

**WELLESLEY CENTERS FOR WOMEN
STUDENT RESEARCH INTERNSHIP/FELLOWSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
2017-2018**

POSSIBILITIES FOR THE SUMMER OF 2017

**THE ANNE MURRAY LADD STUDENT RESEARCH
INTERNSHIP**

Project: ***Work, Families and Children***
Mentor: ***Wendy Wagner Robeson, Ed.D.***

Subject of Intern's Project:

Any topic based on child development, child care, families, and/or policy. Prior students have explored the link between maternal depression and child development, the link between behavior problems and childhood obesity, preschoolers' behavior problems and child care, gender differences in language development, English Language Learners, representational literature for young children, science for middle and high school students in developing countries, and sex education offered to high school students.

Intern's Responsibilities:

- deciding upon an exact topic to explore
- completing a literature review
- developing hypotheses
- collecting data or using a present data set
- completing the work within the summer
- meeting with Dr. Robeson
- finishing a paper on the work studied
- applying to present at the Ruhlman conference

Skills Required: The intern must be able to work independently and have experience writing research papers. Prior coursework in psychology, education and statistics are a plus as well as any prior work with data bases and statistical analysis.

Project: *Work, Families and Children Research Group*
Mentor: *Nancy Marshall, Ed.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: Immigrant Workers in the U.S.

Intern's Responsibilities: The intern will identify, read and summarize journal articles and scholarly books on immigrant workers to support the development of a research proposal and a revised course syllabus (for WGST 217: Gender and the Workplace) on immigrant workers. In addition, the intern will identify organizations in Massachusetts working with immigrant communities and/or to support immigrant workers employment in the United States.

Skills Required: Familiarity with searching on-line library databases through Wellesley College website, and using internet search engines such as Google. Interest in working conditions, workers' rights, and challenges and opportunities for immigrant workers in the United States. Preferred: Experience or course work conducting library research or literature reviews; experience/course work with immigrant communities, on the U.S. workforce, or the global migration of labor.

Project: *Girls and Women in STEM*
Mentor: *Georgia Hall, Ph.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: In addition to declining preparation of youth in STEM academic areas, youth participation in STEM is uneven across gender. By the time youth reach the 8th grade, regardless of race and ethnicity "twice as many boys are interested in quantitative disciplines and science careers than girls" (Campbell, Jolly, Hoey, & Perlman, 2002, p. 4). Studies of the U.S. workforce point to the severe shortage of females advancing in STEM academic and career areas, and highlight educational transitions from high-school to college, college to graduate school, and graduate school to the workforce as points where women who are interested in STEM careers opt for careers in other fields of study (National Academies Press, 2007, p. 3). Because girls are underrepresented population in the STEM workforce, their experiences leading to post-secondary STEM pathways are worthy of investigation to support intervention.

We have collected much data on girls and women's experience in STEM activities/study and would like a research intern to work with us on research tasks including conducting additional research, developing research briefs and papers, and a webinar on girls and women in STEM.

Intern's Responsibilities: Research, writing, participation in research meetings, program observation (Boston area).

Skills Required: Writing, research, synthesizing, summarizing, teamwork, and relationship building.

Project: *Sexual Violence Case Attrition and Prosecution of Sexual Assault*

Mentor: *Linda Williams, Ph.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: Understanding victim's experiences with the Criminal Justice System following a report of sexual assault.

Intern's Responsibilities: The intern will work with the Justice and Gender Based Violence Research (JGBVR) Initiative and will assist with preparing papers and reports on findings from our study of sexual violence case attrition.

After receiving training on qualitative data analysis and protection of human subjects in social science research, the intern will use the qualitative data analysis software program, NVivo, to assist with coding transcriptions of interviews with victims and victim service providers. The intern will work with the study director and other researchers to identify key themes that emerge from the interviews that will lead to reports on how to improve the system response to sexual assault. The specific intern tasks include interview data transcription and coding, editing materials to protect confidentiality, and preparing reports and papers describing the findings on how sexual assault cases are handled by police and prosecutors. The intern will participate in research meetings, library research, data analysis and report writing.

Skills Required: The student should have an understanding of principles of research in the social sciences, strong writing skills, willingness to pay attention to detail, and a strong interest in learning about multi-method research and case study methods. Students should be comfortable learning more about the topic of sexual violence and a desire to contribute to evidence-based research designed to improve response to rape and sexual assault. Prior research experience with qualitative data analysis is a plus but not required.

**POSSIBILITIES FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR INTERNSHIPS
2017-2018**

Project: *Justice and Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative (JGBVR)—Using Social Media to Disseminate Research for Social Change*

Mentor: *Linda Williams, Ph.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: The project focusses on the critical work of use of research conducted at JGBVR (see www.wcwonline.org/jgbvr) to advance social change. At WCW research does not stop at the door but is seen as a critical part of social change. This project involves disseminating research findings to change-makers through brief reports and especially through social media.

Background: To take the step of using research for social change is often difficult for scientists. But at WCW we know that research, theory, and action all make vital contributions to the social-change process. High-quality research can help raise awareness about important issues, and help make policies, programs, and practices more effective. Change makers, decision makers, and opinion leaders need access to rigorous research to inform their work. The internship is designed to help us take this critical step.

Intern's Responsibilities: The intern will assist the Justice and Gender Based Violence Research (JGBVR) Initiative with dissemination of findings from our research on sexual violence on college campuses and responses of police and prosecutors to sexual assault. The intern will assist in refining strategies for dissemination through social media and executing and evaluating a plan to reach key policy-makers and practitioners in order to help inform their decision-making and ultimately lead to sustainable change – for women, girls, families, communities, and society-at-large.

