**2021-2022 Psychology UQ Summer Research Project Description**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **The psychology of intergroup and intragroup (un)attraction** |
| **Project duration:** | * 8 weeks * At least 20 hours per week |
| **Position/s available** | 1 |
| **Description:** | Research shows that many people are resistant to the idea of forming romantic or sexual relationships with members of another racial group (Herman & Campbell, 2012; Paterson et al., 2015). The rejection of potential partners based on race or ethnicity alone has been linked to general racial prejudice (Han, 2007; Thai, 2020). For example, attraction and romantic receptivity to members of racial outgroups (or lack thereof) is associated with racial stereotypes (Wilkins et al., 2011), intergroup anxiety and biases (Levin et al., 2007), and general warmth towards the relevant racial outgroups (Herman & Campbell, 2012). People who reject others based on race are also considered by observers to be more racist (Thai et al., 2019).  Little research, however, has examined the conditions under which people, particularly racial minority group members, become resistant to the idea of forming romantic of sexual relationships with members of their *own* racial group. The present research will use a social identity approach to understand (un)attraction to racial ingroup members in racial minority groups. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain experience in the entire research process, including research question development, literature review, open science practices, data collection, data analysis, and report writing. Students will also be given the opportunity to be involved in the publication of this research, should the research project yield publishable findings.  Scholars may be asked to produce sections of a research report and/or deliver an oral presentation about their research findings at the end of the project. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students with a background in psychology who are in 3rd-4th year. It is ideal for applicants who have an interest in social psychology, specifically, intergroup relations and attraction. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr. Michael Thai |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Dr. Michael Thai if you have any questions about this research project. |
| **Collaborating with external organisation?** | No |