

Project title:	Perspectives on Menstruation: Analysing Attitudes and Experiences Across Generations and Menstrual Disorders
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	36 hours per week In person, Herston Campus, Edith Cavell Building B.27. Hours of engagement must be between 20 – 36 hrs per week and must fall within the official program dates (Summer = 12 Jan – 20 Feb 2026). Please outline if the project will be offered on-site, remotely or through a hybrid arrangement.
Description:	This study aims to investigate women's attitudes towards menstruation and how these perceptions correlate with the prevalence and severity of menstrual disorders. Using data from the GELLES sub-study of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH), we will analyse responses from cohorts—women born in 1989-95 (aged 26-33 years) and 1973-78 (aged 45-51 years). GELLES provides a rich dataset, capturing menstrual experiences, attitudes, and symptoms from a diverse population-based sample. Participants in GELLES were asked to respond to a series of statements reflecting their emotional, social, and practical perceptions of menstruation, including feelings of embarrassment, acceptance, and the perceived impact of menstruation on their daily lives. By comparing responses between the two cohorts, we aim to explore generational shifts in menstrual attitudes. Furthermore, we will investigate how these attitudes differ between women reporting different menstrual disorders, including endometriosis and other conditions associated with menstrual pain and irregularity.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	The candidate will be responsible for data cleaning and analysis and preparation of a draft manuscript. This research will contribute to a deeper understanding of how menstruation is perceived across different life stages and health conditions, potentially informing public health messaging, menstrual health education, and clinical approaches to menstrual disorder management. Identifying patterns in attitudes and their relationship with menstrual health may also highlight areas for improved support and intervention for those experiencing menstrual distress. The candidate will gain valuable skills in quantitative and qualitative data analysis, survey research methods and statistical interpretation. They will also develop critical thinking, literature review, and scientific writing skills, making this project an excellent opportunity for those interested in women's health, public health research, and epidemiology.
Suitable for:	This project is open to applications from students with a basic background in computing, data management, statistics and/or bioinformatics. Some experience in statistical computing software (eg. R, SPSS or STATA) is also required. A basic background in health science and/or epidemiology would also be beneficial.

Primary Supervisor:	Dr Sally Mortlock s.mortlock@uq.edu.au 0438 708 891
Further info:	The supervisor MUST be contacted by students prior to submission of an application Australian Women and Girls' Health Research Centre