Naval Postgraduate School

Going Straight to the Source:

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

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Chair, Institutional Review Board
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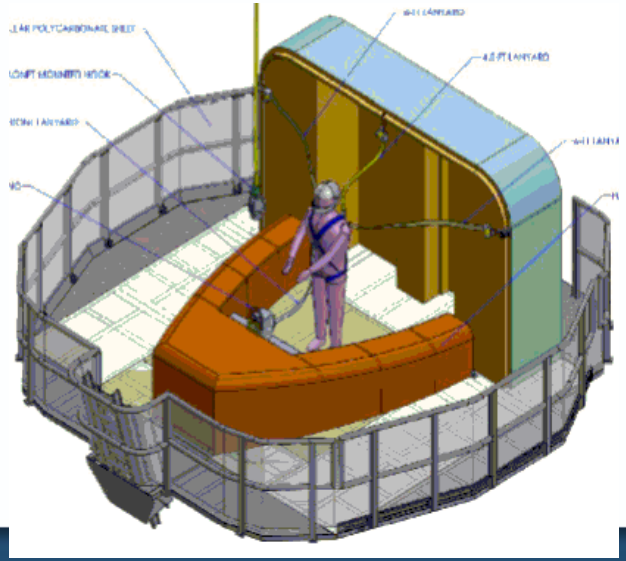
What's the maximum sea state for small boat recovery?

Experimentation and/or simulation



Why are Navy pilots suffering physiological episodes?

Surveys
Questionnaires
Focus Groups
Interviews

How do service member deployments affect their children's performance in school?

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"

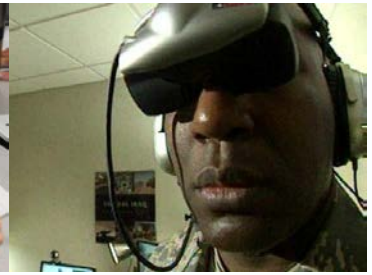
Human Subject

"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!



What You Need to Know

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 You Need to Know

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 You Need to Know

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) (edit)

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

Required at Proposal

Specify HSR (or Not) at Thesis Proposal Stage

Edit Compliance Items by Student

Human Research Protection Program (HRPP)

Do you plan to engage in any of the following activities in support of your research activities?

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

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), 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.

If "YES," contact IRB@nps.edu!

Save Compliance Items | Close Window

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
Ext: 2473
lgshattu@nps.edu

HRPP Support: Mr. Scott Ramos
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Ms. Rikki Nguyen
ranguyen@nps.edu

Cooperate and Graduate!!

Q&A with Presenters Upcoming