

MPRL Opportunities

Summer Interns

The Moral Psychology Research Lab is now accepting applications for summer research interns to work remotely in the Psychology Department at Harvard University during Summer 2021.

The internship begins on June 7th and ends on August 13th. Interns will spend approximately **35 hours per week** working closely with graduate students and the Principal Investigator Fiery Cushman.

The lab conducts research in social cognition with an emphasis on moral judgment and behavior. Some examples of current research topics include the role of automatic processes in forward planning, the use of reasoning in children's and adults' moral decision-making, and the communicative nature of punishment. Current research methods include laboratory experiments (currently conducted virtually due to COVID-19), web surveys, and economic games. Research interns will be involved in conducting experiments (remotely). Interns will also join members of the lab on Zoom for weekly discussions about current research in the field, and will have the opportunity to attend virtual workshops on relevant topics (e.g., the graduate application process, research methods).

We intend to pay interns a **tentative** stipend of \$2,500* for the summer. Please note that applicants must be U.S. residents and eligible to work in the United States. Visa sponsorship is not possible for this position. The deadline for applications is **February 22nd, 2021**.

We are committed to creating and participating in a supportive, diverse, and welcoming lab environment where everyone's ideas and experiences are respected. We welcome applications from students of all backgrounds.

Applications should consist of:

1. A **cover letter** describing your research experience and interests. Please explain why you would like to be an RA in our lab and highlight previous research experience, leadership experience, and evidence of responsibility and independence.

2. A **short response** to one of the papers listed below. In the first paragraph of the response, summarize the paper's findings; in the second paragraph, suggest a possible direction for future research that the paper opens.

*Levine, S., Kleimen-Weiner, M., Schulz, L., Tenenbaum, J. & Cushman, F. (2020). **The logic of universalization guides moral judgment.***

*Sarin, A., Ho, M., Martin, J. & Cushman, F. (in press). **Punishment is organized around principles of communicative inference.***

3. A **curriculum vitae**

4. A **transcript** from your current institution. Your transcript should be in PDF format; an unofficial transcript is sufficient.

5. **Contact information** (name, phone number, and email address) for **two references** (e.g., a graduate student, postdoctoral researcher, or professor). **Note:** We do not require letters of recommendation; simply providing the names and contact information of your two references is adequate.

Application materials should be sent by email to the lab manager, Kirstan Brodie (kbrodie@g.harvard.edu), with the subject line "MPRL Summer Internship". Applicants will be notified of their status by **March 8th, 2021**. Please feel free to email Kirstan with any questions.

****NOTE:** The stipend is tentative at this point because the university's hiring policies may change due to the pandemic, and the internship would then be unpaid. If your ability to take part in the internship would be dependent on the stipend, we encourage you to apply regardless, because it is **very likely** that the hiring process will go as expected and the internship will be paid.*

*Accepted applicants from Harvard University should expect to work with MPRL lab members to prepare an application to pursue funding from the **Harvard College Research Program (HCRP)**. Students from other institutions are also encouraged to apply for additional funding from their universities, if applicable.*