**UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026**

*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.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **From Self-Talk to TikTok: Investigating Ageism Inside and Out**  |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | This project offers the opportunity for a 6-week summer research scholarship, **for which a hybrid arrangement is possible**. The successful applicants 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:** | Ageism directed at older people is unique in two ways: it is socially condoned in a manner that other types of prejudice are not, and the animus is eventually self-directed. This summer research project includes assistance on two tasks to deepen our understanding of how ageism operates both internally and externally.INTERNALLY: Self-directed ageism refers to the ways in which ageist beliefs become increasingly self-relevant and internalised over the life course. Our team is working on the first meta-analytic quantification of the associations between self-directed ageism and health and wellbeing, examining both ageist beliefs and personal views on one’s own ageing in relation to physical, psychological, and social indicators. The successful applicants will work alongside the supervisor to complete the quality assessment/risk of bias component of this meta-analytic review.EXTERNALLY: 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. We aim 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. The successful applicants will be responsible for sourcing videos of possible benevolent ageism interactions via social media (e.g., TikTok, Instagram, YouTube) and setting up an online study to pilot test the suitability of the selected stimuli.  |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The successful applicants will develop valuable methodological skills. The first task offers a great opportunity to be introduced to meta-analytic techniques, as well as to gain an understanding of the self-directed ageism literature. The second task will teach them how to identify and select study stimuli based on predefined criteria, and how to set up a study within Qualtrics. |
| **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, prior to applying. |