Going Straight to the Source:

Using Human Subject Data in Your Thesis, Capstone Report, or Dissertation

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Chair, Institutional Review Board
14 July 2020
What’s the maximum sea state for small boat recovery?

Experimentation and/or simulation
Why are Navy pilots suffering physiological episodes?

Surveys
Questionnaires
Focus Groups
Interviews
Use **secondary information** to compare performance of school children whose military parents **are** deployed to those children whose parents **are not** deployed.

- School grades
- Special classes (advanced or challenged)
- Disciplinary issues
- Number of deployments
- Length of deployments
- Age of children
What is Human Subjects Research (HSR)?

**Research**

“A **systematic** investigation designed to develop or contribute to **generalizable** knowledge”

**Human Subject**

“A living individual **about whom** an investigator… conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information” about an individual.”

**Common Types of HSR**

- Surveys, questionnaires
- Interviews
- Equipment testing on people
- Audio/video recording
- Archived data mining
- Task/work analysis

*Yours might be HSR!*
All academic institutions conducting research involving humans have an IRB.

- Research is governed by HHS, DOD, and DON policies
- Online CITI training is required
- Approval can take up to three weeks

Plan ahead!
What can do without IRB approval?

- Discuss possible research topics with SMEs
- Work with others on the design of your research
- Talk with people to collect facts

What first requires IRB approval?

- Recruit people to participate as subjects
- Collect data from people, about themselves. “What do you think about….?” “Why do you think that happened?”
- Access data that is private and identifiable

If in doubt, ask IRB@nps.edu!
What happens when HSR is conducted **without** IRB approval?

- Non-compliance is investigated and reported to the NPS President, DoN, and DoD.
- You may lose all data collected and be unable to complete your coursework or thesis.
- You may not graduate on time.

If in doubt, ask IRB@nps.edu!
Specify Methods at Thesis Proposal Stage

On your Python Thesis Dashboard

**Compliance Approval Tasks**

To plan ahead and consolidate task records, this section provides lists of possible items that need additional approvals.

- Track approval requested and received dates.
- If item(s) are not completed before routing, advisor checks "HOLD" on Thesis Release and Approval Form (TRAF). Updates are allowed after student departs.

**Compliance Tasks (by Student)**

Contains items that primarily are the student's responsibility. Click (edit) to update.

**Required at Proposal**
Specify Methods at Thesis Proposal Stage

Scroll down to reveal method types

- Human Subjects protocol review by IRB
- Travel approval (if fieldwork)
- SERE training (if fieldwork abroad)
- Country clearance (if fieldwork abroad)
- Review by student’s sponsor
- Patent filed (if separate from advisor)
- Copyright permission(s)
- Other, student's responsibility

Human Research Protection Program (HRPP)
Specify HSR (or Not) at Thesis Proposal Stage

If “YES,” contact IRB@nps.edu!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administer a questionnaire or survey.</td>
<td>☑ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct focus groups or interviews.</td>
<td>☑ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observe human performance directly or indirectly (e.g., online, through analysis of information systems, crowd sourcing, etc.) with or without individuals’ knowledge.</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio or video record the activities of humans.</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use pre-collected data that contains any information about humans.</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test any equipment in which humans will serve as users.</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Subject Determination Info**

When answering YES to any of the above and before they begin their research, students must fill out a Human Subject Determination Request Form (available at [http://my.nps.edu/web/research/irb-home](http://my.nps.edu/web/research/irb-home)), have it signed by the advisor, send it to the HRPP Specialist at irb@nps.edu, and receive back an IRB determination. In the event the research evolves to include any of the above activities, the student must request a new IRB determination.
HRPP and IRB Contact Information

NPS IRB website and email:
https://my.nps.edu/web/research/irb
IRB@nps.edu

IRB Contact Information:

IRB Chair: Dr. Larry Shattuck
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HRPP Support: Ms. Celine Lai
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Cooperate and Graduate!!
THE END

Now, go forth and do great things!