

Research Topics, IRB, & Collaboration

HCC Seminar

09/05/18

Getting to Know Other HCC Students (5 min)

Directions: In your small group, go around and introduce yourself! Starting with the 4+ year, share your name, PhD advisor, and research area.

Once you've introduced yourselves, wouldn't it be nice to learn a little bit more about each other? Answer the following question to get a better feel for fellow HCC PhDs.

Question: If you had to eliminate a single type of animal, which would you choose?¹

1) How Do You Find Your Research Topic & Questions? (10 min)

Finding your research topic is hard. You can think about research as a process of *asking* and *answering* questions. So, how do you know what to research? Take some time to chat about a *few* of the following questions.

Questions:

- Do you have a research interest area? If so, how did you come to be interested in this domain?
- How have your research interests changed over time?
 - What caused these changes?
 - Was there anyone, person, book, theory, or talk that helped you home in on your current research domain?
- Researchers talk about narrowing down a lot. Walk your group through a time you had to narrow down a research project and the process you went through to do so.

2) IRB: Institutional Review Board, What You Need to Know (5 min)

IRB, the Institutional Review Board, is an organization that is in charge of monitoring and checking the research process. If you are doing human subjects research, you need to work with our IRB. And if you work with animals, there's a review board that you need to work with as well, the IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee). Until your research is approved by the appropriate review board, you canNOT do your research.

Questions:

- What do you need to know when writing about your research plan for IRB/IACUC?
- What's the average time it takes your IRB/IACUC protocol to be approved?
- What else do you need to pay attention to?
 - E.g., working with minors/protected groups, conducting research in multiple/international locations, conducting research in other languages (which are not English), working on research that isn't covered by the IRB (exempt?)

3) Teamwork: Strategies & Lessons Learned (15 min)

¹ Credit for this question comes from the book *If...* by McFarlane and Saywell (p. 6)

Research Topics, IRB, & Collaboration

HCC Seminar

09/05/18

Let's face it, we are almost always working in teams. There is a persistent image of a lone researcher working alone in a well air-conditioned, cloistered lab, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. Teamwork comes in many different shapes as a PhD student, you might be managing a team of other students, collaborating on a more senior persons grant, mentoring undergrads and masters students, or seeking out critical insight from an outside expert on an interdisciplinary project. Sometimes collaboration goes well, and sometimes it becomes the bane of your existence.

Questions:

- Working with your Advisor: Or rather, managing your advisor.
 - How do you manage your relationship with your advisor?
 - Do you have techniques for keeping your advising meeting on track and organized?
- Meeting Strategies: Handling meeting-bloat and meandering agendas.
 - Do you have any effective meeting strategies you rely on?
 - For example, do you send out an agenda in advance? Vote on decisions so that the meeting will progress but not diverge into random chats?
- Allocating Tasks & Division of Labor: Part of the difficulty of teamwork lies in the difficulty of distributing tasks and responsibilities well.
 - What are some of your team management strategies for distributing tasks?
 - When co-authoring a paper, how do you handle writing and editing as a group?
 - For example, when working with undergrads, how do you give them good research opportunities while keeping the overall project goals on track?

Wrapping Up: Sharing Tips + Announcements + Q&A

Sharing Tips: Learn something in seminar today? Perhaps someone has a IRB hack (or horror story), a great strategy for uncovering research questions, or a teamwork love story? Now is a great time to share out.

Questions? Announcements? Now is the time to share.

If you don't get a chance to share tips, questions, or announcements during the meeting, please email the HCC listserv and/or Marissa and Hayley to follow up.