

Psychology Department Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Lucia Alcalá, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-730H
Phone Extension:	(657)
E-Mail:	lualcala@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Developmental Psychology & Cultural Psychology
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	<p>*Developmental and cultural aspects of children's prosocial behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sibling collaborative behavior - Helping at home - Collaborative planning skills
	<p>*Children's development of social responsibilities</p> <p>-I am interested in exploring how cultural expectations and parenting behaviors guide children's development of responsibility across communities (Indigenous-Mexican, Mexican-immigrant, and European American)</p> <p>*Other topics of interest</p> <p>-Informal learning, learning through observing and pitching-in, children's folk biology and informal science</p> <p>Mayan parental ethnotheories and its relation to children's cognitive development</p>
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Library research
	Transcription of interviews in Spanish
	Data coding (qualitative and video data)
	Data analysis
	Help with planning future studies
	Pilot testing
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Bilingual (Spanish) preferred but not required
	Junior standing or higher
	2+ semester commitment
	Statistical knowledge preferred but not required
	Interested in developmental and/or cultural psychology

Psychology Department Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Jason Baker, Ph.D. & Rachel Fenning, Ph.D. (Center for Autism)
Office Location:	EC-560
Phone Extension:	x7966
E-Mail:	jbaker@fullerton.edu ; autismcenterkids@fullerton.edu
Research Areas:	Developmental psychopathology
	Social-emotional development
	Developmental disabilities/autism spectrum disorder
	Psychophysiology
	Family process
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	Large NIH-funded project
	-Psychophysiology and parenting in risk for externalizing problems in ASD
	-Relations between psychophysiology and ASD symptoms
	-Biopsychosocial contributors to social cognition in ASD
	-Family process as a resilience factor in ASD
	All of the above in children with typical development
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Data collection, including psychophysiological assessment, cognitive assessment, parent interview, and potentially gold-standard autism diagnostic assessment
	Assistance with project recruitment
	Data processing
	Observational coding opportunities
	Potential for scholarship
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Interest in emotion, family process, and/or developmental risk/disability
	Academic excellence
	Strong commitment and initiative
	Experience and comfort working with young children
	Reliable and somewhat flexible schedule

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Psychology Department Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Melinda Blackman, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-810E
Office Phone:	(657) 278-3569
E-mail:	mblackman@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Industrial / Organizational Psychology & Applied Social Psychology (Sports and Health Psychology)
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel selection interviews and the accuracy of personality judgments in organizational and professional sports settings. • Counterproductive behavior in the workplace • Diet Adherence strategies, nutrition psychology,
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect data 2. Enter data into SPSS 3. Help analyze the data
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of Psych. 101, 201, 202, 300 & 391 with a final grade of “B” or better. 2. Strong SPSS skills. 3. Flexible schedule.

