

# RA WORKSHOP

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KANAKO TAKU AND KYLE VENS

**Why should you participate in research,  
not just as a subject or participant but  
also as a research assistant?**



# REASONS YOU SHOULD BE A RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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- Build a **professional relationship with faculty** and other students that have similar goals.
- Introduce you to research and the research process that will better prepare you for **Graduate school** if you continue past your bachelors.
- Be able to apply what you learn in the classroom, which in turn should help you to be **successful in class**.
- Make an impact by **presenting at conferences or publishing studies with faculty**.
- Strengthen your application (GPA, recommendation letter, etc.)

## How do you become a research assistant?

- Take Introduction to Psychology, Research Methods, and statistics early.
- Look at <http://www.oakland.edu/psychology> to find what professors at OU are currently researching.
- APPLY!
  - **PSY 483-485: Readings and Research**
  - **PSY 487-489: Research Apprenticeship**
  - **PSY 494: Honors Independent Study**
  - **Volunteer: don't get credit (less demanding)**

Faculty	Recruitment
Keith Williams	Maybe winter 2017?
Martha Escobar	YES
Lisa Welling	YES
Scott Pickett	Probably not
Dean Purcell	In the fall 2017
Andrea Kozak	NA
Mary Lewis	Maybe?
Melissa McDonald	Not right now
Deb McGinnis	Maybe?
Lakshmi Raman	In the fall 2017
Virgil Zeigler-Hill	YES
Todd Shackelford	Not right now
Cindy Sifonis	In the fall 2017
Jennifer Vonk	YES
Kanakano Taku	In the fall 2017
Matthew McLarnon	YES open for winter 2017

# MARTHA ESCOBAR

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- Research Interests:
  - Animal models of pathological fear and resiliency to fear
  - Biological basis of memory and memory dysfunction
  - Casual learning
- Looking for RA's: NA
- Contact info: [marthaescobar@oakland.edu](mailto:marthaescobar@oakland.edu)

# ANDREA KOZAK

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- Research Interests
  - Obesity
  - Factors
  - Diets
  - Consequences of obesity
- Looking for RA's: NA
- Contact information: [kozak@oakland.edu](mailto:kozak@oakland.edu)

# EBERLY MARY LEWIS

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- Research Interests:
  - Prosocial behavior in adolescents
  - Moral development in adolescents
- Looking for RA's: maybe
- [eberly@oakland.edu](mailto:eberly@oakland.edu)



# DEBRA MCGINNIS

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- Research Interests:
  - Cognitive change related to language processes in older adults
  - Critical thinking
- Looking for RA's: Maybe
- Contact info: [mcginnis@oakland.edu](mailto:mcginnis@oakland.edu)

# SCOTT PICKETT

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- Research Interests
  - Trauma, stress and anxiety
  - Investigate the consequences of traumatic experiences and the mechanisms may promote or hinder recover
  - Looking for RA's: probably not
- Contact info: [pickett@oakland.edu](mailto:pickett@oakland.edu)

# DEAN PURCELL

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- Research Interests
  - The impact of facial affect on human performance
  - Impact of emotional content of faces on speed of responding
- Looking for RA's: In the fall of 2017
- Contact info: [purcell@oakland.edu](mailto:purcell@oakland.edu)

# MICHELE PARKHILL PURDIE

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- Research Interests
  - Predictors and consequences of sexual assault
- Looking for RA's: NA
- Contact Info: [parkhill@oakland.edu](mailto:parkhill@oakland.edu)

# LAKSHMI RAMAN

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- Research Interests
  - Children's cognitive development with respect to children's understanding of food
  - Examines folk theories
  - Looking for RA's: In the fall of 2017
- Contact info: [raman@oakland.edu](mailto:raman@oakland.edu)

# CYNTHIA SIFONIS

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- Research Interests
  - The relationship between category representation and category use
  - Music and meaning of music
- Looking for RA's: In the fall of 2017
- Contact info: [sifonis@oakland.edu](mailto:sifonis@oakland.edu)

# DR KANAKO TAKU

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- Research Interests
  - Post traumatic growth: Positive psychological change after experiencing trauma
  - Predicting factors of PTG
  - Personal interests: Religion and PTG
- Looking for RA's: In the fall of 2017
- Contact information: [taku@oakland.edu](mailto:taku@oakland.edu)

# JENNIFER VONK

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- Research Interests
  - Animal cognition research
    - Frogs, bears, mice
  - Cognitive continuities and discontinuities between humans and closely and not so closely related species
- Looking for RA's: Yes
- Contact info: [vonk@oakland.edu](mailto:vonk@oakland.edu)



# LISA WELLING

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- Research Interests
  - Hormonal and psychological sources of individual differences in human mate preferences and behavior
- Looking for RA's: Yes
- Contact info: [welling@oakland.edu](mailto:welling@oakland.edu)

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