

## How to Apply. (Underrepresented minorities are encouraged to apply!)

- Go to GrinnellShare and submit the Summer Research Application Form.
- Answer and email the questions below to Dr. Elliott (Emails should be sent by February 15, 11pm):
  1. Visit the [lab website](#) and answer: Why do you consider yourself a good fit for the ELBICA lab?
  2. Why are you applying for this position?
  3. Seven positions are advertised below. Starting from your top choice, order each position according to your preferences. E.g.: **research assistant 1, research assistant 3...**
  4. Reflect on the positions; which is your top choice and why?
  5. What is the connection between your major/minor/concentrations and previous education with your top choice?
  6. What does "being coachable" mean to you, and why is it important?

## Selected Outcome – MAP 2021

Last summer, Grinnell College supported Dr. Elliott to advise and invite five students to the [ELBICA lab](#) (Thank you so much, Grinnell College!!!). 100% of Dr. Elliott's MAP students published a paper at a peer-reviewed conference. Congrats, ELBICA team!

## Introduction. (Details on the next page.)

**In previous work** [3 – 4], Dr. Elliott successfully designed and developed a computational architecture that models moral reasoning and empathy in multi-agent tasks. In 2021, she began her efforts to enhance and expand the architecture. Then, 2021's MAP research guided the ELBICA team to reflect on the differences between moral reasoning and moral intuition and their influence on a group's reputation and moral behavior [1].

**In 2022's MAP**, Dr. Elliott and students will investigate how to model moral reasoning and moral intuition in a cognitively inspired computational architecture called **EDA** (Empathy-Driven Architecture) [1]. To that end, we will:

1. Investigate the differences between moral reasoning and moral intuition, and the importance of emotions and feelings, such as empathy, as an attentional mechanism to facilitate decision-making.
2. Identify clues of moral intuition, semantic meaning, and common sense in different images
3. Use robot simulators to investigate which robotic tasks will be appropriate to test and assess **EDA** in the future.

**Future work.** This is an ongoing project: Dr. Elliott will keep designing and developing **EDA** to embed it into multi-agent systems and evaluate if/how simulation of moral processes and empathy can serve as a tool to help humans accomplish tasks. Findings from this research are applicable to robotics, a field that gained attention in the past two years (e.g., "[Robots Have Become An Essential Part Of The War Against Covid-19](#)").



## MAP 2022 - Modeling Moral Reasoning and Moral Intuition in Utility-based Computational Approaches

Students will help Dr. Elliott design and test EDA. More specifically, MAP students will work on three major tasks:

### Task I (One Student), Neuro Team. *Research assistant 1* will:

1. **Study** cognitive architectures and Dr. Elliott's previous work [1 - 5].
2. **Investigate** discoveries from the neurosciences, brain anatomy, neurodiversity, and the social ecology of mental functions.

*Research assistant 1* will focus on moral intuition, and how to computationally model it. You will collaborate with *Task III* students.

(Neurosciences, Biology, Psychology, CS, and related majors/concentrations are more than welcome to apply! A background in AI is highly preferable but not essential.)

### Task II (Three Students), Meaning of Meaning Team. Students will:

1. Investigate: a) what is "meaning"? and b) spatial cognition and how to encode meaning into robotic systems spatial tasks. Read the book: [The Geometry of Meaning: Semantics Based on Conceptual Spaces](#)
2. Reflect how we encode and understand meaning and moral response into/from images.
3. Analyze a selected bank of images to create descriptions, 3D scenes and develop a [shiny app](#).

*Research assistant 2* will create a dataset with categorized descriptions for the bank of images.

*Research assistant 3* will read the descriptions provided by the *research assistant 2* and, without having access to the images, will use a tool such as [Vectary](#) to create 3D scenes.

*Research assistant 4* will develop a shiny app to enable users to interact with our dataset, 3D scenes, and findings.

(Philosophy, Linguistics, CS, and related majors/concentrations are more than welcome to apply! Eligibility: you will have successfully concluded CSC161 by June.)

### Task III (Three Students), Robotics Team. Students will:

1. Identify testbeds for the testing and assessment of EDA.
2. Examine robotic tasks that benefit from bio-inspired algorithms and read the book [The Geometry of Meaning: Semantics Based on Conceptual Spaces](#).

*Research assistant 5* will investigate different ways to encode and implement target interactions in a robot simulator such as [Webots](#) or [Coppelia](#).

*Research assistant 6* will explore [bio-inspired algorithms](#) and how to implement selected algorithms using a robotic simulator such as [Webots](#) or [Coppelia](#).

*Research assistant 7* will analyze the 3D scenes created by the **Meaning of Meaning Team**, and investigate how to reproduce those in a simulator such as [Webots](#), [Coppelia](#), or [Unity](#).

(Eligibility: CS majors that have successfully concluded CSC395(RL and MAS) or CSC261.



ELBICA students will have an in-depth multidisciplinary research experience and a unique opportunity to contribute to the design of a computational architecture. They will write and submit a manuscript to a suitable peer-review conference.

## Selected References

- [1] Yu, X., Morri, R. and Elliott, F.M. EDA, [An Empathy-Driven Computational Architecture](#). 9<sup>th</sup> [Workshop on Goal Reasoning](#), ACS 2021.
- [2] Elliott, F.M., Stassun, K, and Kunda, M. Iaci - a human-inspired computational architecture to help us understand visual data exploration. In *Procs. of the Sixth Annual Conference on Advances in Cognitive Systems*. Stanford, California: ACS, 2018a.
- [3] Elliott, F.M., Ribeiro, C. H. Emergence of cooperation through simulation of moral behavior. In *Hybrid Artificial Intelligent Systems (HAIS 2015). Procs. of the 10th I. Conf. on Hybrid Artificial Intelligence Systems, Bilbao, Spain. Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence*, volume 9121, pages 200–212. Springer International Pub., 2015.
- [4] Elliott, F.M., Ribeiro, C. H. Moral behavior and empathy modeling through the premise of reciprocity. In *Procs. of the 1st International Conference on Human and Social Analytics*. St. Julians, Malta: Huso, 2015.
- [5] Elliott, F.M., Ribeiro, C. H. A computational model for simulation of moral behavior. In *Procs. of the I. Conf. on Neural Computation Theory and Applications (NCTA-2014)*, pages 282–287. SCITEPRESS (Science and Technology Publications), 2014.

