

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Support for Prevention Science in Utah

Prevention Science (PSc) is the best solution for social problems in Utah, including crime, disease, and poverty rates. But resources (land, labor, and capital) needed for PSc are controlled by the chief elected/executive officials or CEOs. Little is known about the willingness of Aggies to support PSc programs that can save dozens of lives and millions of tax dollars every year in Utah.

The CEOs are the 1% that control 100% of critical resources needed for prevention science. CEO support will increase communitywide safety, health, and employment (SHE) rates everywhere. We will measure and monitor the levels PSc support using the interviews and survey data gathered by undergraduate students.



Gain research experience in any degree while supporting PSc. Students will gain proposal/grant writing experience, writing and publishing peer-reviewed publications. Additional research opportunities include project planning and logistics, transcribing interviews, and processing/analyzing data. Earn internships credits, capstone credits, service-learning, special Project Classes, certificates, honors projects, and independent Study. Qualified students may also be paid with Work study grant funding.

Dr. Sam Arungwa – Sociology – Sam.arungwa@usu.edu
Timing: Fall/Spring/Summer 2020-2030

The Origins of the United States Prosecutor

The position of prosecutor in the United States is unique in that they have a near monopoly on the authority to prosecute crimes and wide discretion when choosing how to prosecute a case. There have been several historical positions cited as influences on the United States prosecutor. One of the historical positions that has been cited is the Dutch schout.

For this research, I am going through court records from 17th century New Amsterdam to determine to what extent the schout had a monopoly on the authority to prosecute during that time frame. To do this, I need to create a data set from those court records that indicates which criminal cases were prosecuted by the schout and which were prosecuted by someone else. I could use the help of undergraduate students (up to 4) that would be interested in gaining experience on compiling data sets from existing historical documents. The court records that students would be using to create this data set are all digitized. Thus, I can easily send the records to students at any of USU's statewide campuses, and those students can complete the data set compilation at home.

Unfortunately, there is no funding available at this time for undergraduate students looking to help. However, earning course credit is a possibility we can discuss.

For those interested, please contact Jason Twede (jason.twede@usu.edu).

Bride Kidnapping, Labor Migration, and Household Expenditures in Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan is one of the most remittance-dependent countries in the world, with large numbers of labor migrants working in Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkey. Kyrgyzstan is also characterized by unique family formation patterns, with around one third of marriages taking place following a ritualized tradition of bride kidnapping. These two things interact in interesting ways, with bride kidnapping serving as a driver of future labor migration. For the past two years, I have been working with survey data collected in Kyrgyzstan in 2017 to examine the relationship between bride kidnapping and migration. Now I want to use the same survey data to look at remittances and household expenditure. A research assistant could help with both literature review and analysis of the survey data. No funding is available at this time, but I'm happy to consider course credit.

For information, contact: Dr. Erin Hofmann, erin.hofmann@usu.edu, 202-468-7107.