"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.

Oregon State University

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, Mimi Recker, a professor in the department of Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences at Utah State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania. After a few years working as a software engineer in Silicon Valley (working on early Internet protocols), she earned her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. Mimi worked for two years at the Georgia Institute of Technology and for four years at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, before finally joining Utah State University in 1998.

Mimi became Department Head of Instructional Technology & Learning Sciences in 2008, serving for 7 years. Her research focuses on helping the education sector take advantage of the benefits of cyber-learning and teaching. Over the years, this line of research, funded by the National Science Foundation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, has involved a dynamic mix of faculty, post-docs, and graduate students from Utah State University, as well as colleagues from around the world.

When not working, you might find her on skis, in a kayak, on a bike, or on a cliff, exploring the natural beauty around Logan.

Segment One [00:00-19:10] - In this segment, Mimi discusses the field of learning sciences, learning analytics in higher education, and big vs. traditional data sets.

Segment Two [19:10-35:06] - In this segment, Mimi shares statistical approaches for analyzing big data sets and her research on LMS data.

Bonus Clip [00:00-03:45]: Mimi Shares Resources for Learning More about Learning Analytics and Big Data

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:
http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e145/

Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe learning sciences and learning analytics

- Discuss benefits and challenges in working with big data

- List resources related to learning analytics and big data

Guiding Questions for Listening

- How does Dr. Recker define learning sciences?

- What are some examples of disciplines from which learning sciences are derived?

- How does Dr. Recker describe learning analytics?

- How can learning analytics be utilized to potentially improve student learning?

- What does Dr. Recker caution against with regard to big data?

- What are some of the differences between analyzing big data sets compared to more traditional data sets?

- What are some examples of statistical approaches that can be applied within learning sciences?

- What resources does Dr. Recker offer as a way to learn more about learning analytics and big data? (See also, Bonus Clip)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e145/) 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/e145/) 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. Mimi Recker they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2019, February 11). *Dr. Mimi Recker on Learning Analytics and Big Data.* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e145/

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.

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