

PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Sawssan Ahmed**
Office Location: **H-710K**
Office Phone: **657.278.2173**
Email: **saahmed@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

- Culture & Adolescent mental health
- Health disparities
- Refugee mental health
- Arab American mental and physical health
- Cultural competence in assessment and treatment
- Perinatal mental health

CURRENT RESEARCH TOPIC UNDER INVESTIGATION

- Sociocultural factors and health in Arab American adolescent and young adults
- Immigration status and psychological treatment outcome adolescents
- Acculturative stress and Iraqi refugee mental health
- Culture and screening for anxiety and depression in pregnant Arabic speaking women

SPECIFIC RESEARCH ASSISTANT DUTIES NEEDED

- Literature searches, data entry, data interpretation and writing and presenting results.
- Independent data analyses and research writing skills and presenting at regional and national conferences are also encouraged.
- Project management

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

- Literature searches, data entry, data interpretation and writing
- A one-year commitment of 8-10 hours a week.
- Interest in pursuing graduate school.
- Writing and organizational skills.
- Previous research experience
- Self-motivated

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RESEARCHER

Name: **Ella Ben Hagai, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-730E**
Office Phone: **657.278.2473**
Email: **benhagai@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

My research addresses the question of what leads members of groups in conflict to work in solidarity with each other to create a more equal and just distribution of resources between their groups? I am interested in why some people recognize the suffering and oppression of the outgroup and others do not.

In past research projects, I've focused on understanding why members of minority groups (African Americans, Latinx, Queer) work together to support the Palestinian solidarity movement. I also studied why some Jewish people support or reject a peaceful solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

Research areas: Cultural, ethnic, and racial identities, political conflict, and activism. LGBTQ+ identity

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

My lab is currently conducting a large study to understand support for the Black Lives Matter movement across different ethnic groups (Latinx, Muslim, Jewish, Asian).

I also lead a small research group that focuses on the question of how LGBTQ+ identity changed in the last decades? To answer this question, me and a group of graduate and undergraduate students are analyzing interviews with transgender, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and queer people of different generations (Millennials compared to Baby Boomers) and racial backgrounds.

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Current lab responsibilities include

- data management and analysis of data sets
- literature searches
- report writing
- develop and carry out individual or group research project
- write journal reflections and critiques of assigned articles (weekly)
- attend 1-hour weekly lab meetings to discuss assigned article and research project progress

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Dr. Ben Hagai continued

These responsibilities will be assigned based on the immediate needs of the lab and RA interests.

All RAs are required to devote a minimum of one full calendar year to working in the lab

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

Required: General professional conduct (e.g., responsible completion of tasks, punctuality, ability to work effectively as a team); ability to conduct a comprehensive literature review; strong academic writing skills;

All interested students should contact Dr. Ben Hagai to schedule a short interview.



PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Melinda Blackman, Ph.D.**

Office Location: **H-710H**

Office Phone: **657.278.3569**

Email: **blackman@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

Industrial / Organizational Psychology & Applied Social Psychology (Sports and Health Psychology)

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

- 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:

1. Collect data
2. Enter data into SPSS
3. Help analyze the data

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

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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RESEARCHER

Name: **Carrie Carmody, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-715 D**
Email: **ccarmody@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

- Impact of Social Media on a variety of psychological phenomena
- Identity formation using virtual social networks
- Internet Addiction
- Virtual Para Social support
- Male/Female communication and belittlement

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

- How are Virtual Social Networks used to explore identity development? Are they similar or different to RL networks?
- The impact of Social Media on aspects of mental health (anxiety/depression), tendency or tolerance of dissociation and attention for specific SNS?
- Factors in Internet Addiction including personality and SNS
- Para social support via virtual spaces-SNS and Social Media
- Exploring differences in Male/Female communication styles. Specifically, does the male gaze undermine women's awareness and/or tolerance of belittlement?

