

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

The **Early Childhood Lab (PI: Paul Harris)** at the **Harvard Graduate School of Education** is looking for a **Research Assistant** to join a project investigating young children's desires and their ability to understand and navigate conflicts between what they want and what their parents want.

The RA's primary task will be to read and code transcripts of conversations between parents and their children, recorded in their homes. The RA may also be involved in data visualization and statistical analysis.

This work could appeal to:

- students interested in issues of moral development, theory of mind, emotion socialization, and parenting;
- students who appreciate a relatively "humanistic" approach to psychology and who enjoy working with naturally occurring language more than with other types of data;
- students interested in applying to graduate school in psychology or early childhood education.

The expected minimum time commitment is one semester (Spring 2024) for an average of 10 hours / week. Successful RAs will be warmly encouraged to continue in the summer and fall (when more experimental work is planned.) The position is currently unpaid, but course credit (via HGSE) can be offered. For a highly committed RA, there would be an opportunity for co-authorship on conference presentations and papers.

Expectations for the role:

- enthusiasm for engaging with records of child language and parent-child interactions, which can often be fun to read / listen to, but can also be hard to understand and interpret;
- sensitivity to nuance in language and the meaning of interactions;
- tolerance for work that is primarily done in front of the computer and can become tedious or repetitive;
- attention to detail, dependability;
- native proficiency in English preferred.

No special technical skills are assumed or required.

The project's investigator, Michal Miaskiewicz, a Ph.D. student in the lab and formerly a professional in the areas of public policy and education, has this to say about the style of the work relationship that he is hoping to forge with the RA:

"I am looking for someone who is conscientious but also creative, unafraid to share with me their ideas about the research project. I am looking not merely for an "extra pair of hands" but for someone who, with time, can become a true intellectual partner and co-creator of the project. Our lab is small so you can expect many opportunities for interaction with me and the lab's PI, Prof. Harris. You should be willing to be flexible, as the workload may vary from week to week. It is very important to me that you enjoy and benefit from the collaboration just as much as I will. I am pretty good at helping RAs navigate their way to graduate school applications, if that's their goal. In the last two years, my advisees have gone on to graduate programs in human development/psychology at the University of Chicago and New York University. I will be happy to help you attain your other academic and professional goals as well."

If you are interested in the position, please send an email ASAP to mmiaskiewicz@g.harvard.edu with a brief comment on what makes you interested in the position. Given the academic timeline, the position is expected to be filled within the next week or two.