**2019-2020 Psychology UQ Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | The development of imitation in infancy |
| **Project duration:** | * 8 weeks * 20 hours per week |
| **Position/s available** | 1 |
| **Description:** | For 40 years, human infants were thought to be capable of imitating others’ actions from birth. Recent work from UQ, however, has challenged this assumption, with a comprehensive longitudinal study finding no evidence of imitation in a large sample of newborns. If humans do not imitate from birth, then a critical question is how we *learn* to imitate. One hypothesis is that infants are born with a general propensity to produce motor actions in response to social stimulation, with the specific capacity for imitation gradually shaped over the initial months and years of life. This project will involve testing this hypothesis by scoring and analysing video-recorded data from a series of measures administered to infants as part of the longitudinal UQ study. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The scholar will gain skills in experimental design, data coding and analysis, and in presentation of research findings. The scholar will be expected to produce a short written report at the conclusion of the program. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students with a background in psychology and specific interests in child development and social learning. Ideally, students will have completed at least two full years of UQ undergraduate psychology classes. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Jonathan Redshaw (in collaboration with Prof Virginia Slaughter) |
| **Further info:** | Please email me (j.redshaw@uq.edu.au) prior to submitting your application. |