

F22.009: Sociocultural Dimensions of COVID-19

Faculty mentor: Lisa Hardy

Overview

The Sociocultural Dimensions of COVID-19 began in the first days of the pandemic to research and understand how people in the United States deal with social and health consequences of this public health crisis. The project has grown into a nine-country collaborative study using interviews and questionnaires. We have published a book and multiple articles in the news and in academic journals on the project. The ultimate goal is to contribute to public health strategies and future disaster response by documenting and analyzing real time data on the social, political, economic, and health consequences of COVID-19. We have an opportunity available for an undergraduate student to learn how to conduct semi-structured interviews and conduct fieldwork with our team. Students will work with Dr. Lisa Hardy in the Social Science Community Engagement Lab. Work can be remote or in person.

What the student will DO and LEARN

An undergraduate student will have the opportunity to work with graduate students and faculty on the project. The student will become familiar with social science and medical anthropology perspectives and methods through training sessions associated with independent study credits with Dr. Hardy. Once training is complete the student will have the opportunity to conduct semi-structured interviews and participate in transcription and analysis. There will be opportunities to co-author and co-present the findings of the research. Skills in qualitative research and interdisciplinary health partnerships are highly valued on the current job market. The student will also contribute to the larger data set through their work on the project. We are particularly interested in working with a student from a previously underrepresented group and possibly someone who has strong community ties. We have full IRB approval for the project and can add the student to the application through an amendment.

Additional benefits

The student will become familiar with medical anthropology as a discipline including how social scientists put their skills to work in the world. This work is centered on pandemic response which is a notable area for skills and knowledge in job opportunities. Skills of qualitative interviewing and working on an interdisciplinary health team are highly valued on the current job market meaning that the student will enhance their resume for future work experiences. The student will also take the CITI research course and become familiar with the ethics of research for the IRB application. There will be opportunities for connecting with an international team, co-authoring, and co-presenting the research. The undergraduate will work with a faculty member and graduate student focused on health and social justice. This will allow the student time to learn about possibilities in social science and health careers at all levels of education and become familiar with opportunities for graduate studies. Our hope would be to integrate the student into the research in a way that would certainly benefit the project and, more importantly, benefit the student in building their knowledge and skills in timely pandemic response. Please note that we are requesting 30 weeks though would be happy with 15 weeks as well.

Additional qualifications

It may be easier for a student who has taken a research methods course though this is not required. We are especially interested in offering this opportunity to students coming from different backgrounds that are historically underrepresented with regard to race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, and people living with disabilities.

Time commitment

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks