

Research Experiences for Students of Honours College (RESHC) Programme 2017

RESHC Ref. no	Faculty	Department	Mentor	Email	Project Title	Level	Durations	Commencement month	Project Description	Internship Requirement
RESHC/2017/024	FSS	DCOM	CAROL TING	tingyf@umac.mo	How External Environment Affects Cooperative Behavior in Public Good Dilemmas	L1 - 40 hours/month	6 months	May	The project investigates how external environment (resource growth vs. decline) affects cooperative behavior in public good dilemmas. By pitching individual interests against group interests, public good experiments allow researchers to observe factors affecting people's cooperative behavior. However, extant literature predominantly assumes static environmental factors, which limits the generalizability of findings. Introducing resource changes into the game, this project look at two important questions: (1) Does resource growth/decline change behavioral patterns observed in the typical setting of stable resource levels? (2) What can behavioral patterns under resource growth/decline tell us about how people interpret cooperative norms in different configurations of social dilemmas? Answers to these questions will provide crucial insights to the nature of human cooperation.	Data analysis Lit review Experiment Administration
RESHC/2017/025	FSS	DSOC	Jianhong Liu	jliu@umac.mo	Culture and Criminal Justice - Exploring an Asian Paradigm Theory of Criminal Law and Justice	L3 - 60 hours/month	6 months	May	Comparative criminal justice research has produced a very large amount literature that describes criminal justice systems in various countries (example: Daniels, et. al. 2003; Pieris, 2009; Tonry, 2007; Ebbe 2000). However, most literature has been essentially descriptive in nature. The most well-known theoretical work is Herbert L. Packer's two-fold typology (1968), which divides criminal justice systems into two types: The "due process model" and "crime control model". The most recent theoretical work is by Shahidullah (2014), who proposes a fourfold typology for cross-culture comparison of criminal justice systems. The two typologies have addressed different type of difference among world criminal justice systems, reflecting the authors' understandings of what differences are more important. Generally speaking, theory construction and development in the field has been seriously insufficient. The field needs systematic explanations for the variations found among criminal justice systems. The theory should have a broad scope and consists of general propositions to further our understandings of the variations that occur in the nature, conceptions, law, and operations of criminal justice systems in the world's societies. The prosed project will develop "a theory of relational justice" to systematically explain the persistent differences in criminal justice between Western societies and Asian societies.	1. The student should have sufficient background about the data entry, coding, case searching, and literature search, summary etc. 2. The student should work seriously and responsibly. 3. The student should meet the internship hours. 4. The student should complete the work assigned on time.
RESHC/2017/027	FSS	DPSY	Peilian Chi	peilianchi@umac.mo	Quality of Life and Health Behaviors Among Mainland Migrant Workers in Macau	L3 - 60 hours/month	6 months	May	Despite majority of the extant evidence suggests the distressing effects of parental illness on children's psychosocial health in short-term, it has become abundantly clear that over the longer term not every child responds parental illness in the same way. Literature in developmental science highlights that many children can maintain relatively positive psychological outcomes and be absent of negative outcomes during or following exposure to early life adversities. The developmental trajectory of positive adaptation despite significant adversity is referred as resilience. The proposed study aims to examine the long-term effects of parental HIV-related illness and death on children's biopsychosocial outcomes and identify the individual and contextual resources that facilitate resilience. We propose to incorporate a biomarker of HPA axis function—cortisol—with a set of psychosocial assessments to follow up a cohort of children who have experienced HIV-related parental illness and/or death during childhood as they transit into adulthood. Both variable-centered and person-centered approaches will be applied in analyzing four-wave data spanning from childhood to adulthood. This project contributes theorizing about children's long-term responses to parental illness and death with a focus on resilience. The findings are also expected to inform interventions that target developmentally sensitive mechanism of change for children made vulnerable by parental illness.	Responsibilities: 1. Learn longitudinal data analysis methods; 2. Help in finalize the questionnaire; 2. Join the lab meeting regularly ; 3. Take part in writing manuscripts, conference presentation, and grant writing. Requirements: 1. Major in Social Science, Communication, Education or related majors; 2. Proficiency in statistical skills is preferred; 3. Good problem-solving, communication and interpersonal skills; 4. Proficiency in Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and English.
RESHC/2017/028	FSS	DPSY	Peilian Chi	peilianchi@umac.mo	Neurophysiological evidence of affective reactions to death-related thoughts	L3 - 60 hours/month	6 months	May	In Macau, there are more than 100 thousands migrant workers from Mainland China, making up about one-third of the city's workforce. The workers face various life challenges, such as discrimination, acculturation stress, and inequality in income and fringe benefit. The current proposal is a continuous study of our on-going project (SRG2014-00022-FSS). In the previous study, we have conducted 45 in-depth interviews to explore issues related to mental health needs of mainland migrant workers in Macau. As predicted, our preliminary findings showed that migrant workers in Macau with low SES usually live in congested houses, separate from spouses and families, have low family incomes, and experience high level of discrimination. These challenges may lead to high risk of unhealthy behaviors (e.g., gambling, commercial sex). However, we also found some potential protective factors, such as social capital and resources, personal resilience and coping strategy, in buffering the negative effects of migration stress. The current study investigates the potential risk and protective factors for quality of life and healthy behaviors of migrant workers in Macau in a large sample (n = 900) in three major workplaces: construction companies, hotel and restaurants, and retail traders. We are finishing the data collection in this semester. Thus, the internship would offer you research experiences in data management, data analysis, and manuscript development.	The student will serve as a research assistant and be highly involved in data analysis in this project. Specifically, we expect the student: a) to develop a research question based on the available data; b) to analyze the data; c) to develop a publishable manuscript; d) to regularly join the lab meeting.