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Statistical analyses; Literature review of related areas; monitoring of human subjects; running research protocols.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

- PSYC 300 with a B+
- Interest in Graduate School
- Understanding of research design
- Must be self-directed and able to work with minimal supervision
- Experience with Qualtrics preferred but not necessary



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RESEARCHER

Name: **Barbara Cherry, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-735H**
Office Phone: **657.278.2731**
Email: **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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FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Russ Espinoza, PhD, MFT**
Office Location: **H-725H**
Office Phone: **657.278.7566**
Email: **ruespinoza@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

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. Mental illness and how this contributes to bias in the legal system.

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

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, responsibly, 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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FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
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RESEARCHER

Name: Dr. James Garcia
Office Location: H-725E
Office Phone: (627)278-7118
Email: jamesgarcia@fullerton.edu

RESEARCH AREA

- Health disparities for Persons of Color and LGBTQ People of Color
- Intersectional discrimination and health outcomes among LGBTQ people of color
- Cardiovascular disease (heart) and cerebrovascular (brain/stroke) health for Persons of Color and LGBTQ People of Color
- Health psychology, neurorehabilitation/rehab neuropsychology

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

- Experimental manipulation of psychosocial stress and measuring cardiovascular reactions of LGBTQ People of Color
- Documenting the magnitude of associations between intersectional discrimination and varied health outcomes for LGBTQ People of Color
- Social determinants of heart and brain health for Racial/Ethnic communities and LGBTQ People of Color
- Racial/ethnic differences in functional outcomes for patients admitted to inpatient medical rehabilitation facilities.

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

- Help with recruiting participants for lab and survey-based studies
- Assist with creating materials (e.g., flyers, protocols) for research studies
- Support with data collection and data entry
- Must be comfortable and/or willing to be trained in placing electrodes on the human thorax body area.
- Must be comfortable and/or have prior experience working with LGBTQ+ persons in a research setting
- Attend lab meetings regularly
- Help with presenting research findings through mock presentations and at research conferences
- Other research-related tasks as delegated by Director of PSI Lab (Dr. García)



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Dr. Garcia continued

- Must respond to general emails within 24 hours; participant-related emails must be responded to immediately.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

- 4 hours per week, could be Wed, Fri, and/or Sat.
- Must be a Psychology Major
- Have taken PSYC 202, 300 and passed with a B+ or better
- **If graduate student:** must have taken at least one graduate-level research method or statistics course and passed with a B+ or better.
- Overall GPA of 2.95 and above
- 2+ semester commitment (so 1 academic year)
- Interest in graduate school (any area, including the health professions)
- Must email Dr. García to interview

PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
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RESEARCHER

Name: **David Gerkens, Ph.D.**

Office Location: **H-710G**

Office Phone: **657.278.2553**

Email: **dgerkens@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

- Memory, Meta-Memory, Creative Cognition, Predictive Processing
- Cognition in general and Positive Psychology

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

Most of my research revolves around memory accessibility. In some experiments my research team and I perform manipulations that make a memory of an experienced stimulus less accessible (i.e., we block memory) and in other cases we try to make memory of non-experienced stimuli accessible (i.e., false memories). We also explore how different manipulations (e.g., spatial cueing) and individual differences (e.g., self-representation) influence the accessibility of memories for different types of stimuli (e.g., negative or positive) or cognitive processing biases. Presently we are testing the predictive processing hypothesis using a visual working memory change detection paradigm.

I have also recently begun exploring research in the area of positive psychology. There are a number of interventions that influence well-being. There is also evidence that one's mood state, well-being, and degree of happiness affects one's cognitive processes. Presently graduate students working with me are looking at gratitude and mindfulness.

The projects above are ones for which I have ongoing research programs, however, if you have interest in some other topic within cognitive psychology (esp. false memories, source memory, metacognition, or creativity) contact me to discuss other possible projects.

