

UCI School of Social Ecology

Field Study

Fall '25 School of Social Ecology- Based Placements Catalog

Types of Placements Available:

- **Research Assistantships (RA) – Site # 1000**

- Research assistant positions with faculty within the School of Social Ecology**

- **Learning Assistantships (LA)- Site # 1001**

- Learning assistant positions for courses within the School of Social Ecology**
- Learn more about Learning Assistantships here:

<https://dtei.uci.edu/certified-learning-assistants-program-clap/>

Helpful Reminders:

- ** Research and Learning Assistants WITHIN the School of Social Ecology, NOT LISTED on this catalog, could be approved as a field study placement as long as you have approval from the faculty in charge of using their lab/class as a field study placement and they agree to take on the role of supervisor
- **Research and Learning Assistants OUTSIDE of the School of Social Ecology must be reviewed and approved by the Field Study Director before they can be submitted as a field placement. Submit a [Research Assistant and Learning Assistant Clearance Form](#).
- **IMPORTANT: Please carefully read about the unit and enrollment requirements for research/learning assistantship positions [HERE](#) before applying.

If you have any questions, contact us
at sefieldstudy@uci.edu!

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
R.E.S.I.S.T	Placements available = 6
Supervisor Information	
Name: Teresa Dalton	
Title: Professor of Teaching	
Email Address: tdalton@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
RESIST Research Lab Mission Statement Core Mission The RESIST Research Lab advances understanding of gender-based violence through rigorous research and develops evidence-based interventions to prevent abuse, reduce harm, and support survivor recovery. Our interdisciplinary approach combines legal scholarship, social science research, and psychological analysis to address the multifaceted challenges facing survivors of intimate partner violence and related abuse. Research Approach Our multidisciplinary methodology examines the legal, social, and psychological dimensions of victimization through both quantitative and qualitative research methods. We conduct systematic analyses of justice outcomes and institutional barriers to justice, utilizing Public Records Act requests and interviews/survey results to generate understanding of patterns and enforcement of legal protections in gender-based violence cases. Translational Research and Impact Beyond empirical investigation, we pursue translational research projects designed to improve direct support for survivors. Our current initiatives include developing comprehensive resource guides that provide survivors with clear, accessible information about legal system navigation, recognizing abuser tactics, and accessing available support services. Understanding Victim Experiences and Barriers Through empirical criminological research, we examine both direct and indirect costs experienced by gender-based violence survivors. Our work identifies and analyzes recovery pathways available to survivors while documenting the barriers they encounter when pursuing these options. Recognizing that multiple factors contribute to recovery challenges and the lasting effects of gender-based violence, our research prioritizes identifying which factors are most critical to address under current conditions and warrant further investigation based on their impact on victim outcomes and support practices. We will also be helping to inform new legislation for the State of California to consider this fall. Research Priorities Our research agenda focuses on generating actionable insights that can inform policy, practice, and intervention development. By examining the intersection of legal systems, social structures, and individual experiences, we aim to contribute to more effective responses to gender-based violence and improved outcomes for survivors.	
Requirements (subject to change)	
Minimum Criteria for Applicants Minimum 3.0 GPA in your major Demonstrated interest in research related to gender-based violence, trauma, or social justice Relevant coursework preferred (examples include): SOCECOL 10 – Research Design SOCECOL 13 – Statistical Analysis in Social Ecology SOCECOL 190 – Applied Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences PSCI 137H – Human Stress C100 – Trauma (Social Ecology) Resume Cover letter describing your interest in gender-based violence research and your potential contributions to the lab Writing sample or coursework sample Clear explanation of how your major or academic discipline applies to gender-based violence research Description of any prior research experience (if applicable)	

How to Apply
Yes, please resumes without cover letters will not be considered. Interest in our lab is demonstrated with doing cover letters

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Remote
Racial Justice Act Project	Placements available = 5
Supervisor Information	
Name: Mona Lynch	
Title: Professor	
Email Address: lynchm@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
The project is a statewide survey of California criminal defense attorneys on their knowledge about and use of the California Racial Justice Act. Students will work on developing a sampling frame of all criminal defense attorneys in the state using the California Bar attorney search engine.	
Requirements (subject to change)	
Minimum GPA 3.0	
How to Apply	
email me with resume and email letter of interest.	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Human Rights and Technology Lab	Placements available = 4
Supervisor Information	
Name: Nicole Iturriaga	
Title: Assistant Professor	
Email Address: n.iturriaga@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
The laboratory will serve undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty who have an interest in the intersection of human rights and technology social science research. The lab's primary functions will be to support new and ongoing research and to build a thriving academic community on campus. This will be accomplished in several ways. First, after being properly trained, undergraduate students will have the opportunity to work as research assistants on projects associated with the lab. Second, the graduate students will workshop their ongoing projects, share updates, get feedback, and, if their projects need additional support, have access to the undergraduate research assistants. Having a tiered effect will ensure that the laboratory remains consistent and productive and will aid in the educational development of all the students involved. Third, due to these opportunities, the lab will help all students develop mentoring relationships with faculty. Fourth, there will be weekly lab meetings to review the progress of the research projects. And finally, the Human Rights and Technology Lab will advance further collaboration and research development by hosting workshops for visiting scholars, both from the UCI community, as well as other universities, with similar research interests.	
Requirements (subject to change)	
3.5 GPA	
How to Apply	
Email resume, cover letter to waggoner@uci.edu	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Just Energy Transformation Lab	Placements available = 4
Supervisor Information	
Name: Dr. Dominic Bednar	
Title: Assistant Professor	
Email Address: dbednar@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
The Just Energy Transformation Lab (JET Lab) is an interdisciplinary research group committed to advancing equity and justice through transformative energy solutions. Our work centers on producing research that equitably transforms urban infrastructure while addressing the evolving impacts of climate change.'	
Requirements (subject to change)	
Minimum GPA 3.0. Urban Planning, public policy, engineering, and urban studies majors.	
How to Apply	
Email resume & cover letter	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid
Business Public Campaigns on Climate Change Laws and Economic Impacts	Placements available = 2
Supervisor Information	
Name: Dr.Michael Méndez	
Title: Associate Professor	
Email Address: mamende6@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
The research project will investigate the methods business groups (i.e., oil, energy, and agriculture) are engaging in public awareness campaigns at the local and state levels regarding climate change and environmental laws that they perceive as economic burdens. In particular, the research assistant will explore how campaigns are targeted to low-income and moderate-income households of color to influence their perception that these laws negatively impact job creation and household costs. The students will develop background memos, archival research, and potentially interviews to understand these issues further.	
Requirements (subject to change)	
Strong research and writing skills are preferred.	
How to Apply	
Submit: A cover letter and Resume	