw14@columbia.edu
Woolley, Sarah	Neural Basis and Behavior of Social Communication		212-854-5448 sw2277@columbia.edu

The following list includes descriptions of research positions in several of our labs. Not all positions have a listing. If a lab does not have a listing here, there may still be positions available.

Memory and Metacognition Lab (Janet Metcalfe)

Metacognition refers to (a) our ability to monitor our own cognitive states (e.g., our ability to assess how well we understand a text or to judge how likely we are to remember a set of historical 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 (e.g., our decision to study the facts that we are less likely to remember before we review the facts that we are more likely to remember). In the Metacognition and Memory Lab we study the metacognitive processes that contribute to effective self-guided learning in both college students and young children. One of our central aims is to produce knowledge that can be used by students, teachers, and curriculum designers to improve educational practice.

RA Position #1

Work with a team of research assistants under the guidance of Professor Lisa Son and lab manager Brandon Luke to conduct research on metacognition and learning with 3rd and 5th grade children from PS 75. Main responsibilities include running children through experiments on the computer and keeping children organized and engaged. Volunteer, Class Credit, and Work Study positions are available. Hours are negotiable. Must be available for one of the following:

Monday 3pm - 5:45pm, or Friday 3pm - 5:45pm

RA Position #2

Work with graduate students to conduct research on metacognition with undergraduate participants from Columbia. Main responsibilities include preparing and pilot testing materials, running participant through experiments on the computer, and data entry. Volunteer, Class Credit, and Work Study positions are available. Hours are negotiable.

CRED Lab

The Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED) is an interdisciplinary center that studies individual and group decision making under climate uncertainty and decision making in the face of environmental risk. CRED's objectives address the human responses to climate change and climate variability as well as improved communication and increased use of scientific information on climate variability and change. CRED is affiliated with [The Earth Institute](#) and the [Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy \(ISERP\)](#).

Potential RAs can find application materials on the CRED website:

<http://www.cred.columbia.edu/about/jobs/> For any questions about CRED, please contact the Program Coordinator, Jenn Logg, at jl3371@columbia.edu. Common CRED RA responsibilities: testing experimental procedures and set-ups, conducting literature reviews, recruiting and running

subjects, collecting, coding, and preparing data for analysis and keeping track of subject payments. RAs may be expected to utilize EndNote, Excel, Web of Science, PsycInfo, etc.

Job Postings:

Contact info: Kirstin Appelt, kca2102@columbia.edu

Brief description: Several volunteer Research Assistant positions. Minimum of 8 hours per week.

Two main projects:

*Study on Gain/Loss Framing in Negotiations. RAs will run participants and enter data. Help with various facets of running a study.

*Decision Making Individual Differences Inventory (www.dmidi.net). RAs will help research measures and their uses and develop and update the wiki.

Couple's Lab

At the Couples Lab, our studies investigate dyadic interactions, specifically stress and support processes in couples, and how couples' interactions influence health behavior: for example, we are examining how a partner's behavior can impact one's goals to exercise more or to effectively manage living with diabetes.

We require a minimum of 10 hours a week for RAs. Each project has a weekly team meeting that is required, and some of the hours must overlap with either Gertraud Stadler (Professor Bolger's Postdoc) or Kenzie Snyder (Professor Bolger's Lab Manager). There is a weekly RA meeting Tuesdays at 5 where we provide various workshops: for example, how to apply to graduate school, CV construction, SPSS tutorials.

Higgins Lab

The Higgins lab studies a wide range of issues relating to motivation and social psychology. We have opportunities for RA's who are interested in research related to education, decision making, self-regulation, and/or mental health.

I also have a specific posting for myself as I am between the Higgins & Champagne lab. Working with the Higgins & Champagne lab, I am looking for an enthusiastic individual to help with my animal behavior research on animal personality and animal welfare.

Becca Franks

Go to the lab website & contact the graduate student who's interests most closely relate to your own. <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/psychology/higgins/people-current.html>

Intergroup Relations and Diversity Lab (IRDL)

Our lab is interested in the processes behind, the experience of, and the behaviors resulting from threats to one's identity. Since every person is composed of multiple identities, and any aspect of one's self can be devalued, our research requires a variety of methodologies, ranging from field studies to laboratory experiments to psychophysiological measures. Questions our lab explores include: "Do people with identities that can be concealed have a divided self? do we all?" "What is the effect of bias on test performance for historically marginalized groups?" "How can we achieve a diverse society without alienating majority group members?" We are looking for enthusiastic RAs who are willing to aid our research in a variety of ways, such as recruiting participants and running experiments. In addition to a versatile range of lab skills, you will also receive mentoring and a chance to impact research that affects change outside of the laboratory. If you are interested in applying for a volunteer or for-credit position this semester, please email Anna Lopez at ajl2168@columbia.edu for an application.

Sparrow Lab

In the Sparrow lab we have diverse interests in the study of Social Cognition. Here are some:

- iPod and Creative Problem Solving: We showed that iPods provide enough distraction to let the

unconscious mind process decision-making tasks. We now turn to how listening to an iPod can affect our creative problem solving abilities.

- Culture and Agency: how do our cultural backgrounds influence our feelings of agency and personal control.
- An interactive live study will explore the origins of liking and disliking people in perceiving their presence.
- Intention and eye gaze study looks at how people infer intention in another person.
- Existential awareness and its effects on motivation, concept accessibility and decision making.
- How do people perceive and remember things when they have had more say in effecting them.
- How do people perform tasks together?
- How do we educate teachers to alleviate the negative effects of stereotyping and low expectations?

Four lab positions open, two work study for 10 hours each and two supervised research opportunities.

Welcome!

Prenatal Psychology And Developmental Psychopathology Lab

Our laboratory investigates the possible effects of impaired mood and stress during pregnancy on fetal and infant development, specifically with respect to the future child's biobehavioral reactivity, affect regulation, and risk for psychopathology. Additionally, we are examining the use of antidepressants during pregnancy in relation to fetal and infant development. In conducting assessments on both the woman and child during the in utero period and in the postpartum, we aim to identify potential early effects of the mother on her child.

Volunteers will:

- Help run physiological studies with pregnant women, newborns & infants
- Learn to use interactive software to process heart rate, blood pressure, & fetal heart rate and movement data
- Learn about EKG and EEG data collection
- Perform literature searches
- Assist with study recruitment and subject donations

Hakwan Lau Lab

Our lab does visual psychophysics experiments: we present subjects with visual stimuli under different conditions and ask them to make judgments about the stimuli (e.g. was it a square or diamond?) and also about their own confidence or subjective experience in making that decision (are you sure it was a square? did you see it clearly?). We use formal modeling techniques to characterize the relationship between stimulus processing capacity, metacognition, and subjective visual experience.

We are primarily looking for volunteers to help schedule and run experimental participants. Familiarity with Matlab and computer programming is a big plus. Students with a strong formal or technical background may be asked to help with programming and/or analysis techniques.