

PSY 615: Collaboration in Psychology: Methods Group  
Instructor: Theodore Walls

This is a methods forum in which people who are interested in methodological problems attend regularly (or at least infrequently), present and hear presentations, and work together to increase knowledge of methodological topics. This is not a speaker series, a workshop or a colloquium setting. It is a hands-on methodological working group that will address the needs of participants and guests and thereby attempt to simultaneously move collective knowledge ahead. Its hallmark is open-sharing of ideas and questions about methods in a non-threatening and advertently supportive environment. Some possible outcomes are advances in individual research programs, increased knowledge, and identification of collaborative opportunities. It will be called "Methods Group".

Specifically, what will happen is that I will organize guest speakers from the department, across the university and from the ranks of our regional contacts and guests, including many of the regular participants. The speaker will have the option to discuss any methodological interests and needs at any stage in the research process, from idea inception to results and dissemination. The intention is for the presented work to most often be *in progress*, rather than complete. Attendees will help the speaker to develop the ideas and recommend strategies and resources. In this sense, it is like having a whole group of consultants at your disposal as presenter, free of charge. I will also strategically encourage members of the campus community with particularly relevant expertise to attend particular sessions.

As an interdisciplinary activity, my hope is that graduate students, faculty and researchers from several departments will participate and the topics represented will be not only from psychological research. Several students are currently registered from disciplines that carry a heavy focus on methods, including psychology. The focus is not limited to quantitative methods, however, these will be disproportionately represented given my expertise. My job is to maintain a relevant schedule of speakers and to facilitate dialogue.

For students, registration will be required, however, it is only a 1 or 2 credit course per semester, to total 3 for the year. There are no grades, of course, and just attendance is required for credit (satisfactory/unsatisfactory will be issued for students based on attendance alone). The meeting time is 12 noon to 1:30 PM on Mondays beginning Sept. 10 in CPRC Commons (you are encouraged to bring bag lunch). Interested students may register for the PSY615 offering under my name in ecampus (generic ecampus title is Collab Res in Psych seminar) and interested faculty and researchers are welcome to send me a note indicating interest or simply show up at any point over the year.