

# UC Irvine

## Field Study

### Winter '26 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

- **Within the School of Social Ecology:**  
Research or Learning Assistant positions **not listed in the catalog** may still be approved as a Field Study placement. You must have approval from the faculty member overseeing the lab/class and their agreement to serve as your supervisor.
- **Outside the School of Social Ecology:**  
Research or Learning Assistant positions **must first be reviewed and approved** by the Field Study Director. To request this, submit a [Research and Learning Assistant Clearance Form](#).
- **Important:**  
Before applying, please review the **unit and enrollment requirements** for Research/Learning Assistantship positions [\[HERE\]](#).

If you have any questions, contact us  
at [sefieldstudy@uci.edu](mailto:sefieldstudy@uci.edu)!

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Human Rights and Technology Lab	<b>Placements available = 2</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Nicole Iturriaga	
Title: Assistant Professor at UC Irvine in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, and Sociology	
Email Address: n.iturriaga@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>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.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
3.5 GPA	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
email with resume and cover letter	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Housing policy change in California	<b>Placements available = 3</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Alejandra Reyes	
Title: Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy	
Email Address: lreyesru@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>Alongside state reforms, more effectively encouraging local governments to plan for local and regional housing needs, grassroots organizing is pushing cities in California to shift their housing politics and policies. While jurisdictions, particularly homogenous and affluent ones, continue to oppose housing policy change, some cities, notably lower-income and diverse ones, are passing stronger rent control and tenant protections in response to political pressure from residents and activists, going beyond state mandates. Following their lead, cities are establishing housing funds, rolling back initiatives that restrict development, implementing or expanding inclusionary zoning, among other strategies. This research examines the influence of state intervention and grassroots mobilizing on the evolution of housing politics and local governance, making use of spatial analyses and the analysis of over 800 news articles, 100 public meetings, and complementary government documents.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
Interest in housing policy, excellent reading and writing skills, GIS knowledge a plus.	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
Email resume and brief statement of interest/fit.	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	In-person
Stress, Emotion, and Physical Health Lab (Pressman STEP Lab)	<b>Placements available = 3</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Sarah Pressman	
Title: Professor of Psychology and an Associate Dean in the Division of Undergraduate Education	
Email Address: <a href="mailto:pressman@uci.edu">pressman@uci.edu</a>	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>Varied- see STEP lab website for some examples (<a href="https://sarahpressman.wixsite.com/ucistep/lab">https://sarahpressman.wixsite.com/ucistep/lab</a>)</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>3.3 GPA required, preferred experience taking courses related to health psychology and/or positive psychology</p>	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
<p>fill out link and also email Dr. Pressman with interest statement.  <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmg9CVYrT6lDw-o5Nw5barAGU5FJMh2HHuc5uhvCkNErmrg/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmg9CVYrT6lDw-o5Nw5barAGU5FJMh2HHuc5uhvCkNErmrg/viewform</a> </p>	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Learning Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	In-person
184S Positive Psychology	<b>Placements available = 4</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Sarah Pressman	
Title: Professor of Psychology and an Associate Dean in the Division of Undergraduate Education	
Email Address: pressman@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>184S Positive Psychology</p> <p>Learning Assistants (LAs) are undergraduate peer educators who work with students in the classroom setting to support and facilitate active learning in courses that are traditionally difficult or have high enrollment. LAs are required to enroll in a 2-unit LA pedagogy/training course concurrent to their first quarter as an LA (in addition to the SE 195/SE 195W course). LAs are an important part of the instructional team. In the classroom, LAs support professors and graduate teaching assistants (TAs) with active learning -- typically in the form of group activities or discussions. Outside the classroom, LAs meet, reflect, and plan course curriculum and student progress with professors and TAs weekly.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
They should have taken positive psychology already and gotten an A or higher	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
<p>Fill out the link and also email Dr. Pressman with an interest statement.</p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmg9CVYrT6lDw-o5Nw5barAGU5FJMh2HHuc5uhvCkNErmrg/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmg9CVYrT6lDw-o5Nw5barAGU5FJMh2HHuc5uhvCkNErmrg/viewform</a></p>	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Just Energy Transformation Lab	<b>Placements available = 3</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Dr. Dominic Bednar	
Title: Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy	
Email Address: dbednar@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>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.'</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
Min. 3.0 GPA.	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
Email w/ Resume & Coverletter	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Learning Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	NOT AVAILABLE
Energy Justice and Just Transitions - UPP 132	<b>Placements available = 2</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Dr. Dominic Bednar	
Title: Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy	
Email Address: dbednar@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>Course: Energy Justice and Just Transitions - UPP 132</p> <p>Learning Assistants (LAs) are undergraduate peer educators who work with students in the classroom setting to support and facilitate active learning in courses that are traditionally difficult or have high enrollment. LAs are required to enroll in a 2-unit LA pedagogy/training course concurrent to their first quarter as an LA (in addition to the SE 195/SE 195W course). LAs are an important part of the instructional team. In the classroom, LAs support professors and graduate teaching assistants (TAs) with active learning -- typically in the form of group activities or discussions. Outside the classroom, LAs meet, reflect, and plan course curriculum and student progress with professors and TAs weekly.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>Previously taken 'UPPP132: Sustainability II' with Dr. Bednar in the Winter 2025 quarter or research/other experiences in energy/environmental justice</p>	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
Email w/ Resume & Cover letter	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Environmental policy research with Ulibarri Research Group	<b>Placements available = 2</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Nicola Ulibarri	
Title: Assistant Professor, Urban Planning and Public Policy School of Social Ecology	
Email Address: ulibarri@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>The Ulibarri Research Group studies ways to design regulations and decision-making processes to yield better social and environmental outcomes. We focus on water resource management, coastal resilience, and infrastructure siting, all with an eye toward building more adaptive and equitable environmental governance. Sample projects might include reviewing plans and policies to evaluate whether/how they support environmental justice, climate adaptation, or other sustainability-related goals; surveying or interviewing government agency or nonprofit employees to understand barriers they face in implementing policies; or reconstructing a decision-making process (e.g., collaboration, use of science) from meeting minutes. Our research is fundamentally mixed method, interdisciplinary, and practically oriented.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>Applicants should be organized, self-motivated, and have high attention to detail. Coursework, career interests, or related experience in environmental policy or governance is a plus.</p>	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
To apply, email a resume and cover letter to ulibarri@uci.edu	



