

# 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. Ehren Helmut Pflugfelder on Researching Mobility Technologies [26:45]

Research in Action - Episode 78

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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 is Dr. Ehren Helmut Pflugfelder, an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University, where he teaches courses in rhetoric, new media, and technical and science writing. He has a PhD in rhetoric and composition, with a focus in technical writing, from Purdue University, an MA from Case Western Reserve University, and a BSE from Slippery Rock University. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Ehren now calls Corvallis, OR home. His research has appeared in the journals *Technical Communication*, *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*, *Kairos*, *College English*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, and *Communication Design Quarterly*. His monograph, *Communicating Technology and Mobility: A Material Rhetoric for Transportation* has recently been published for the Routledge series *Studies in Technical Communication, Rhetoric, and Culture*.

*Segment One* [00:00-15:12] - In this segment, Ehren shares about some of the questions driving his research on mobility and technology.

*Segment Two* [15:13-26:45] - In this segment, Ehren discusses self-driving vehicles and flying cars.

Bonus Clip [00:00-11:06]: Ehren's New Book Project on Bioengineering

Bonus Clip [00:00-07:02]: Ehren's Research on Reddit

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/78/>

## Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe auto mobility
- Describe an example of “default assumption”
- Discuss some potential influences of mobility technologies
- Review components of technical communication

## Guiding Questions for Listening

- How does Dr. Pflugfelder describe auto mobility?
- According to Dr. Pflugfelder, what is a “default assumption” with regard to auto mobility?
- What does Dr. Pflugfelder explain about the persuasion of metaphors in the hybrid car example?
- What examples does Dr. Pflugfelder provide regarding persuasive logistics?
- What does Dr. Pflugfelder explain about the influence of mobility technologies and the way people live their lives?
- How did the persuasiveness of technology appear to impact the Pod Car case study?
- What appear to be some of the potential challenges with the development of autonomous cars?
- What does Dr. Pflugfelder explain is part of the responsibility of a technical communicator?
- What is geoengineering? (See also, Bonus Clip #1)
- What were some of Dr. Pflugfelder observations about the technical explanations found on Reddit’s “explain like I’m five”? (See also, Bonus Clip #2)

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e78/>) 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/e78/>) 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. Ehren Helmut Pflugfelder if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2017, September 25). *Dr. Ehren Helmut Pflugfelder on Researching Mobility Technologies* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e78/>

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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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