

Academic Discourse I

FS101

Class Discussion: IRBs and Research

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College Research

- Research projects are very likely in college
 - Senior Comps, class projects, summer research programs
- Research may include
 - Studies involving people and animals
 - Surveys and questionnaires
 - Narratives
 - Sound or Video recordings
 - Written information from participants
- How do we conduct research in a way that is ethical?
- How will such a project happen so that participants are made aware of how their input will be used?

Research with Human Participants

- The **Definition of Research** *as defined by the guidelines of the OHRP is: “systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.”*
- **Human Participant Research:** To vet the methods of data collection from human participants. If a study (this includes surveys) gathers information from humans, and the information will be interpreted or disseminated, a proposal should be filed with the AC IRB.

Research with Animal Participants

- The principal function of the Animal Research Committee (ARC) is to insure the welfare of animals used in teaching and research that originates at the College. The Committee conducts initial and continuing review of all research and classroom projects involving animals carried out by members of the college community. The ARC reviews research proposals initiated by faculty members in connection with their respective academic pursuits.

<https://sites.allegheny.edu/committees/animal-research>

Guidelines-Allegheny College Institution **Review Board** (AC IRB)

- The IRB at Allegheny College is charged with reviewing and approving human participant research protocols. The oversight body for IRBs is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/>, under regulation 45 CFR 46; <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.html>.
- Role: the role of the IRB at Allegheny College is to ensure studies involving human participants are carried out in an ethical, beneficent, and just manner.



Responsible Conduct of Research for the Sciences

- The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) is dedicated to serving the training needs of colleges and universities, healthcare institutions, technology and research organizations, and governmental agencies, as they foster integrity and professional advancement of their learners.
 - <https://about.citiprogram.org/>
 - <https://sites.allegheny.edu/committees/institutional-review-board/irb-citi-training/>



Research Project Number 1

- You and your team are conducting a study to determine whether a stop light is necessary outside of Alden Hall on Main Street.
- You want to know:
 - When is automotive traffic the highest between 6am and 10pm
 - When do people cross the road? What are the peaks of pedestrian (foot) traffic between 6am and 10pm?
- You install a camera to watch the automatic and pedestrian traffic to collect data.



Research Project Number 1 (discuss in groups)

- Determine a responsible approach to your study where you consider the participants, data and scene.
- **Q1:** Should the pedestrians be made aware of the study? Why or why not?
- **Q2:** What kinds of data will be collected? How, where, and for how long will it be stored?
- **Q3:** Is it necessary to protect the data? Why or why not?
- **Q4:** If you are not allowed to show peoples faces in the study, how will you continue the work without any identifying information?



Research Project Number 2

- You and your team are conducting a study to gather narratives, commentaries, interviews of people who have lived (or are still living) near the college. You would like to create a documentary to cover the changes in the campus and surrounding areas over the last fifty years.
- You go door to door with a camera and a microphone to ask people to participate in your study.



Research Project Number 2 (discuss in groups)

- Determine a responsible approach to your study where you consider the participants, data and scene.
- **Q1:** How do you explain your work to the participants?
- **Q2:** What kinds of data will be collected? How, where, and for how long will it be stored?
- **Q3:** Is it necessary to protect the data? Why or why not?
- **Q4:** If you are not allowed to show peoples faces in the study, how will you continue the work without identifying information?