

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Research Assistantship Directory (2021-2022 Academic Year)**

**Updated: 08/31/2021**

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**Researcher**

Laura Baker

lbaker@usc.edu

**Web:** <http://dornsife.usc.edu/laurabakerphd/>

**Current Research Topics under Investigation**

1. Gene-environment interplay in externalizing behavior problems, including aggression and antisocial behavior, with rich data from longitudinal twin study of 750 sets of twins and families spanning 15 years. Extensive data on behavior, neurocognitive performance, and neurophysiological measures available for analysis.
2. Gene-environment interplay in engagement in contemplative practices, including yoga and meditation, and their effects on mental health outcomes. Assistance with literature review and study design for proposed follow-up in the ongoing twin study.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

1. Interest in behavioral genetics and twin studies.
2. Interest in the emerging field of contemplative neuroscience.

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

1. Data analysis and data management skills.

**Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

Hybrid (in-person & virtual): Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

**Office Location:** SGM 623

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 2-3:30 pm and by appointment. Email contact is best. Email for zoom meeting ID.

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**Researcher**

JoAnn M. Farver, PhD

Farver@usc.edu

**Current Topics Under Investigation**

**Study 1.**

Explores relations among social media use (e.g., frequency of selfie posting, time spent on social media) and youth mental health outcomes, and examine possible mediators/moderators, in a sample of 360 Hong Kong students from private schools, aged 14 – 18 years old.

need student to help with a literature review and some preliminary data analysis.(These data are already collected).

### **Study 2.**

Study includes data from about 400 college students and one of their parents. Students reported on their mental health (depression, anxiety, stress, risky behaviors), general self-efficacy, basic psychological needs satisfaction, stressors, academic self-regulation, intrinsic & extrinsic motivations, and adherence to Asian values, motivations for electronic interaction, excessive reassurance-seeking, frequency of selfie posting, and weekly schedule, as well as parents' behaviors (achievement expectations, over-parenting, warmth). Parents reported on their parenting behaviors (achievement expectations, over-parenting, warmth), as well as their intrinsic/extrinsic motivation, and adherence to Asian values. Demographic data on both parents and child include subjective and objective measures of SES, and ethnicity. (These data are already collected; would be suitable for an honors project or a student with stat skills)

### **Study 3.**

Study includes self-report data from over 500 students. Students reported on their mental health (depression, anxiety, stress, risky behaviors), general self-efficacy, basic psychological needs satisfaction, stressors, academic self-regulation, intrinsic & extrinsic motivations, and adherence to Asian values, motivations for electronic interaction, excessive reassurance-seeking, frequency of selfie posting, and weekly schedule, as well as parents' behaviors (achievement expectations, over-parenting, warmth). Demographic data includes subjective and objective measures of SES, and ethnicity. (These data are already collected; would be suitable for an honors project or a student with stat skills)

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Interest in research on culture and mental health.
- Reliable, conscientious/detail-oriented, self-motivated, and able to work independently.
- Ability to commit approximately 6 – 10 hours a week for at least one semester.
- Dedication; interest; energy; informed opinions (or the ability to develop them); critical thinking skills. Stat skills for would be great and could help student(s) earn a co-authorship on publications.

**Phone Number:** (213) 740-3965

**Office Location:** SGM 1006

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**Researcher**

Leor Hackel

[lhackel@usc.edu](mailto:lhackel@usc.edu)

**Web Address:** hackellab.org

**Phone Number:** 7184159879

**Current Research Topics under Investigation**

Hackel Lab aims to understand social cognition: what cognitive and neural processes let us learn from other humans, learn about other humans, and make choices involving other humans? How do domain-general processes (reward-based reinforcement, valuation, habit, generalization) intersect with social processes (impression formation, empathy, morality, social identity)?

Next, we aim to use these insights to characterize social behavior. How are patterns of social learning expressed in people's cooperation, affiliation, or social networks? How do they relate to people's social well-being? How are these behaviors shaped by social environments?