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Dr. Gerkens continued

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Reading and discussion of research articles, collecting data from participants, coding and entering data, creation of experiment materials (possibly PsychoPy, PowerPoint, or web-based), co-authoring of poster presentation from research project, and when possible, presenting the research at a professional conference like WPA.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

Interest in cognitive psychology. Having taken and done well in one of my classes STRONGLY encouraged. Familiarity with MS Excel, SPSS, and PowerPoint a plus. Knowledge of PsychoPy, HTML, JavaScript, or Perl would be fantastic. Commitment to work on the project both fall and spring terms – research projects take time!



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RESEARCHER

Name: **Aaron Goetz, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-735K**
Office Phone: **657.278.2602**
E-mail: **agoetz@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

Evolutionary Psychology

- -Intrasexual Competition (male-male competition and female-female competition)
- -Sexual Coercion (men's perpetration and women's avoidance)
- Sexual Psychology (e.g., female sexual response)

Current Research Topics Under Investigation:

- Perceptions of Formidability (what makes someone look tough?)
- Gun Ownership (what factors predict gun ownership?)
- Testing the Shadow of Sexual Assault Hypothesis (women's fear of SA)
- Women's Mating Strategies

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

- Assistance with project development (e.g., methodology), possible data collection and entry; discussing research articles
- Opportunities for coauthorship exist

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

- No research experience is required
- Research assistants must have some sort of formal exposure to adaptationist perspectives on behavior. This could be Dr. Goetz's Evolutionary Psychology course, Dr. Lukaszewski's courses, or even courses in evolutionary anthropology by Dr. Pillsworth, Dr. Patton, or Brandon Rose.

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RESEARCHER

Name: **Aaron Lukaszewski, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-710M**
Office Phone: **657.278.7235**
Email:
alukaszewski@fullerton.edu

RESEARCH AREA

- Evolutionary psychology
- Social cognition
- Personality and individual differences
- Group processes
- Hierarchy

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

- Determinants of self-evaluation & social partner evaluation
- Psychology of personality trait perception
- Psychology of social comparison
- Niche diversity as a driver of personality structure
- Self-interested underpinnings of moral judgment
- Cross-cultural studies of above topics

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Variable across projects. Example duties include:

- Implementing data collection protocols
- Data collation and organization
- Data analysis
- Literature review
- Being part of a larger community of evolutionary behavioral scientists here at CSUF

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 required)
- Desire to attend graduate school in evolutionary studies or psychology (not required)
- Some previous coursework providing exposure to evolutionary behavioral science (not required)



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RESEARCHER

Name: **William Marelich, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-710N**
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. Sport Psychology and Baseball Mythology
3. Health decision-making

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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RESEARCHER

Name: **Jack Mearns, Ph.D.**

Office Location: **H-7100**

Office Phone: **657.278.3566**

Email: jmearns@fullerton.edu

RESEARCH AREA

Personality, clinical

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

Negative mood regulation; personality; health & coping; cultural effects on these variables

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

I am no longer taking on new students.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants

N/A

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RESEARCHER

Name: **Lisa Mori, Ph.D.**

Office Location: **H-835K**

Office Phone: **657.278.3761**

Email: **lmori@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

1. Clinical psychology: college students' attitudes towards and beliefs about mental illness, psychological and psychiatric treatments, and mental health professionals. Differences across gender, ethnicity/race, psych history, etc., investigated.
2. Factors such as ethnicity, cultural values, and gender orientation that may influence perceptions of collegiate sexual assault, victim blame, and judgments of incident reportability, punishment, and perceived physical and psychological aftereffects of sexual assault explored.

