

## **Psi Chi and UPO Research Night Current Opportunities**

**Melissa Tarasenko**, Graduate Student, Clinical Psychology  
[mtarase1@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:mtarase1@bigred.unl.edu), (402) 432-4586

Seeking to fill clinical assistant positions at the Lincoln Regional Center (SEE PAGE 4). The position that I am looking to fill is a clinical assistant position at the Lincoln Regional Center Community Transition Program. One of the benefits of the position is that it provides undergrads with experience in giving assessments to clients with serious mental illness, which will be especially valuable to those students who might be interested in applying to clinical psychology graduate programs. The data collected by the students will be used to assist the clients' treatment teams in making treatment decisions and it will also go into a research database that the students will have access to, if they are interested in doing any research in the area of serious mental illness. Working at the Lincoln Regional Center will also provide students with opportunities to network with people in the field, which comes in handy if they would ever need recommendation letters written on their behalf. They can typically work as many or as few hours as they'd like, and they can even receive course credit for hours worked.

**Justin T. Coleman**, Graduate Student, Cognitive Psychology  
[jcolem10@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:jcolem10@bigred.unl.edu), Office: Burnett 33, (402) 472-4554

Research study: Scripts, a form of schematic knowledge, provide individuals with an outline of the order and timing of the sequence of smaller events and actions that make up a larger event. In recognition tests, people have better memory for script atypical events than script typical events. Also, people are more likely to falsely recognize unrepresented script typical events as having been presented. In the current study, I will be using "life scripts," outlines of events that make up an individual's life, and typical and atypical life events to replicate the findings obtained with previous studies using smaller scripted activities. In addition, I hope to replicate findings on differences in experiential details people report for different false memories.

**Leslie Martinez**, Graduate Student, Social Psychology, [LMartinez520@gmail.com](mailto:LMartinez520@gmail.com)  
Faculty member: Dr. Cynthia Willis-Esqueda, [cwillis@unlserve.unl.edu](mailto:cwillis@unlserve.unl.edu)

Research study: Our research projects investigate issues surrounding race and ethnicity. We have multiple studies based in social psychology, as well as law psychology. The lab uses multiple approaches and methods to explore the origins of racial biases (prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping) against indigenous populations, such as Native Americans and Mexican Americans. In particular, we are looking for students who are interested in the coding and analysis of qualitative data. There are also opportunities to run participants for multiple studies. We are able to meet with any students who are interested in contributing to this line of research. Thank you!

**Megan Beringer-Jones**, Graduate Student, Law/Psychology, [meberinger@hotmail.com](mailto:meberinger@hotmail.com)  
Seeking multiple RAs for the following studies:

Sexual Harassment Study: We are attempting to understand the cognitive dimensions that people use to think about and classify victims and perpetrators in male on male sexual harassment. This study will involve male and female participants coming into the lab to complete written questionnaires. Research assistants will be responsible for recruiting participants from the community and running sessions in the lab in which participants fill out questionnaires.

Generic Prejudice Study: We will be conducting a study examining the implicit and explicit components of generic prejudice. The study of generic prejudice examines defendants accused of different types of crimes (homicide versus sexual assault) to determine if jurors evaluate evidence in a trial differently based on the type of crime for which a defendant is charged. Research assistants will be responsible for supervising participants while they complete questionnaires on computers in the lab.

Credit Counseling Study: We are conducting an online study to examine policy which requires debtors to complete a credit counseling course prior to filing for bankruptcy. We will collect data from individuals who are planning on filing for bankruptcy and individuals who are financially stable, but are interested in taking a credit counseling course. We are interested in looking at the differences between these two groups regarding the effectiveness of the credit counseling. Research assistants will be responsible for contacting participants and giving them websites for the online surveys.

**Becky Harris**, Graduate Student, Social Psychology  
[rmharris@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:rmharris@bigred.unl.edu), 402-472-7734

Research studies: I have two projects and will hopefully be starting a third soon. All my projects deal with social psych issues (specifically, stereotyping and prejudice) but my projects also cross into other fields of psychology: developmental psych, cognitive psych and educational psych are all areas I draw from in my current research projects. I am, therefore, a perfect fit for anyone with broad (or undecided!) research interests. If you think you might like to get involved with my research, please email me. I do have an application that I ask interested students to fill out and after I receive that, we can set up a time to meet. I'm also happy to answer any questions you might have about my research interests or projects!

**Jessica Snowden**, Graduate Student, Law/Psych  
[jlsnowden@gmail.com](mailto:jlsnowden@gmail.com)

Research study: I am currently piloting a study examining the factors that contribute to juror decision making in an assault and robbery case. I should begin collecting the core data in the next few weeks. Research activities on this project would include preparing research materials, running participants through the study, entering in data from the project, and potentially helping analyze the data. Thus, there is the potential to participate in a wide range of research activities, at various stages of the research process. Also, later this semester, I will be preparing an IRB proposal for a study trying to identify whether there are clusters of individuals who are stable poor "witnesses" across witness identification and misinformation tasks. If they were interested, RAs would also be welcome to help with that proposal.