Our lab uses a multi-level approach to understand these phenomena across behavior, the mind, and the brain. We merge social psychological approaches and computational neuroscience approaches, including behavioral experiments, economic games, computational modeling, and neuroimaging.

Currently, we're interested in exploring social learning, impression formation, and choice using computational and neuroimaging methods

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- 10 hour/week commitment
- Good organizational skills

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Previous programming or statistics experience is desirable but not required.

**Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

Fall 2021, In-Person

**Office Location:** SGM 804

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Researcher**

Duke Han, Ph.D. ABPP-CN

Duke.Han@med.usc.edu

**Web:** <https://www.hanresearchlab.com/>

**Phone:** (626) 457-6629

### **Current Research Topics under Investigation**

Our lab investigates decision making in older adults through the Finance, Cognition, and Health in Elders Study (FINCHES). Older adults are often faced with important decisions in financial and health matters, and these decisions often have significant consequences on independence and wellbeing in old age. We use a multifactorial approach that includes cognitive, behavioral economic, and magnetic resonance imaging techniques to understand factors associated with financial exploitation in non-demented older adults.

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Able to commit to a minimum of 8 hours per week
- Minimum commitment of one semester
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office programs, especially Excel.
- Experience using statistical software such as SPSS or R is a plus.
- Ability to commute to Alhambra campus

### **Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Independent, hardworking, with attention to detail
- Strong interest in cognitive psychology and/or neuropsychology
- Strong interest in interacting with older adult research participants
- Interest in applying to graduate school in psychology, neuroscience, etc.

**If you are interested, please email Caroline Nguyen (caroline.nguyen2@med.usc.edu) with a copy of your resume.**

**Office Location:** Department of Family Medicine, Alhambra Campus

**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 9am-5:00pm

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### **Researcher**

Richard John

richardj@usc.edu

310-227-6186

### **Current Research Topics under Investigation**

Truth Detection; Gain-Loss Framing of (Vaccination) Decisions under Risk; Perception of Legal Standards for Stop and Search by Law Enforcement; Hindsight and Overconfidence in Uncertainty about Pandemic

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Need to devote 8-10 hours per week to a research project

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Curiosity; Interest in designing and conducting experiments and analyzing data; Clarity in writing.

**Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

Hybrid (in-person & virtual): Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

**Office Location:** SGM 713

**Office Hours:**

- In person: Monday and Wednesday afternoon and By Appointment
- Zoom: By Appointment

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**Researcher**

Adam Leventhal, Ph.D.

**Email:** uschealstaff@gmail.com

\* Please email the lab regarding undergraduate research positions.

**Web:** heal.usc.edu

**Current Research Topics under Investigation**

Students will assist with ongoing studies at the Health, Emotion, Addiction Lab (HEAL) under the supervision of USC-HEAL faculty. These studies include:

1. A study investigating tobacco use patterns and behaviors and respiratory outcomes in adolescents and young adults.
2. A prospective cohort study to study patterns of vaping and smoking cannabis and nicotine products in young adults.
3. A study exploring the appeal of electronic nicotine delivery systems in smokers.
4. A double-blind clinical trial that will examine the effects of negative reinforcement on obsessive-compulsive symptoms and increased tobacco dependence.
5. A double-blind study clinical trial that will compare the efficacy of two smoking cessation drugs.
6. A study investigating cancer control behaviors and nicotine use in young adults.
7. A study examining tobacco use patterns and behaviors and respiratory outcomes in adults.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Minimum commitment of 2 consecutive semesters

- Commitment to at least 8 hours/week and weekly attendance at Friday meetings (2:30-4pm)
- Ability to conduct volunteer hours in-person on the Health Sciences Campus

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Detail-oriented and reliable
- Able to work well within a fast-paced environment
- Strong communication skills

**Office Location:** SSB 201

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Researcher**

Susan Luczak

[luczak@usc.edu](mailto:luczak@usc.edu)

