

# 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.

### 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. Christopher McKnight Nichols is Associate Professor of History at Oregon State University and Director of OSU's Center for the Humanities. He specializes in the history of the United States and its relationship to the rest of the world, particularly in the areas of isolationism, internationalism, and globalization. In addition, he is an expert on modern U.S. intellectual, cultural, and political history, with an emphasis on the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (1880-1920) through the present. He is author of *Promise and Peril: America at the Dawn of a Global Age* (Harvard UP, 2011, 2015), co-editor and co-author, *Prophesies of Godlessness: Predictions of America's Imminent Secularization from the Puritans to the Present Day* (Oxford UP, 2008), Senior Editor, *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Military and Diplomatic History* (2013), co-editor, *Wiley Blackwell Companion to the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (2017), and co-organizer and co-editor of the forthcoming *Rethinking Grand Strategy* (Oxford). He is at work on several new book projects. Nichols is a frequent commentator on air, online, and in print on the historical dimensions of contemporary U.S. foreign policy and politics. He is a 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellow and is a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

*Segment One* [00:00-10:42] - In this segment, Chris shares about some of his current research on isolationism.

*Segment Two* [10:43-21:03] - In this segment, Chris shares about his experience directing Oregon State's Center for the Humanities.

*Segment Three* [21:04-33:27] - In this segment, Chris discusses his strategies for sharing his research more broadly.

*Bonus Clip #1* [00:00-04:34]: The Process of Being Nominated for a Carnegie Fellowship

*Bonus Clip #2* [00:00-06:46]: Defining Isolationism

*Bonus Clip #3* [00:00-05:02]: Chris's Work as a Carnegie Fellow

*Bonus Clip #4* [00:00-06:29]: Chris's Interpretation of Grand Strategy

*Bonus Clip #5* [00:00-05:25]: Chris's Interpretation of Grand Strategy

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e60/>

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Discuss challenges associated with offering public commentary as an academic
- Describe the process of being nominated for a Carnegie Fellow
- Define isolationism
- Provide an example of grand strategy
- Discuss similarities and differences between isolationism and internationalism

### Guiding Questions for Listening

- According to Dr. Nichols, how do “the questions of the present inform all of our work” with regard to research?
- What led Dr. Nichols to start the Citizenship and Crisis Initiative at OSU?
- According to Dr. Nichols, how does public commentary evolve, especially for an academic?
- What does Dr. Nichols consider as one of the most important things the Carnegie Fellows program provides to a researcher? (See also, Bonus Clip #3)
- What is an example of grand strategy? (See also, Bonus Clip #4)

- What appear to be some similarities and differences between isolationism and internationalism? (See also, Bonus Clip #5)

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e60/>) 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/e60/>) 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. Christopher McKnight Nichols if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2017, May 22). *Dr. Christopher McKnight Nichols on the Importance of the Humanities* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e60/>

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## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

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“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.

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