

Summer Research Project

Faculty of Culture and Society

Project One

Reading Communities Publications

Contact: Dr Ruth Boyask ruth.boyask@aut.ac.nz

- **The nature of the research**

This proposal is for a summer scholar to work with the project team of the *Reading Communities* research, a programme of educational research on children and young people's reading that is centred on a commission from the National Library of New Zealand. The National Library is running four community-based reading projects as part of their Communities of Readers initiative, and the AUT based research team have been commissioned to undertake a literature review on communities of readers, interview National Library staff on their intentions for the initiative and develop insights on reading and the National Library's work in each of the four communities (including through case study in two of the four communities).

The aim of this scholarship is to assist the research team to develop outputs from the project that are additional to the commissioned pieces of work, yet are important to help establish AUT as a centre of expertise in enjoyment and participation in reading. The outputs for our commission include briefing papers, a main research report and summary, and two community case study reports. The funding from the National Library is directed towards these outputs, yet to maximise the impact of the work and enhance the benefit to AUT the project team needs to produce other outputs for academic and practitioner audiences. We would like research assistance to help collate and analyse materials from the projects to assist us with wider publication. Through this scholarship we would also aim to support the scholar's development as an educational researcher.

- **Potential research outputs**

The project expects to produce at least three articles or chapters for an academic audience (one on main learnings from the literature review, and one from each of our two community-based case studies). We also have a project website and blog, and intend producing common language blog posts and/or podcasts on there for wider public dissemination, especially school use (See <https://readingcommunities.educationandparticipation.org/>)

- **How the research will align with the School's research plan or existing research projects**

This research is important to the School of Education. It is an externally funded project conducted in partnership with a respected national organisation. It already involves a research team of seven from AUT and is building the capacity of school team members to undertake work of this kind. We meet weekly, and the scholar would join the project team and be encouraged to attend our meetings. Further dissemination of the research will amplify and extend the research within academic and practitioner communities, establishing the team's expertise in reading research. It will also support a student to gain crucial experience of working on a large research project.

• **A detailed time frame**

Date	Activity
1 Dec – 13 Dec 2020	Initial meetings with the research team to discuss their publication plans and identify main themes from research findings for academic and practitioner publications. Introduction to and developing familiarity with projects' literature review and data bases, reading reports etc.
14 Dec – 24 Dec 2020	Collate and summarise literature for first academic publication Share with research team.
24 Dec 2020 – 5 Jan 2021	Summer break
6 Jan 2021 – 31 st Jan 2021	Collating and summarising literature for second and third publications. Using transcripts identify key quotes relevant for publications, collate under headings and cross reference with literature. Meet regularly with project team to share progress.
1 st – 15 th Feb 2021	In consultation with principal investigator develop a plan for and write own blog post for our project site. Check other tasks are completed and meet with relevant research team members individually for hand over to ensure work is seamlessly continued.

• **Student responsibilities and potential benefits to the student**

The time frame outlines the programme of work for the student scholar. In addition to this work schedule the scholar is responsible for becoming quickly familiar with our existing literature review notes/data base and data from our field work so that they can contribute meaningfully and usefully to the project as soon as possible. We have high expectations for accuracy and integrity, so the student will need to use established processes and templates (asking for direction if unsure), be able to keep careful records, use advanced referencing methods and treat data such as interview transcripts confidentially and with respect for the participant.

If identified tasks related to a publication are completed satisfactorily the scholar can expect to be named as an author, along with other members of the project team. They can also expect to be named author for their own blog post. This scholarship will provide experience working with data bases from literature and field work. It will also provide experience of publication and dissemination. This is an important opportunity for a student to gain experience on a large project team and will be particularly useful for a student interested in further postgraduate study or seeking work as a research assistant.

Reading Communities Project Team

Dr Ruth Boyask, Celeste Harrington, Dr John Milne, Dr Daniel Couch, Dr Adrian Schoone, Chris Wall, Daniel Badenhorst.

Project Two

Contact: Dr Rachel Low rachel.low@aut.ac.nz

The nature of the research

Conflict is inevitable; conflict between colleagues, close friends, and family. Prior research demonstrates that avoiding conflict makes situations worse. This is because engaging in conflict is often needed to resolve sources of conflict. Indeed, directly engaging in conflict can help resolve problems and improve relationship functioning. These benefits call for a new perspective on therapeutic approaches that focus on minimising conflict. However, marital research focuses only on adult outcomes and ignores the harm interparental conflict has for children by spilling over to parent-child interactions and reducing parents' responsiveness toward their child. This project examines whether and how parents' behaviours during relationship conflict spills over to interactions with their children.

Potential research outputs

The resulting data will be used to test the effects of parents' (1) emotion regulation and (2) responsiveness towards their partner during relationship conflict on parents' responsiveness toward their child and family outcomes. The student will contribute towards the write-up of this data to be published in a scientific journal.

How the research will align with the School's research plan or existing research projects

The School of Social Sciences and Public Policy believes in high-quality research that has a significant impact on people's lives. Using a wide range of research methods, the research conducted in the School provide local and international partners evidence-based solutions to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. The Psychology team aims to provide a much-needed perspective on what humans need to develop and thrive. The current research project will add to existing research projects in the School, as well as research conducted at the Centre for Social Data Analytics (CSDA), to help enhance people's mental and social wellbeing in Aotearoa.

A detailed time frame

Task	DEC	JAN	FEB
Literature review			
Behavioural coding training			
Behavioural coding			
Complete behavioural coding			
Processing and entering data			
Analyse data			
Start writing report			

Student responsibilities and potential benefits to the student

This project will involve two large observational datasets involving over 300 families (2 parents and 1 child) to test how parents' behaviours during conflict interactions spills over to parents' ability to be responsive towards their child in subsequent family interactions. The summer scholar will complete behavioural coding of couples' conflict discussions and/or family interactions with their child. The

student will also learn how to process and enter data under supervision to prepare a research report.

Skills learnt during this project will significantly benefit a student interested in postgraduate study and research or a social policy/wellbeing-focused industry. This is an ideal opportunity for students to get hands-on experience with research and working with quantitative data.

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