Get Involved in Research!

Read about the researchers and their Fall 2022 projects, then contact researchers you are interested in working with!

Allison Mazur
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I am studying how romantic couples discuss sexual and emotional intimacy in their relationships for my dissertation. Couples will have a recorded conversation about intimacy and fill out baseline and post-conversation surveys. There will also be a longitudinal survey component for the weeks following the conversation. RAs will schedule and run conversation sessions, transcribe conversations, and complete observational coding for each recording.

- **Tasks**: Recruiting & managing research participants, Programming & testing surveys in Qualtrics, Data coding, Transcribing interviews
- **Number of Positions**: 8
- **Expected Number of Units**: Flexible

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America Edwards
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**Project 1**: Working with America Edwards and Prof. Walther, we will content analyze hate messages (sexist, racist, anti-immigrant, etc.) that appear on social media, and compare findings to benchmark research from the Web 1.0 era. Activities include background reading to inform the theoretical and practical contours of the prospective analysis, coding content, summarizing findings, and contributing to a written discussion and interpretation.

- **Tasks**: Data coding
- **Number of Positions**: 6
- **Expected Number of Units**: 4 units
- **Desirable Skills**: Must be FLE (first language- English) and registered U.S. voter, must also be comfortable engaging and reading in offensive online content.

**Project 2**: Working with America Edwards and Prof. Walther, we will conduct an experiment in which participants engage with trained confederates using an online communication platform. Topics covered include self-disclosure, expectancy violations theory, interpersonal impressions, computer-mediated communication. We will have 2 lab managers and 4 trained confederates.

- **Tasks**: Recruiting & managing research participants, Acting as trained confederates
- **Number of Positions**: 4
- **Expected Number of Units**: 4 units
- **Desirable Skills**: Must be located IN Santa Barbara.
This project is coding transcripts of recorded family conversations about mental health across cultural groups. 120 parent-child dyads spoke over Zoom for 15 minutes about their experiences with mental health. The research team will work together to qualitatively analyze transcripts. RAs will be expected to meet all deadlines, and put their best effort forward.

- **Tasks:** Transcribing interviews, Qualitative analysis
- **Number of Positions:** 3
- **Desirable Skills:** Must have a very strong grasp of conversational English. Great position for those who like to read. Black, Latino/a/x, and Asian American students are especially encouraged to apply!

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My research is about online incivility and hate phenomena.

- **Tasks:** Programming & testing surveys in Qualtrics, Data coding, Conducting literature reviews, Designing study materials
- **Number of Positions:** 3
- **Expected Number of Units:** 2 units
- **Desirable Skills:** Speaks Korean (Not Mandatory), experience with literature search and review

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This is an interview study of mental health communication in the family, with an emphasis on the role that (a) the sibling relationship and (b) the complex family system play in navigating depressive symptoms. Participants are young adults who grew up with at least one sibling; additionally, the participant and/or their sibling must demonstrate ongoing depressive symptoms (clinical diagnosis NOT required). Interviews will take approximately one hour, with the goal of understanding participants’ unique experiences with mental health challenges and their family of origin.

**NOTE:** I want to let you know that as an RA on this project, you will likely be exposed to the discussion of heavy topics. Because this research focuses on depression and the family, participants’ stories could be triggering for any of several reasons. I will do my best to support your comfort and well-being during the RAship, but please keep this warning in mind if you’re interested in being on the research team.

- **Tasks:** Recruiting & managing research participants, Transcribing interviews, Conducting semi-structured interviews
- **Number of Positions:** 5
- **Expected Number of Units:** Flexible
- **Desirable Skills:** Although I will train you in conducting and transcribing interviews, it would be very helpful if you already have experience in either of the tasks. Beyond this, I am looking for RAs who are personable, dedicated, and can navigate heavy conversations while maintaining their composure and the professional boundary. Likewise, I’d prefer if you’re team-oriented and responsive to texts/emails.
Carmen Chan  
Email: carmenchan@ucsb.edu

The project looks at technology use and well-being, specifically how users manage and cope with long term and short term stress.

- **Tasks:** Recruiting & managing research participants, Data coding, Not sure, Running the study
- **Number of Positions:** 5
- **Expected Number of Units:** 1 or 2 units

Nan Wilkenfeld  
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Technology development in mergers & acquisitions; linguistic convergence in human-companion chatbot relationships

- **Tasks:** Programming & testing surveys in Qualtrics, Conducting literature reviews
- **Number of Positions:** 3
- **Expected Number of Units:** Flexible

Laurent Wang  
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I am working on several projects that aim to understand how people make online privacy decisions and how privacy concerns may translate into privacy management behaviors on social media. Research assistants will mainly help conduct literature review on related topics and test an online survey on Qualtrics.

- **Tasks:** Programming & testing surveys in Qualtrics, Conducting literature reviews
- **Number of Positions:** 2
- **Expected Number of Units:** Flexible (>1)

Chloe Gonzales  
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We are investigating the uncertainties that family members experience when taking care of a family member with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias (ADRD) and the communication processes that are used.

- **Tasks:** Recruiting & managing research participants, Transcribing interviews, Conducting interviews
- **Number of Positions:** 6
- **Expected Number of Units:** Flexible

Chengyu Fang  
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A couple of different projects: 1) Literature review on team diversity research; 2) Connecting and reaching out to professional esports players.

- **Tasks:** Recruiting & managing research participants, Data coding, Transcribing interviews, Conducting literature reviews
- **Number of Positions:** 5
- **Expected Number of Units:** 4 or 5 units
- **Desirable Skills:** Familiar with reading and extracting relevant information from research articles