

“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.

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 Bryan Alexander, an internationally known futurist, researcher, writer, speaker, consultant, and teacher, working in the field of how technology transforms education. He completed his English language and literature PhD at the University of Michigan.

Through Bryan Alexander Consulting, LLC, he consults throughout higher education in the United States and abroad. Bryan also speaks widely and publishes frequently, with articles appearing in venues including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Inside Higher Ed*. He has been interviewed by and featured in such places as MSNBC, US News and World Report, National Public Radio, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

He is currently writing *Transforming the University in the Twenty-First Century: The Next Generation of Higher Education* for Johns Hopkins University Press (forthcoming 2019).

Segment One [00:00-20:13] - In this segment, Brian shares about how he came to work as an independent researcher.

Segment Two [20:14-34:41] - In this segment, Brian describes his research as a futurist.

Bonus Clip #1 [00:00-09:57]: Researching as an Alternative Academic

Bonus Clip #2 [00:00-03:44]: Dealing with Loneliness as an Independent Researcher

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/episode/97/>

Learning Outcomes

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

- Define the term “futurist”
- Describe potential benefits and challenges of being an independent researcher
- Discuss Dr. Alexander’s observations as to why people appear to have difficulty in thinking about the future
- Explain the purpose of futuristic thinking as applied to academia

Guiding Questions for Listening

- According to Dr. Alexander, what seems to allow people to talk about technology more easily?
- What does Dr. Alexander explain are some of the benefits and drawbacks of being an independent researcher?
- According to Dr. Alexander, what does he describe can be a “calling card” for publishing in education?
- What does Dr. Alexander explain has been an effective way for him to market his work and build connections with publishers?
- What appear to be some of the potential risks in using a crowdfunding site for research projects?
- How does Dr. Alexander define the term “futurist”?
- According to Dr. Alexander, why do people seem to have a difficult time thinking about the future?
- How did the profession of futurism develop?
- What does Dr. Alexander share are some of the challenges of being a futurist?
- According to Dr. Alexander, what does he explain may be some of the contributing factors to the growing body of alternative academics? (See also, Bonus Clip #1)
- How has Dr. Alexander found community as an independent researcher? (See also, Bonus Clip #2)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e97/>) 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/e97/>) 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. Bryan Alexander if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2018, February 5). *Dr. Bryan Alexander on Researching the Future* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e97/>

Notes

About the Research in Action Podcast

“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.

Contact

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