**Web Address:** <https://dornsife.usc.edu/labs/susan-luczak/>  
(213) 740-9192

**Current Research Topics under Investigation**

In my laboratory, we are currently focusing on two NIH-funded studies. The first brings undergraduate students into the laboratory to complete questionnaires and provide DNA for genotyping prior to randomizing them to one of several online brief personalized feedback sessions and then following them over the course of 1.5 years. The second brings people into the lab to consume alcohol while wearing numerous biosensors and being measured on breath alcohol and various physical responses to alcohol, as well as having them report on their drinking behaviors in the field using an app we are developing while also wearing biosensors. These studies provide a good opportunity for undergraduates wanting to get clinical psychology research experience with human subjects. Students would be part of a team that includes students, staff, and faculty in the Psychology and Math Departments, and like prior undergraduates if they do well as a volunteer there would be future opportunities for SURF/SOAR/URAP/PURF awards, 290/490 courses, and honors program mentorship.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Highly motivated, reliable, and detail-oriented. Able to commit 8-10 hours per week.

**Desired qualifications for Research Assistants**

Knowledge of SPSS and Excel preferable. GPA 3.0 or higher.

If interested, please go to the Luczak Lab website at: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/labs/susan-luczak/prospective-lab-members/> to upload a copy of your resume and your unofficial transcript.

**Office Location:** SGM 826

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

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**Researcher**

Mara Mather

[mara.mather@usc.edu](mailto:mara.mather@usc.edu)

**Web Address:** matherlab.com

**Application Form:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfN2QSs73SOHtvX1xWt\\_5bQUHJZJuT-imyXiDD4Saa1WbWDOw/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfN2QSs73SOHtvX1xWt_5bQUHJZJuT-imyXiDD4Saa1WbWDOw/viewform?c=0&w=1)

**Current Research Topics under Investigation**

We use functional neuroimaging and behavioral methods to investigate how emotion influences memory and cognition. We also examine age and sex differences in these processes. For more information see: <http://www.matherlab.com>

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Must be able to commit at least 12 hours per week (preferably doing blocks of 4-5 hours) for a minimum of 2 semesters.
- Must be highly detail-oriented
- Must be reliable, punctual, and have good history of time management
- Must be a team player Research Assistants are most often involved with running experiment sessions with participants, coding and enter data, preparing stimuli, doing literature searches, and recruiting participants for studies. Depending on the project, there is also the opportunity to assist with data analysis.

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Experience working with older adults and software programming skills a plus, but not required.

**Office Location:**

USC Davis School of Gerontology  
3715 McClintock Ave Room 341  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

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**Researcher**

Gayla Margolin

Email: [margolin@usc.edu](mailto:margolin@usc.edu)

Web: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/labs/margolinfamilystudies/>  
Phone: 213-740-2308

### **Current Research**

The Family Studies Project at USC studies close relationships as sources of risk and resilience in mental and physical health. Specifically, we investigate how dating couples' interactions in natural environments are related to individual and relationship well-being. An ongoing project, called "A Day in the Life", captures 24 hours of information about couples as they go about their daily lives. We have audio-recordings of the couples' interactions throughout the day and also have collected concurrent physiology and emotional reactions. Please see our website: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/labs/margolinfamilystudies/>

Research assistants work closely with graduate students and a team of other volunteers to learn a behavioral coding system designed to capture different behaviors of dating couples' interactions. RAs listen to these recordings and use the coding system to note the occurrence of different behaviors (e.g., when partners interrupt each other, use humor, etc.).

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Able to commit at least 15 hours per week during the summer and at least 8 hours per week during the academic year.
- Minimum commitment of two semester, with summer counting as one semester.
- Overall GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- Detail-oriented, dependable and organized.
- Demonstrates high standards of ethics and integrity in research including upholding confidentiality regarding the content of recorded and transcript information.
- Have a private workspace at home.

