

“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.

Christopher Plummer on Research and Creative Expression [00:00-37:03]

Research in Action - Episode 147

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, Christopher Plummer, Professor at Michigan Technological University. Christopher created the Sound programs at Michigan Technological University, which combine fundamental engineering and artistic course work with applied sound creation. He has long been a practicing sound designer with theatre designs at regional theaters and in New York, sound design for independent films, and PBS specials. In that work he has been keenly interested in how immersive sound and room acoustics can bypass our conscious awareness and impact our underlying emotional state. This work includes the way an electroacoustic system can help an opera singer touch an audience with their voice to how the acoustics of a room change the classroom dynamics of a pre-school. Recently, Christopher has been exploring the power of soundscapes through a National Endowment for The Arts funded project, "Listening to Parks." This project takes images and ambisonic recordings of the National Parks surrounding Lake Superior and creates a virtual retreat where the park experiences are shared through an immersive installation using 11 speakers and 6 screens to transport the audience. New programs continue to be developed for this system, most recently, "Shell Shocked," a virtual experience of World War I warfare as part of the Copper Country's remembrance of the 100 year anniversary of the Armistice.

Segment One [00:00-18:17] - In this segment, Christopher describes his work with sound design and music composition.

Segment Two [18:18-37:03] - In this segment, Christopher shares how his creative work impacts his research.

Bonus Clip [00:00-06:11]: The Core Principles of Christopher's Work

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e147/>

Learning Outcomes

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

- Define sound design
- Describe the potential effects of acoustics on the human body
- Discuss challenges of applying creative elements within traditional modes of research

Guiding Questions for Listening

- What is sound design?
- What is the difference between diegetic and non-diegetic sound?
- How does Christopher Plummer explain data as it relates to musical compositions?
- According to Christopher Plummer, what effect can acoustics have on the human body?
- How has Christopher Plummer's creative work impacted his research?
- What does Christopher Plummer explain can be some of the challenges in applying creative elements within traditional research?
- What does Christopher Plummer express is at the foundation of his work? (See also, Bonus Clip)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e147/>) 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/e147/>) 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 Christopher Plummer if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

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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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