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Psychology Department Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Iris Blandon-Gitlin, Ph.D.
Office Phone:	(657) 278-3496
Office Location:	H-710J
E-mail:	iblandon-gitlin@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory- Deception- Confessions in the Legal System
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	<p>Research Focus</p> <p>The research in my lab is generally focused on understanding the social-cognitive factors that influence how people process and remember faces, events, and evidence. My research examines the following broad questions: (1) What are the processes involved in creating true and false memories of events, and what characteristics differentiate them? (2) Are there valid tools to distinguish between true and false accounts of events? (3) How observers (e.g., jurors) perceive and evaluate true or false evidence elicited with certain tactics? and relatedly? (4) What psychological factors influence memory for faces. See my publications and read relevant articles before contacting me.</p> <p><i>Representative Publications:</i></p> <p>Fenn, E., Blandón-Gitlin, I., Coons, J., Pineda, C., & Echon, R. (2015). The Inhibitory Spillover Effect: Controlling the bladder makes better liars. <i>Consciousness & Cognition</i>, 37, 112-122.</p> <p>Hauch, V., Blandón-Gitlin, I., Masip, J. & Sporer, S. L. (2014). Are computers effective lie detectors? A meta-analysis of linguistic cues to deception. <i>Personality and Social Psychology Review</i>, 1–36.</p> <p>Blandón-Gitlin, I., Fenn, E., Masip, J., & Yoo, A. (2014). Cognitive load approaches to detect deception: Searching for cognitive mechanisms. <i>Trends in Cognitive Sciences</i>, 18, 441-444.</p> <p>Blandón-Gitlin, I., Pezdek, K., Saldivar, S., & Steelman, E. (2013). Oxytocin eliminates the own-race bias in face recognition memory. <i>Brain Research</i>, 1580, 180-187.</p> <p>Blandón-Gitlin, I. & Gerkens, D. R. (2010). The effects of photographs and event plausibility in creating false beliefs. <i>Acta Psychologica</i>, 135, 330-334.</p> <p>Pezdek, K. & Blandón-Gitlin, I. (2010). Imagining implausible events does not lead to false autobiographical memories. <i>Applied Cognitive Psychology</i>, 25, 341-343.</p> <p>Blandón-Gitlin, I., Sperry, K., Leo, R.A. (2010). Jurors believe interrogation tactics are not likely to elicit false confessions: Would expert testimony inform them otherwise? <i>Psychology, Crime and Law</i>, 17, 239-260.</p> <p>Blandón-Gitlin, I., Pezdek, K., Lindsay, S.D., & Hagan, L. (2009). Criteria-Based Content Analysis of true and suggested accounts of events. <i>Applied Cognitive Psychology</i>, 23, 901-917.</p>

	<p>Student participation is welcomed and encouraged in all aspects of the projects, including literature review, research design, data collection, statistical analysis, and communication of findings in conferences presentations and journal publications. It is important to dedicate at least 2 semesters in my lab to obtain quality experience. Usually, students spend 10 hours a week working on projects. Most of my successful students go on to graduate programs. Please read about my work before contacting me.</p>
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	<p>Interest and desire to learn. Willing to spend 10 hours a week working in research-related activities.</p>

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Research Summary**

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Barbara Cherry, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-735H
Office Phone:	(657) 278.2731
E-Mail:	bcherry@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Cognitive aging
	Cognition and chronic pain
	Hemispheric asymmetries
	Memory, attention
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	Fibromyalgia
	Cognition in normal older adults
	Interhemispheric collaboration in younger and older adults
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Run participants, do scoring, data entry, xeroxing, literature searches, possibly programming, statistical analyses, writing
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Individuals who can work independently, are flexible. knowledge of research design and statistics required

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Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Russ Espinoza, Ph.D., M.F.T.
Office Phone:	(657) 278-7566
Office Location:	H-725H
E-mail Address:	ruespinoza@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psychology and Law - Prejudice in the legal system, juror decision making, and socio-demographic influences in the U.S. criminal court system. 2. How does Aversive Prejudice (contemporary prejudice) explain contemporary societal views on psychology, politics and the legal system. 3. Multicultural Issues - How culture influences social interaction
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are examining how excessive force by police is perceived by jurors when race and socioeconomic status of victims are varied. 2. The team is also examining how mental illness, race of defendant, and gun control views of jurors influence juridic decisions. 3. Lastly, we are examining how the death penalty is viewed by society and prospective jurors, and if this is demonstrated in prejudicial decision making.
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	To contribute to all aspects of research and research design including conception of experiments, literature searches, running of participants, data entry, data interpretation, and writing and presenting of results at conferences.
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	A one-year commitment to the research team, the ability to work autonomously, responsible, and a jovial outlook! Also, the ability to play a musical instrument and the love of rock and roll is always a plus. ☺

