

Research on Infants' and Children's Cognitive Development

Faculty: Fei Xu

Supervisor: Gwyneth Heuser

Main Contact email: babylab@berkeley.edu

Location: Remote

Position Dates: January - May 2021

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. Children participate in our studies remotely over Zoom, at our Berkeley Way West lab, at preschools, and at local children's museums. Our lab conducts studies using a variety of exciting developmental and psychological methods, including violation of expectation, behavioral measures, verbal tasks, choice paradigms, iPad games and eye tracking. Becoming a research assistant in the Berkeley Early Learning Lab offers students the opportunity to learn more about child development research and the research process, as well as gain first-hand experience interacting with participants in a highly productive research lab.

Description of Student Responsibilities: Typical tasks of first-semester research assistants in our lab are: -Greeting and escorting parents and child participants to our lab -Scheduling participants -Preparing and processing consent documents -Stimuli production -Maintaining stimuli/toys and lab testing spaces -Assisting with infant participant recruitment -Assisting with administrative work -Off-site participant recruitment -Assisting with eye tracking calibration -Assisting the experimental sessions -Behavioral and statistical coding
Qualifications: Required: Experience working with children and parents; At least 9 hours of availability each week; Weekend availability; Proficiency in English; Ability to work remotely
Not required, but desirable: Committing for more than a semester, Programming skills

Application Process:

To apply, you must have a resume/CV and a brief statement of interest detailing: Why you want to work with the Berkeley Early Learning Lab; why you feel you would be a good fit for the lab; and what about developmental psychology interests you. Please send these as PDF files to babylab@berkeley.edu with your full name listed on both files. Also, feel free to email the Lab Manager, Gwyneth Heuser, at that email address if you have any questions.

Application Deadline: 01/19/2021

Interpersonal Emotion Regulation in Romantic Couples

Faculty: Sheri Johnson

Supervisor: Benjamin Swerdlow

Main Contact email: bswerdlow@berkeley.edu

Location: Remote

Position Dates: Spring 2021 - Summer 2021

Website: <https://calm.berkeley.edu/>

Description of Research: We are examining the processes whereby romantic couples respond to and regulate one another's emotions in their daily lives. Whereas considerable research has examined the processes whereby individuals regulate their own emotions, there is a dearth of research focusing on the consequences of receiving and providing interpersonal emotion regulation from and to others. Specifically, the current project investigates linkages between provision and receipt of interpersonal emotion regulation on the one hand and individual wellbeing and relationship satisfaction on the other. This study employs a combination of self-report and behavioral methods. Participants complete several socioemotional and cognitive tasks at baseline in the lab. We then employ multiple ecological sampling methods, including ecological momentary assessment and ambulatory acoustic recording, to sample subjective experience and behavior in daily life. This allows us to "listen in" on couples' daily conversations, which is a central focus of research assistant's efforts (see below).

Description of Student Responsibilities: Research assistants' primary responsibility will be listening to and coding audio recordings featuring participants' daily conversations with their significant others. The focus will be on learning to identify "emotion-relevant" moments in which participants are experiencing and discussing emotions with their romantic partner. Other duties may include: conducting literature reviews and managing quantitative data. The goal is for research assistants to learn about the process of psychological research, become experts in the cultural informant model of content coding, and learn about interpersonal emotion dynamics and the psychology of romantic relationships. Research assistants' professional development is prioritized and is the subject of biweekly meetings. Research assistants are also welcome to attend regular lab-wide meetings.

Application Process:

To apply, please submit a brief statement of interest, including a resume or curriculum vitae, to bswerdlow@berkeley.edu

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

Cooperation and Social Reasoning in Children

Faculty: Jan Engelmann

Supervisor: Alissa Gomez

Main Contact email: socialoriginsmanager@berkeley.edu

Location: Remote

Position Dates: Spring 2021

Website: <https://socialorigins.berkeley.edu/>

Description of Research: Under the direction of Dr. Jan Engelmann, the lab explores how social and cognitive abilities arise and interact with one another in human development and across species and cultures. In doing so, our research studies primarily involve working with children of various age ranges. Our newest research project explores how children reason based on information they receive from different sources. All of our research studies currently take place online over Zoom.

Description of Student Responsibilities: The goal of our lab is to provide highly motivated and curious-minded students with the opportunity to gain hands-on research experience in the field of developmental psychology. Research assistants will work closely with the PI, lab manager, and graduate students to facilitate the research process. Responsibilities for research assistants include running research studies with young children, helping to recruit and schedule participants, collecting and coding video data, and assisting with administrative tasks. Research assistants should be able to dedicate at least 9 hours/week. Previous research experience is beneficial, but not required. Must have experience working with children.

Application Process:

To apply, please submit a resume/CV along with a brief statement of interest. The statement should include why you want to work in our lab and what interests you about developmental psychology. Please submit all materials to the lab manager, Alissa, at socialoriginsmanager@berkeley.edu

Application Deadline: 2/26/2021

Investigating Action Observation with Eye Tracking and Behavior

Faculty: Richard Ivry

Supervisor: Maedbh King and Sienna Bruinsma

Main Contact email: sbruinsma@berkeley.edu

Location: Remote

Position Dates: Spring 2021

Website: <http://ivrylab.berkeley.edu>

Description of Research: The goal of this project is to build predictive models of action observation using a combination of eye movements (e.g., saccades, fixation) and behavioral metrics (e.g., reaction time and accuracy). The project will utilize existing datasets that contain eye tracking and behavioral performance, collected while participants watched short video clips of penalty shoot outs.

Description of Student Responsibilities: The student's primary role will be to analyze eye tracking and behavioral data, therefore strong knowledge of a programming language (preferably Python) is required. The student should have familiarity with Github and basic command line programming. The student will work closely with a graduate student mentor, however, they should also feel comfortable engaging in semi-independent work. The mentor will oversee the student in their reading of the current literature and in their understanding of the dataset, as well as meet once a week with the student to discuss the student's progress in addressing the research questions. The student will also have the opportunity to connect with other members of the Cognition and Action laboratory, and to attend regular lab meetings. The minimum commitment of this position is 10 hours per week.

Application Process:

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send a short paragraph explaining why you would be suited to this role (less than 400 words) along with your CV to Sienna Bruinsma at sbruinsma@berkeley.edu. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Also, please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions.

Application Deadline: 2/5/2021