Fall 2014 Openings

Lab Experiments Intern
This intern will work on the Contentious Interpersonal Political Interactions (CIPI) project alongside the other members of the Lab Experiments group. In addition to helping design, administer, and analyze the data for research projects related to this NSF-funded project, the group is responsible for coordinating and staffing the Omnibus Project.

The methodological focus for this position is related to psychophysiology and social psychological experimental design. Students should have a substantive interest in individual-level social or political behaviors that can be studied via survey and experimental techniques. Ideal candidates will have taken related coursework in the government or psychology departments and will be interested in developing an independent project related to the methodological or substantive focus of the group.

Online Political Discussion Intern
This intern will work with the Online Political Discussion group. This group is currently designing a series of survey experiments related to how we perceive other people talking about politics on social media. The current focus of student interest is in perceptions of gender differences, but future expansions of the project could explore a variety of other perceptions and behaviors. This intern may also work with Prof. Settle on literature reviews and experiments related to her current book project.

The methodological focus for this position is currently related to experimental design, and future expansions of the project may necessitate computer science data management and visualization skills, as well. The substantive focus for this position is related to social media discussion about politics, and students should ultimately have an idea for an independent research project that relates to this topic. Ideal candidates will have taken related coursework in the government, psychology, computer science or linguistics departments.

Media and Public Opinion Intern
This group is currently focusing its efforts on a large project studying the relationship between media coverage and public discourse of the controversy over the Affordable Care Act. Each year, the team tackles one or more major data collection efforts, which result in data that can be used for individual projects. During the 2013-2014 academic year, the team compiled a dataset of over 25,000 newspaper articles in state-level newspapers, as well a dataset of state-level variables related to health care. A major part of the internship experience is helping design and execute a new data collection project.

The methodological focus of this position is related to content analysis—both automated and hand-coding—and regression-based techniques for analyzing the relationships between media coverage and public opinion. The substantive focus for this position is related to public discourse about contentious politics, particularly "Obamacare," measured using a variety of data sources from newspapers to social media. Students should have an interest in public opinion, the media or social media, framing effects, and/or health care policy reform.

Computer Science Intern
This position is designed for a student with a background in computer science and an interest in applying computer science skills to social science research puzzles. The substantive focus for this position relates to data visualization, database management, and webpage design and maintenance.