SUMMER/FALL 2025 JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Research Assistant, Workforce Science Project, Northwestern Center on Law, Business, and Economics

The Workforce Science Project of the Northwestern Center on Law, Business, and Economics is recruiting undergraduate research assistants for a large-scale empirical project examining the use of personal names as proxies for racial identity in labor market discrimination studies. This research critically investigates the methodological challenges underlying this common practice and explores their implications for research design.

As part of the team, you will help analyze a dataset of over 20 million California birth certificates. A key outcome will be the development of a validated name set for use in future correspondence studies, designed to address several methodological concerns and to ensure comprehensive representation across demographic groups.

The project will produce the first systematic index of the socioeconomic status signals conveyed by names, enabling researchers to distinguish these effects from racial indicators. It will also surface and address previously unrecognized data quality issues embedded in birth certificate records.

Ideal candidates will:

Be proficient in Stata or R and comfortable working with large datasets

Have an interest in social science and public policy

Be detail-oriented, collaborative, and intellectually curious

For more information on the Workforce Science Project please visit:
https://www.law.northwestern.edu/research-faculty/clbe/workforcescience/

Application Process

Please provide a cover letter, resume, and transcript (unofficial) and submit your packet to the Northwestern Center on Law, Business and Economics at: clbe@law.northwestern.edu . Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.