

# Demystifying Research in Work-Integrated Learning

Dr. Judene Pretti, University of Waterloo  
Dr. Sarah Burrows, Providence College

Tuesday, April 14  
2p.m. - 3 p.m. CST



#2020CEIA | @CEIAINC

# Outline

- ▶ Warm-up Questions for Participants
- ▶ Our Research Stories/Inspiration
- ▶ Research Phases and Examples
- ▶ Tips & Resources

# Demystifying WIL Research – Question 1

- ▶ How would you describe yourself as a co-op/internship researcher?
  - ▶ **Beginner**
  - ▶ **Intermediate**
  - ▶ **Advanced**

Please share your response in the chat function.

# Demystifying WIL Research – Question 2

- ▶ In thinking about a specific co-op/internship research project, which most closely represents the stage you are at?
  - ▶ **Early** stage: try to settle on a topic or research question, or trying to determine what body of literature to review
  - ▶ **Mid** stage: trying to determine an approach/methodology, determining questions to ask participants, determining approach for analysis
  - ▶ **Later** stage: preparing research for dissemination as a paper or presentation

Please share your response in the chat function.



# Who We Are and Our Interest in Co-op/Internship Research

**Sarah Burrows, Ed.D.**

**Senior Associate Director, Center for  
Career Education & Professional  
Development  
Providence College**

**Associate Professor of Communication  
Lasell University  
Simmons University**

**Judene Pretti, Ph.D.**

**Director, Centre for the Advancement of  
Co-operative Education**

**University of Waterloo**

# Value of WIL Research

- ▶ Deepen our understanding of our impact upon the academics with whom we work as well as providing a connection point with other stakeholders
- ▶ Contribute to the body of evidence providing rationale for our programs (within our institutions and advocacy with government and funding agencies)
- ▶ Contributing to own scholarly and professional development
- ▶ Fosters connections across institutions in the case of cross-institution research – global communities of practice
- ▶ Identify emerging trends in experiential education

# Research – Early Stages

- ▶ Selecting a topic
- ▶ Identify population(s) impacted
- ▶ Conducting a literature review
- ▶ Identifying the research question(s)

# Research – Early Stages – Example

Prompts?	Example *
What questions do I have? What am I interested in better understanding?	What makes for a quality co-op work term experience from the co-op supervisor's perspective?
What search terms should be used to identify relevant literature?	Supervisor satisfaction, student performance, co-operative education, internships, work-integrated learning
What research questions (RQs) could be used to investigate that topic?	What student attributes influence supervisors' satisfaction with a hired co-op student?

\* Nevison, C., Cormier, L., Pretti, T. J., & Drewery, D. (2018). The influence of values on supervisors' satisfaction with co-op student employees. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning (IJWIL)*, 19(1), 1-11.

# Research – Mid-stage

- ▶ Selecting an appropriate methodology
- ▶ Collecting and Analyzing Data
  - ▶ Will be very different depending on the research method(s) being used
- ▶ Determining Conclusions and Implications

# Research – Mid-stage – Example

Prompts?	Example
What methodologies might be appropriate for exploring this RQ?	Online survey sent to co-op supervisors.
Where will I get data? If I have participants, who will they be and how will I select them?	Include all supervisors who have supervised at least one student from the university.
What data will I collect/analyze? What questions will I ask participants?	Co-op supervisors' ratings of: (1) importance of various student attributes; and (2) students' performance.
What techniques will I use to analyze the data?	Quantitative analyses: descriptive statistics, linear regression.

# Research – Later-stage

- ▶ Identify Audiences
- ▶ Dissemination
  - ▶ Preparation of manuscripts
  - ▶ Preparation of presentations

# Research – Later-stage – Example

Prompts?	Example 1	Example 2
What audience I want to reach with my findings?	<i>WIL Researchers</i>	<i>WIL Practitioners</i>
Where do I want to publish or present my work?	<i>International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning (IJWIL)</i>	<i>CEIA Experience Magazine</i>
What is the required format for my selected dissemination channel? Who is the audience?	Journal requirements: <a href="https://www.ijwil.org/instructions-for-authors">https://www.ijwil.org/instructions-for-authors</a>	Experience Magazine Requirements: <a href="http://www.ceiainc.org/knowledge-zone/experience-magazine/">http://www.ceiainc.org/knowledge-zone/experience-magazine/</a>



