

2020-2021 Academic Year Internship Opportunities

Project: Social media, civic engagement, and health

Mentor: Linda Charmaraman, Ph.D.

Internship Description:

Dr. Charmaraman leads several research projects pertaining to the **risks and benefits of using social media** and encouraging STEM engagement in early teen years through adulthood. In the academic year 2020-2021 her team will analyze data on middle school youth about their social media use and parental monitoring of its use.

They will also analyze recent data collected from adults around the 2016 presidential election and the 2018 midterm elections, including how it impacted racial/ethnic, gender, and political identity. Dr. Charmaraman plans to gear up to collect new data on the **2020 presidential election**.

Dr. Charmaraman hopes to incorporate her 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, communications, sociology) research.

Internship Responsibilities:

- Literature searches
- Assist with data entry, writing literature reviews, and copyediting manuscripts
- Learn NVivo to analyze qualitative interview data
- Work with a team to interpret the quantitative results
- Collecting data off-site (transportation provided)
- Co-present work-in-progress at WCW lecture series
- Assist with writing blogs, website content, and/or research briefs about project findings
- 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, computer science, social science methods (quantitative or qualitative). Desire to attend graduate school a plus
- Knowledge of library search engines and retrieving journal articles

- 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. For instance, a typical schedule is to meet for 4 hours 2 days a week.

Experience Intern Can Expect to Gain:

In order to gain a full appreciation of the life of a researcher, Dr. Charmaraman will invite the intern to become involved in one or two of her projects next year. These include but are not limited to the following: (a) the role of social media in resiliency (e.g., sense of community, reduced isolation) and risk (e.g., body image concerns, losing sleep), (b) online civic engagement, (c) promoting healthy social media use through innovative STEM methods, or (d) how to disseminate our research findings to parents, schools, medical professionals, and policymakers. Dr. Charmaraman hopes to mentor someone who is interested in exploring graduate school or a future career in either research or nonprofit work.