**Sarah Gervais**, Faculty, Law/Social Programs  
[sgervais2@unl.edu](mailto:sgervais2@unl.edu), Office 338 Burnett Hall

Research interests: Sarah's research examines power and subtle sexism. Examining behaviors like the objectifying gaze, patronization, and interpersonal confrontation, Sarah has found that the discriminatory acts of powerful people are often more subtle and nuanced than previous thought, but they still have negative consequences for recipients. Sarah's ongoing research will continue to examine these and related issues. Sarah is recruiting research assistants for this semester and next semester.

**Eve Brank**, Faculty, Law-Psychology Program  
[ebrank2@unl.edu](mailto:ebrank2@unl.edu), 402-472-3328

Research interests: elder law issues and juvenile law, looking for RAs in spring

## Children in Court Project

**Sarah Beal** (Graduate Student, Developmental Psychology) [sarahbeal@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:sarahbeal@huskers.unl.edu)

**Vicky Weitz** (Research Faculty Supervisor) Center for Children, Families, and Law

This study is designed to assess the experiences children have in the court system. Specifically, our goal is to identify the usefulness of children attending their court hearing, their ability to understand what is happening in the courtroom, their perspective on decision-making and justice, and their opinions about their interactions with the legal system. A recent change in state legislation has resulted in children being strongly encouraged to attend their hearings (usually in cases where they have been removed from their primary home); up until this point children were not allowed to attend these hearings. As a result, judges are spending more time in a hearing talking to children, and children are observing more of the court process. Legislatures, judges, caseworkers, and others who have been impacted by this change in policy are interested in whether children's attending their hearings is useful or harmful, and what can be done to improve this process. CCFL is involved in collecting data to answer these questions.

Because of the nature of the project, a variety of tasks are important for data collection. The following activities would be part of your research experience on the CIC project:

- Meeting with Bailiffs to get court schedules and histories
- Reviewing case files and notes to gather information
- Making contact with lawyers, caseworkers, and parents to gather data and consent
- Meeting with juveniles before and after their hearings
- Attending hearings and observing the court process
- Meeting with juveniles in their homes/placements for structured interviews
- Data coding and entry
- Mailings, phone calls, etc. for follow-up

This is a great way to get involved in research with a community sample and gain insight into the legal process and the situations many foster children are exposed to. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sarah Beal at [sarahbeal@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:sarahbeal@huskers.unl.edu).

# SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH GROUP

The Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Research Group is made up of a collection of academic and mental health professionals affiliated with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the graduate students in the Clinical Psychology Training Program under Dr. Will Spaulding's mentorship.

## The Community Transition Program (CTP)

The Community Transition Program is a 40-bed inpatient psychiatric rehabilitation program. The inpatient component is housed at Lincoln Regional Center, one of Nebraska's state hospitals. CTP is a comprehensive psychosocial rehabilitation program serving people diagnosed with serious mental illness. This rehabilitation program provides skills training classes (e.g., social skills training, occupational therapy, therapeutic recreation, medication management, etc.) and services that aid participants in living more independently. Mary Sullivan, MSW is the Program Director of CTP and Drs. Spaulding and Ritchie are the psychologists at CTP.

## Undergraduate Opportunities

### **1) Research**

CRAs would have the opportunity to collaborate on posters, presentations, and possibly publications, and a variety of other skills (i.e., updating the longitudinal database, access to a 10-year database with over 200 participants and over 8,000 variables). Some additional duties are data entry (minor stuff maybe 30 minutes per week) and filing (also about 20-30 minutes per week).

### **2) Clinical**

Members of the SMI Research Group serve in a variety of clinical positions, providing evidence-based treatment to a variety of clients with mental illness. These placements provide an array of clinical opportunities for undergraduates who are seeking to develop their interests and knowledge of clinical skills and populations.

Clinical Assistants develop skills that allow them to administer numerous different types of psychological assessments. In addition to administering psychological batteries, clinical assistants assist with clinical data entry and office management. As part of test administration, the development of clinical skills is a necessary component of the clinical assistants training. These skills are transferable to many different populations. Graduate students of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Clinical Psychology Training Program, supervise the clinical assistants.

## Looking for Individuals Who

- Have Junior standing
- Have 3.4 GPA or higher
- Are responsible
- Able to conduct themselves in a professional manner
- Work well independently
- Want to gain experience working with the SMI population

## Contact People

Ashley Wynne, [awynne6@yahoo.com](mailto:awynne6@yahoo.com) or (402) 981-0309

OR

Melissa Tarasenko, [mtarase1@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:mtarase1@bigred.unl.edu) , or (402) 432-4586.

