Research Ethics

Benjamin Graham
Today’s Plan

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Academic Honors and Fellowships presents:

RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS WEEK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 12:00PM - 1:30PM
TCC 416 (the forum)

RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS 101
What is Research? What is a Fellowship? This presentation will offer an introduction to undergraduate research at USC and explain how research experience can be an asset when applying for competitive national fellowships such as the Rhodes Scholarship and Fulbright Grant. A panel of undergraduate Trojans will also reflect on their research journey and share about applying for these prestigious awards.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 12:00PM - 1:30PM
TCC 227 (Roxan Family Room)

FACULTY REFLECTIONS ON RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS
Curious about how research varies in different fields? Wondering how your favorite USC faculty found their way into the profession? In many cases research experience and/or a competitive fellowship has helped to propel a faculty member’s career. Join us for a faculty panel representing the humanities, STEM fields, and professional schools to learn how research and fellowships played a role in their lives.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 3:00PM - 4:00PM
TCC 227 (Roxan Family Room)

CORO FELLOWS INFORMATION SESSION
The Coro Fellowship program is an experience-based program that develops the next generation of civic leaders through a 9-month, full-time, paid cross-sectoral leadership training fellowship that involves field placements, seminars, interviews, focus groups and community-based impact projects.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1:00PM - 2:00PM
BRI 202

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION
The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is funded by the US Department of State and offers international opportunities in research, study, teaching English, service, and internship for 8-10 months after completion of a Bachelor’s degree. *U.S. citizenship required.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 12:00PM - 1:30PM
TCC 3302/31 (Tavlor Room)

PERSONAL NARRATIVE INTERACTIVE SESSION
A strong personal narrative is a core component when applying for graduate school, competitive fellowships, and jobs. Join us for an interactive writing workshop to develop your personal narrative through personal reflection, brainstorming, and expository and persuasive writing techniques.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 3:00PM-4:30PM
TCC 227 (Roxan Family Room)

Boren Awards Information Session
Boren Scholarships and Fellowships, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. Interests. *U.S. citizenship and a 1-yr commitment to federal service required.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 11:00AM-12:00PM
HNB 100

ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT INFORMATION SESSION
The Rotary Global Grant Scholarship supports graduate level coursework and a sustainable humanitarian project in collaboration with a Rotary Club outside of the U.S. *U.S. and non-U.S. citizens may apply.

FREE PIZZA IF YOU RSVP!
RSVP at:
www.ahf.usc.edu/RFW

Co-Sponsored by the Trojan Scholars Society
The Stanford Prison Experiment

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Positivist Research Guidelines

• Read these in the book chapter if you haven’t already
• They look a lot like the slides we covered on “what is good science”

• This is a positivist class. For better or worse.
Positivist Research Guidelines

• Test ideas against empirical reality without becoming too personally invested in a particular outcome
• Plan and carry out investigations systematically
• Document all procedures and disclose them publicly
• Clarify Assumptions
• Specify the meaning of all the terms
• Maintain a skeptical stance toward current knowledge
• Replicate research and build social theory
• Search for regularities and patterns
Ethics for Human Subjects Research

- No harm to subjects
- Voluntary participation
- Researcher should disclose his identity
  - Avoid deception (sometimes)
- Anonymity of the subjects must be maintained unless explicitly and voluntarily waived
- Benefits should outweigh the potential risks

- Human Subjects Review Boards
  - AKA Internal Review Boards
Research Ethics: Abuse rooted in racism

- Research by Nazi doctors conducted on Jewish prisoners
- Tuskegee Syphilis experiment
- Milgram’s experiments
- Humphrey’s research for *The Tearoom Trade*
Research Ethics: Abuse rooted in racism
Research Ethics: Abuse rooted in racism
The Milgram Results

• 65% (26 of 40) of Yale subjects went all the way
  Only 48% of the Bridgeport warehouse replication did

Other variations:
  • If victim is seen not just heard: 40%
  • If victim is touched physically it is 30%
  • When subjects could avoid direct monitoring and supervision many cheated and gave a lesser shock
  • And when subject was part of a (carefully orchestrated) group where the others (assistants) refused 90% refused
Clicker Question

• If you were on the IRB, would you have allowed Humphrey’s research in the tearoom trade to move forward?
  • A. Yes
  • B. No
Other examples

• Interviewing the IRA
• Studying vote buying in the Philippines
• Anthropologists embedding with the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan