July 2019 Preview Clips

# KL: Katie Linder

**RPV:** Raul Pacheco-Vega

**MN:** Melanie Nelson

**JN:** John Nychka

**RK:** Ronald Kander

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# [*intro music*]

# Segment 1:

**KL**: Hey there, RIA listeners! This month the “Research in Action” team is taking a break from our regular production schedule to offer you some of our best archived episodes on research career building. We hope these episodes will help prepare you for the next stage of your career no matter which stage you are in currently.

In the first episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Raul Pacheco-Vega, an Assistant Professor in the Public Administration Division of the Center for Economic Teaching and Research in Mexico. In this episode, Raul shares about his research on sanitation and water governance as well as his experience with interdisciplinary and international collaborations. Here’s a short clip from the episode:

**RPV:** Toilets are our political and the denial of access to a toilet is as political a statement as you can. I mean it’s literally what people call the biocontrol right, the bio politics of the toilet. It’s controlling the human body to the point when you can use their basic foremost necessity. I mean, people say well the foremost necessity is to eat and I’m like um no you can spend days without eating I can tell you, you spend more than two days with no excretion, you will have huge, huge, problems, you will die.

**KL:** In the second episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Melanie Nelson, a project manager with more than 15 years of experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. In this episode, Melanie discusses best practices for project management with research. Here’s a short clip:

**MN:** A great idea is really not use if you can’t execute on it, get it out into the world. And I think, particularly as research projects get more interdisciplinary, and teams get bigger, learning how to work effectively together and bring different people and resources together to get done is almost essential for being effective in research.

**KL:** In the third episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. John Nychka, Associate Professor, Chemical and Materials Engineering and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Dentistry at the University of Alberta. On this episode, John shares about his research on materials and his experiences with failure as a researcher. Here’s a short clip:

**JN:** It can be very open ended and almost seem like there’s no direction at times. And so I actually like that. I like learning about new materials and new things. I think the value that I’ve found and the questions that I really like are “How can I get a really simple process in a material to change its performance?” So examples of that are I do a lot of work with coding and surface engineering. So I have to change the behavior of the material at the surface, but I don’t necessarily want to make an entire material out of the material that’s at the surface. So an example would be; Metal oxide coding on an alloy. Typically they exist naturally. Metals don’t really actually want to be metals, they want to turn back to the ores from which we turned them into metals in the first place. So we can actually use it on purpose and say, “Hm. Can I come up with a simple process, like heating something in air that can all of a sudden change the way it behaves in different applications?”

**KL:** In the fourth episode of the month, we’re sharing my solo episode about setting research goals. In this episode, I offer some tips for making sure your goals are reasonable and some strategies for staying accountable to your goals throughout the year. Here’s a short clip from the episode:

There are lots of different ways to categorize our research goals and to help us think about them within larger frameworks. So one model for this is a pipeline model. You might think about, what kind of research do you want to design this year? What are your goals around maybe new projects that you want to get started with that you want to launch? What amount or what kind of data do you plan to collect this year? So that would be the second part of your pipeline – data collection. What kind of data or what amount of data do you need to analyze this year? And if you don’t have a clear pipeline in front of you some of these might be difficult to answer, if you don’t know like six months from now what kind of project you’re going to have in front of you. So you can think just about the immediate future, and just kind of update this as you go through the year. As part of that pipeline you might also want to think about what kinds of outcomes would be created from your data, and then also where and what you want to disseminate.

In the fifth episode of the month, we’re sharing my interview with Dr. Ronald Kander, Founding Dean of Kanbar College of Design, Engineering & Commerce and Associate Provost for Applied Research at Jefferson University. In this episode, Ron offers a retrospective look at what has made him successful as a researcher. Here’s a short clip:

**RK:** I’ve had a lot of interesting opportunities placed in front of me. I feel like I’ve tried to remain hyper-prepared, so that as the opportunities swing by, I can reach out and grab them quickly; before somebody else does. But um a lot of it has to do with that sort of separate planned act. I think anyone who tries to say they planned out their career is lying to you and to themselves when they say that. Um usually you know it’s sort of a rough idea, and then you have to respond to opportunities as they present themselves.

**KL:** Thanks for checking out this month’s preview clips!

I’m Katie Linder – enjoy the episodes!

Show notes with links to resources mentioned in the episode, a full transcript, and an instructor’s guide for incorporating the episode into your courses, can be found at the show’s website at [ecampus.oregonstate.edu/podcast](http://www.ecampus.oregonstate.edu/podcast).

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