

# Center for Health & Safety Culture

## PHD Funding Opportunity

The Center for Health and Safety Culture (CHSC) has funding for a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) to support a qualified PhD candidate to research “safety citizenship” and its application to improving traffic safety.

Safety citizenship originated from efforts to improve safety outcomes in workplaces. Safety citizenship seeks to grow pro-social behaviors as a mechanism to reduce risk and enhance protection. While traditional safety approaches focus on an individual’s risk (e.g., wear your seat belt, use appropriate personal protective equipment), safety citizenship focuses on promoting behaviors that address the safety of the group or others. Examples include taking actions to get others to wear a seat belt or proactively addressing potential hazards before an incident occurs. The CHSC seeks to grow the body of knowledge of how safety citizenship can be applied to the public to improve traffic safety. Specific traffic safety issues may include bystander engagement to reduce impaired or distracted driving or others.

The CHSC is an interdisciplinary center at Montana State University serving communities and organizations through research, training, and support services to cultivate healthy and safe cultures. The CHSC is dedicated to applying research to develop sustainable solutions to complex social problems including traffic safety, substance abuse, violence, and child well-being.

The CHSC is seeking a PhD applicant to be funded by a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA). This GRA will include an annual stipend of \$22,000 (with an additional tuition waiver). Depending on funding availability and student performance, the GRA will support a four-year period of research. The successful candidate would be expected to begin the PhD program and GRA duties in August 2017.

Because of the nature of this dissertation topic, we are expecting successful candidates to have an interdisciplinary background: for example, psychology, sociology, management, and statistics. The successful candidate will be registered in the PhD program of the College of Engineering (<http://www.coe.montana.edu/phd/>) under the supervision of Professor Nicholas Ward (<http://chsculture.org/staff-view/dr-nicholas-ward/>). This may entail taking additional core engineering courses depending on the student’s education background. A Doctoral Committee comprised of faculty from relevant disciplines across Montana State University will be formed to guide and support the PHD candidate in completing the required research dissertation.

Novel formats for completing the dissertation will be considered. For example, the format of the dissertation can be based on multiple chapters that represent published conference/journal articles (cumulative thesis) rather than a report of the research process (monographic thesis).<sup>1</sup>

Key skills for the successful candidate will include understanding of the scientific method, experience conducting research with human subjects, capacity to understand and apply theory from multiple disciplines, and experience working with communities (or other social groups). Candidates must have strong writing and oral communication skills that are adaptable to different types of audience.

The CHSC is located in Bozeman, Montana. Bozeman was recently recognized as one of the top places to live in the U.S. Located a few hours north of Yellowstone Park in the beautiful Rocky Mountains, the town of 40,000 people provides all the amenities of a big city with extensive outdoor activities.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.aueb.gr/Users/kalyvitis/3\\_paper\\_phd\\_guide.pdf](http://www.aueb.gr/Users/kalyvitis/3_paper_phd_guide.pdf)