Episode 0: Research in Action Launch

# KL: Katie Linder LT: Lisa Templeton KL: You’re listening to *Research in Action*: episode zero.

# [intro music]

# Segment 1:

# KL: Welcome to *Research in Action*, a weekly podcast where you can hear about topics and issues related to research in higher education from experts across a range of disciplines. I’m your host, Dr. Katie Linder, director of research at Oregon State University Ecampus.

On this Episode Zero of the podcast, I am joined by Lisa Templeton, the executive director of Extended Campus at Oregon State University. In addition to providing daily operational leadership and management for Extended Campus staff and programs, which also include Oregon State’s Ecampus online courses and degrees, Lisa works with me to shape the vision of online education research here at OSU in my work directing the Ecampus research unit.  On today’s episode, we’ll be talking about how the *Research in Action* podcast came to be and some of our future plans for the podcast.

Thanks so much for joining me Lisa!

**LT:** Thanks Katie! Glad to be here.

**KL:** So we should start by saying that research in action is a podcast that is both sponsored and produced by Ecampus. So Lisa, why don’t we start by you telling us a little bit more about Ecampus?

**LT:** Great! Ecampus is the online education unit at Oregon State University. As most people know, OSU is a land grant institution, and part of our mission is really to provide access to learners around the state no matter where they are. With our Ecampus, our online courses and degree programs, we are not only providing access to an OSU education to learners around our state, but we’re reaching learners in all 50 states and 40 countries. So our learners are really all around the world right now which is really exciting as we grow. And our students tend to be working professionals, stay at home parents, or serving many individuals in the military, and some people here are just looking to finish a degree that they had started at one point in their life and something happened and they weren’t able to finish then. Online education is really becoming a solution for them to complete that degree. Everything we do at Ecampus is really designed to give the learners access to a high quality education no matter where they live and what time zone they’re in and what’s going on in their life. In January, just this past January of 2016, our Ecampus online bachelor’s degree programs were ranked in the top 10 in the nation by US News and World Report for the second year in a row. It’s a ranking that we’re really proud of.

**KL:** That’s awesome! It sounds like Ecampus continues to grow; continues to find ways to meet the needs of learns. One of the most recent additions to the Ecampus is a research unit. The research unit was created in August of 2015, and I was brought in to direct that unit. It has been kind of a wild ride so far as we get things up and running. Can you say a little bit, Lisa, about how the research unit came to be and what you’re hoping for it?

**LT:** Happy to! As I just mentioned with our ranking, we’ve been doing quite well as far as creating high quality online courses and degree programs. And as a part of a major research institution, we did find that the one piece that we really felt was missing from our organization was research. We’re doing a great job partnering with faculty and academic colleges to develop quality online courses, but we wanted to research and do research ourselves on the field of online education. We put a lot of time into this figuring out what would be the best way to accomplish this. We thought it was the perfect time to create an online education research unit. So we’re really excited to have Katie join our team and lead us in this new endeavor.

**KL:** And I’m so happy to be here! That leads us to the *Research in Action* podcast, which is a definitely outgrowth of the research unit here at Ecampus. I’m going to actually turn things over to Lisa who’s going to ask me some questions, put me in the hot seat, about how the *Research in Action* podcast came to be and what listeners can expect. So Lisa, take it away!

**LT:** Thanks, Katie! My first question is why the *Research in Action* podcast created?

**KL:** So I think as we were launching the research unit in August of 2015, one of the things we were kind of thinking about was how can we can be connecting with other researchers and people in the community to learn more about different research methods and topics and how can we start to build a community about some of the work that we’re doing here in the research unit. I happen to really enjoy listening to podcasts. I had been intrigued about learning more and we had some other folks here at Ecampus in our marketing team who were also kind of intrigued by a podcast, and we decided that we might look into it a little bit more. We just didn’t see other podcasts that were focused on research and that were publishing episodes regularly. So we decided to see if we could create one on our own and thus far it has been super fun. We have had lots of different guests that we have been prerecording episodes for and getting all the kinks worked out before we launch. We’re just looking to kind of learn more about what other folks are doing in the research community and hopefully our listeners will learn some things as well!

**LT:** That sounds great! So can you describe a little bit about who you think the intended audience is; who will be listening to these podcasts?