If you are interested in volunteering as an undergraduate research assistant, please provide the following to both Dr Gayla Margolin ([margolin@usc.edu](mailto:margolin@usc.edu)) and Yana Ryjova ([ryjova@usc.edu](mailto:ryjova@usc.edu)): (a) in your email, please describe why you are interested in our lab and let us know about prior research experience if you have any

(b) attach your resume or CV and be sure it includes major, minor (if any), GPA and prior volunteer and paid employment

(c) your undergraduate transcript/s (unofficial copy is fine) from all undergraduate institutions you have attended

**Office Location:** SGM 930 (Note: work over the summer will be remote)

**Office Hours:** To be determined.

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### **Researcher**

Darby Saxbe

[dsaxbe@usc.edu](mailto:dsaxbe@usc.edu)



**Web Address:** <https://dornsife.usc.edu/nestlab/>  
(213) 740-4771

### **Current Research Topics under Investigation**

The NeuroEndocrinology of Social Ties (NEST) lab focuses on families and family dynamics, and we have explored this topic in two interconnected studies: the HATCH (Hormones Across the Transition to Childrearing) study and the HATCH MRI sub-study. Both HATCH studies are researching the impact of parenthood on first time mothers and fathers and the factors that predict successful adjustments.

In the larger HATCH study, we investigate how family dynamics transform as couples progress into parenthood. Our study is longitudinal, so we recruit couples mid-pregnancy and collect data from them until their child is one year old. We broadly study this transition by looking at couple's relationship dynamics, individuals' hormonal changes, child development, and child-parent relationships.

The HATCH MRI sub-study is only interested in fathers and how the transition to parenthood affects their brain functioning. The MRI sub-study is also longitudinal, and our participants are funneled in from the larger HATCH study. Overall, we are trying to investigate if fathers' brains change when they progress into parenthood.

The HATCH studies are almost complete, so we are transitioning into a new follow-up study, in which we invite all our original HATCH participants back to the lab when the children are around 7 years old.

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Able to commit to a minimum of 8 hours per week
- Minimum commitment of two semesters
- Have no derogatory marks against their academic record
- Are psychology majors, minors, or majoring in a related discipline
- Have a strong interest in close relationships, parenting, hormonal regulation, or fMRI research
- Have open availability and flexible hours

### **Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Have previous research experience
- Independent, hardworking, with attention to detail
- Experience using statistical software such as SPSS or R
- Interest in going to graduate school
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher

### **Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

Hybrid (in-person & virtual): Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

**Office Location:** SGM 716 D  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

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### **Researcher**

Darby Saxbe, PhD

[dsaxbe@usc.edu](mailto:dsaxbe@usc.edu)

**Web:** <https://dornsifecms.usc.edu/labs/usc-ccf/>

(213) 740-4771

### **Current Research Topics Under Investigation**

We (The Center for the Changing Family) are an interdisciplinary group of USC faculty who study family systems, close relationships, and mental and physical health across the lifespan.

The family profoundly shapes health and well-being from cradle to grave. Increasingly, social connection has been recognized as a public health priority and a buffer against stress and disease, just as social isolation has been found to carry a greater mortality toll than smoking, obesity, and alcoholism. In infancy and childhood, consistent caregiving supports survival and the development of self-regulatory capacities. In contrast, a growing literature on adverse childhood experiences demonstrates that children raised in unstable or conflictual families show reduced educational and occupational attainment and greater physical and mental health problems in late life. In adulthood, marriage has been linked with both health and economic benefits, although dysfunctional or abusive relationships can carry significant costs. Among older adults, late-life caregiving demands are often borne by the family unit. Family caregiving can be protective for older adults but can also place significant emotional and economic strains on partners and adult children.

Families are not necessarily harmonious, but can also be settings for abuse, neglect, and trauma. And the family's influence can extend beyond the lifespan, across generations. Much recent research has elucidated the mechanisms of intergenerational transmission across multiple domains, from the transmission of incarceration risk and educational attainment, to family aggression and psychopathology, to physical health and neurodevelopment.

