Depression Treatment Study, Parent–Teen Sleep Studies

The Berkeley Daily Life

Faculty: Allison Harvey
Supervisor: Heather Hilmoe
Main Contact email: heatherhilmoe@berkeley.edu
Location: BWW
Position Dates: January 2020 - August 2020
Website: https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~ahsleep/gbsmrc_mock/

Description of Research: While treatments for depression have improved over the years, a need exists to improve treatments for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) because a proportion of patients do not respond to existing treatments. Of those who do, the majority relapse. Meta-analyses confirm Cognitive Therapy (CT) as a frontline treatment, with patients less likely to relapse than those on antidepressant medications alone. Despite these impressive outcomes, there is room for improvement, as only one third of all patients respond to treatment and last a year without relapse. The purpose of our Depression Treatment Study is to improve treatment in order to provide lasting benefits for people with depression.

Description of Student Responsibilities: RAs will be involved with various lab crews. There may be opportunities in the future to be involved in more advanced projects with direct clinical exposure. Students are required to commit to around 10 hours of work per week for a minimum of one school year. RAs have the opportunity to support the study in the following ways: Data Crew Duties will include data entry of a variety of study information. Data entry experience is preferred (not required). Working knowledge of Excel and Google Sheets, MS Access and R is preferred. Recruitment and Administrative Crew Students will help project coordinators with aspects of the study including collecting sleep diaries (calling participants daily to collect sleep data over a week-long period), assisting with recruitment, preparing for sessions and assessments, and various administrative tasks. They may have the opportunity to accompany staff to psychological assessments and treatment sessions at participants' homes (though this happens less frequently and will depend on performance in the lab and scheduling). RA Meetings RAs will attend monthly meetings to gain a greater understanding of the research process, gain professional development skills (e.g., CV workshops, graduate school workshops

Application Process:
Please send a brief cover letter detailing your interest in the study, relevant experiences, and expected graduation date. Please also attach a resume or CV, and send it to heatherhilmoe@berkeley.edu You will be asked to fill out a brief application.
Research on Infants’ and Children’s Cognitive Development

Faculty: Fei Xu
Supervisor: Gwyneth Heuser
Supervisor’s email: gheuser@berkeley.edu
Main Contact email: babylab@berkeley.edu
Location: BWW  Position Dates: January - May 2020  Website: babylab.berkeley.edu

Description of Research: The Berkeley Early Learning Lab, under the direction of Professor Fei Xu, researches statistical inference, categorization development, social cognition, information search, decision-making and language acquisition in infants and children aged 4 months to 10 years. This research will be conducted at our lab in Berkeley Way West at the University of California, Berkeley, at local preschools, elementary schools, and science museums. Research assistants will use behavioral measures in these studies. This will involve asking children to reach or choose objects, manipulate toys, or to give verbal responses to questions. Studies typically last no more than 20 minutes, and children will be with their parent at all times. All sessions are videotaped; video permission is obtained from the parent prior to the study session and is used primarily for purposes of the study (e.g. secondary coding).

Description of Student Responsibilities: RAs will be responsible for running experiments, and will receive training in how to execute several studies and how to record data from studies. RAs will participate in bi-weekly lab meetings with the principle investigator, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers of the lab to discuss progress of current projects. Other administrative duties of RAs may include providing temporary childcare for siblings of participants, preparing and filing consent documents, and creating stimuli. About half of students’ hours will be dedicated to off campus testing, and half to lab work (including running participants in the lab and entering data). There will be no formal assignments as part of this course; final evaluations will be based on students’ dedication to their position. RAs will be expected to remain available for the number of hours assistant and mentor have agreed upon, to show up to these hours on time.

Application Process: Qualifications: Required: Experience working with children and parents; At least 9 hours of availability each week; Weekend availability; Proficiency in English Not required, but desirable: Committing for more than a semester; Programming skills Please send the following to babylab@berkeley.edu: --A statement of interest describing why you would like to work in the lab, your experience with working with children and parents, and any other skills relevant to the qualifications listed above --A copy of your CV/resume Within a week after the application due date, you may be contacted for an interview with the project supervisor. Applications are due by January 27, and a final decision will be made by Friday, 2/7.
Subcortical Neural Substrates of Learning and Automatization

Faculty: Rich Ivry  
Faculty email: ivry@berkeley.edu  
Supervisor: Will Saban  
Main Contact email: willsaban@berkeley.edu  
Location: BWW  
Position Dates: January 2020 - August 2020  
Website: http://ivrylab.berkeley.edu/

Description of Research: The focus will be on arithmetic, language, and motor abilities. The project entails acquiring behavioral and patients' data. The studies will be conducted in-person and in a novel online platform.

Description of Student Responsibilities: This position would require a minimum of 8 hours per week. The project may culminate in publishing a paper. Some RAs might also end up running an independent project in the lab (with our supervision).

Application Process:  
Email supervisor for more info. Application deadline: Jan 10, 2020