PSY 390 Research Opportunity
Fall 2016

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

Description of research area
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, express, and recover from psychological problems. Because many of the most meaningful aspects of who we are and of how, when, and why we have problems in living are experienced in relation to others, we regularly research different kinds of relationships using multiple methods to learn more about how interpersonal functioning is associated with psychopathology and well-being over time. For instance, we study questions such as:
  - “In what ways do people react to similar stressful events differently depending on their personalities and relationships?”
  - “Do aspects of psychotherapy differ depending on the client’s and therapist’s personality styles?”
  - “How do people influence each other over short and long periods of time?”
  - “Can changes in personality patterns and relationship behaviors help us understand changes in psychological functioning over time?”

Description of undergraduate participation
Research Assistants (RAs) will have opportunities to assist with various aspects of research design, including tasks such as: preparing and managing studies, monitoring ongoing data collections, coding videos of interpersonal interactions, reviewing relevant literature for research studies, and recruiting and interacting with participants. All RAs are required to attend weekly lab meetings where they will gain hands on experience working with a team to study psychological processes. 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 and/or independent research studies.

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 (e.g., from home). 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
You must submit an application to be considered for a position in this lab. RA applications 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.