

“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. Melanie Nelson on Research Project Management [00:00-34:52]

Research in Action - Episode 112

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. Melanie Nelson, a project manager with more than 15 years of experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. She has a Ph.D. in biochemistry from The Scripps Research Institute and currently works for the scientific software company Dotmatics. Over the course of her career, she has managed projects and teams in small and mid-size biotech companies and served as a contractor and consultant for academics, government agencies, and large companies. She has a long-standing interest in techniques to improve time use and productivity, both for individuals and teams and is the author of *Taming the Work Week: Work Smarter Not Longer* and *Navigating the Path to Industry: A Hiring Manager's Advice for Academics Looking for a Job in Industry*. You can find her online at BeyondManaging.com and on Twitter at [@melanie_nelson](https://twitter.com/melanie_nelson).

Segment One [00:00-12:39] - In this segment, Melanie shares some project management best practices for researchers.

Segment Two [12:40-22:07] - In this segment, Melanie shares strategies for managing team-based projects.

Segment Three [22:08-34:52] - In this segment, Melanie shares about some of her personal time management techniques.

Bonus Clip [00:00-02:25]: Working with Disorganized Collaborators

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/episode/112/>

Learning Outcomes

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

- Define project management
- Review important basic elements of project management
- Discuss common challenges associated with research project management

Guiding Questions for Listening

- How does Dr. Nelson define project management?
- According to Dr. Nelson, why is project management important for effective research?
- What does Dr. Nelson explain are some of the important elements of project management?
- According to Dr. Nelson, why is it important to think about potential risks associated with a project?
- What does Dr. Nelson explain might be some common challenges within research project management?
- According to Dr. Nelson, how might knowing the personalities of collaborators be helpful within a team project?
- According to Dr. Nelson, why might it be more important to have a communication plan as opposed to a project leader?
- What does Dr. Nelson share are some of the project management lessons she has been able to incorporate into her personal life?
- What are some of Dr. Nelson's suggestions for engaging with a disorganized collaborator? (See also, Bonus Clip.)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e112/>) 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/e112/>) 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. Melanie Nelson if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2018, May 21). *Dr. Melanie Nelson on Research Project Management* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e112/>

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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