

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. Geoff Pullum on Theoretical Research [33:39]

Research in Action - Episode 15

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. Geoff Pullum, Professor of General Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh where he has been since 2007. Previously, Dr. Pullum was a faculty member at University College London and at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has been a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (where?) and a fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. Dr. Pullum has previously served as Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, as Distinguished Professor of Humanities, and as Head of Linguistics and English Language. Dr. Pullum was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003, a Fellow of the Linguistic Society of America in 2007, and a Fellow of the British Academy in 2009. He is the winner (with Mark Liberman) of the Linguistics, Language, and the Public Award from the Linguistic Society of America in 2009 for work on the group linguistic science blog *Language Log*. He is also the co-author (with Rodney Huddleston) of *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (2002), which won the Leonard Bloomfield Book Award from the Linguistic Society of America in 2004. Dr. Pullum also blogs at *Lingua Franca* for the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Segment One [00:00-11:52] - In this segment, Geoff defines theoretical research and shares some examples from his own work.

Segment Two [11:53-22:12] - In this segment, Geoff shares some of the ways he approaches sharing theoretical research with the public and how he employs humor.

Segment Three [22:13-33:39] - In this segment, Geoff talks about a few of his many collaborations and how some of these experiences come to be.

Bonus Clip #1 [00:00-5:18]: Being an Academic Blogger

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e15/>

Learning Outcomes

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

- Define and provide examples of theoretical research
- Describe examples of collaboration within theoretical research
- Explain some of the challenges with explaining theoretical research to the public
- Discuss examples of approaches to explaining information to the public
- Review some benefits and examples regarding collaboration and co-authorship
- Discuss approaches and considerations in academic blogging

Guiding Questions for Listening

- What is theoretical research and what is an example of it?
- How does Dr. Geoff Pullum describe theory?
- How might collaboration be beneficial in theoretical research?
- What example does Dr. Pullum share regarding a collaboration with Gerald Gadzar and what resulted from this collaboration?
- What appear to be some of the challenges with explaining theoretical research to the public and how does Dr. Pullum approach these challenges?
- How does Dr. Pullum decipher which theoretical research information to share with the public?
- What is the purpose behind Dr. Pullum’s and Mark Liberman’s blog *Language Log*?
- What has Dr. Pullum found he enjoys about the process of collaboration and co-authorship?
- What insights does Dr. Pullum share regarding his experience in academic blogging and what insights, if any, did you gain about blogging? (see also, bonus clip)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e15/>) 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/e15/>) 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. Geoff Pullum if they could?
- Have students visit *Language Log* and choose one of Geoff Pullum's posts to read and respond to on a class discussion board or during a small group in-class activity.

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

Katie Linder, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Oregon State Ecampus
541-737-4629
kathryn.linder@oregonstate.edu

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