As a diverse group of scholars spanning multiple fields, we define "family" broadly. Families can vary in size and structure, and are dynamic, reconfiguring as couples make the transition into parenthood or an empty-nester phase; separate or divorce; and experience illness and bereavement. These transition points, or "hinge moments," can be windows of both vulnerability and opportunity.

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Able to commit to a minimum of 8 hours per week

- Minimum commitment of two semesters
- Have no derogatory marks against their academic record
- Are psychology, communications, or related majors/minors
- Have a strong interest in close relationships, parenting, family dynamics, couples, child development, social media, advertising, and writing
- Comfortable interviewing faculty and writing short blurbs
- Have open availability and flexible hours

### **Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Have previous experience working on a social media team
- Independent, hardworking, with attention to detail
- Canva, photoshop, or other graphic design websites/software experience
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher

### **Office Location:**

N/A – position will be remote for the whole year

**Office Hours:** Office hours are flexible due to remote working.

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### **Researcher**

Gale M. Sinatra  
gsinatra@usc.edu  
702-303-4328

### **Current Research Topics under Investigation**

1. Science Learning
2. Public understanding of science
3. Misinformation
4. Science denial

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Several hours a week (3-5) available to work remotely and an occasional in person meeting.

### **Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Willingness to learn
- Attention to detail
- Stays in communication with the team

**Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

Hybrid (in-person & virtual) & Virtual: Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

To learn more about our lab's research see: <http://motivatedchangelab.com>

**Office Location:** 600C Waite Philips Hall (WPH)

**Office Hours:** Available by appointment

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**Researcher**

Jonathan Strange, PhD

[jstange@usc.edu](mailto:jstange@usc.edu)

**Lab:** Cognition and Affect Regulation (CAR) Lab

**Website:** <https://dornsifecms.usc.edu/labs/car-lab/>

**Current Research Topics Under Investigation**

The CAR lab examines cognitive and affective processes involved in the regulation of negative affect, in an effort to identify vulnerability factors for mood disorders.

We take a multi-method approach to examining individual differences in styles of thinking and regulating negative affect. This work involves laboratory-based measures of brain activity (using fMRI and event-related potentials), autonomic nervous system functioning (heart rate and respiration), and behavior (computer tasks and questionnaires). In addition, to understand behavior outside of the lab, we utilize ambulatory assessment to measure person-centered variability in autonomic functioning (with wearables), sleep quality (with actigraphy), affect and regulation strategies (using ecological momentary assessment), and digital phenotyping approaches to measuring behavior.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Able to commit to a minimum of 10 hours per week
- Minimum commitment of two semesters
- Have no derogatory marks against their academic record
- Are psychology majors, minors, or majoring in a related discipline
- Have a strong interest in emotion regulation, mood disorders, fMRI research, ECG research, and/or ambulatory data collection
- Have open availability and flexible hours

**Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

- Have previous research experience
- Independent, hardworking, with attention to detail
- Experience using statistical software such as SPSS or R
- Interest in going to graduate school

- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher

### **Interested?**

If you are interested in joining the CAR Lab, please **complete the attached application** and send it to **carlab@usc.edu**.

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### **Researcher**

Elizabeth Sowell, PhD  
esowell@chla.usc.edu

**Web Address:** <https://abcdstudy.org/sites/chla.html>

**Phone:** (323) 361 - 7756

### **Current Research Topics under Investigation**

Dr. Elizabeth Sowell and the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study® investigators are conducting a research study to learn more about developing cognitive, social, and emotional functions in children as they grow from age 9 to young adulthood. This is a 10-year study and we are currently in the 5th year of follow-up. The ABCD Study is the largest long-term study of brain development and child health in the United States. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded leading researchers in the fields of adolescent development and neuroscience to conduct this ambitious project.