**KL:** When I book guests, the intended audience is a typical thing that people ask me about. It is actually one of the hardest questions for me to answer because we are aiming for a pretty broad range of experience levels and disciplinary backgrounds in the audience of this podcast. Hopefully, that is something that comes across with the guests that we choose. We are hoping that colleagues conducting research in higher education will enjoy the episodes and subscribe, but we’re also wanting to create potentially an open educational resource that could be used in research methods courses, maybe as a possible way to augment other content that is provided by a textbook. One of the things that I’m hoping is that anyone interested in research in higher education will listen. There should be a little bit of something here for everyone. I come to this as a host with a real curiosity for other research methods. I’m a trained qualitative researcher, but I’m starting to use more quantitative methods in the research that we are conducting here at Ecampus. So I’m really interested in seeing how different kinds of researchers are approaching the questions that they are trying to answer. That curiosity really gets brought to the podcast.

**LT:** That sounds great! Can you tell us what listeners can expect and give us a little more detail?

**KL:** Absolutely! So, this is a podcast that will be posting episodes weekly. We have pre-recorded several week’s worth of episodes to make sure that we stay on schedule, so we’re really committed to that. Some episodes are going to feature colleagues here at OSU, but the majority of episodes will be conversations with researchers from all over the country. Most of the episodes are me talking with an expert on a particular topic, like a specific research method or a particular kind of role in research. Maybe something like what it means to be a data analyst or what exactly are psychometrics and how we use them in our research? This is a podcast that does focus on research literacy, so a big part of the conversation is situating the topic within a context that can be understood by a broad audience. So we want to make sure that even people who have never encountered a research method before that might be discussed on the podcast will get a good general sense of what that research method is by the end.

Every once in a while we’ll have a solo episode where I’ll talk about a topic or issues related to research in higher education. For those episodes I’ll probably focus on really practical things like how to organized research or how to juggle multiple projects. And then at the beginning of each month, we’ll also be publishing some promo clips so that people know who will be coming up in case they want to assign an episode to students or they have a particular topic that they want to listen to. Also, for some episodes, we’ll have some bonus clips of extra audio from the conversations that we’ll publish alongside the full episodes. So listeners can expect regular episodes from a range of guests.

We also do have a website that’s affiliated with the podcast. So listeners can find information about each episodes, for show notes, and also transcripts of each episode at ecampus.oregonstate.edu/podcast.

As part of this episode zero we actually have our promo clips for the next segment, so take a listen to what’s coming up in the next few weeks.

[Music]

# Segment 2:

**KL**: For the first month of the *Research in Action* podcast, we have some great episodes that I’m excited to share with you.

On Episode 1, I’m joined by Dr. Wendy Laura Belcher, an associate professor of African literature at Princeton University with a joint appointment in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of African American Studies. Wendy is also the author of the best-seller Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success. In this episode we talk about writing productivity strategies and learn a little more about how her book came to be. Take a listen to a short clip from the episode:

**WB**: I think maybe there’s kind of this persistence of various romantic myths around writing and that writing is something that if you’re good you produce it effortlessly on a first draft and all those kinds of ideas, which of course is not the truth. The research shows that experienced writers are the ones who make the most changes to their writing. So I think we have kind of outmodes ideas of what writing is and that means that people don’t talk about it or feel that it’s not appropriate to talk about it.

It was so fun talking with Wendy since *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks* is one of my favorite books to recommend to struggling writers.

On Episode 2, I’m joined by Dr. John Creswell, PhD, currently the co-director of the Michigan Mixed Methods Research and Scholarship Program at the University of Michigan and an adjunct professor of family medicine. Listeners might know John from his many books including *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (currently in it’s fourth edition), or more recently, *A Concise Introduction to Mixed Methods Research* (2014)

*30 Essential Skills for the Qualitative Researcher* (2015). In this episode we talk about the current state of mixed methods and how John began writing about research methods. Here’s a short clip from the episode.

**JC**: The key to writing any long piece of prose is to think about smaller chunks of it. It’s not a big mountain to climb, it’s a series of foothills you cross on the road.

**KL**: With John’s episode, you’ll also want to make sure to check out the bonus clips that will be posted included his comments on *International Approaches to Mixed Methods* and his thoughts on *Mixed Methods in the Health Sciences*.

For Episode 3, I’m joined by a colleague of mine, Lena Etuk, who is a Social Demographer at the Oregon State University Extension Service. On this episode, Lena and I talk about how social demography can be of use to researchers in a range of disciplines and how best to foster a culture of data-driven decision making. Here’s a short clip:

**LE**: Part of becoming or shifting a culture of an organization or a community toward data-driven decision making is helping them understand what data is and what it isn’t. So that’s one key piece. The way I see data currently being used is sort of justifying programming or actions, decisions that have been made in the past. Data then is used to justify that decision.

