**UQ Winter 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:** | **Caught on Camera: Acts of Benevolent Ageism on Social Media** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | This project offers the opportunity for a 4-week **remote** winter research scholarship. The successful applicant will be expected to complete up to 36 hours/week, with the option for any correspondence with the supervisor to be completed via zoom/email or in person at UQ. |
| **Description:** | Relative to hostile forms of ageism, benevolent ageism can be difficult to recognise as it can present subtly, and be characterized not only by condescension, but warmth and kindness. Examples of benevolent ageism include using pet names or baby talk to address older people; emphasising pity for people above a certain age; or the importance placed on “protecting” older people during the COVID pandemic.  There have also been very different views about how acts of benevolent ageism, once recognised as such, should be responded to. For instance, while one recent study highlighted the need to “confront’ acts of benevolent ageism to reduce the likelihood of future biased behaviours (Chasteen et al.), another revealed that there might be potential societal benefits of benevolent ageism, as it was associated with increased prosocial (helping) behaviour towards older people (Ma et al., 2024).  The broad aims of this study were therefore to better understand whether the behaviours younger people recognise as indicative of benevolent ageism are also regarded as such by older people themselves, as well as the degree to which these behaviours are (i) considered as harmful in each group and (ii) related to positive, prosocial behaviours.  In service of this aim, we plan to show younger and older participants real-life inter-generational interactions in which one person provides help/assistance/kindness or condescends an older adult, to assess agreement with respect to (i) which videos depict benevolent ageism and (ii) how upsetting this experience of benevolent ageism is likely to be for the older adult depicted.  The successful applicant will be responsible for sourcing videos of possible benevolent ageism interactions via social media (e.g., TikTok, Instagram, YouTube). |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The successful applicant will develop valuable methodological skills. In the first half of the program, they will learn to identify and select study stimuli based on predefined criteria. In the second half, they will contribute to setting up an online study to pilot test the suitability of the selected stimuli. |
| **Suitable for:** | Suitable for 3rd or 4th year students with great attention to detail and access to social media (e.g., TikTok, Instagram, YouTube). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr. Sarah Coundouris |
| **Further info:** | If you are interested in this position or would like to know more about this project please contact [s.coundouris@uq.edu.au](mailto:s.coundouris@uq.edu.au), prior to applying. |