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Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Aaron Lukaszewski, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-730G
Phone Extension:	x7235
E-Mail:	alukaszewski@fullerton.edu
Research Areas:	--Evolutionary psychology
	--Social cognition
	--Personality and individual differences
	--Group processes
	--Hierarchy
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	--Effects of leadership and niche specialization on group cooperation
	--Psychology of social status allocation
	--Condition-dependent personality calibration
	--Cross-cultural studies of personality determinants and structure
	--Psychology of social comparison
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Variable across projects. Example duties include:
	--Implementing data collection protocols
	--Data collation and organization
	--Data analysis
	--Literature review
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	--Interest in rigorous training in evolutionary psychology (as exemplified by desire to attend lab reading groups, etc.)
	--Conscientious and dutiful
	--Success in research design and statistics courses (not essential)
	--Desire to attend graduate school in evolutionary studies or psychology (not essential)

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Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	William Marelich, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-715D
Office Phone:	(657) 278-7374
Email:	wmarelich@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Health Psychology, Quantitative Methods, Sports Psychology
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	1) Scale Development of a Courage Measure
	2) Sports Psychology and Baseball Mythology
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	
	Data Analysis (SEM and Multilevel Modeling, GEE Analyses, Segmentation)
	Knowledge of qualitative data coding
	HTML and Website manipulation
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	SPSS, SAS, R
	Advance statistics background
	Item writing experience
	Qualitative experience

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Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Lisa Mori, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-835K
Phone Extension:	(657) 278-3761
E-Mail:	lmori@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	1. Clinical psychology: attitudes towards and beliefs about mental illness, psychological treatments, and mental health professionals.
	2. Factors influencing perceptions of sexual assault, victim blame, and judgments of aftereffects of sexual assault.
Current Research Topics Under Investigation:	1. Effects of therapy modality and type of presenting problem on judgments of therapist competence and treatment efficacy.
	2. Situational and social factors influencing perceptions of sexual assault and victim blame within dating/social acquaintance contexts.
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	1. Require two semester commitment; estimated time commitment of 10 hours/week; must be able to attend weekly lab meetings.
	2. Intelligent (minimum 3.0 GPA); interested and enthusiastic about research; committed; hardworking; responsible; reliable; motivated; able to take initiative; good communication and interpersonal skills; team player; emotionally stable.
	3. Achievement oriented; able to work independently when necessary; good common sense and sense of humor; able to ask for clarification or direction when needed.
	4. Knowledge of statistics and SPSS for Windows, Qualtrics, HTML, other technical skills desirable.

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Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Douglas J. Navarick, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-835J
Phone Extension:	(657) 278-7040
E-Mail:	dnavarick@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Choice behavior; currently, how we choose between “right” and “wrong,” especially when we’re in a state of conflict between these judgments.
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	<p>Currently, I'm using questionnaires to see how people make moral judgments based on their intuitions about what is right and wrong.</p> <p>When you make a judgment intuitively, you go with your immediate feelings on the issue rather than apply a moral principle and reason it out. Because intuition is not logical, it can lead to contradictory feelings. For example, if you felt that the same action was equally right and wrong, you would be in a state of "moral ambivalence." I have a method to measure these feelings and relate them to the judgment that people express.</p> <p>In a typical survey participants read a brief description of a situation (a "scenario") that involves a moral issue and are then asked one or more questions about it. In one experiment, participants had two separate rating scales for each scenario. On one scale they rated how RIGHT they felt the character's action would be, and on the other scale they rated how WRONG they felt it would be. If they felt that the same action was both right and wrong, they could express this with any combination of ratings.</p> <p>In another group, participants simply checked one of 3 boxes to answer the question: Is it MORALLY RIGHT to ...? :YES, NO, CAN'T DECIDE. (“Can’t Decide” is an another way of expressing moral ambivalence. Previous research has not included this option).</p> <p>In the third group, the procedure was the same as in the second group but the question was turned around: Is it MORALLY WRONG to ...?</p> <p>By comparing these 3 groups I can estimate how much of a difference it takes between feelings of right and wrong for someone to express a firm judgment one way or the other.</p>
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Schedule participants from Psych 101 classes using the Psychology Department’s online research participation management system (Sona Systems). Conduct experimental sessions; assist with statistical analysis; assist with constructing surveys.
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	It would help to be familiar with SPSS or other statistics programs.