Ideally we would have data, we would look at the data, and make decisions after we’ve had the data. So we have the data, we analyze it, then we make a decision. But as I said what I’ve kind of been seeing, though it is shifting a little bit, is that you make a decision, you apply for a grant, and then you insert the data. Oh yeah, right, here’s the need.

**KL**: Finally, I offer my first solo episode, where I talk about strategies to juggle multiple research projects at once. This episode is packed with practical tips and advice. Take a listen to this short clip.

So part of becoming or shifting a culture of an organization or a community toward data-driven decision making is helping them understand what data is and what it isn’t. So that’s one key piece. The way I see data currently being used is sort of justifying programming or actions, decisions that have been made in the past. Data then is used to justify that decision.

Ideally we would have data, we would look at the data, and make decisions after we’ve had the data. So we have the data, we analyze it, then we make a decision. But as I said what I’ve kind of been seeing, though it is shifting a little bit, is that you make a decision, you apply for a grant, and then you insert the data. Oh yeah, right, here’s the need.

**KL**: I hope you’ve enjoyed hearing some clips from our upcoming episodes – we’ll be posting clips each month so you’ll always know what’s coming up on *Research in Action*.

[Music]

# Segment 3:

**KL**: In this last segment, I want to talk with you a little bit about some audience engagement methods that we have for the *Research in Action* podcast, but first I want to thank Lisa Templeton so much for joining me on the podcast and giving us a little more information about Ecampus and how the podcast came to be. Thanks so much, Lisa.

**LT**: Thanks, Katie. Thank you so much for having me. I really enjoyed this and I’m thoroughly looking forward to hearing some of the upcoming episodes.

**KL**: Thank you so much. So for our listeners, there are several ways that you can connect with the *Research in Action* podcast and at the end of every episode, you will hear these different options repeated, but I wanted to spend just a little bit of time talking about what we have planned.

So, first, you can visit the *Research in Action* website and this is where you can post a comment about specific episodes, you can suggest a future guest or a topic, or you can a question that might be featured in a future episode. We also have included show notes for all of the episodes there and you can also find a transcript for each episode. That website is ecampus.oregonstate.edu/podcast.

We also are hoping that you’ll offer feedback about the *Research in Action* podcast episodes or share research-related resources by contacting us on Twitter. You can contact us at @RIA\_podcast or by using the hashtag #RIA\_podcast.  The *Research in Action* podcast does also have an email. You can reach us there at [riapodcast@oregonstate.edu](mailto:riapodcast@oregonstate.edu). We hope that you’ll share feedback or questions with that method as well. Finally, we have a voicemail line, so please consider calling us and leaving a message. You can reach our voicemail like at 541-737-1111 to ask a question or leave a comment. As I mentioned, all of these resources will always be listed at the end of each episode and you can always find us online.

I’m so excited to share with you these episodes of *Research in Action.* This project has been a multi-month project here at Ecampus. I’ve been working with our multimedia team and our marketing team and there have been so many phenomenal people involved in this project who’ve really been contributing to this team effort of the podcast.

So thanks so much for joining us for this episode zero of *Research in Action*. Our first full episode also posts this week, so enjoy my conversation with Wendy Belcher, and we’ll be back next week with a new episode.

[Closing music starts]

Show notes with information regarding topics discussed in each episode, as well as the transcript for each episode, can be found at the *Research in Action* website at [ecampus.oregonstate.edu/podcast](http://www.ecampus.oregonstate.edu/podcast" \t "_blank).

There are several ways to connect with the *Research in Action* podcast. Visit the website to post a comment about a specific episode, suggest a future guest, or ask a question that could be featured in a future episode. Email us at [riapodcast@oregonstate.edu](mailto:riapodcast@oregonstate.edu). You can also offer feedback about *Research in Action* episodes or share research-related resources by contacting the *Research in Action* podcast via Twitter @RIA\_podcast or by using the hashtag #RIA\_podcast.  Finally, you can call the *Research in Action* voicemail line at 541-737-1111 to ask a question or leave a comment. If you listen to the podcast via iTunes, please consider leaving us a review.

The *Research in Action* podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked one of the nation’s best providers of online education with more than 40 degree programs and nearly 1,000 classes online. Learn more about Ecampus by visiting ecampus.oregonstate.edu. This podcast is produced by the phenomenal Ecampus Multimedia team.