The work of the intern will include:

- learning about the key projects of JGBVR
- working with JGBVR to refine and further develop a social media dissemination strategy
- drafting summaries, blogs and other materials for websites, tweets, and social media outlets
- assisting with dissemination of materials via social media
- measuring the impact of our dissemination
- preparing a report/ final paper on “Use of social media for research dissemination for social change.”

Skills Required: The student should have an understanding of principles of research in the social sciences, strong writing skills, and a strong interest in dissemination of knowledge through social media. The student should be comfortable learning more about the topic of sexual violence and a desire to contribute to translating evidence-based research on sexual assault to information useful to policy-makers and change agents. Prior research, web-design or policy analysis experience is a plus but not required.

Project: *Sexual Harassment and Gender Violence in K-12 Schools*
Mentor: *Nan Stein, Ed.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: Student interns work with mentor, Dr. Nan Stein, on a variety of tasks related to her research on sexual harassment/gender violence in K-12 schools and teen dating violence. Those projects might include background research/literature searches that are necessary for preparing scholarly papers for publication or presentation at academic conferences; keeping up-to-date on new lawsuits on sexual harassment in schools (Lexus/Nexus searches on articles in the popular press as well as in state and federal courts); and generally helping with her research projects, including upkeep of bibliographies and files on subjects relevant to her research projects, and help with annual proposal preparation. Opportunities for co-authorship of papers and presentations are available to students with excellent writing skills as well as help with written aspects of consulting work on lawsuits that Dr. Stein sometimes is offered.

Project: *Media, Health, and Civic Engagement*
Mentor: *Linda Charmaraman, Ph.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: I am currently working on a few research projects at the analysis and dissemination stages, focusing on the role of social, televised, and technological media on adolescent identity. I hope to incorporate my intern's research interests and goals in crafting a productive year-long immersion into mixed-methods (some quantitative, mostly qualitative) and interdisciplinary (education, human development, psychology, sociology) research. In order to gain a full appreciation of the life of a researcher, I will invite the intern to become involved in one or two of my projects next year. These include but are not limited to the following: (a) media and civic engagement, particularly regarding presidential elections, (b) the role of social media in

resiliency and risk (e.g., substance use, sexual health), (c) the sense of community or alienation derived from mass media messages, particularly in terms of racial/ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender identity. There is a possibility that I will also be in data collection mode for the '17-18 academic year, which would involve collecting surveys and conducting interviews with middle school students about their social media use and/or tailoring an adolescent risk prevention program to be more LGBTQ-inclusive. My hope is that I can mentor someone who is interested in a future career in either research or nonprofit work and that we will be able to co-write an academic article (or blog) together based on the project that most interests her. I have successfully published articles, blogs, and presented at conferences with past students/interns and hope to continue this lucky streak with the right dedicated and focused intern. I look forward to meeting you!

Intern's Responsibilities:

- Library work involving Xeroxing chapters from books, downloading journal article pdfs
- Assist with data entry, entering data into tables, and writing literature reviews
- Learn NVivo to analyze qualitative interview data
- Possible assistance needed to collect data off-site (transportation provided)
- Possible assistance needed with interviews and focus groups
- Co-present work-in-progress at WCW brownbag lecture series
- Assist with writing blogs about research projects
- Potential opportunity to co-publish findings, if interested and motivated

Skills Required:

- Experience and/or enthusiastic willingness to learn how to conduct, analyze, and report social science research
- Some coursework in at least one of the following fields is required: psychology, education, sociology, ethnic studies, women's studies, communications, social science methods (quantitative or qualitative). Desire to attend graduate school a plus
- Knowledge of library search engines and retrieving journal articles
- Racial-ethnic and sexual minorities especially encouraged to apply
- Ability to respond to work requests by email in a timely manner
- Ability to work independently, reliably, and cooperatively as part of a research team
- Ability to meet on a regular basis at Cheever House and arrange schedule to meet intern-related deadlines

Project: *Entrepreneurial Characteristics and Risk Attitudes*
Mentor: *Sari Kerr, Ph.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: The project focuses on entrepreneurs (and employees of start-up firms) located at the Cambridge Innovation Center, and analyzes their personality traits, demographics and attitudes toward financial and general risks. We will be using survey data collected in 2016-2017, combined with external, publicly available data on companies and their founders.

Intern's Responsibilities: Collect and combine data from various sources, perform statistical analyses, assist in creating tables and graphs describing the results of those analyses, and assist in writing the academic research report.

Skills Required: Excel and Word are needed. Ideally also some Stata skills, although these can be learned during project. Interest in economics and entrepreneurship, or psychology.

Project: *Work, Families and Children Research Group*
Mentor: *Nancy Marshall, Ed.D.*

Subject of Intern's Project: Immigrant Workers in the U.S.

Intern's Responsibilities: During the fall semester, the intern will conduct a literature review of journal articles and scholarly books on immigrant workers, and review organizations working with immigrant workers in Massachusetts. Based on this research, the intern will develop an original research project of their own design on a topic related to immigrant workers. During the spring semester, the intern will conduct the planned research on immigrant workers, and will present the results of their research at the Ruhlman Conference in spring 2018.

Skills Required: Familiarity with searching on-line library databases through Wellesley College website, and using internet search engines such as Google. Interest in working conditions, workers' rights, and challenges/opportunities for immigrant workers in the United States. No original research experience necessary; supervisor will provide training. Preferred: Experience or course work conducting library research or literature reviews; experience/course work with immigrant communities, on the U.S. workforce, or the global migration of labor.