Field and Lab Testing of Novel Tablet Computer Assessments of Social and Emotional Learning in San Francisco

Applications due May 16 at 12:00 PM Pacific

Faculty Mentor: Jelena Obradović

Project Description: Social and emotional learning refers to non-academic skills that are crucial for children’s success in school. Dr. Jelena Obradović (https://web.stanford.edu/group/sparklab/) is designing a novel tablet computer app to measure social and emotional learning in elementary school students (grades K-5). These games will test students ability to delay gratification, think flexibly, remember information, control behavior, tolerate frustration, persevere, and challenge themselves. Measuring these skills is crucial because they are associated with physical and mental health, educational attainment, and career success. But existing table-top assessment tools are time consuming, require extensive training, and are difficult to administer consistently. The innovative tablet-based assessment will provide an accessible, standardized, and low cost alternative for educators and researchers, and can be used in a group setting to assess many children simultaneously.

Dr. Obradović is seeking a research assistant to assist with validating this app in both field and lab settings. Our research team will pilot this app at museums, libraries, summer camps, and other field sites in San Francisco. The data obtained from field testing will be used to calibrate the difficulty of the apps, improve the user interface, and identify programming errors so that the apps can be used confidently to collect data from thousands of students in large scale research and evaluation projects. We will also conduct more intensive lab-based studies at Stanford using the app to understand how children's autonomic nervous system activity supports their social and emotional learning skills.

The research assistant will gain practical experience in field and lab based research, and will learn about psychophysiology and social and emotional learning skills. The ideal candidate will be friendly, outgoing, and enjoy working with parents and children. Work hours will include weekends. Having a valid driver’s license and access to a car is desirable, but not required.

To Apply: Visit https://cepa.stanford.edu/training/vpue