Current Research Topics Under Investigation:

1. Effects of type of mental illness, therapy modality, and client characteristics such as cultural values on judgments of mental illness, treatment necessity and openness to seeking professional help, therapist competence, and treatment efficacy of ethnically diverse college participants.
2. Situational and sociocultural factors influencing opinions of sexual assault, victim blame, and incident reportability within dating/social acquaintance contexts.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

1. Require two semester (fall and spring) commitment; estimated time commitment of 10 hours/week; must be able to attend weekly lab meetings. (My lab interviews prospective applicants in the spring semester for the next academic year: fall and spring semesters. If interested, email drmorislab@gmail.com.)
2. Interested and enthusiastic about research; hardworking; responsible; reliable; motivated; able to take initiative; good oral and written communication and interpersonal skills; team player; emotionally stable; honest; high level of integrity.
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.
5. Completed Introduction to Statistics, Research Methods, (preferred) PSYC 300 (Intermediate Research & Statistics), and (preferred) PSYC 341 (Abnormal Psych) with a B or better. Completion of Advanced Statistics a plus.



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RESEARCHER

Name: **Douglas J. Navarick, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-835J**
Office Phone: **657.27.7040**
Email: **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:

I'm using questionnaires to see how people make moral judgments based on their intuitions about what is right and wrong.

One line of research concerns moral dilemmas that hospital personnel experience when they need to allocate scarce resources to patients who are in immediate need of life-saving care. Most recent article:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.770020/full>

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 both right and wrong to some extent, 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.

In a typical survey participants read a brief description of a situation (a “scenario”) that involves a moral issue and are then asked several questions about it. In one line of research, participants have two separate rating scales for each scenario (a bivariate scale as opposed to a bipolar scale). On one scale they rate how RIGHT they feel a morally ambiguous action would be, and on the other scale they rate how WRONG they feel this action would be. If they feel that the same action is both right and wrong, they can express this with any combination of ratings. Non-zero ratings on both scales would represent a state of moral ambivalence.

I focus on widely studied sacrificial moral dilemmas in which killing one person would save the lives of several others. I look at ratings of right and wrong as a function of who the beneficiaries and the target of the action would be. For example, how right and how wrong do you feel it would be to kill a notorious bank robber you recognize from TV if it would save the lives of five strangers? Now suppose you would be saving your five children. Did your feelings change?



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Another current topic: comparison between rule-governed and intuitive moral choices. Participants are asked to apply an explicit rule when making judgments, like “Save Lives”, and their ratings of right and wrong are compared to their ratings in an initial baseline condition before they are given this rule. Rule-governed choices should show less variation across beneficiaries and targets than intuitive choices.

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Undergraduate students typically take PSYC 499, Independent Research. The position is more like being an apprentice than an assistant, as it involves learning about theoretical and methodological issues in the field. In addition to reading and evaluating articles, you would conduct an online survey using the Psychology Department’s online research participation management system (Sona Systems) and assist with statistical analyses.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants: You need to be familiar with SPSS or other statistics programs.

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

THEORY

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

RESEARCH

Navarick, D. J. (2021). Question framing and sensitivity to consequences in sacrificial moral dilemmas. *The Journal of Social Psychology* 25-39, 161:1.
DOI: 10.1080/00224545.2020.1749019

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Dr. Navarick continued

Abstract

In sacrificial dilemmas, participants judge the morality of killing one person to save several others. For five sacrificial dilemmas, participants rated on separate unidimensional scales how “morally right” and how “morally wrong” they felt such actions would be under six combinations of beneficiaries (strangers, cousins, one’s children) and targets (firefighter, bank robber). Framing a survey question in terms of “morally right” potentially primes prescriptive moral norms, directing attention to the beneficiaries; framing it in terms of “morally wrong” potentially primes proscriptive moral norms, directing attention to the targets. Selective attention induced by a question should heighten sensitivity to changes in levels of the corresponding independent variable. Accordingly, ratings of right changed more than ratings of wrong across beneficiaries; ratings of wrong changed more than ratings of right across targets. Question framing can bias moral appraisal by heightening or attenuating attentiveness to individuals who would benefit or suffer from sacrificial action.



