

Sophomore Early Research Program 2020-2021
Social Science Faculty Projects

Social Sciences: Projects in Education, Environmental Studies, and Psychology

Education

Soo Hong

Essential understandings: New teachers' beliefs about family and community

Within the context of culturally diverse public schools, how would we describe the relationship between educators and students' families? This project seeks to explore the beliefs and attitudes of new teachers as they begin to work with students' families. How do these teachers view their partnership with families, and how can a teacher's capacity and willingness to engage families become part of our framework for anti-racist teaching?

A successful student research assistant will have an interest in studying education, good writing skills that they are interested in developing, a general understanding of or curiosity about qualitative, interview-based research, an interest in learning new research skills, high level of attention to detail and organization, and a willingness to join and work with an existing research team.

Environmental Studies

Beth DeSombre

Green port governance

Ports have come to play an important role in governing shipping. This study examines environmental governance measures adopted or enforced by the busiest 200+ ports around the world, during the period from 2005-2018, characterizing which greening measures ports take on (or do not) and when. The ultimate goal is to examine a variety of characteristics of ports and their contexts to determine what leads ports to adopt which types of greening measures. The student will join a team of researchers looking at what measures individual ports have taken, along with other characteristics of those ports.

Psychology

Margaret Keane

Understanding human memory

The aim of our research is to understand human memory and related cognitive processes. We conduct experiments with Wellesley undergraduates in which participants may be asked to

remember information presented to them within an experimental task, to make judgments or choices among alternative answers, to recall memories from their own lives, or to generate hypothetical scenarios. A SERP student will assist in collecting these data, coding participant responses, generating spreadsheets to display the data, and creating graphs and tables to summarize the findings. The experience will also include close reading of the empirical literature on human memory.