PSY 390 Research Opportunity  
Spring 2016

Faculty member or graduate student  
Dr. Katherine Thomas, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

Description of research area  
Broadly, research in the Personality and Relationship Processes laboratory examines how models of individual differences and interpersonal processes can be used to learn more about how people experience and express psychopathology and recover from its consequences. More specifically, we are interested in studying questions like: “How might different people react to similar stressful events differently depending on their personalities and relationships?” and “How might some aspects of psychotherapy differ depending on a client’s and therapist’s personality styles?” Because many of the most salient aspects of personality and psychopathology unfold between people, we study various kinds of relationships using multiple research methods to learn more about interpersonal functioning and well-being. For instance, we are interested in studying questions like: “How do people influence each other during conversations and from one day to the next?” and “How are these patterns related to different kinds of individual and dyadic relationship styles?”

Description of undergraduate participation  
Research Assistants (RAs) will have opportunities to assist with various aspects of research design, preparation, and management, data collection and coding, and participant recruitment and interactions. All RAs will gain hands on experience working with a team to study psychological processes. Most RAs will be trained on a method of coding moment-to-moment interpersonal behaviors and will often watch and code recorded interactions (e.g., of couples, families, clients and therapists, student peers, etc.). Interested RAs can gain familiarity with statistics and computing software by assisting with tasks such as data cleaning and analysis. Exceptional RAs may have opportunities to participate in honors or independent research studies and/or to apply for paid positions in the lab during the summer or following semesters.

Research setting  
Most work will be completed in our laboratory in the Psychological Sciences building, but there may also be opportunities to collect data in the community or to work remotely. With some exceptions, RAs are often able to structure their own work hours (e.g., 6pm – midnight once a week, or three mornings a week from 10-12, etc.).

Number of assistants needed  
All interested and qualified applicants will be considered.

Contact information  
To be considered for an RA position in this lab, you must submit an application, which can be found on the “Prospective Students” section of our lab webpage:  
https://sites.google.com/site/parplab/prospective-students

To submit your application or ask questions about this opportunity, email Dr. Thomas:  
katethomas@purdue.edu.