

Sophomore Early Research Program 2022-2023
Social Science Faculty Projects

**Projects in Cognitive Sciences and Linguistics, Education, Environmental Studies,
Psychology, Wellesley Centers for Women**

Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences

Yoolim Kim

Documenting language variation and change in dialectal varieties of North and South Korean

This project aims to provide a unified account of the Korean language by developing new theoretical and practical tools to account for the linguistic variation observed in the different varieties spoken not only on the divided peninsula but also by diasporic communities at large. Tracking change in progress offers an important window into the mechanisms underpinning language change. Students will learn how to handle and analyze linguistic data, conduct basic discourse analysis, build linguistic corpora, and gain insights into how the study of language traverses and intersects with other disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, and data science. Students will review existing resources, web scrape, and collate the beginning materials for our corpus. Students interested in Linguistics (or who have already taken or are currently enrolled in LING 114) are highly encouraged to apply (although no previous knowledge is required).

Education

Soo Hong

New Teacher Beliefs about Working with Students' Families

This project explores the experiences of new teachers and their experiences with students' families. What kinds of beliefs and attitudes do they hold about working with students' families and how do their experiences as student teachers shape their ideas about the relationships they build with families? Building upon the interdisciplinary fields of critical race, family-school interactions, and community-engaged education, students will learn to read across disciplines, analyze data within an interdisciplinary context, and learn about qualitative research methodologies in education. Research assistants will review literature, prepare, analyze, and code interview and workshop data, and engage in regular research team meetings to discuss findings. This is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience on a research team and learn the ins and outs of qualitative research.

Environmental Studies

Beth DeSombre

Global Environmental Institutions (and Policy Evolution)

Two projects:

- 1) Post-policy system evolution – a book project that examines how environmental regulation, once adopted, sets up systemic changes that frequently make policies easier and cheaper to implement than initially predicted.
- 2) Global Environmental Institutions – updating information on recent developments in global environmental agreements/organizations

A general social science background is necessary (economics and political science are especially helpful along with knowledge of environmental issues).

Jay Turner

The Geography of a Clean Energy Transition

As the world begins to shift from fossil fuels to clean energy technologies, the geopolitics of energy and manufacturing are beginning to change. In its efforts to address climate change, the Biden administration has adopted policies that aim to support a domestic electric vehicle supply chain, including encouraging mining battery-relevant materials, manufacturing battery cells and packs, and assembling electric vehicles in the United States. I am looking for a student to help me assess the success of these policies.

To what extent can domestic mineral supplies contribute to the material demands of an electrified transportation sector? How is the geography of automobile manufacturing changing, as electric vehicle production begins to scale? How do efforts to localize manufacturing in the United States compare to China's already sizable investment in this industry? To what extent are these projects sustainable, in that they address issues of social and environmental justice?

A student working on this project should have an interest in an interdisciplinary approach to the study of clean energy technologies and related environmental and economic policies. A student will gain experience researching federal policies, federal grantmaking programs, and researching the activities of both federal agencies and corporations engaged in the electric vehicle supply chain.

Psychology

Christine Deveney

Sociocultural Factors in Irritability

Our lab is interested in understanding how sociocultural factors influence the presentation and mechanisms of irritability. The SERP student's work will involve: 1) compiling and summarizing the sociodemographic information of participants in published studies; b) assisting existing lab students in their exploration of sociodemographic factors that influence mechanisms of irritability; and c) participating in laboratory research and discussions about how irritability's presentation may vary in different populations. Students will be trained in how to conduct literature reviews, organize study data, and will observe/assist with some data analyses.

A successful student research assistant will be organized, collaborative, responsive, and curious about the ways in which sociocultural factors may influence psychological traits.

Stephen Chen

Social Status and Social Mobility in Chinese American Immigrant Families

SERP participants will have the opportunity to participate in the Family Development Project, an ongoing study of stress and well-being in Chinese American immigrant families. The project is currently examining how Chinese American immigrant parents pass on beliefs of race, social status, and social mobility to their adolescent children. SERP students may be involved in multiple aspects of the project, including Zoom interviews with Chinese American parents and/or children, data entry, coding, and transcription of multilingual family interviews. Skills: native fluency in spoken Chinese (Cantonese and/or Mandarin) required; Chinese literacy preferred.

Wellesley Centers for Women

Linda Charmaraman

Understanding Race and Racism Against Asian Americans on Social Media

Our Youth, Media, & Wellbeing Research Lab will be partnering with Brigham Women's Hospital, Developmental Risk and Cultural Resilience Program to launch a new research program aimed at understanding how Asian American teens socialize with their peers and families about race and racism, particularly through social media. We are looking for a student interested in ethnic studies, cultural psychology, media studies, human-computer interactions, and/or qualitative methods. Prior experience in working with middle school youth, interviewing or qualitative coding skills, literature

reviews, and/or writing for public dissemination preferred. The intern would be involved in data cleaning, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of our findings and use of our data for class projects would be highly encouraged.