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, the guest Dr. Inger Mewburn, a researcher specializing in research education since 2006. She is currently the Director of Research Training at The Australian National University where she is responsible for co-ordinating, communicating and measuring all the centrally run research training activities and doing research on student experience to inform practice. Inger also runs a popular blog, *The Thesis Whisperer*, and writes scholarly papers, books and book chapters about research student experiences, with a special interest in the digital practices of academics. She is a regular guest speaker at other universities on publishing, writing, social media and presentation skills.

Segment One [00:00-09:25] - In this segment, Inger shares how the *The Thesis Whisperer* blog came to be.

Segment Two [09:26-19:28] - In this segment, Inger shares about how she came to be a research educator and some of the services she offers as the Director of Research Training at The Australian National University.

Segment Three [19:29-31:49] - In this segment, Inger shares some of her tips for maintaining a strong and active writing pipeline.

Bonus Clip #1 [00:00-04:22]: Inger's Research on Academic Blogging

Bonus Clip #2 [00:00-04:10]: How to Tame Your PhD

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:
http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e33/

Learning Outcomes

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

- Cite educational resources for new researchers
- Describe the Australian government's involvement in research
- Discuss common challenges for PhD students
- Review strategies for moving research and writing forward amidst a busy schedule
- Describe the Pomodoro Technique
- Discuss benefits and challenges in academic blogging

Guiding Questions for Listening

- How did Dr. Mewburn's blog, *The Thesis Whisperer*, come to be?
- What was Dr. Mewburn's purpose behind *The Thesis Whisperer*?
- In Australia, how is the government involved in research?
- In Australia, how might a student's ability to complete a PhD program potentially affect a university's ability to move research forward?
- What strategies does Dr. Mewburn offer to keep research and writing moving forward amidst a busy schedule?
- With regard to productive writing, what do you think Dr. Mewburn meant by, "there's a whole writing practice there that isn't what you see"?
- What are some of the activities PhD students might encounter in the "thesis boot camp" described in this episode?
- What is The Pomodoro Technique?
- According to Dr. Mewburn, why does there appear to be some fear and uncertainty surrounding academic blogging within the PhD community? (See also, Bonus Clip #1)
- How did Dr. Mewburn's book *How to Tame Your PhD*

involve her blog *The Thesis Whisperer*? (See also, Bonus Clip #2)

Possible Activities

- Have students explore several posts from *The Thesis Whisperer* blog and choose one to review and share with the class. What was the main argument of the post? What helpful resources were shared?
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e33/) 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/e33/) 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. Inger Mewburn if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2016, November 14). *Dr. Inger Mewburn on Supporting & Training New Researchers* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e33/

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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