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

We are looking for an undergraduate research assistant for the 2020-21 school year. This is a great opportunity to gain valuable research skills, bolster your applications for graduate programs in psychology or neuroscience, and develop your interests in academic research. We are looking for motivated, conscientious, and reliable undergraduate students with a GPA of 3.4 or higher. No previous research experiences necessary, but RAs are asked to give a minimum 1-year commitment for ~10 hours/week. A relevant major in the sciences is preferred. Some of these hours will be in person at CHLA and some may be completed remotely. If you are interested, please email a copy of your most recent CV and availability to Trinh Luu at [tluu@chla.usc.edu](mailto:tluu@chla.usc.edu).

### **Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants**

RAs should be professional, detail-oriented, driven, and interested in psychology and neuroscience, specifically working with teens. RAs should have reliable transportation to CHLA and available 2 days a week, with some weekend availability.

### **Office Location:**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Smith Research Tower  
4650 Sunset Blvd. #130  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

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**Researcher**

Sarah Townsend & Yiran Wang

[ywang512@marshall.usc.edu](mailto:ywang512@marshall.usc.edu)

**Web:** <https://www.sarahsmtownsend.com/>

**Current Research Topics under Investigation**

The Cultural Diversity and Psychophysiology (CDP) Lab specializes in research on the psychological foundations of inequality. Their research reveals the dysfunctional behaviors and physiological costs that can result when individuals' cultural norms collide with the dominant cultural norms of organizations. We examine how these "cultural divides" are often a hidden source of inequality, but how they can be used to lessen opportunity gaps and fuel greater cross-group understanding.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

The CDP Lab is looking for motivated, conscientious, and responsible undergraduate Research Assistants for 2021-22 school year. This is a great opportunity to gain valuable research experience, bolster your applications for graduate programs, and have the opportunity to develop your interests within the field. RAs will work remotely and will be responsible for helping with online data collection and related tasks.

We are looking for RAs with a 3.3 GPA or higher, who are detail-oriented, hardworking and are broadly interested in social class, race, and/or psychophysiology. No previous research experiences necessary, but RAs are asked to give a minimum 1-year commitment with at least 8-10 hours per week. Some research will be conducted virtually and some will be conducted in person.

We are committed to building a diverse research team. Accordingly, we strongly encourage applications from women, racial/ethnic minorities, and other underrepresented groups.

**Office Location:** Hoffman Hall, 403

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Researcher**

Erika Patall

Email: [patall@rossier.usc.edu](mailto:patall@rossier.usc.edu)

Web: <https://motivationlab.wordpress.com/>

### **Current Research Topics**

The Motivation and Education Research Group (MERG) led by Dr. Erika Patall in the Rossier School of Education is seeking enthusiastic, committed students with an interest in educational psychology or applied social or developmental psychology to assist with research this summer. Students who become involved in our research group have the opportunity to become involved in many aspects of the research and will be asked to participate in a variety of tasks (e.g., research conceptualization and brainstorming, literature reviewing, meta-analytic coding; analysis, etc.). We seek students who want to be active members of our small community and anticipate wanting to continue in a relevant field in graduate school or as a career. Students must be willing to volunteer 5-10 hours of their time per week (on average). Students who wish to continue work with MERG beyond this semester may also do so on either a voluntary basis or for course credit.

The core mission of the MERG is to understand the nature of students' motivation and the educational environments and practices that can support student motivation. We conduct meta-analyses, intervention research, and survey research. We conduct research online, in laboratory settings, and in the field, working closely with secondary (middle and high school) school teachers and students as part of the process. This semester, students will be asked to assist with synthesizing existing research related to teacher practices that support student motivation, and the relation between experiences of autonomy with students' well and ill-being.

