DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Northeastern University faculty are constantly engaged in innovative and sometimes provocative research. NU’s Sociologists and Anthropologists are no exception. Undergraduates can be involved in faculty research if you so choose, and doing so offers many advantages. It not only enriches your undergraduate experience, but also enhances your future career as well.

Below you’ll find some information about how to be involved in faculty research projects, or even to embark on your own research project, with the guidance of a faculty mentor, where this can be arranged.

Support from the University
The Provost’s Office has established an Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, which has established a Project-based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Awards, which offers a number of opportunities, including paid fellowships and intern opportunities. Go to the PEAK Experience webpage for more information. Advice about how to connect with faculty mentors can be found here.

Support from the College of Social Sciences and Humanities
The CSSH Dean’s Office has established a program called the Undergraduate Research Initiative, a selective program which provides funding for students who wish to engage in research under the supervision of a faculty mentor. More information can be found at the URI webpage here.

Support from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Our Department maintains several Centers and programs that actively involve undergraduates in projects of three kinds. Some are driven by research Institutes or Centers. Others are prompted by grants. And still others are promoted by individual faculty members needing assistance in their own research. Below is a sampling of each kind.

- **The Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research**, led by Dr. Alisa Lincoln, maintains a program for Undergraduate Health Equity Interns. Undergraduates can apply to be involved by contacting Suzanne Garverich at s.garverich@northeastern.edu.
• **The Social Science Environmental Health Institute** is conducting several projects on the politics and health consequences of toxic chemicals. One project is on the carcinogens used in the manufacturing of Teflon, Scotchgard, and other products (Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances, to be precise. Undergraduates can apply to be involved in this project by contacting Dr. Phil Brown at p.brown@northeastern.edu, or by going here for more information.

• **The Brudnick Center on Violence on Conflict**, founded by Drs. Jack Levin and Gordana Rabrenovic, provides co-ops for undergraduates. Interested students should contact Dr. Rabrenovic at g.rabrenovic@northeastern.edu.

• **Ongoing faculty projects (among others)**
  
o **The Diffusion of Ideas on Gender Equity at US Universities.** This is an NSF-funded project studying how social networks influence the spread of equal opportunity practices at US universities. Undergraduates can apply to be involved in this project by contacting the Principal Investigator, Dr. Kathrin Zippel at k.zippel@northeastern.edu

  o **Housing Insecurity in Urban India.** This project entails analysis of newspaper archives and background secondary research on the history and contemporary politics of “slum” evictions and anti-eviction activism in India’s major cities. Undergraduates can apply to be involved in this project by contacting Dr. Liza Weinstein at l.weinstein@northeastern.edu

  o **The transition to adulthood among people with invisible, neurobiological disabilities.** Kaitlyn Eri Lee is assisting Dr. Linda Blum (l.blum@northeastern.edu).