
Atkins Elliott Lab Contract

Updated January 3, 2017

Welcome!

I hope research will be a fun and rewarding experience for both of us. Below is a little about what I expect from you and what you can expect from me as we conduct research together. This is an evolving document; if there's anything here that you have questions about or disagree with, please see me any time.

Why Collaborate?

My favorite experiences as a researcher have happened when there is a vibrant, enthusiastic set of scholars with related work all collaborating on a range of projects. At its best, this involves faculty, postdocs, grad students and undergrads who bounce ideas off of one another, share in the struggle and mundane aspects of research, and celebrate the joy of getting an idea into print. As the lab grows, I hope that this culture of research will grow, too. To foster such an atmosphere of collaboration (and to be decent human beings) it is important to me that the lab be inclusive and welcoming of all students. If you have any concerns, please see me or anyone in a supervisory role at Boise State.

Helping in lab

Continuing with the theme of collaboration, you may be asked to do some pretty mundane work, some of which will not be directly related to your own research. Much of my research involves videotaping classrooms, downloading/backing-up that video, isolating interesting moments, transcribing those, and then coding. While there's a lot of fascinating moments — classrooms can be interesting to watch, and students can have the most amazing ideas; selecting moments to transcribe is theory-laden and difficult; and careful transcription can be mesmerizing — there will be stretches of boring tasks, and research directions that result in dead-ends. All lab students are expected to share in this work as part of the responsibilities of research.

Ethics

In our lab we work with student data - often identifiable because of video. These students are participants in our research, and we treat them, their ideas, and their rights to privacy with

the utmost of respect. All participants in research have signed an informed consent form and agreed to participate, and we must uphold our side of the contract. You will be asked to take IRB (Institutional Review Board) Human Subjects training and become versed on how to maintain the privacy of our participants, including best practices with video data. Anyone who fails to respect the rights of our research participants will be asked to leave the lab.

Progress

Research is hard, and students are often surprised by how long it takes to have something worth saying — a finding that can be published or a piece of data that has significance. Progress can be hard to recognize at first. You and I will work together to outline a set of clear tasks to get started, but we will be flexible on monitoring progress towards those goals. If you feel stuck or like you're spinning your wheels that might not be a problem - but it doesn't hurt to ask.

Publications

One product of research is a publication, and I will try to get you involved in a project that leads to publication, though this won't always happen. In order to be a co-author on a publication, you must (1) have contributed to the ideas and data in the paper (that is, simply running a video camera or working on data management is not enough, but coding and analyzing is) and (2) have contributed substantially to the writing (that is, there are sections of the paper that you authored or revised). Prior to starting a paper, all potential co-authors will meet to discuss how they can contribute and if they would like to contribute.

Time Commitment

Together we'll work to determine what time commitment you'll need to set aside. Plan to attend weekly lab meetings and a separate weekly check-in in addition to your research time.

