

Research Assistant Position in Behavioral Science of Ethics and Decision-Making

Professors Michelle Meyer and Christopher Chabris are seeking an outstanding researcher for a position as a Research Assistant (RA) at Geisinger Health System. The RA will assist members of the Meyer-Chabris Lab in conducting grant-funded behavioral science research on decision-making within the contexts of healthcare, ethics, policy, and economics. Co-authorship of publications is possible and expected for RAs who contribute intellectually to projects. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone whose future plans may include graduate school in any field related to behavioral science or health.

The primary research topic the RA will work on is experiment aversion and other attitudes about randomized experiments (e.g., A/B testing, cluster randomized trials). See <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/116/22/10723.full.pdf> and <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/117/32/18948.full.pdf>.

Additional research topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Effectiveness and acceptability of behavioral interventions (e.g., “nudges”) to improve decision-making, especially related to health
- How people make welfare-affecting decisions for themselves and for others
- Beliefs about the boundaries between the moral and commercial domains (i.e., whether “some things should not be for sale”)
- Attitudes toward inequality
- Public understanding of genetic influences on behavior and health
- The comparative effectiveness of different approaches to informed consent in clinical and research settings
- Biases in group decision-making

This is initially a one-year position with additional years possible depending on performance. The RA will report to Professors Meyer and Chabris and will interact closely with postdoctoral researchers in the lab and also with other researchers across disciplines at Geisinger. The RA will be based in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania or, in the case of exceptional candidates, may work remotely. The RA will assist in planning and carrying out web-based experimental surveys and behavioral field studies, and in analyzing general patterns of responses as well as individual differences. S/he will conduct tasks such as preparing IRB and other research ethics applications; recruiting study participants; collecting, processing, coding, entering and managing data; reviewing scientific literature; helping to prepare presentations, manuscripts, and grant applications; and other functions in the lab group. We are particularly interested in candidates with strong statistical and/or computational skills.

Required qualifications:

- B.A. or B.S. degree (completed by start of employment) in psychology or another social science, computer science, or any other relevant scientific discipline
- Coursework in behavioral science research methods and statistics
- Experience with Microsoft and/or Google business applications

In addition to the required qualifications listed above, the successful candidate will likely possess at least some of the following:

- Experience with statistical software (preferably R, others acceptable)
- Scientific publications or conference posters/presentations
- Experience in interdisciplinary research, working in collaborative teams, and supervising undergraduate student research assistants
- Experience with programming, preferably including web programming
- Experience with survey research and survey software (e.g., Qualtrics, Amazon Mechanical Turk, REDCap)
- Experience cleaning and coding data
- Experience drafting IRB applications and research protocols

Duration: This is a one-year position with the expectation of renewal for additional years conditional on performance and funding.

Start date: ASAP or by summer 2020 (start date negotiable).

Applications should be sent to RAmeyerchabrislab@gmail.com. With your application, please include: a brief cover letter explaining your interest in the position in light of your past experience and your professional goals; your C.V./resumé; up to two writing samples (preferably scientific writing); and the names, titles, and contact information for at least two references. Questions about the position may be sent to the same email address. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

Geisinger Health System is a large, integrated health services organization that, through its 12 hospital campuses, serves more than 3 million residents throughout 45 counties in central, south-central and northeastern Pennsylvania, and in southern New Jersey. As a learning health system, Geisinger integrates research into all aspects of medicine and healthcare delivery. Research at Geisinger benefits from the system's 25 years of electronic health records, its clinical data warehouse, and its rapidly growing biobank (more than 250,000 patient-participants consented for whole exome genetic sequencing, with over 145,000 exomes sequenced to date). Geisinger's location in Lewisburg, PA, is within a three-hour drive of New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Lewisburg is home to Bucknell University and is about one hour east of Pennsylvania State University.

Professor Meyer: <http://www.michellenmeyer.com>

Professor Chabris: <http://www.chabris.com>

Research at Geisinger: <http://www.geisinger.org/research/>