For more information about the UNL Serious Mental Illness Research Group, please visit our website at <http://www.unl.edu/dsc/index.htm>

## UNL Psychology Department Websites & Contacts

**UNL Psychology Department:** <http://www.unl.edu/psypage/>

**UNL Department of Psychology – Research Design & Data Analysis:** <http://www-class.unl.edu/psycrs/>

**UCARE Program:** <http://www.unl.edu/ucare/>

Belli, Robert [belli2@unl.edu](mailto:belli2@unl.edu) - (402)-472-6269 – Cognitive Psychology

Bevins, Rick [rbevins1@unl.edu](mailto:rbevins1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-1189 – Behavioral Neuropharmacology - <http://www.unl.edu/psychneuropharm/>

Bornstein, Brian H [bbornstein2@unl.edu](mailto:bbornstein2@unl.edu) – (402)-472-3743 – Law Psychology, Social & Cognitive Psychology

Brank, Eve [ebrank2@unl.edu](mailto:ebrank2@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3328 – Law and Social Psychology

Carlo, Gustavo [gcarlo@unl.edu](mailto:gcarlo@unl.edu) - (402)-472-6931 – Developmental Psychology & Latino/Latin American Studies

Crockett, Lisa J. [ecrockett1@unl.edu](mailto:ecrockett1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-0584 – Adolescent Development

Dodd, Mike [mdodd2@unl.edu](mailto:mdodd2@unl.edu) - (402)-472-0547 – Cognitive Psychology

DiLillo, David [ddilillo@unl.edu](mailto:ddilillo@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3297 – Clinical Psychology, Family Violence, & Couple Relations - <http://www.unl.edu/psypage/fvi/>

Espy, Kimberly Andrews [kespy2@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:kespy2@unlnotes.unl.edu) - (402)-472-2851 - <http://research.unl.edu/dcn/index.shtml>

Flowers, John H [jflowers1@unl.edu](mailto:jflowers1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3194 – Cognitive Psychology & Psychology of Perceptions

Garbin, Calvin P [cgarbin@unl.edu](mailto:cgarbin@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3122 – Experimental Psychology

Gervais, Sarah [sgervais2@unl.edu](mailto:sgervais2@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3793 – Law and Social Psychology

Hansen, David J. [dhansen1@unl.edu](mailto:dhansen1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-2619 – Chair of the Department of Psychology – Clinical Psychology, Child Maltreatment Research Team, & Family Interaction Skills Clinic – [http://www.unl.edu/psypage/grad/maltreat\\_lab/](http://www.unl.edu/psypage/grad/maltreat_lab/)

Hoffman, Lesa [lhoffman2@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:lhoffman2@unlnotes.unl.edu) - (402)-472-6930 – Cognitive & Quantitative Psychology – <http://psych.unl.edu/hoffman/HomePage.htm>

Hope, Debra A. [dhope1@unl.edu](mailto:dhope1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3196 – Clinical Psychology

Leger, Daniel [dleger1@unl.edu](mailto:dleger1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3154 – Biopsychology, Learning & Motivation, & Physiological Psychology – The Nebraska Behavioral Biology Group - <http://cricket.unl.edu/nbbg.html>

McChargue, Dennis [dmcchargue2@unl.edu](mailto:dmcchargue2@unl.edu) – (402)-472-3197 – Clinical Psychology - Health, Addiction, & Abnormal – <http://www.unl.edu/HAVLAB/Home.htm>

Ming, Li [mli2@unl.edu](mailto:mli2@unl.edu) - (402) 472-3144 – Biopsychology – <http://www.unl.edu/biopsy/>

Pope Edwards, Carolyn [cedwards1@unl.edu](mailto:cedwards1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3127 – Developmental Psychology

Scalora, Mario [mscalora1@unl.edu](mailto:mscalora1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3126 – Clinical & Law Psychology – <http://psycweb.unl.edu/forensic/>

Schutte, Anne [aschutte2@unl.edu](mailto:aschutte2@unl.edu) – (402)-472-3798 - Psychology of Human, Cognitive, & Cognitive Behavior Development

Spaulding, William [WSpaulding1@UNL.edu](mailto:WSpaulding1@UNL.edu) – (402)-472-3811 - Clinical & Experimental Psychopathology – <http://www.unl.edu/dsc/>

Tomkins, Alan [atomkins@unl.edu](mailto:atomkins@unl.edu) - (402)-472-5688 - Psychology of Law

Wiener, Rich [rwiener2@unl.edu](mailto:rwiener2@unl.edu) – (402)-472-1137 – Psychology of Law – <http://www.unl.edu/LDMR/>

Wilcox, Brian [bwilcox1@unl.edu](mailto:bwilcox1@unl.edu) - (402)-472-3479 – Law Psychology & Developmental Psychology – The Center on Children, Families, and the Law - <http://ccfl.unl.edu/>

Willis-Esqueda, Cynthia [cwillis-esqueda1@unl.edu](mailto:cwillis-esqueda1@unl.edu) – (402)-472-3740 - Social Psychology, Psychology of Racism, & Psychology of Race & Ethnicity