



Demystifying the IRB

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Segments and Subtopics

1. What is the IRB and why should I care?
 - Human subjects concerns
 - What kinds of projects need IRB approval
 - What is “research”?
 - Types of review
 - But my discipline doesn’t “do” the IRB
2. IRB for the Teacher-Scholar (Case Studies)
 - But it’s just a class project ...
 - It’s for the community Is that research?
 - Pedagogical innovation and SOTL
 - I didn’t think this was research, but maybe it is?
3. Navigating the Mercer IRB process (Tutorial)
 - Citi Training
 - Process
 - Forms
 - Guiding students





2. IRB for the Teacher-Scholar

But's its just a
class project...

- #1 – An instructor is teaching an INT 201 class that includes a service-learning component at a Bibb County school. In addition to tutoring students, students conduct interviews with teachers and parents. A report based on the interviews and tutoring experiences is submitted to the Bibb County Board of Education at the end of the semester.
- #2 – An instructor is teaching a Medical Anthropology course. Students are required to carry out mini-ethnographic projects that involve interviewing and observation. The final papers are read by the instructor and no one else.



It's for the
community ... it
that research?

- #3 -- A student doing an internship at an international non-profit carries out an evaluation of the non-profit's work. After reading her internship journal, her instructor recommends she present her findings at BEAR Day.
- #4 -- An instructor is teaching a research methods course with a research project based at Daybreak, a day shelter for the homeless. Students will carry out interviews and focus groups with Daybreak's users. Daybreak will receive a final report and the instructor hopes to publish a paper.



Pedagogical Innovation and SOTL

- #5 – An instructor is teaching two sections of the same Finance class in the Fall and wants to experiment with a new pedagogy in one section, but not the other. He plans to collect outcomes data from students and compare the sections. A colleague mentions this sounds like great SOTL project.
- #6 – A Global Health Studies instructor introduces a WHO simulation into her intro course and after a few semesters, she realizes that it's a really effective way for students to demonstrate course competencies. Is it too late for SOTL?



I didn't think this was research, but maybe it is?

#7 – After their first Mercer on Mission program, two engineering faculty members want to write an article about the successes of their program. The program has already happened, can they publish?

#8 – A student in the Medical Anthropology class in Scenario #2 wants to transform their mini-ethnography into a senior research project. Can he?

