Research Opportunities

New Procedures for Adding Research:
In order to reduce the need for course action forms we will now be using the online waitlist to add students to research, this now means:

1. Students will contact labs that they are interested in from the list below.
2. Students will then add themselves to the appropriate waitlist 395, 396, 495 or 496 depending on how many times you have completed research in the past.
3. The labs and/or professors will send a list of approved students to the Undergraduate Studies office and we will invite you to add your research section.
4. When adding your research section you will need the instructor number of the Professor you will be working with and if you will be over your credit limit you must obtain permission before being invited to research.
5. If you are doing research outside of the Psychology Department you must contact the undergraduate studies office for approval and proper instructor number.

If you have any questions or miss the 24-hour deadline to add please contact the Undergraduate Studies Office at psych-info@virginia.edu

Implicit Social Cognition Laboratory
Lab Director: Dr. Brian Nosek

In the implicit social cognition lab, we examine how conscious or non-conscious aspects of people’s attitudes can influence judgments and behavior. Although people’s attitudes include aspects that they can directly report to us, we are particularly interested in the influence of automatic, non-conscious attitudes, especially when they differ from the attitudes people can directly report.

RAs are typically involved in running experiments, entering and analyzing data, and helping as we create new studies. Other duties might include data entry, literature searches, reading articles, and study design. Lab members, including RAs, attend meetings designed to expose RAs to our research interests and expertise. It's a really great opportunity to find out about the process of doing research and about implicit social cognition. It also provides a way for students to be in contact with faculty and graduate students who can later do such things as writing letters of recommendation.

Contact: Jennifer Joy, jjoy@virginia.edu

Web site: www.briannosek.com/labgroup
Online Application Available
Peer Relations and ADHD Lab  
Director: Dr. Amori Mikami

We are conducting several projects in the field of child clinical psychology involving treatments for youth with ADHD and in particular, their relationships with their peers. The first project looks at ways in which parents can help their children to make friends better, and tests a psychosocial clinical intervention that trains parents of children with ADHD in these skills. The second project tests the effectiveness of a new medication for adolescents with ADHD, and in particular the effects of medication on their driving performance; teenagers with ADHD are several times more likely to have accidents than teens without ADHD. A third project that looks at ways in which teacher practices contribute to the patterns of peer rejection and cliques in their classrooms, and also what happens over the course of the school year to children with ADHD who are disliked.

There are two types of RA positions, with different duties, depending on the experience of the student. RA positions are available interviewing children and their families in lab, and making school visits to local elementary schools where RAs observe children’s behavior in the classroom. RAs receive a great deal of contact with clinical children and their families in these jobs. Other RA positions are primarily for coding videos of parent-child and peer interactions of children with ADHD, and of ADHD teenagers’ driving mishaps, which are taken from small video cameras mounted in their cars, and data entry. It often happens that RAs begin in these videotape coding and data entry positions, and then work their way up to the interview positions. Prof. Mikami also regularly meets with RAs to discuss graduate school opportunities, and is happy to write recommendation letters for RAs.

Contact: Alison McGrath, aam8f@virginia.edu for and application

Website: http://people.virginia.edu/~am4jd/

Social Psychology Lab  
Director: Dr. Timothy Wilson

Our lab invites motivated, sharp and sociable undergrads to help us prepare and run studies that explore people’s emotions & thoughts. We study people’s knowledge about their own feelings, behaviors, abilities and personality. We focus on people’s emotional reaction to different events in life, and their ability to predict their reaction.

Contact: Yoav Bar-Anan, yb3k@virginia.edu
Web site: http://people.virginia.edu/~tdw/
Full Potential Initiative (FPI)
Director: Dr. Brian Nosek

RA positions are available for the Full Potential Initiative (FPI), a long-term study of the development and influence of unconscious math/science and gender attitudes and stereotypes. Below are some of the components of the RA-ships:

1. Interpersonal: interact via phone, email, IM, etc. with participating teenagers and their parents (various sites around the country, mostly Chicago and Jacksonville, FL at first).
2. Administrative: organize and maintain participant information in electronic and paper files; coordinate paper mailings and assembly of research materials.
3. Technical: assist with development of online experimental materials (e.g., find meaningful, but fun, scientific or mathematical exercises for teenage participants).
4. Creative: imagine online activities and promotions that would contribute to a sense of excitement and enthusiasm about the project.
5. Learn (yourself) and educate (others) about effects of implicit social cognition in the academic domain.

You need not have strengths in all of these areas to consider yourself a good candidate, but strong qualification and interest in at least one would be important, as would willingness to be involved with all of them.

Web site: Visit projectimplicit.net/fpi for more information or http://www.projectimplicit.net/iscl/fpi_ra_application.php for an online application.

