**UQ Summer Research Project Description**

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

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| **Project title:** | **Counterfactual thinking and social judgements in children** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | The project will run for 6 weeks in January and February 2024, with one position offered. The successful applicant will be required to be on-site at UQ’s St Lucia campus for the first 3 weeks of the project, whereas the second 3 weeks can be completed remotely if necessary. The project will involve approximately 20-30 hours of engagement per week. |
| **Description:** | Counterfactual thinking involves imagining alternative versions of past events and reasoning about how such alternatives would have affected the present. Such thinking is crucial to many complex social judgements, as when considering whether someone who committed a moral transgression could have made a better choice. Previous research has established that children begin to think counterfactually around 6 years of age (e.g., Redshaw & Suddendorf, 2020, *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*), but studies have only recently started to examine how such thinking influences children’s social judgements (e.g., Gautam, Hall, Suddendorf, & Redshaw, 2023, *Child Development*). The current study will involve asking 4- to 9-year-old children to evaluate characters who chose to act in a way that benefitted or harmed another, as well as characters who were compelled to act in a way that benefitted or harmed another. For instance, the study may examine when children begin to understand that people are less likely to forgive others who have actively chosen to harm them. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The student researcher will be involved in the process of study design and interpretation. They will also participate in data collection from caregivers and children who visit the Queensland Museum during the summer school holidays. The student may also have the opportunity to gain authorship on any publication that arises from the study. |
| **Suitable for:** | The project is open to applications from students who have completed the third year of their undergraduate psychology degree. Applicants must have a strong background in developmental and cognitive psychology, as well as an interest in children’s emerging social cognitive judgements. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Jonathan Redshaw |
| **Further info:** | The applicant must have a current Blue Card or be in the process of obtaining one. |