

Postdoc position at Wichita State University (National Institute of Justice police decision-making project)

A postdoctoral research scholar position is available in the Applied Cognition & Expertise (ACE) Lab of Dr. Joel Suss at Wichita State University Department of Psychology. The initial appointment is for one year with the possibility of a renewal for the maximum of an additional 12 months. Funding of the postdoc will be contingent upon grant funds. The preferred start date is July 30, 2019. The review of applications will begin on June 1, 2019.

The postdoc will primarily work as part of an interdisciplinary team starting a new National Institute of Justice project

(<https://www.nij.gov/fundng/awards/pages/award-detail.aspx?award=2018-75-CX-0030>) to study adaptive decision making and expertise in veteran and novice police officers. Our team comprises cognitive scientists, social psychologists, and criminologist who are working to understand and model police decision making in order to provide feedback to the National Institute of Justice, policymakers, and law enforcement agencies on how to improve the safety and outcomes of police-community interactions. The project uses a mixed-methods approach consisting of (a) experiments placing officers in immersive simulators to examine decision-making outcomes and cognitive processes, (b) psychometric surveys to assess personality and adaptability, and (c) an intervention using a web-based interactive training system that will also be collecting rich cognitive-process data. This study will be the first randomized-control-trial effort to examine the effects of using police body-worn camera (BWC) footage as a training intervention.

The project will involve several trips to other sites in the USA for data collection and applicant must be willing to travel by air.

The PI of the project is Dr. Jeff Rojek, Associate Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. In addition to Dr. Joel Suss at Wichita State University, Co-PI include Dr. Jonathan Wender and Dr. Brian Lande of Polis Solutions and Dr. Geoff Alpert, Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina.

There will be other opportunities to get involved with, and/or lead, other human performance research projects in the law enforcement/military domain. These include (1) analyzing marksmanship data from the military, and (2) designing and conducting studies investigating the effects of stress on performance, using Simunition.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities:

1. Ph.D. in psychology or related field (e.g. cognitive psychology, human factors, sport and exercise psychology). Have a solid background in and knowledge of, one or more of these areas: naturalistic decision making, macrocognition (e.g. sensemaking, situation awareness expert performance, accelerated expertise, adaptive expertise, perceptual-cognitive skills, stress, and training).
2. Experience with psychometrics.
3. Strong methodological and quantitative skills.
4. Experience with repeated-measures/longitudinal designs and longitudinal data analyses.
5. Excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills.
6. Detail-oriented, motivated, efficient, and able to work independently and in a team environment.
7. Be able to effectively balance multiple tasks and projects.
8. Experience with data collection platforms and programming software (e.g. Python, MATLAB, PsychoPY) statistical packages (e.g. SPSS, R), web-based survey tool (e.g. Qualtrics).
9. Excellent scientific writing skills.

Preferred experience:

1. Law enforcement or military experience, or experience working in those , or similar domains.
2. Experience eliciting knowledge using cognitive task analysis techniques (e.g., critical decision method interviews, retrospective verbal reports).
3. Experience using fNIRS, mobile eye track, or collecting/analyzing heart rate variability.
4. Familiar with "open science" (e.g., OSF, SIPS).
5. Familiar with the principles of tidy data (and using Tidyverse).
6. Grant-writing experience (even if it was not funded).

More details and application portal: <https://jobs.wichita.edu/postings/15800>

Informal inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Joel Suss

(joel.suss@wichita.edu<<mailto:joel.suss@wichita.edu>>).

Position Number: 999277

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