Memory and Law Lab
Director: Dr. Barbara Spellman

Why might one eyewitness be more credible than another? Are people more likely to believe four wrong stories, or one right one? At the Spellman Reasoning, Memory, and Law Lab, we use computer games and legal paradigms to explore how people make decisions when there is missing, faulty, or otherwise inadequate information.

As a Research Assistant, your responsibilities will include running experiments, entering and analyzing data, and helping create new studies. You will also be expected to attend weekly lab meetings and give a presentation at one of them. In exchange for 10 hours of work per week, you will earn 3 course credits, as well as valuable experience for graduate or law school.

Successful applicants are highly motivated students interested in the field of Psychology. We will fully integrate RAs into the research process, so priority will
be given to students with high GPAs who can commit to more than one semester.

**Contact:** Dan Kuckuck, dankuckuck@virginia.edu

**Web site:** http://people.virginia.edu/~ert8f/SpellmanLabHome.html

---

**Culture and Well-being**
**Director:** Dr. Shigehiro Oishi

Looking for research assistants who are going to conduct experiments on the following projects: 1) Misunderstanding and understanding in interpersonal perception; 2) Cultural differences in happiness; 3) Residential mobility and its relation to prosocial behavior and consumer behavior 4) Physiological measures of well-being

Responsibilities include preparing experimental materials, conducting experiments, entering data, coding, data acquisition via web. Applicants must be very responsible and motivated in psychological research.

**Contact:** Minkyung Koo, mk4rn@virginia.edu

**Web site:** http://people.virginia.edu/~tdw/

---

**Emotion and Cognition Lab**
**Director:** Dr. Gerald Clore

We are primarily interested in studying the effects of emotional experience on cognitive performance and behavior. Here are a few of the questions we are working to answer:
Do emotions influence how we perceive our environment and ourselves?
Do emotions help us remember?
Do happy people think differently than sad people?

The small, cohesive atmosphere of our lab group provides opportunities for RAs to become intimately involved in all aspects of the research process. First-semester RAs are mainly responsible for scheduling participants, running experiments, and working with data. With increasing experience, our lab members are encouraged to participate in the development of new research designs and the interpretation of results. We have some important and innovative studies on the schedule this year...you can help us make them happen.

**Contact:** Jesse Pappas, pappas@virginia.edu
Child Language & Learning Lab
Director: Dr. Vikram Jaswal

Our research focuses on how children between 0 and 5 years of age learn about the world, and how learning language changes how they think and reason about objects, events, and people.

Web site: Visit http://faculty.virginia.edu/childlearninglab for more information and online application

Sinclair Lab
Director: Dr. Stacey Sinclair

We are looking for motivated, interested, and enthusiastic undergraduate research assistants. Get hands-on research experience and learn more about the following topics in social psychology. Our research generally examines how interpersonal interactions, and the beliefs we attribute to others, shape our beliefs, feelings and actions – particularly those beliefs relevant to stereotyping and prejudice.

Responsibilities include conducting lab experiments, preparing and organizing research materials, recruiting participants, data entry, coding of videotaped interaction and/or written materials, and participating in lab meetings.

Contact: Amber McCrady, acm6t@virginia.edu

Early Development Lab
Director: Dr. Angeline Lillard

We are studying how children ranging in age from 2-10 years use concrete manipulative materials to learn about math concepts. Research assistants help recruit participants, test children in the lab and at local Charlottesville schools, and help with coding and data entry. The Early Development Lab is located off grounds on Millmont St.

Contact: Tracy Nishida, tkn4z@virginia.edu

Web site: http://people.virginia.edu/~asl2h/EDL/EDLFrames.htm
Community Psychology Lab  
Director: Dr. Dickon Reppucci

We are partnered with Charlottesville-Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF) in order to provide students with a rare opportunity to participate directly in community-based research that has a direct effect on policy making for local children and families. Maryfrances Porter, a licensed clinical psychologist, who provides direct supervision of Research Assistants working at CCF. CCF is a 28-member planning board of citizens, community agencies, local government officials, educators, and university leaders which advises the Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle Board of Supervisors on improving outcomes and coordinating planning for local children and their families; shares information about local resources, needs, and trends related to children and families with the public; coordinates service delivery and enhances local services in priority areas; and manages and monitors the administration of targeted state funding. CCF is supported by a staff of 8, as well as by approximately 12 work groups focused on specific community problems and goal of the Commission. CCF does not provide direct services to children and families. Research assistants play a critical role in CCF’s ability to provide up-to-date information on local conditions and best practices to community partners.

RA Duties include: working with CCF staff to compile and summarize information from the web, internal documents, and community partners; assisting with audits of existing practices such that we may better understand how to improve service provision locally; and participating in work groups aimed at understanding and addressing specific community problems.

