Faculty mentors: Ellen Markman

Research supervisor(s):
Marianna Zhang, graduate student, marianna.zhang@stanford.edu

Project topic(s): How children learn about social categories

Brief description of scientific issues:
How do we learn about social categories, such as gender and race? We study children’s conceptions of social categories, and how they are shaped by the language children hear. Recent projects from lab have asked: How can we get children to consider the role of social structure in group differences? What do children learn from common ways White parents talk about race? Do best-selling storybooks effectively combat gender stereotypes about STEM? See http://markmanlab.stanford.edu for more info.

Skills required:
Interest in developmental psychology, basic understanding of experimental design, prior coursework in psychology (at least 1 psychology class).

Strongly recommended to have prior experience and interest in interacting with children and families (e.g. camp counseling, babysitting, caretaking of younger family members). Helpful but not required to be familiar with R (especially tidyverse), PowerPoint, Excel, Google Sheets, and graphic design.

Skills to be learned:
Reading papers to understand the scientific literature on a topic, developing research questions, the logic of psychological experiments, collecting data from children, analyzing/visualizing data in R, collaborating/working with other research assistants and researchers, communicating science to other scientists and the public. Broadly, what it’s like to do research in psychology, and life as a researcher / graduate student.

Hours: Full time