

Social Science Faculty Research Assistant Opportunities Summer 2024

This list indicates the range of projected 2024 summer research projects for faculty in Swarthmore College's Social Science Division. Students interested in working as a summer research assistant on one or more of these projects should reach out to the appropriate faculty members.

Since faculty research projects change over time based on faculty interests and the availability of funding, the list is an incomplete projection and is subject to revision. If a student would like to work as a summer RA for an unlisted faculty member, the student should reach out to that faculty member to ask about opportunities.

The order of the list is alphabetical by department and by faculty member's last name.

DEPARTMENT	FACULTY MEMBER	AREA OF RESEARCH
Economics	Maria Olivero	<p>Prof. Olivero is looking to hire 2 RAs this summer to contribute to her work on credit access for minorities in financial markets. Two ongoing projects: one on consumer credit for minorities and another on business credit for minority-owned businesses. The first project is empirical and knowledge of Stata is required. The second is theoretical and knowledge of Matlab is required.</p> <p>Applicants must have taken EC11, EC21 and EC31.</p> <p>To apply, please send a short statement that explains your interest in this position and qualifications (and which of the two projects you are interested in) by January 22, 2024, to moliver1@swarthmore.edu</p>
Economics	Syon Bhanot	<p>Prof. Bhanot is looking to hire 2 RAs for the summer of 2024 to support several research projects related to applying behavioral and experimental economics to policy topics. Among the projects students will definitely work on are a project on water conservation in Monterrey, Mexico, a project on encouraging saving in Zambia, and a project on how social identities affect prosocial behavior. Applicants must have taken EC31 and ideally also ECON 055 (or 155) and ECON 035.</p> <p>To apply, please send a short statement that explains your interest in this position and qualifications by January 22, 2024, to sbhanot1@swarthmore.edu</p>
Economics	Paul Ko	<p>Professor Ko is looking to hire one or two RAs for the summer of 2024 to contribute to two of his research projects on trade and inequality. The first project looks at how trade affects gender wage gap and female labor force participation in developed countries. Another project looks at the impact of trade, automation, and job search frictions on</p>

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		the widening employment gap between college-educated and non-college-educated males in the United States and the rest of the world. This RAship requires a series of data collection and knowledge of Stata and MS Excel are required. Knowledge of MATLAB is preferred. Applicants must have taken EC11 and EC31, and ideally also ECON 21. To apply, please send a short statement that explains your interest in this position and qualifications by January 29, 2024, to pko1@swarthmore.edu .
Educational Studies	Elaine Allard	<p>Professor Allard is looking to hire 2 RAs this summer to contribute to ongoing studies of immigration and education. Opportunities for fieldwork, literature review, analysis, and collaborative writing. Specific focus will be tailored to student expertise and interest. Example sub-topics: history of immigration and educational policy in partner school in North Philadelphia; oral history interviews with undocumented adolescents and young adults; cross-cultural/ linguistic interactions and friendships among immigrant adolescents.</p> <p><i>*Students who are not eligible to work on faculty research are welcome to propose a related independent project.*</i></p> <p>Prior experience or course-work in social science research methods required. Proficiency in Spanish or Haitian Kreyol preferred.</p> <p>To apply, please send a short statement that explains your interest in this position and qualifications as well as the names and emails of 2 faculty/ staff members willing to serve as a reference by January 22, 2024, to eallard1@swarthmore.edu</p>
Educational Studies	Roseann Liu	<p>RA-ship 1: create a catalog of the different AAPI non-profits in the Philadelphia region and Philadelphia regional resources for teaching AAPI history.</p> <p>RA-ship 2: literature review on toxicity, especially in relation to schools.</p>
Educational Studies	Jen Bradley	<p>RA-ship 1: community-engaged research on young children, families, and educators involved in joy & racial justice activism</p> <p>RA-ship 2: data analysis and lit review around “radical morning meeting”</p> <p><i>*Students who are not eligible to work on faculty research are welcome to propose a related independent project.*</i></p>
Educational Studies	Edwin Mayorga	<p>RA-ship 1: continued development of the BarrioEdProject curriculum, and analysis of the implementation and experience of the project.</p>

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		RA-ship 2: Support ongoing research on school and community partnership models in Philadelphia
History	Vivian Truong	RAs will contribute to a digital public history project on the archives of CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities (archives.caaav.org). RAs should have taken at least one course with me and should reach out to discuss.
History	Megan Brown	RAs will create annotated bibliography of secondary sources on topics including scandal, gender, age (childhood; adolescence), sexuality, and sexual assault. Possibility of some primary source research (ex: digitized newspapers) if RA is interested. Source content will include rape, sexual assault, and abuse of minors. Reading proficiency in French is encouraged but not required. Prior courses in History Dept. or relevant subjects preferred.
Latin American and Latino Studies Program	Thamyris Almeida	Prof. Almeida is looking for a research assistant for a project tracking discourse of specific television programs in the Brazilian press. The research assistant will need reading proficiency in Portuguese.
Linguistics	Kirby Conro	RAs will conduct and transcribe interviews and perform qualitative data analysis (identifying themes) looking at how trans, nonbinary, and gender-expansive English speakers use neopronouns (<i>xe</i> , <i>fae</i> , etc).
Linguistics	Maura O'Leary	RA will contribute to an ongoing language revitalization project with an endangered Dene (Athabaskan) language of Alaska in one of two ways. Option one is to help to create and edit language learning materials such as flashcards, phrasebooks, videos, or textbooks. Option two is to use computational methods to examine the morphological structure in verbal paradigms for this language - your findings will later be used to inform the creation of further language learning materials (RAs applying for option two should have taken LING 073).
Linguistics	Maura O'Leary	Email me to propose a project! (Projects should fall within one of the following areas, broadly construed: semantics, pragmatics, fieldwork, language revitalization, or pedagogy).
Peace and Conflict Studies	Michael Wilson-Becerril	RAs will co-create a 20-minute video, a podcast, and two short reels for the Peace Praxis Lab, a platform dedicated to making key, critical, actionable insights from Peace Studies scholarship (e.g., on colonialism, ecocide and environmental justice, and organizing) accessible to the public. RAs will collaborate to review existing research, synthesize information, write scripts with original insights, storyboard, and produce multimedia. Tasks will include post-production