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RESEARCHER

RESEARCH AREA

Name: **Angela-MinhTu Nguyen, Ph.D.**

Office Location: **H-735J**

Office Phone: **657.278.4353**

Email: **amnguyen@fullerton.edu**

My overarching research interest is multiculturalism from an intersectionality perspective. My goal is to help marginalized individuals leverage their multiple identities for greater well-being, better interpersonal relations, and more academic and professional success. For example, I am investigating the role of race, culture, gender, and sexuality in Southeast Asian American first-generation college students' higher education experiences. In conducting this research, I draw from the literatures on acculturation, bicultural identities, cultural frame-switching, and intercultural competence.

Current Research Topics Under Investigation:

- Higher education experiences of Southeast Asian Americans (those of Viet, Khmer, Lao, Hmong descent)
- Coalition-building among people of color (intraminority solidarity) and refugees (refugeetude)
- Intersectionality: identity negotiation and management of Asian American women and LGBTQ+ folx of color

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

- Attend weekly lab meetings
- Conduct literature reviews
- Collect data
- Analyze data

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

- Cumulative and psychology GPAs of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of or enrollment in PSYC 101, 201, and 202
- Able to commit for 6 hours/week for 2 consecutive semesters
- Responsible and works well with others
- Conscientious and motivated
- Open to learning and receptive to feedback



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RESEARCHER

Name: **Yuko Okado, Ph.D.**

Office Location: **H-835M**

Office Phone: **657.278.7388**

Email: **yokado@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

- Student persistence and mentoring in STEM / Psychology
- Underserved students' academic experiences and needs
- College student mental health and adaptation to COVID-19
- Prevention of stress-related illnesses
- Risk and resilience
- Pediatric psychology / psycho-oncology

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

- STEM outreach through virtual agent-based mentoring
- Career exploration in Psychology using virtual agents
- Psychosocial and academic adjustment to COVID-19
- Cognitive-behavioral interventions for stress management
- Need for telemedicine among previously homeless individuals

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

- Study administration (e.g., recruiting and running participants, checking data)
- Qualitative data coding
- Data management
- Literature / online search
- User testing for online surveys, portals, and virtual agents
- Lab-related administrative tasks

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

- Strong interest in going to graduate school or seeking research-related employment in the future
- Excellent communication skills
- Conscientious, proactive, detail-oriented, and well-organized
- Minimum 3.20 Psychology GPA
- Available to take 3 credit units (~8-9hrs / week commitment)
- Plan to be part of the lab for 2+ semesters



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RESEARCHER

Name: **Nancy Panza, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-725B**
Office Phone: **657.278.5904**
E-Mail: **npanza@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

- Police Psychology
- Forensic Psychology

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

1. Test use in pre-employment and fitness for duty evaluations
2. Pre-employment evaluations of fire fighters
3. Health and wellness in law enforcement and other first responders

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

- Literature searches
- Data coding & entry
- Data analysis

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

- I do not take on many 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.



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RESEARCHER

Name: **Jessie J. Peissig, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-835N**
Office Phone: **657.278.8278**
Email: **jpeissig@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

Cognitive Psychology

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

I study visual perception. More specifically, I explore how people and animals visually learn about their environment. In some of my current experiments I am studying how makeup and other changes affect the perception of facial attractiveness. 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.

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.
- Psychology GPA above a 2.75.

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RESEARCHER

Name: **Kathleen Preston, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-710I**
Office Phone: **657.278.2580**
Email: **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

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 and applied aspects of quantitative psychology

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RESEARCHER

Name: **Eriko Self, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-810E**
Office Phone: **657.278.8359**
Email: **eself@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

- Secondary data analysis of publicly available data sets
- Aging
- I am also open to other topics of student's interest

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

- Typical data sets we use:
 - Health and Retirement Study (HRS)
<https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/about>
<https://g2aging.org/>
 - National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS)
<https://nhats.org/researcher/nhats>
- Find the factors (behaviors and other attributes) that help to preserve cognitive functions into older age
- Find the factors (behaviors and other attributes) that help to preserve overall health among old people