**If interested in being a research assistant, please contact Amanda Vite at [avite@usc.edu](mailto:avite@usc.edu).**

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### **Researcher**

Amy E. West, PhD

[amwest@chla.usc.edu](mailto:amwest@chla.usc.edu)

<https://www.chla.org/profile/amy-e-wes>

(323)361-4478

### **Current Research Topics under Investigation**

We are currently accepting research volunteers on our large clinical effectiveness trial studying treatment for pediatric anxiety disorders in urban, underserved youth 8-17. The CHLA PCORI funded clinical trial titled "A Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial (SMART) Assessing Medication and CBT Sequencing Strategies in the Treatment of Predominantly Ethnic Minority, Underserved Youth with Anxiety Disorders" needs volunteers to assist with REDCap data entry of anxiety screening measures (SCARED-5) being collected across study sites. Time commitment is 10-15 hours per week. Volunteer would get experience working with large, interdisciplinary study team on a multi-site clinical trial (404 individual patients recruited across 9 study sites) focused on a diverse and underserved population of youth and families.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

The volunteer should have excellent computer/database skills, be organized, detail oriented, be comfortable working independently, be self-directed, willing to take initiative, respect and maintain confidentiality. Previous REDCap experience a plus; but will train.

**Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

Much of the work can be done remotely; some travel to study sites (all in Los Angeles) to pick up screeners may be required if possible

**Office Location:**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Saban Research Institute  
4661 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

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**Researcher**

Dr. Wendy Wood

[wendy.wood@usc.edu](mailto:wendy.wood@usc.edu)

**Web:** <https://dornsife.usc.edu/wendywoo>

**Current Research Topics under Investigation**

Our lab is one of the premier places to study the psychology of habits. As a research assistant, you will participate in every-other-week lab meetings in which we discuss research, you will help collect data from people about their habits, and you will code research data. Our current research projects include how people form everyday habits to use social media, check their cell phones, and use new language forms like singular they. We also study why old habits are so difficult to break. This work is relevant for students interested in behavior change, marketing, health, consumer behavior, addictions, social media, and environmental behaviors.

**Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Availability to work 5-10 hours per week on your own schedule. Must be highly responsible problem solvers who can work independently and who follow through on commitments. Programming and data analytic skills are a bonus but not required.

**Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

Hybrid (in-person & virtual) or personal choice

**Office Location:** SGM 805

**Office Hours:** Contact via email



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## **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

NOTE: STUDENTS SEEKING PSYC 490 CREDIT FOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE MUST BE WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A FACULTY MEMBER. THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED BELOW ARE GRADUATE STUDENTS AND MAY NOT SERVE AS YOUR PRIMARY SUPERVISOR TOWARDS 490 CREDIT. CONSULT WITH THEIR SUPERVISING FACULTY MEMBER CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF 490 CREDIT.

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Asaf Mazar (works with Dr. Wendy Wood)

[amazar@usc.edu](mailto:amazar@usc.edu)

213-740-5504

### **Current Research Topics under Investigation**

People often want to change their behavior - to exercise more, use their phones less, or connect with others. How do we help people change their behavior? More importantly, how do we get behavior change to stick, disrupting old habits and forming new, desirable habits in their place? These are some topics that we investigate in the habit lab. In the process, we use a wide range of research methods, such as surveys, experience sampling, field studies, and geospatial analysis. You can read more about our work in the book Good Habits, Bad Habits:

<https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250159076>

### **Specific Qualifications for Research Assistants**

Research assistants are expected to commit at least 10 hours/week for 2 semesters. Research assistants have the opportunity to get involved with various aspects of the research process, such as reviewing research literature, designing and testing study materials, and analyzing data.

The ideal candidate is curious, pro-active, hard-working, and detail-oriented. Previous coursework in psychology or statistics, as well as programming experience are a plus, but not required. GPA does not matter.

*If interested, please contact Asaf Mazar at [amazar@usc.edu](mailto:amazar@usc.edu)*

**Will students be able to participate in this lab experience in-person, hybrid, or virtually during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022?**

In-Person, Virtual, Hybrid: Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

**Office Location:** SGM 801 m

**Office Hours:** By appointment