Requirements:
Interview necessary
Car/transportation is required as CCF is located at 1600 5th Street Extended (at the end of Old Lynchburg Road)
Please provide unofficial transcript and resume

Contact: Maryfrances Porter, 872-4546 or mporter@albemarle.org

Memory Processes Lab  
Director: Dr. Chad Dodson

Our research focuses on memory from both a cognitive and a neurological perspective. We recently examined the causes of false memories and the strategies for preventing them.

RA Applicants should have taken PSYC 101 and at least one 200-level PSYC class. Preference will be given to those who have also taken PSYC 305/306 and PSYC 215. Primary responsibilities will include: scheduling participants, leading
participants through experiments, light data coding and organization, and light administrative tasks. Experience with Excel and SPSS desirable, but not
Contact: Mandy Hege, mandyhege@virginia.edu

Auditory / Music Perception Lab
Director: Dr. Michael Kubovy

We interested in auditory perception, specifically in the perception and cognition of music. We are currently planning on running several experiments exploring the role of visual information in music perception. Additionally, we are collaborating with researchers at Notre Dame to investigate the role of motion and action in rhythm perception. Other projects will likely develop over the course of the semester. We have ordered 2 new sound isolation booths in which to run subjects, and now have the ability to run multiple experiments running concurrently in a sound isolated environment.

RAs must be responsible and have organizational skills (an interest in music doesn't hurt either).

Contact: hearingmoney@virginia.edu or phone: (434) 243-5534

Web site: http://people.virginia.edu/~mk9y/home.html

Psychometric Lab
Director: Dr. Karen Schmidt

Research projects vary; all involve item response theory (IRT) measurement and focus on proper methodology geared towards enhancing construct validity and measuring individual differences. Current and ongoing projects include objective measurement of personality and individual experiences of pain, faking good detection in personality inventory responses, self-efficacy, reasoning and spatial visualization, AIDs knowledge, and international learning experiences in varying age groups. Research Assistants will gain experience in all aspects of the research process, including learning sophisticated statistical and measurement procedures such as multiple regression, item response theory modeling, and structural equation modeling. RAs will learn about searching for and summarizing research articles, web design of surveys, web-based data collection, SPSS data analysis, including data coding and transformation, IRT analysis, graphing, and creation of reports and presentations. Reliable, independent, and creative assistance is strongly considered for co-authorship. Interested students should have completed PSYC 305, and preferably PSYC 306.

Contact: Professor Schmidt, kschmidt@virginia.edu for more information.
The Early Steps Project is a longitudinal multisite (Oxford University, University of Oregon, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Virginia) treatment/control research study designed to provide intervention services for children and their families. The goal of this project is to determine the effectiveness of a family-centered intervention in reducing the early emergence of risk in young children for aggressive and withdrawn behavior, academic readiness, and future substance abuse. We have also recently received funding to collect data on the additional influential contexts of the child including school, neighborhood and after care environments.

Students will have the opportunity to work on a large-scale preventive intervention. RA’s will work both in the community and at the University. RA duties include assisting in family assessment and therapy sessions, childcare, videotaping, and data input. Additionally, we will have opportunities to participate in data collection within schools and neighborhoods. Informational lunches on treatment, assessment issues, and graduate school possibilities will be offered for those who are interested.

In order to apply, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and be psychology majors or intending to be psychology majors. We prefer RAs to make a two semester commitment (often students choose to do more than two). Additionally, students must feel comfortable working with young children and open to working with a diverse population.

Fieldwork in people's homes in Charlottesville and up to 2 hrs away is the most challenging RA work and gives the most significant experience to record for graduate school. Your best opportunity to get fieldwork is by arranging your schedule to have certain times available. They are 9-2 M-F, Mon-Fri 3-8pm.

Contact: Ali Reimuller, anr3s@virginia.edu for more information.
Haidt Lab  
**Director: Dr. Jonathan Haidt**

We study morality and the moral emotions, such as elevation, awe, gratitude, and admiration. We look at how these emotions develop, at how morality varies across cultures, and at how “intuitive ethics” motivate liberals and conservatives, and give us the big moral misunderstanding known as the culture war. The Haidt Lab’s Projects include: Evaluation and other moral emotions; the moral foundations of politics and culture war; the benefits of positive emotions in relationships; the psychophysiology of moral emotions and creating a library of emotion-inducing videos.

**Web site:** Go to [http://faculty.virginia.edu/haidtlab](http://faculty.virginia.edu/haidtlab) for more information and an application.