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		editing, graphics, animation, and music/sound-scoring. Interested students can participate in any or all facets of this work, behind the scenes and/or in front of the cameras and microphones. Media savviness is welcome but not required.
Peace and Conflict Studies	Michael Wilson-Becerril	Students may propose a project to Prof. Wilson-Becerril, particularly in areas related to environmental justice, violence, resistance, the politics of soccer, and/or Latin American politics.
Peace & Conflict Studies	Sa'ed Atshan	Prof. Atshan will hire a research assistant for a project on African American and Palestinian Quakers. This will include archival research in the Friends Historical Library and Peace and Collection.
Peace & Conflict Studies	Lee Smithey	Prof. Smithey will hire a research assistant to assist with the development and analysis of an extensive spatial and longitudinal database of murals and memorial gardens across West Belfast, Northern Ireland. See https://muralmap.swarthmore.edu/ (Knowledge of Northern Ireland politics and/or experience with Atlas.ti and spreadsheets is helpful but not required.) Work can be done on campus or off.
Peace & Conflict Studies	Lee Smithey	Prof. Smithey seeks a student to assist with the development of the Global Nonviolent Action Database, particularly in preparing case work assignments for students who next take the Global Nonviolent Action Database Research Seminar. See https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu
Political Science	Sam Handlin	Prof. Handlin is looking for two research assistants to work on a project examining digital surveillance and secret policing. One of the research assistants will need advanced Spanish skills.
Political Science	Ayse Kaya	Prof.Kaya is looking for <u>two</u> research assistants to complete a large-scale project on multilateral climate finance, i.e. multilateral assistance flowing from richer to poorer countries for tackling climate change. The students need good quantitative skills, as they will be asked to use Excel at the very least. Stata (or R) and Python are preferable. Being able to run regressions is a plus.
Political Science	Firat Kimya	Prof. Kimya is undertaking a book project on elite political networks in Turkey and is seeking 1-2 research assistants to aid in data collection and review of existing literature on elite networks and Turkish democracy. Prof. Kimya prefers students with advanced Turkish language skills and proficiency in Microsoft Excel. The data collection process will involve utilizing online resources from the Turkish

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		National Assembly's archives.
Political Science	Carol Nackenoff	Richter Professor Emerita Nackenoff wishes to hire one RA for summer 2024 to help with archival and other research for her book project focusing on how organized progressive era women contributed to visions of American citizenship, conducted policy experiments, and played a key role in state building. Case studies focus on Protestant mission home work with Chinese women and girls in California, uneasy alliances between women's groups and women laborers during the suffrage struggle, the Immigrants' Protective League, women's social science research as a form of policy advocacy, attempts to remake Native Americans for a particular vision of citizenship, and the role of Black women in trying to establish day care (as opposed to mothers' pensions). Applicants should have a strong background in Political Science and/or American History; excellent writing skills are important. A few days of archival work are likely to take place in specific locations (e.g., Friends Historical Library, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C.) To apply, please send a short statement that explains your interest in, and qualifications for this position by February 7, 2024, to cnacken1@swarthmore.edu . Please include a short writing sample and resumé.
Political Science	Susanne Schwarz	Prof. Schwarz is looking for two research assistants to support her ongoing data collection efforts related to incarceration and public education in the U.S. South between the two Reconstructions. Students will be asked to assist in the transcription of handwritten convict records as well as the collection of administrative schooling data from state archival records. Students will be trained to help clean the data in relevant statistical programs such as Stata or R.
Political Science	Warren Snead	Prof. Snead is looking for one research assistant to support his book project on the Supreme Court and Public Policy. Specific tasks will include collecting and organizing historical newspapers, congressional records, and secondary literature. The student may also be asked to work on other projects broadly related to the U.S Supreme Court and its position in American democracy. The most qualified students will have strong organizational skills, a background in relevant coursework, and a general interest in law and courts.
Political Science	Dominic Tierney	Prof. Tierney is looking for 1-2 research assistants to work on projects relating to US foreign policy and national security. There is an option for the researchers to also work

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		as interns at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.
Psychology	Various faculty	The Psychology Research Panel will take place November 8 at 7p in Singer 033. Psychology faculty will describe their research, and various mechanisms for getting involved in Psychological labs will be discussed (including summer research opportunities).
Sociology & Anthropology	Daniel Laurison	Politics and Equal Participation Lab - open to current & spring semester students who are part of the lab