I would suggest looking over the following article to see if this topic and the approach I take to it would really be of interest to you:

Navarick, D. J. (2013). Moral ambivalence: Modeling and measuring bivariate evaluative processes in moral judgment. *Review of General Psychology, 17*, 443-452. doi: 10.1037/a0034527

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Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Yuko Okado, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-835M
Office Phone:	(657) 278-7388
E-Mail:	yokado@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Prevention
	Health psychology
	Emotion regulation
	Pediatric psychology
	Developmental psychopathology (mood, anxiety)
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	Behavioral interventions for stress management in college students (main project)
	Stress management training for parent-child dyads (may not be available this year)
	Prevention of chronic emotion dysregulation
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Running participants (potentially offering an intervention)
	Literature searches
	Lab-related administrative tasks
	Data management
	Presentation of results
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Strong knowledge of: research design, statistics, behavioral reinforcement, clinical psychology
	Conscientious, detail-oriented, excellent task management
	Excellent communication skills
	1 year commitment required
	Minimum 3.5GPA required

Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Nancy Panza, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-725B
Phone Extension:	(657) 278-5904
E-Mail:	npanza@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Clinical Forensic Psychology
	Forensic Assessment
	Police Psychology
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	(1) Legal Standards Related to Competence To Stand Trial for Juvenile Offenders
	(2) Police Psychology - test use in pre-employment and fitness for duty evaluations; health and wellness in law enforcement personnel
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Literature searches
	Data coding & entry
	Data analysis
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	I do not take on a large number of students to work as RAs. Please inquire only if you have a serious interest in one of the areas in which I work.
	To inquire about working with me as an RA, please send an email describing: (1) your qualifications, (2) your area of interest, (3) why you are hoping to obtain research experience; and (4) how long you have to commit to working in the lab (one semester, one year, etc.)
	If I am able to take on new RAs, I will interview students who have appropriate experience and background in the areas in which they are interested in working.

Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Jessie J. Peissig, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-710L
Phone Extension:	(657) 278-8278
E-Mail:	jpeissig@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Cognitive Psychology
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	I study face and object perception. More specifically, I am currently exploring how people recognize faces that have been changed in some way. I am interested in both theoretical aspects, such as how the brain accomplishes this, and applied aspects, such as how we can train airport security and law enforcement to better recognize fugitives. I am also currently studying how makeup affects visual perception of attractiveness.
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Run human participants in experiments. Assist with programming experiments and data analysis. Enter Data. Create experimental stimuli.
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Some upper level psychology coursework, such as Learning and Memory, Cognitive Psychology, or Biopsychology, is helpful.

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Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Kathleen Preston, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-725D
Phone Extension:	(657) 278-8215
E-Mail:	kpreston@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Psychometrics and Measurement
	Item Response Theory
	Structural Equation Modeling
	Factor Analysis
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	Scale construction utilizing modern test theory
	Item and category parameter recovery under assumption violations
	Evaluating robustness of Item Response Theory models to violations of dimensionality
	Evaluating accuracy of multidimensional IRT item parameters under the nominal response model
	Comparing modern estimation methods
	Evaluating category functioning of response options using the nominal response model
	Psychometric evaluation of published scales
	Various research projects utilizing data from the Fullerton Longitudinal Study
	Parameter linking: Evaluating longitudinal data using Item Response Theory
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Gather articles for literature review
	Synthesize articles gathered
	Apply statistical techniques to datasets
	Computer program collaboration to simulate data
	Identify potential applied dataset to support simulation study
	Run analyses on applied data
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Some experience with advanced statistical techniques
	Basic understanding of computer programming
	Interest in learning statistical programs such as R, EQS, EQSIRT, flexMIRT
	Desire to learn more about psychometrics
	Interest in theoretical aspects of quantitative psychology

Psychology Department Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Dr Nancy L Segal
Office Location:	H426C
Phone Extension:	2142
E-Mail:	nsegal@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Twin studies, behavior genetic, evolutionary psych
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	Twin relationships, intelligence, personality
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Data entry, data verification, lit search
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	SPSS, Mac expertise