---

Anxiety, Cognition & Treatment (PACT) Lab  
**Director: Bethany Teachman**

The Program for Anxiety, Cognition & Treatment (PACT) lab is looking for research assistants interested in working on studies of cognition and psychopathology. The lab studies cognitive processes that contribute to the development and maintenance of psychopathology, with a particular interest in anxiety disorders. We evaluate cognitive processing, including biases in attention, interpretation, and memory that causes harm in anxiety as well as other forms of mental illness. We are especially interested in automatic cognitive processing and trying to understand how thoughts that occur outside of our control or awareness contribute to emotional dysregulation. Research assistants are expected to work 8-10 hours/week, help with recruiting and running subjects for current projects in the lab, and attend weekly lab meetings to gain general experience with conducting research and the topic area. There are also opportunities for advanced research assistants to develop their own projects down the road if it is of interest.

**Contact:** Josh Magee, [magee@virginia.edu](mailto:magee@virginia.edu)

**Web site:** [http://projectimplicit.net/nosek//bethany/research.html](http://projectimplicit.net/nosek//bethany/research.html)

---

Child Study Center  
**Director: Dr. Judy DeLoache**

We investigate the development of infants and young children. Most of our
projects focus on early cognitive development and we are particularly interested in how young children begin to master the many symbols that are so important for thought and communication with others. We are looking for independent, responsible, caring individuals to be a part of our research team. Research Assistants work closely with an individual graduate student and the lab coordinator. Their duties include, but are not limited too, transcribing and coding data from taped experimental sessions, preparing stimuli, preparing materials for a participant, running participants, gathering literature for literature reviews, etc.

Contact: Kai Van Eron, kv6e@virginia.edu, for more information.

---

Virginia Institute of Development in Adulthood (VIDA)
Director: Dr. Joseph Allen

The VIDA Project (formally the KLIF Project) is an ongoing longitudinal study examining the influence of social relationships, autonomy, and attachment processes on psychosocial development. In this study, we are working to learn more about how young adults develop and manage friendships with their peers, and how family relationships influence qualities of these peer relationships. Data is collected about several different areas of adolescence and young adulthood, such as the quality of family relationships, friendships and romantic relationships, peer pressure, school achievement, delinquency, and internalizing behaviors. The project uses a variety of measurement methods, including self-reports, semi-structured interviews, parent-reports, peer reports, and observations of family and peer interactions.

Research assistants who work during the academic year are able to earn 3 credit hours for 120 hours of lab work per semester (approximately 10 hours/week). Tasks include conducting interviews with participants, data entry and checking, transcribing, and other administrative tasks. Research assistants receive ample training in the computer programs and the protocol for conducting interviews with participants. Students who work on the project for multiple semesters have the opportunity to take on higher level responsibilities (such as coding data, scheduling participants, and writing a thesis) and are able to apply for paid positions.

Web site: www.teenresearch.org for more information

---

Cognitive Aging Lab
Director: Dr. Timothy Salthouse

We study aging of cognitive functioning by administering a wide variety of tasks
to participants ranging in age from 18-90+). The tasks assess different types of cognitive abilities, such as memory and spatial abilities.

As an RA, you would primarily be responsible for administering tests to participants in the project. We have many computerized tasks where your involvement would be minimal, but also quite a few tasks that you would administer personally. Besides working with participants, you would also be responsible for answering phone calls, scheduling appointments, scoring tests, and entering and checking data.

Contact: Janani Sundar at js4dm@virginia.edu for more information

Perception Lab
Director: Dr. Dennis Proffitt

Our research involves visual perception of spatial layout and the environment (we consistently find that what people see is not what’s really out there) and when we’re not outside, we use our room-size virtual reality (VR) system in many of these experiments. We investigate how the perception of space can be affected by the internal states of the body. We are interested in topics such as: a) How effort/energy can affect how long distances appear and how steep hills look, b) How fear affects the perception of height, c) How sports performance affects the perception of the size of goal related targets (i.e. do baseballs look bigger if you are hitting well?) Another area of our research involves functional brain imaging with cutting edge technologies: we’re helping to develop a new functional near-infrared device (which is similar to fMRI). We’re using it as a brain-computer interface, and it will allow people with complete paralysis to communicate with the outside world using only their thoughts.

We looking for fun, motivated research assistants to help with various research projects. RAs are required to attend weekly lab meetings and are expected to spend from 8-12 hours a week in the lab. Research assistants will be expected to run experiments that could require the operation of virtual reality equipment, projection screens, and devices that measure physiological potential. Experiments are run in rooms within Gilmer Hall as well as in outdoor fields around campus. There are opportunities for RAs to become more involved in longer term, ongoing projects as well as data entry and analysis, and we welcome experienced RAs to complete a Distinguished Majors Thesis (DMP) with our lab.

Contact: Jon Zadra, zadra@virginia.edu

Web site: http://faculty.virginia.edu/perlab