The Social Learning and Decisions lab at the University of Maryland (P.I. Caroline Charpentier - https://nacs.umd.edu/facultyprofile/charpentier/caroline) is looking to recruit a Ph.D. student in the Fall 2023 cycle (to start Fall 2024). Current research in the lab focuses on uncovering the behavioral and neural computations involved in human social and affective decision-making, with a strong interest in how individual variability in these processes and their underlying computations relate to psychopathology.

Recruitment will occur preferentially through the Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science (https://nacs.umd.edu/), through applications from the CNS track in the Department of Psychology's Doctoral Program (https://psyc.umd.edu/graduate/about-doctoral-program) will also be considered. The work you do and your status in the lab will not be affected by the program you choose, but these programs have different training requirements outside of the lab, so consider your choice carefully. If you are not sure which track to pursue, contact Dr. Charpentier (ccharpen[at]umd.edu).

Research in the lab is interdisciplinary, at the interface between **social neuroscience, behavioral economics** and **computational psychiatry**, combining methods such as experimental design, neuroimaging, computational modelling, and testing in clinical populations. Because of that, no candidate is expected to join the lab with all of these skills, but experience in a subset of the following will be desirable:

- Programming experiments and performing data analysis in R, Python, Matlab, JavaScript, and/or another programming language.
- Familiarity with Git and GitHub for version control and code sharing, as well as OSF for pre-registration of experiments/hypotheses and data sharing.
- Some exposure to computational models of learning and decision-making.
- Experience screening and recruiting participants in the lab.
- Experience with or interest in working with clinical populations (autism, anxiety disorders).
- fMRI data collection and analysis with SPM, FSL, and/or another analysis package.
- Basic computer science/engineering math: calculus, linear algebra, probability theory, frequentist and Bayesian statistics, dimensionality reduction methods, basic machine learning techniques.

The list above is meant to be fairly general and should not discourage you from applying – excitement about research, and motivation to learn and fill in the gaps in knowledge and skills are more important! Candidates are expected to come from psychology, neuroscience, computer science, statistics, or other scientific and engineering disciplines. However, your exact undergraduate concentration/major doesn't matter as long as you have had exposure to some of the above.

To apply, follow the instructions for the respective program, either through the Department of Psychology or the Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science. Check whether you may be eligible for an application fee waiver here: https://gradschool.umd.edu/feewaiverinformation. Ensure that your research statement addresses how your research interests, past experience, and skill set are aligned with the lab's research mission, as well as what your long term goals are and how you think being a graduate student in the respective program will help you achieve them. Think of what really excites you in science and in the field, and the kind of topics, questions or projects you would like to work on, and try your best to articulate those. Demonstrating initiative (about new ideas, projects etc), and

responsibility (e.g. reacting and taking charge when things don't go according to plan) are also great qualities to showcase.

Outside of research, the newly-established lab prides itself with values of scientific integrity, diversity, equity, inclusion, open science, mentorship, collaboration, outreach, work-life balance, and we strive to ensure everyone's well-being throughout their stay in the lab. Additionally, note that The University of Maryland, College Park is located five miles from Washington, D.C. and is metro accessible, with access to world class museums, restaurants, and entertainment. We are close to three large international airports, have access to other destinations on the eastern seaboard and beyond via Amtrak, and are a short drive away from beautiful landscapes and mountains in rural Maryland and Virginia.