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Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Eriko Self, Ph.D.
Phone:	(657) 278-8359
Office Location:	H-810A
E-Mail:	eself@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Visual perception and color vision
	Attention and visual search
	Aging and perceptual/cognitive functions
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	<p>♦ Attention can be roughly divided into two categories: top-down (endogenous) attention and bottom-up (exogenous) attention. Visual search tasks enable us to investigate which type of attention is mainly working by manipulating stimulus parameters. Recent projects found clear differences between vide game players vs. non-players and competitive people vs. non-competitive people. We also found that top-down attentional control is preserved among old adults, though the overall reaction time gets longer as we age.</p> <p>♦ We are interested in further investigating changes in perceptual and cognitive performance with aging as well as exploring ways for successful aging.</p>
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Willingness to learn computer programming.
	Debugging preliminary experimental programs.
	Assisting the device calibration.
	Running human participants on one-on-one basis.
	Data entry & analysis.
	Literature search, collection, and summary.
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Willingness and ability to learn computer programming.
	Responsible and punctual attitude.
	Personable interactions with participants and other lab assistants.
	Strong quantitative skills.
	Accurate execution of the experimental protocol.

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Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Sue Sy, Ph.D.
Office Phone:	(657) 278-5338
Office Location:	H-835L
E-Mail:	susansy@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Cultural and family influences on children's & adolescents' academic development during school transitions
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	I currently have two projects underway. One involves examination of family influences on children's educational experiences in grades K-8 using a large national dataset. The other involves the influence of parental involvement and participation in a school reading program on children's academic outcomes (grades, standardized test scores) at a local school in Huntington Beach.
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	<p>Current lab responsibilities include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data management and data analysis of a large national data set - data collection - literature searches and manuscript preparation - data analysis - report writing <p>These responsibilities will be assigned based on the immediate needs of the lab and RA interests.</p> <p>All RAs are required to devote a minimum of one full calendar year to working on the project.</p>
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	<p><u>Required:</u> strong statistical background; solid knowledge of SPSS, Word, and Excel; general professional conduct (e.g., responsible completion of tasks, punctuality, ability to work effectively as a team, etc.); ability to conduct a comprehensive literature review; excellent academic writing skills</p> <p><u>Desired:</u> Successful completion of advanced and/or multivariate statistics course(s)</p> <p>All interested students should contact Dr. Sy to schedule a short interview.</p>

Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Jennifer Trevitt, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-830K
Office Phone:	(657) 278-2669
E-Mail:	jtrevitt@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Biopsychology, behavioral pharmacology, nutritional psychology, stress, exercise, anxiety
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	The effects of diet, stress and exercise on anxiety Project 1: Examination of the effects of a diet high in omega-6 fatty acids, and a diet high in sucrose on anxiety in elderly rats. Project 2: The effect of valerian on anxiety.
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Working with animal subjects, pharmaceutical preparation and administration, gathering behavioral data, videotape analysis, data analysis, preparing data for publication.
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	Basic laboratory skills, some science background, statistics, excellent writing skills, flexible schedule. Must be responsible and reliable.

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Research Summary

Topic	Comments
Researcher:	Laura Zettel-Watson, Ph.D.
Office Location:	H-710H
Office Phone:	(657) 278-3898
E-Mail:	lzettel-watson@fullerton.edu
Research Area:	Psychology & Aging
Current Research Topic Under Investigation:	<p>*Social support networks of at-risk individuals as they age. -individuals aging “alone” (i.e., no family nearby) -individuals with Fibromyalgia and chronic pain</p> <p>*Gerotechnology</p> <p>Specifically, I am interested in the roles that extended family members, friends, and acquaintances play in helping to maintain the psychological, emotional, and functional well-being of these individuals as they age, and how technology can enhance social support.</p>
Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:	Library research
	Data entry/coding
	Data analysis
	Help with planning future studies
	Pilot testing
Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:	GPA of 3.0 or higher
	Junior standing or higher
	2+ semester commitment
	Some statistics knowledge preferred but not required
	Interest in aging a must!