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

- Attend weekly lab meeting
- Present assigned articles at the lab meeting and participate in discussion
- Learn the structure of large data sets and how to use them
- Conduct appropriate data analysis
- Prepare conference presentations (posters) and journal manuscripts

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

- Excellent scientific writing skills
- Strong quantitative skills
- Responsible and punctual actions
- Students who want to go to graduate schools and/or healthcare schools such as medical, dental, and optometry school are welcome



PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Christine D. Scher, Ph.D.**

Office Location: **H-710F**

Office Phone: **657.278.8428**

Email: **cscher@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

Cognitive, interpersonal, and developmental factors in risk for and maintenance of Anxiety, Trauma- and Stressor-Related, and Depressive Disorders. Evidence-based treatment of these disorders.

Current Research Topics

Mindfulness correlates of emotional distress among trauma survivors.

Availability for Mentorship

During the 2022-23 academic year, Dr. Scher is available for mentorship of undergraduate students participating in specialized research programs (e.g., McNair, Honors) and graduate students.

Desired Qualifications of Mentees

Students who are most successful in the lab are those who are interested in research careers. Those who are interested primarily in providing psychotherapy services typically find that the lab is not a good match.



PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Nancy L Segal, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-426C**
Office Phone: **657.278-2142**
Email: **nsegal@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREAS

Twin studies, behavior genetics, evolutionary psychology, developmental psychology

Current Research Topics Under Investigation:

Twin relationships, intelligence, personality, adoption, twins reared apart, twin families, and unrelated look-alikes

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Data entry, data verification, literature search

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

SPSS, Mac expertise



PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Susan Sy, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-835L**
Office Phone: **657.278.5338**
Email: **susansy@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

Cultural and family influences on children's & adolescents' academic development during school transitions

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

We use a large nationally representative database (the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey – Kindergarten Cohort; ECLS-K) to examine family influences on children's educational experiences in grades K-5. Students learn about the ECLS-K and choose a topic to research based on their interests and what is available in the dataset.

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Current lab responsibilities include

- data management and analysis of a large national data set
- literature searches and research proposal preparation
- report writing
- develop and carry out individual or group research project using the ECLS-K
- write journal reflections and critiques of assigned articles (weekly)
- attend 1-hour weekly lab meetings on Friday mornings (time TBD each semester – typically 10:30 or 11am) to discuss assigned article and research project progress

These responsibilities will be assigned based on the immediate needs of the lab and RA interests.

All RAs are required to devote a minimum of one full calendar year to working in the lab.

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

Required: 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); ability to conduct a comprehensive literature review; strong academic writing skills; successful completion of Psyc 201, 202, and 300.

All interested students should contact Dr. Sy to schedule a short interview.



PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Jennifer Trevitt, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H715C**
Office Phone: **657.278.2669**
Email: **jtrevitt@fullerton.edu**

RESEARCH AREA

Biopsychology, behavioral pharmacology, nutritional psychology, stress, exercise, anxiety, fibromyalgia, pain

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

The effects of fibromyalgia on physical and cognitive function

Project 1: Re-entry of data into a format to be used for longitudinal and cross-sectional analysis

Project 2: Examination of the impact of antidepressant medication on cognitive function in participants with fibromyalgia

Specific Research Assistant Duties Needed:

Data entry, cataloging and cross-referencing medication data

Desired Qualifications for Research Assistants:

Basic laboratory skills, some science background, statistics, excellent writing skills, flexible schedule. Must be responsible and reliable.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPT.
FACULTY RESEARCH SUMMARY
2022-2023

RESEARCHER

Name: **Laura Zettel-Watson, Ph.D.**
Office Location: **H-810A**
Office Phone: **657.278.3898**
Email:
lzettel-watson@fullerton.edu

RESEARCH AREA

Psychology & Aging

Current Research Topic Under Investigation:

Social support networks of at-risk individuals as they age.

- individuals aging “alone” (i.e., no family nearby)
- individuals with Fibromyalgia and chronic pain

Gerotechnology

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.

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!