**RESEARCH ASSISTANT APPLICATION**

Constitutional and Cooperative Decision-Making Lab

State-Reinforced Self-Governance and Adaptive Social-Ecological Systems Lab

Dr. Daniel A DeCaro | Psychological and Brian Sciences | Urban and Public Affairs

**Lab Descriptions:**

This is an interdisciplinary decision science and institutional psychology research lab. We use diverse methods (e.g., laboratory experiments, participant interviews, case study analysis, policy analysis) to study the behavioral foundations of society. This focus includes how humans create systems of government, engage in constitutional decisions to design those governments, and cooperate to solve difficult problems (i.e., social dilemmas) in societies. We frequently examine a particular class of problems called social-ecological dilemmas, in which societies need to find ways to cooperatively govern and maintain critical natural and built systems to promote human and ecological welfare. We often study aspects of social cognition (e.g., motivation, perception, trust), reasoning, and decision-making. The Constitutional and Cooperative Decision-Making (CCDM) Lab is integrated collaboratively with the State-Reinforced Self-Governance and Adaptive Social-Ecological Systems (SRSG-ASES) Lab to better understand how human behavior and complex systems interact. We, therefore, also research how systems of government affect human behavior. This work is relevant to societal sustainability and resilience in a variety of ways.

This lab also works closely with Dr. Marci DeCaro’s Learning and Performance Lab. Dr. Marci DeCaro may serve as an additional research mentor/advisor, depending on the project(s).

**Desired Applicants:**

We are looking for conscientious, dependable, organized, and motivated students to assist with these research studies. Applicants should also be interested in the core topics of the lab(s). Duties include running experiments (following a research script), entering data into the computer, preparing online surveys, coding research interviews and communication transcripts, attending lab meetings, and various other activities. Research assistants normally work 6-9 hours/week (9 hours is preferred), for 2-3 hours of course credit (PSYC 401; Research Psychology). A minimum commitment of 2 semesters is preferred, and a minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

Serving as a research assistant is a hands-on opportunity to work on psychological research. Among other benefits, it is a good way to find out what research is like and whether you enjoy doing research in this area, lets you work more closely with grad students and faculty, and can provide valuable experience for grad school or job applications. **Please fill out the following application, and return it as soon as possible to Dr. Daniel DeCaro via email at daniel.decaro@louisville.edu.** Please also feel free to email Dr. DeCaro with any questions you may have.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | Email: |
| Date: | Phone: |
| Overall GPA: | Major: |
| Psychology GPA: | Minor: |
| Year in college (e.g, freshman, etc.): |  |

**Psychology courses completed or currently enrolled (names, not numbers please), and grades in each:**

**Previous research experience (not required):**

**How many credits are you interested in taking? You should plan to work 3 hours a week for every 1 credit hour for which you enroll. You can work a maximum of 3 credit hours (9 hours/week) and must also attend monthly lab meetings.**

**What is your projected graduation date?**

**How many semesters can you commit to this position?**

**Will you be a registered student during the summer (not required)?** YES / NO

**Will you be available to work in the lab during the summer (not required)?** YES / NO

## Work Experience

**Please list jobs you have had during the past five years.**

Employer / Dates of Employment / Job Title / Description

**What are your plans after graduation?**

**What kind of research are you most interested in?**

**Why do you want to work in this lab?**

**How did you find out about this lab?**

**Please list the name and email address of one professor you have had (preferably in psychology, or an area related to social decision making or environmental sustainability) that can comment on your performance. Also note the context in which they know you.**

**Semester:**

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**Please mark out times that you know you *cannot* work.**

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**What days and times do you prefer to work (this can be modified)?**