**2021 Summer Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Children’s dual engines of social learning** |
| **Positions available:** | **2** |
| **Project duration:** | * Approximately 20-25 hours per week * 5 weeks |
| **Description:** | Imitation is one of the most widely studied topics in the area of children’s socio-cognitive development. It has been well established that with age, children develop the cognitive capacity for imitative flexibility which enables them to switch between *conventional* (which prioritizes acquisition of social conventions) vs. *instrumental* (which focuses on outcome attainment using the most efficient means) approaches of learning. This process involves children weighing different social (e.g., verbal cues, group membership) and instrumental (e.g., efficiency, cost) factors to make adaptive social learning decisions to suit diverse context.  This project involves various studies surrounding the broad topic of imitative flexibility (e.g., how children learn from media; how parental expectations may influence children’s conformist tendency). Scholars will assist with literature review, questionnaire and behavioural study (e.g., imitation) design, and data management (e.g., data coding, data preparation). Data collection may be possible. Specific tasks and research focus will be discussed with each scholar. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain hands-on experience with research design, research protocol development and data management in the field of developmental and cross-cultural psychology |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is suitable for 3rd or 4th year Bachelor of Psychology Science students, especially for students who are interested in developmental psychology and/or cross-cultural research |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Frankie Fong |
| **Further info:** | * Students do not need to contact the supervisor prior to submitting an application * No letter of support is required for this application |
| **Will you be collaborating with an external organisation on this project (for example NGO, government agency or private industry)?** | no |