



# Multidisciplinary Student Research Collaborative

## Upcoming Student Research Opportunity:

### Undergraduate Student Research Assistant

Harvard Radcliffe Institute ([HRI](#)) Invites students to apply for an open position in the Multidisciplinary Student Research Collaborative Program (MSRC). Students in this role would support Tomer Ullman, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Elena Glassman, Assistant Professor, Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Stanley A. Marks and William H. Marks Professor, Harvard Radcliffe Institute, in leading their Exploratory Seminar titled, "Loopholes: Spirit-vs-letter of the law at the dawn of AI."

### Major Responsibilities

- Create surveys
- Compile readings and background information in preparation for the seminar
- Attend the 2-day seminar in person on June 13—14, 2024 (Thursday and Friday)
- Take notes during the seminar
- Assist with any write-ups post-seminar
- Complete a post-program survey

### Qualifications

The ideal candidate is passionate about interdisciplinary research and pedagogical design; and interested in the development, communication, dissemination, and application of cutting-edge research. Strong research skills are preferred. This position is open to Harvard undergraduate students.

### Executive Summary of the Project

"The ability to find "loopholes" to get around a request appears in childhood, law, fable, everyday social interactions, and more recently in human-machine interactions. This distinction between "spirit of the law" and "letter of the law" is prevalent and consequential yet understudied empirically and formally. A better understanding of how people find and use loopholes is particularly pressing, given the increasing need to design algorithms and agents that do what we want, not just what we say. The seminar will bring together leading experts from the rich space needed to discuss and understand loopholes, including researchers from academia and industry, philosophers, cognitive scientists, and experts on law and child-development. The seminar will develop a shared understanding and framework for studying loopholes, including cross-field discussions on current gaps in our knowledge, playful pedagogical simulations of miscommunication, and flash group pitches for new empirical and theoretical directions in cross-field research on letter-vs-spirit of the law. The primary goals of this seminar are (1) Discuss challenges and implications of loophole behavior for human-machine interactions, law, and justice, (2) Transfer knowledge and identify gaps in knowledge across fields in what is currently known about



loophole behavior in people and machines, and (3) Spark ideas for new cross-disciplinary empirical and theoretical research into spirit-vs-letter-of-the-law behavior in people and machines. The seminar will serve as the basis for lasting connections among the participants, which will foster opportunities for future interdisciplinary collaboration, and rigorous research into how people navigate the gray areas of communication and miscommunication.”

## The Multidisciplinary Student Research Collaborative

Through this [program](#), the department of Academic Ventures and Engagement at Harvard Radcliffe Institute offers Harvard undergraduates and graduate students the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research in conjunction with the Institute’s Exploratory Seminar, Accelerator Workshop, and Advanced Seminar programs. Apply for this opportunity, as well as other programs, at [https://harvardradcliffeinstitute.formstack.com/forms/multidisciplinary\\_student\\_research\\_collaborative\\_2023\\_2024](https://harvardradcliffeinstitute.formstack.com/forms/multidisciplinary_student_research_collaborative_2023_2024).

### Pay

- \$19 an hour for undergraduate students

Enrolled Harvard undergraduate students can work up to 20 hours per week across all their work commitments at Harvard. Students are also limited to a cap of hours worked throughout the project between 26 and 53 hours depending upon budget constraints.

Expected Start Date: ASAP

Expected End Date: August 31, 2024

### How to Apply

**Applications are due at 11:59 PM on Monday, June 3rd, 2024.** Please submit a resume and (optional) cover letter [here](#).