# Questions?

Early Stage	Mid Stage	Later Stage
Topic and Research Question Identification, Literature Review	Selection of Methodology, Undertaking Data Collection and Analysis	Manuscript or Conference Presentation Preparation

# Building a Community of Researchers (within or outside your institution)

- ▶ Finding faculty members whose research interests may overlap with aspects of co-op
  - ▶ Management, Education, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Economics, Marketing & Communications
- ▶ Advertising grant opportunities connected to research in co-op/internships within your schools
- ▶ Connecting with colleagues doing Masters and PhD research in the field

# Research – Our Tips

## Sarah

- Choose a topic you truly care about
- Keep topic/scope in mind with context & scope
- Choose populations that you have easy access to
- Evaluate if they are at risk
- Find a research partner and work together
- Consider using an instrument that is commercially available rather than developing one yourself

## Judene

- Start small and keep a list of possible future projects; look at what current research suggests are areas for future research
- When selecting your topic and research question apply the “so what?” and “who cares?” test
- Identify a mentor or advocate
- Investigate ethics regulations for completing research at your institution

# Resources – Our Favorites

Sarah	Judene
<p><i>General Research:</i></p> <p>Belcher, W.L. (2009) Writing your journal article in 12 weeks. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage  Creswell, J.W. (2013) Qualitative inquiry &amp; research design. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage</p>	<p>Costley, C., Elliott, G. C., &amp; Gibbs, P. (2010). Doing work based research: Approaches to enquiry for insider-researchers. Sage.</p>
<p><i>Co-op/Internship:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning (IJWIL, formerly APJCE)</li> <li>• WACE   EAB   NACE</li> <li>• CEIA-Experience Magazine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WIL Research Portal: <a href="http://wilresearch.uwaterloo.ca">wilresearch.uwaterloo.ca</a></li> <li>• International Handbook for Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (available through WACE)</li> </ul>

# CEIA Undergraduate Research Project Grant

- ▶ Deadline: November 1, 2020
- ▶ Objective:
  - ▶ fund new initiatives or assessment projects that will contribute to knowledge of WIL, have implications for practice beyond the program in which the project is conducted, and support undergraduate research and training.
- ▶ More Details: <http://www.ceiainc.org/knowledge-zone/research-grant/>
- ▶ Advice from Recipient
  - ▶ CEIA Presentation on Thursday April 16 at 10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST – Successful Transitions for Students and Employers

# CEIA Research & Surveys

- ▶ 2017- 2018 Member Benchmarking Survey
- ▶ Goal- identify current members programming needs and satisfaction level
- ▶ 2018- 2019 Employer Survey
- ▶ Goal- Identify what employers are looking for from university partnerships and what they seek and how they assess talent
- ▶ 2019-2020 Experiential Educators at High Schools and 2-year colleges
- ▶ Experiential education trends outside the bounds of 4-year institutions of higher education – different needs

# Thank You!

## Q & A

**Sarah Burrows, Ed.D.**

**[sburrows@providence.edu](mailto:sburrows@providence.edu)**

**Judene Pretti, Ph.D.**

**[tjpretti@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:tjpretti@uwaterloo.ca)**

If you'd like to learn more about co-op/internship research and/or be connected to the WIL International Research Community, send us an email, or add your email address in the chat function.

CEIA THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT:

CareerShift

Cincinnati State College

Dan Cayse

Dell

Drexel University

Florida State University

North Carolina State University

Northeastern University

SkillSurvey

St. John's University

University of Hartford

University of Waterloo



SEARCH AND SELECT  
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
through AmazonSmile



**Evaluation This Session:**

A link will appear when you exit this Zoom session.

Connect with CEIA:

- [www.ceiainc.org](http://www.ceiainc.org)
- Cooperative Education & Internship Association LinkedIn Group
- Instagram & Twitter: @CEIAInc

#2020CEIA | @CEIAINC