

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. Neil Salkind on Statistics Anxiety [32:59]

Research in Action - Episode 24

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. Neil Salkind, who received his PhD from the University of Maryland in Human Development, and after teaching for 35 years at the University of Kansas, remains a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Educational Psychology. His early interests were in the area of children’s cognitive development, and after research in the areas of cognitive style and (what was then known as) hyperactivity, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina’s Bush Center for Child and Family Policy. His work then changed direction to a focus on child and family policy, specifically the impact of alternative forms of public support on various child and family outcomes. He has delivered more than 150 professional papers and presentations; written more than 100 trade and textbooks; and is the author of *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics* from (SAGE), *Theories of Human Development* also from (SAGE), and *Exploring Research* by (Prentice Hall). He has edited several encyclopedias, including the *Encyclopedia of Human Development*, the *Encyclopedia of Measurement and Statistics*, and the recently published *Encyclopedia of Research Design*. He was also the editor of *Child Development Abstracts and Bibliography* for 13 years

Segment One [00:00-10:36] - In this segment, Neil explains why statistics shouldn't cause researchers anxiety.

Segment Two [10:37-20:48] - In this segment, Neil shares some ideas for how beginning researchers can increase their statistics skills.

Segment Three [20:49-32:59] - In this segment, Neil shares about his experiences as an editor of encyclopedias.

Bonus Clip # 1 [00:00-4:02]: Writing about Research Methods

Bonus Clip #2 [00:00-2:13]: Tips for Engaging Experts for Feedback on Your Work

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e24/>

Learning Outcomes

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

- Discuss approaches to identifying and addressing potential barriers to learning statistics
- Describe the purpose of applying statistical methods
- Provide an example of applying quantitative and qualitative statistical methods
- Cite various independent publishing companies
- Discuss Dr. Salkind’s advice to those working with publishers for the first time

Guiding Questions for Listening

- How does Dr. Salkind suggest approaching any anxiety surrounding statistics?
- In Dr. Salkind’s teaching experience with statistics, what has created a successful learning environment for students?
- How does Dr. Salkind encourage learners to think about statistics?
- According to Dr. Salkind, how might the “conceptual nature of what statistics represents” be a potential stumbling block for those learning statistics?
- What is an example of how both quantitative and qualitative statistical methods can be applied in a research study?
- What, if any, are some potential challenges to being trained in one type of statistical method?
- Based on the example in this episode, what appear to be some of the collaborative elements of editing an encyclopedia?
- What elements, if any, of Dr. Salkind’s experience editing encyclopedias or writing about research methods (see also, bonus clip) did you find surprising?
- What advice does Dr. Salkind offer as a way to think

strategically when working with publishers?

- According to Dr. Salkind, what are some considerations and precautions for those who may be new to working with publishers?

Possible Activities

- Facilitate a large group discussion with your students about their experiences with statistics. Begin by asking students to anonymously write down their statistics fears. Collect these responses and then share a few with the group to start the discussion. Use this discussion to learn more about your students' concerns and to allay their fears about working with statistics methods.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e24/>) 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/e24/>) 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. Neil Salkind if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2016, September 12). *Dr. Neil Salkind on Statistics Anxiety* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e24/>

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

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.