

# Research in Action Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

# Dr. Ana Spalding on Interdisciplinary Research [33:47]

## Research in Action - Episode 20

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### Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest Dr. Ana Spalding, an Assistant Professor of Marine and Coastal Policy in the School of Public Policy at Oregon State University. Dr. Spalding has a BA in Economics from the University of Richmond, an MA in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami, and a PhD in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. She has been a Postdoctoral researcher and a research associate with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama. Theoretically, her work is informed by debates within political ecology, human geography, and environmental anthropology, and she has adopted an interdisciplinary approach to the study of how broad uses of coastal, marine, and terrestrial resources in Panama affect local people and environments. During her research, Dr. Spalding has worked closely with Panamanian NGOs and with NOAA’s National Marine Protected Areas Center in California. She has also engaged with academics and practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, including ecologists, biologists, anthropologists, economists, policy-makers, and lawyers as well as members of local indigenous communities in both the U.S and the Caribbean and Pacific coasts of Panama.

*Segment One* [00:00-10:57] - In this segment, Ana describes some of her past and current interdisciplinary research projects and discusses what makes them interdisciplinary.

*Segment Two* [10:58-21:09] - In this segment, Ana describes transitioning her research in Panama to her work at OSU and how she plans for the unexpected.

*Segment Three* [21:10-33:47] - In this segment, Ana defines scientific diasporas and discusses some ways to engage in international collaborations.

*Bonus Clip #1* [00:00-2:08]: The Importance of Offering Students an International Research Experience

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e20/>

### Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Provide examples of interdisciplinary research projects
- Discuss collaborative challenges with interdisciplinary work
- Review examples of approaches to beginning a complex research project
- Explain “scientific diaspora”
- Discuss examples of international research collaborations
- List some examples of ways students can be involved in international research

### Guiding Questions for Listening

- How does Dr. Ana Spalding define “interdisciplinary” and what examples does she provide from her work to illustrate this definition?
- What factors seem to direct a project toward becoming an interdisciplinary project?
- What are some challenges that may arise in interdisciplinary work and collaboration?
- According to Dr. Spalding, what is the “wow” moment in research collaborations?
- How has Dr. Spalding’s work in Panama transitioned to her work at OSU?
- What is the idea of a “scientific diaspora”?
- What are some examples Dr. Spalding gives as ways an international researcher might continue contributing to a country after they have returned home?
- What are some observations Dr. Spalding has made regarding the involvement of students within international collaborations?
- According to Dr. Spalding, why is it important for students who are involved in a research institution to also be involved in international research? (see also, Bonus Clip)

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to find an article that describes an interdisciplinary research project. How does that project compare to what Dr. Spalding discusses in this episode?
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e20/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e20/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Dr. Ana Spalding if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2016, August 15). *Dr. Ana Spalding on Interdisciplinary Research* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e20/>

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## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

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“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

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