<b>OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Mapping Law Enforcement	<b>Placements available = 1</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Amanda Geller	
Title: Associate Professor of Criminology, Law and Society	
Email Address: hberk@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>I'd like to engage a student in helping me code recent incidents of immigration raids in Southern California, based on videos from 'LA Taco', a local independent news source. Students may gain experience and skills in mapping and geocoding as well as data curation and management.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>Student must have taken C139 or C106 with me and received an A- or higher. Students must have at least one statistics course. Ideally that class would involve statistical software training, but that's not required.</p>	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
<p>Email me (agellers@uci.edu) a resume and a statement of interest and experience (&lt;1 page).</p>	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Learning Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	In-person
C100: Criminal Justice and Public Health	<b>Placements available = 1</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Amanda Geller	
Title: Associate Professor of Criminology, Law and Society	
Email Address: hberk@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>C100: Criminal Justice and Public Health</p> <p>Learning Assistants (LAs) are undergraduate peer educators who work with students in the classroom setting to support and facilitate active learning in courses that are traditionally difficult or have high enrollment. LAs are required to enroll in a 2-unit LA pedagogy/training course concurrent to their first quarter as an LA (in addition to the SE 195/SE 195W course). LAs are an important part of the instructional team. In the classroom, LAs support professors and graduate teaching assistants (TAs) with active learning -- typically in the form of group activities or discussions. Outside the classroom, LAs meet, reflect, and plan course curriculum and student progress with professors and TAs weekly.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>Since course is new, I'd like a student who has preformed well in prior courses I have taught (c106 or c139, receiving an A- or better). Please submit a resume and statement (&lt;1 page) of interest, including any experience in the field of public health.</p>	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
<p>Email me (agellers@uci.edu) a resume and a statement of interest and experience (&lt;1 page).</p>	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Learning Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	Remote
SE13: Statistical Analysis in Social Ecology; P122D: Psychology of Success	<b>Placements available = 4</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Amy Dent	
Title: Associate Professor of Teaching of Psychological Science	
Email Address: amy.dent@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>SE13: Statistical Analysis in Social Ecology; P122D: Psychology of Success</p> <p>Learning Assistants (LAs) are undergraduate peer educators who work with students in the classroom setting to support and facilitate active learning in courses that are traditionally difficult or have high enrollment. LAs are required to enroll in a 2-unit LA pedagogy/training course concurrent to their first quarter as an LA (in addition to the SE 195/SE 195W course). LAs are an important part of the instructional team. In the classroom, LAs support professors and graduate teaching assistants (TAs) with active learning -- typically in the form of group activities or discussions. Outside the classroom, LAs meet, reflect, and plan course curriculum and student progress with professors and TAs weekly.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>To be eligible to apply for a Learning Assistant position in my offering of SE13, students must have taken and passed SE13 with me as its Instructor, earning a minimum grade of B+. ; To be eligible to apply for a Learning Assistant position in my offering of P122D, students must have taken and passed P122D with me as its Instructor, earning a minimum grade of B+.</p>	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
Email Professor Dent	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Learning Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name:</b>	Remote
SE13: Statistical Analysis in Social Ecology	<b>Placements available = 4</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Amy Dent	
Title: Associate Professor of Teaching of Psychological Science	
Email Address: amy.dent@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>Course: SE13: Statistical Analysis in Social Ecology</p> <p>Learning Assistants (LAs) are undergraduate peer educators who work with students in the classroom setting to support and facilitate active learning in courses that are traditionally difficult or have high enrollment. LAs are required to enroll in a 2-unit LA pedagogy/training course concurrent to their first quarter as an LA (in addition to the SE 195/SE 195W course). LAs are an important part of the instructional team. In the classroom, LAs support professors and graduate teaching assistants (TAs) with active learning -- typically in the form of group activities or discussions. Outside the classroom, LAs meet, reflect, and plan course curriculum and student progress with professors and TAs weekly.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>To be eligible to apply for a Learning Assistant position in my offering of SE13, students must have taken and passed SE13 with me as its Instructor, earning a minimum grade of B+.</p>	
<b>How to Apply</b>	
Email Professor Dent	

<b>OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant</b>	<b>Virtual/Remote/Hybrid</b>
<b>Placement Name</b>	Hybrid
R.E.S.I.S.T	<b>Placements available = 6</b>
<b>Supervisor Information</b>	
Name: Teresa Dalton	
Title: Professor of Teaching	
Email Address: tdalton@uci.edu	
<b>Placement Information</b>	
<p>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.</p>	
<b>Requirements (subject to change)</b>	
<p>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)</p>	

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