**2020 Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Leadership, group engagement, and health** |
| **Positions available:** | up to 2 positions available |
| **Project duration and delivery**  | * 10 weeks
* ~ 30 hours per week
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| **Description:** | A key question in social and organisational psychology has centred on the factors that foster individuals’ motivation to engage in particular tasks (e.g., to work hard as a student; to put effort into one’s job; to look after a family member in need; to volunteer for a social club). However, growing evidence indicates that for individuals and groups to function effectively, it is as (if not more) important that group and organisational life fosters the health and well-being of their members. Yet, we are only starting to uncover the range of factors that promote health and well-being in groups and organizations and we know little about the role that leadership plays in members’ health and well-being. In the present project we are conducting research to advance our understanding of (a) the various factors that influence people’s engagement with the group, team, and organization they are part of as well as their health and well-being, and (b) the important of broader group and organizational factors including leadership in fostering individuals’ engagement, health and well-being. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The scholar is expected to gain skills and hands-on experience in and contribute to one or various of the following processes of the research project: (a) conducting a literature search, (b) collecting, coding, and organizing data, (c) conducting some basis analyses, and (d) preparing a short scientific report (of the project aims and the accomplished tasks and outcomes of the scholarship).The scholar is expected to work as part of a team and thereby develop important skills of working in teams. Depending on the scholar’s skills and drive, the scholar may also get involved in additional tasks such as developing the design and procedure of a study.Upon completion of the scholarship, the scholar will create a short report describing the research they have completed and the learnings they take away from their research experience. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applicants with a background in methods and empirical research in social science (e.g., psychology); 3-4 year students; UQ enrolled students only.This project is suitable for applicants who are highly motivated and skilled, have initiative and are eager to learn, and have a keen interest in this broader topic. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Nik Steffens |
| **Further info:** | The project description is designed to provide potential applicants with sufficient information about the project aims and the scholar’s role and expectations for potential applicants to be able to form accurate expectations. There is no need for interested potential scholars to ask for approval to apply. All further readings will be provided at the start of the scholarship. If prospective scholars were interested in additional readings on aspects of the broader topic, see the two sample articles below: (a) a review article on leadership and health and (b) an empirical study on leadership and group engagement from the context of sport. Inceoglu, I., Thomas, G., Chu, C., Plans, D., & Gerbasi, A. (2018). Leadership behavior and employee well-being: An integrated review and a future research agenda. The Leadership Quarterly, 29(1), 179-202.Steffens, N. K., Slade, E. L., Stevens, M., Haslam, S. A., & Rees, T. (2019). Putting the ‘we’into workout: The association of identity leadership with exercise class attendance and effort, and the mediating role of group identification and comfort. Psychology of Sport and Exercise, 45, 101544.This project will take place on the UQ St. Lucia campus (as indicated above, though, this project can be completed under a remote working arrangement).  |