

2022-2023 Academic Year Internship Opportunities

Project: Digital Wellbeing & Identity

Mentor: Linda Charmaraman, Ph.D.

Internship Description

Dr. Charmaraman leads several research projects within the [Youth, Media & Wellbeing Research Lab](#) pertaining to the risks and benefits of using social technologies in adolescence. These projects include a) survey and interview studies of middle school students, their parents, and school staff on how they manage social technology use, b) implementing digital wellbeing, identity, and STEM workshops to middle school youth in partnership with the Computer Science department, and c) developing and piloting social media literacy lessons for tweens and young teens.

In terms of our identity research, we are embarking on collaborative studies with Brigham Women's Hospital about racial socialization through social media and continue to analyze our results from the 2020 presidential election surveys that investigated how adult voters used social media to inform their voting behaviors and how racial/ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, and/or political identity plays a key role in their decision-making.

Internship Responsibilities

- Literature searches, writing literature reviews
- Learning NVivo to analyze qualitative data
- Work with a team to interpret quantitative and qualitative results
- Collecting survey, focus group, and interview data with middle school teachers and students (primarily virtual)
- Copyediting and formatting grant applications, manuscripts, and reports
- Co-presenting works-in-progress at WCW lecture series, Ruhlman conference, or community-based webinar
- Assist with writing blogs, social media postings, website content, infographics, and/or research briefs about project findings
- Ability to meet on a regular basis at Cheever House and arrange schedule to meet intern-related deadlines. For instance, a typical weekly schedule is to meet virtually once in addition to meeting in-person at Cheever for 4 hours. In addition to these regular meetings, Interns will also be required to attend weekly group project and monthly lab meetings. The rest of the 8 weekly hours would be on your own time to complete the work.
- Due to the Intense commitment required, preference will be given to work-study students and those with no other paid jobs on campus.

Skills Required

- Experience and/or enthusiastic willingness to learn how to conduct, analyze, and report social science research
- Prior experience working with youth aged 10-17 desirable (e.g., summer camp, mentorship programs, tutoring, etc.)
- Some coursework in at least one of the following fields is required: psychology, education, statistics, sociology, ethnic studies, women's and gender studies, communications, computer science, media, arts & sciences, social science methods (quantitative or qualitative)
- Knowledge of library search engines and retrieving journal articles
- Ability to translate research findings for public consumption (or willingness to learn)
- 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
- Proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese, or experience with SPSS or R a bonus but not required
- Former lab and EDUC 328 students are especially encouraged to apply

Experience Intern Can Expect to Gain

With the goal of developing the research skills mentioned above in the Intern Responsibilities, Dr. Charmaraman hopes to incorporate her intern's research interests and goals in crafting a productive year-long immersion into mixed-methods and cross-disciplinary research. In order to gain a full appreciation of the life of a researcher, Dr. Charmaraman will invite the intern to become involved in 2 or 3 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, depression, losing sleep), (b) online civic engagement and identity development, (c) promoting healthy social media use through innovative STEM or SEL 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. In addition, there is a possibility of co-publishing a peer-reviewed article depending on the motivation and dedication level of the intern.