Faculty member or graduate student
Erin Hennes, PhD, Assistant Professor, Social Psychology

Description of research area
Research in the Social Cognition of Social Justice (SCSJ) laboratory focuses on cognitive and motivational biases in information processing and person perception, particularly in the context of contemporary social issues such as environmental sustainability and racial and gender inequality. Much of this research draws from system justification and related theories to examine how preferences for progressive vs. restorative change influence cognitive processes. We also conduct translational research that develops and examines the efficacy (and potential unintended consequences) of social change interventions. Finally, we are heavily involved in the development of new methods for supporting scientific best practices, with a focus on sample size determination.

Description of undergraduate participation
Research tasks will be commensurate with experience and ability. New students in the lab will primarily collect data and conduct literature reviews. Additional responsibilities, such as data cleaning, data analysis, stimulus design, and programming will be available for advanced students. Students will receive mentorship in pursuing their own career goals, as well as have the opportunity to receive additional training on topics such as data analysis, study design, and presentational skills. Outstanding students may have the opportunity to apply for paid positions and/or to develop new research as part of an honor’s thesis or independent research project in future semesters.

Research setting
Most work will be completed in the SCSJ laboratories in the Psychological Sciences building, but there may be opportunities to collect data in the community or to work remotely.

Number of assistants needed
3

Contact information
ehennes@purdue.edu

To apply
Please submit your CV/resume, unofficial transcript, a brief description of your research interests and career goals, and the total number of hours you would like to work per week (in the lab, community, and/or from home).

Additional comments
Individuals interested in pursuing careers in academic research and/or who may be interested in working in the lab for more than one semester are particularly encouraged to apply.