



***Research Experience in Power and Status
at the Sidanius Lab in Intergroup Relations***

The Lab

Members of the Sidanius Lab in Intergroup Relations are a collection of scholars interested in the interface among intergroup relations, conflict, inequality, social hierarchy, power, status, stereotyping, racism, ideology, identity and prejudice. The goals of the lab group are to examine the social psychology of intergroup relations from an integrative and multi-disciplinary perspective, producing research that speaks to real world social and political issues. The lab is based in William James Hall. Our website can be found here: <http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/sidaniuslab>

We Want You

The Sidanius Lab is seeking a set of strongly motivated Research Assistants to support its varied research program during the Fall 2014 semester. Research Assistants are welcome either on a volunteer basis, or for course credit (by enrolling in Psychology 2570r). RAs are required to commit to a minimum number of hours per week depending on their enrollment and the lab's needs. Research Assistants are also invited to attend and participate in weekly lab meetings in which we discuss the lab's research. Lab meetings are required for RAs enrolled in 2570r, but are optional for volunteers. If interested, Research Assistants may be invited to present and receive feedback on their own research ideas.

To apply for a Research Assistant position, contact Sa-kiera Hudson (shudson@g.harvard.edu) with your CV, as well as details on which projects interest you most, and why.

Research Opportunities

Primary Investigator: Sarah Cotterill

Overview: Why do people support belief systems that do not always serve their interests? For example, why do the wealthy vote liberal? Why do the poor vote Republican? Sarah will undertake a lab study this fall that aims to address these questions.

Research Assistant Opportunities: Research assistants are needed to act as lab experimenters, as well as for data processing. Research assistants will also have the opportunity to learn about and participate in preliminary data analysis.

Primary Investigator: Rachel Arnett

Overview: How do identity and status affect how we think about ourselves, how we interact in social contexts, and how we make professional decisions? These questions help guide Rachel's research on identity, status, and careers. In one experimental project, Rachel will be exploring the effects of status differences on interpersonal relationships. For example, when and why do the wealthy hide their background? What implications does this have for intergroup relations? In a set of experimental and qualitative studies, Rachel is exploring how career identities and decisions are influenced by different human motives, different social influences, and gender norms.

Research Assistant Opportunities: Rachel is looking forward to getting Research Assistants involved with research design and idea development, background research and literature reviews, study creation and participant recruitment via online platforms, and data collection. Rachel may also be looking for RAs to play the role of Experimenter.

Primary Investigator: Sa-kiera Hudson

Overview: What does it mean on a psychological level to have power and how to we determine who has it? Thus Kiera has two related projects. First, when do people start to recognize social power hierarchies? This question will be answered by examining hierarchy identification in children. Secondly, there are many determinants of power (e.g. roles, social identities, personality traits) that combine to confer a social power level. This project aims to understand how these determinants of power interact. In a separate line of research, Kiera is interested in the intersection of race and gender as it relates to prejudice and discrimination, particularly looking at discrimination towards minority women.

Research Assistant Opportunities: Kiera is looking for RAs that are extremely eager to learn about the research process and are flexible with their time. Research Assistants could get involved with research design and idea development, background research and literature reviews, study creation and participant recruitment via online platforms, and data collection. Some Research Assistants may be able to be an experimenter and/or confederate.

Primary Investigator: Erin Hennes

Overview: The contemporary political landscape is characterized by numerous divisive issues. In this research we explore whether this divisiveness can be partly explained by differences in how individuals seek out and process information about their social world. In particular, we study how resistance to change influences how individuals perceive, evaluate, and recall information about issues such as environmental sustainability, equality across racial and ethnic groups, and sexual violence. In addition, we investigate whether polarization on these issues is exacerbated by misinformation transmitted via social media. This research seeks to reduce bias in the public's understanding of complex and emotionally-charged sociopolitical issues.

Research Assistant Opportunities: Research assistants will participate in many stages of the research process, such as obtaining IRB approval, conducting literature review, programming studies, and managing experiments