

Practicum Opportunity

Evaluating Child Friendly Spaces in Emergencies

Overview

In an effort to address the need for an evidence base on the effectiveness of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), World Vision International and Columbia University have partnered in a research and learning project. The project focuses on documenting the impact of CFSs on children's social and emotional wellbeing, sense of security and protection and – where appropriate – acquisition of skills and competencies. A series of six action-learning studies has been completed across a range of geographical contexts as well as types of emergencies (slow onset, rapid onset, conflict, natural disaster) to document the protective and restorative effectiveness of CFSs and identify good practice in design and implementation of interventions.

For more information on the research partnership, visit: <http://www.wvi.org/global-engagement/article/child-friendly-spaces-research-collaboration>

Practicum Opportunity for Students for Summer 2016

A New York-based practicum is available for two different projects in summer 2016.

1. The mental health and psychosocial well-being of Syrian refugee children in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq

The student will draw upon statistical and methodological skills to analyze and interpret baseline data collected in three project locations - Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq - to further explore factors associated with the mental health and psychosocial well-being of Syrian children affected by crises. The student will be responsible for a detailed outline of his/her analysis plan (week-by-week) and accompanying methodological/explanatory text. The student will also be expected to summarize findings in a clear, concise way for studies completed in the Middle East and conduct additional analysis, where necessary. The student will be responsible for completing a draft paper of publishable quality for a peer-reviewed journal, inclusive of formatting, graphics, etc.

2. A Meta-analysis of summary findings

The student will assist in a meta-analysis of three longitudinal studies of Child Friendly Space interventions in Uganda, Jordan and Nepal. Each student will be responsible for a detailed outline of their analysis plan (week-by-week) and accompanying methodological/explanatory text. This plan is in line with thesis requirements for epidemiology students and will be supervised by a former epidemiology alumni and post-doctoral research fellow. Each student will also be responsible for key components of a paper of publishable quality for a peer-reviewed journal, inclusive of formatting, graphics, etc.

Key Skills and Competences for both projects

- Completion of the following courses is preferred: Biostatistics, Categorical Data Analysis, Applied Regression I (II optional), Investigative Methods in Complex Emergencies,

Psychosocial and Mental Health Issues in Forced Migration, Protection of Children in Disaster and War

- Knowledge of STATA is preferred (SAS and R are acceptable)
- Broad knowledge of humanitarian contexts, approaches and actors
- Interest and/or expertise related to child protection or MHPSS
- Interest and/or expertise related to monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian programs
- Student must be detail-oriented and able to meet deadlines for submission (1 May 2016)
- Students currently in the epidemiology, biostatistics or PHHA certificate tracks are encouraged to apply.

Interested students are encouraged to send a one page CV and a one-page letter indicating the basis of your interest in the opportunity - with the subject line ***Summer 2016 CFS Practicum Opportunity*** –Dr. Sabrina Hermosilla (sh2405@cumc.columbia.edu) – by **15 March 2016** latest. **Applications received after the 15th will not be considered.**