

“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. Bethany Simunich on the Relationship between Research and Assessment

[00:00-34:25]

Research in Action - Episode 150

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. Bethany Simunich, the Director of Online Pedagogy and Research at Kent State University. She has many years of experience as both a face-to-face and online instructor, and has also held positions in educational technology, instructional design, and faculty development. Aligning with her interests in quality assurance in online education, Bethany has worked with Quality Matters for many years, including as a Senior Research Colleague, Master Reviewer, and workshop Facilitator, and also serves on the Quality Matters Academic Advisory Council. Currently, she is co-State Lead for the QM Ohio Consortium, as well as a QMC and Course Review Manager for Kent State. Bethany enjoys presenting workshops and seminars at universities and conferences on instructional design, online teaching, and conducting DL-focused research. Her professional and research interests include presence in the online classroom, peer evaluation of online teaching and design, and online student and instructor satisfaction and self-efficacy.

Segment One [00:00-16:49] - In this segment, Bethany shares about some of her current research interesting in the field of online teaching and learning.

Segment Two [16:50-34:25] - In this segment, Bethany discusses the relationship she sees between research and assessment.

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e150/>

Learning Outcomes

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

- Discuss the importance of pedagogical goals within an online course
- Explain the relationship between research and assessment within online education
- Describe potential connections between scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) research and online learning research

Guiding Questions for Listening

- What led Dr. Simunich to research online learning?
- What two things does Dr. Simunich share helped her connect with online students within a course?
- What does Dr. Simunich share about the importance of establishing pedagogical goals within the online learning environment?
- Based on Dr. Simunich’s research, what appear to be some of the gaps within online education research?
- According to Dr. Simunich, what is the relationship between research and assessment within the context of online education?
- According to Dr. Simunich, how might scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) research be a segue into online learning research?
- To what extent does Dr. Simunich suggest instructional designers be involved in online learning research?

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e150/>) 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/e150/>) 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. Bethany Simunich 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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