**2020 Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Allyship for social change** |
| **Positions available:** | **3** |
| **Project duration:** | 20 hours/week over 6 weeks |
| **Description:** | Allyship refers to members of advantaged groups engaging in committed action to improve the treatment and status of a disadvantaged group (e.g., Droogendyk, Wright, Lubensky, & Louis, 2016). Contemporary examples include men championing gender equality initiatives in organizations, heterosexual‐identified citizens voting for marriage equality, and White protestors joining Black Lives Matter rallies. Given the increasing presence and importance of allies in social change, it is important to better understand how to effectively engage members of advantaged groups as allies; and the positive and negative forms of allyship they can enact and the outcomes of this for disadvantaged groups.  As such, applicants will have the opportunity to contribute to one of two projects on allyship, depending on their interests:   1. Project 1 - a pre-existing project exploring the barriers to engaging men as feminist allies. Specifically: a) whether men’s perceptions of intergroup threat influence their willingness to act as allies on behalf of women (e.g., by engaging in collective action, criticising men’s rights activism, and acknowledging their gender-based privilege); and b) the factors that reduce men’s experience of threat and enhance their allyship behaviours. 2. Project 2 - a new project that will identify different ‘types’ of allies who engage in allyship behaviours for qualitatively different reasons. For example, some allies may engage in allyship behaviours because of a moral conviction to social justice and equality, and engage in actions that directly challenge inequality (‘true allies’). In contrast, others may choose to take on the allyship mantle because they perceive social pressure to do so (‘reluctant allies’) or see it as an opportunity to, intentionally or unintentionally, reinforce existing power structures by providing forms of support which do not challenge inequality (‘nefarious allies’).   These projects are ideal for applicants with an interest in intergroup behaviour, group and social identity processes, attitude change, and/or gender and feminist psychology. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Applicants will gain different skills depending on the project they choose to work on:   1. Project 1 - applicants will work with pre-existing data sets and gain skills in data analysis (e.g., data cleaning, moderated multiple regression, mediation analyses) and scientific writing, and will have the opportunity to generate publications from this research. All analyses will be completed with guidance and feedback from your supervisor. It is expected that applicants will have completed analyses for at least one dataset and a rough summary of results by the end of the program. Project 1 is ideal for applicants looking to improve their data analysis and interpretation skills, and gain more experience in scientific writing/communication. 2. Project 2 applicants will gain experience in literature reviews, study design, and drafting ethics applications. Applicants will have the opportunity to contribute to the aims and conceptualisation of the project, and generate publications from this research. It is expected that applicants will complete study design and draft a full ethics application for submission to UQ ethics by the end of the program. Project 2 is ideal for applicants looking to improve their understanding of research methods, gain experience in scientific writing, and broaden their understanding of research on allyship and intergroup helping. |
| **Suitable for:** | Both projects are open to applications from students with a background or interest in social, political, and/or feminist psychology. Project 1 is only open to applicants who have completed third year statistics or above (i.e., PSYC3010 or equivalent), and who either did well in the course (6 or 7) or who have since been able to master the skills at a high level. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Professor Winnifred Louis will co-supervise with Dr. Morgana Lizzio-Wilson |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Dr Morgana Lizzio-Wilson ([m.lizziowilson@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.lizziowilson@uq.edu.au)) if you have any questions. |