RESHC/2017/030	FSS	DPSY	Kay Chang	kchang@umac.mo	Study of Stigmatization related to Mental Illness	L3 - 60 hours/month	6 months	May	For many who struggled with mental illness and emotional conditions at some points in their lives, their recovery process is often painfully complicated by the overwhelming stigma and discrimination of mental illness in the community. Fear of mental illness stigma can be more damaging to an individual and the family than the actual mental condition itself, and stigma is regarded as one of the key barriers for access to and successful delivery of mental health services. These understudied misconceptions about mental illness exist in various settings and formats across the world, and social scientists are beginning to take on the task to study and report the impact of stigma and discrimination in recent years. Locally in Macau, there are no existing representative and systematic study of stigmatization towards mentally ill patients thus far. Therefore, the goal of this proposed project is to assess, quantify and analyze the nature and the magnitude of mental illness stigmatization affecting the Macau population.	The research intern would be involved in the following activities: 1. systematic literature reviews, 2. assisting the research team in developing study protocols, 3. mobile device programming, 4. preparation of manuscripts and conference presentations (as appropriate) 5. all other pertinent research duties.
RESHC/2017/031	FSS	DPSY	Brian James Hall	brianhall@umac.mo	A longitudinal mixed-methods study of mental disorders and psychosocial risk factors for domestic workers in Macau (SAR) and Hong Kong.	L3 - 60 hours/month	6 months	May	In this project, we are measuring health and mental health of local and migrant communities. This project will expose the student to qual and quant methods and issues related to health and mental health. This pioneering project aims to identify the major mental health disorders and determinants of these disorders within the Macau community dwelling adult population. This will be the first longitudinal study of its kind undertaken in Macau. The current project involves three research activities that utilize a mixed methods approach (qualitative and quantitative), which will be carried out during the next three years. The first involves focus groups and key informant interviews to provide an in-depth context specific analysis with key community stakeholders in order to define exposures and outcomes of particular local relevance. The second is an instrument adaptation and validation study, which will develop a quantitative assessment instrument and validate the study exposures and outcomes. Finally, a population random survey will include 5 measurements (baseline, 6-, 12-, 18-, and 24-month follow-up). The socioecological model is the motivating theoretical framework used in the present study. This framework organizes risk factors on individual (e.g., socioeconomic status), social (e.g., social networks and supports) and structural levels (e.g., stigma). The results of the present study are highly relevant to policy makers and community mental health providers and can significantly impact the public health.	The research intern would be involved in the following activities: 1. systematic literature reviews, 2. assisting the research team in developing study protocols, 3. mobile device programming, 4. preparation of manuscripts and conference presentations (as appropriate) 5. all other pertinent research duties.
RESHC/2017/032	FSS	DPSY	Brian James Hall	brianhall@umac.mo	A longitudinal mixed-methods study of mental disorders and psychosocial risk factors in Macau (SAR), People's Republic of China.	L3 - 60 hours/month	6 months	May	In this project, we are measuring health and mental health of local and migrant communities. This project will expose the student to qual and quant methods and issues related to health and mental health. From Grant abstract: This pioneering project aims to identify the major mental health disorders and determinants of these disorders within the Macau community dwelling adult population. This will be the first longitudinal study of its kind undertaken in Macau. The current project involves three research activities that utilize a mixed methods approach (qualitative and quantitative), which will be carried out during the next three years. The first involves focus groups and key informant interviews to provide an in-depth context specific analysis with key community stakeholders in order to define exposures and outcomes of particular local relevance. The second is an instrument adaptation and validation study, which will develop a quantitative assessment instrument and validate the study exposures and outcomes. Finally, a population random survey will include 5 measurements (baseline, 6-, 12-, 18-, and 24-month follow-up). The socioecological model is the motivating theoretical framework used in the present study. This framework organizes risk factors on individual (e.g., socioeconomic status), social (e.g., social networks and supports) and structural levels (e.g., stigma). The results of the present study are highly relevant to policy makers and community mental health providers and can significantly impact the public health.	The research intern would be involved in the following activities: 1. systematic literature reviews, 2. assisting the research team in developing study protocols, 3. mobile device programming, 4. preparation of manuscripts and conference presentations (as appropriate) 5. all other pertinent research duties.