

ATS D Min. Dissertation Program

Research Protocol Worksheet (Module 2)

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PART 1: YOU THE RESEARCHER

1. Which are you? _____

_____ Faculty researcher : Go to Section 1A (below, p.1)

___X___ Student researcher : Skip to Section 1B (p. 2)

Section 1A: Faculty Researcher

2. Name

3. Address _____

4. Email address _____

5. Phone number _____

6. What institution and department do you represent?

7. Name of Dept Head

8. If applicable, name of sponsor or funding source _____

9. Summarize previous related research and attach CV (with related publications)

10. If applicable, names of students assisting you in this research

Section 1B: The Student Researcher

11. Name

Jennifer K. Ashby

12. Address

16411 Redland Road, Rockville MD 20855

13. Email address jen.ashby2011@gmail.com

14. Phone number 240-672-4357

15. What institution and degree program do you represent?

Alliance Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry

16. Anticipated graduation date

2024

17. Name of Degree program director

Dr. Martin Sanders

18. Approval from Supervising faculty member for this research

Dr. Frank Chan

(either signature or acknowledgement of written permission)

19. Approval from Advisor / First Reader for this research, if different from the supervising faculty member above

Dr. Karen Gustafson _____

(either signature or acknowledgement of written permission)

20. Have you completed the “Protecting Human Research Participants” Training? The training is available at: <https://phrptraining.com>.

Either cut and paste the certificate, or have your Supervising Faculty member certify this below:

The certificate is attached. _____

(signature, or confirmation, of supervising faculty)

PART 2: THE HYPOTHESIS/ HYPOTHESES YOU PROPOSE TO PROVE OR RESEARCH QUESTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO ANSWER

21. How do you anticipate framing the presentation of your research?

_____ a theory your data will either verify or falsify (binary): Go to Section 2A: Hypothesis or Hypotheses (p. 3)

X an open-ended question (non-binary): Go to Section 2B: Research Question or Research Questions (p. 4)

(e.g. of Hypothesis: A Covid-19 positive patient who takes 500 mg of Vitamin C a day for 10 days will report a reduction of flu-like symptoms

E.g. of RQ: What is the effect on a Covid-19 positive patient who takes 500 mg of Vitamin C a day for 10 days?

Another example of a RQ: What FDA approved drugs will reduce flu-like symptoms in a Covid-19 positive patient?

_____ Both: Fill out both Section 2A and 2B

Section 2A: Hypothesis or Hypotheses

22. Please state your hypothesis or hypotheses (H1, H2, H3, etc.):

Section 2B: Research Question or Research Questions

23. Please state your research question or research questions (RQ1, RQ2, RQ3, etc.)

RQ1: What local church practices increase the sense of inclusion for single adults in the congregation?_____

RQ2: What local church practices decrease the sense of inclusion for single adults in the congregation?_____

PART 3: THE THEORIES AND THEORISTS ON WHICH YOU BASE YOUR RESEARCH IDEA

24. If your research establishes a relationship between two variables, please state the independent variable (IV) and the dependent variable (DV) below:

The independent variable in this research is church practices. The dependent variable in this research is the sense of inclusion for single adults in the congregation._____

25. Please offer some background information about your research idea. If there is a problem that your research intends to help solve, offer some information about the underlying problem. Cite sources, if applicable.

The US Census Bureau reports that the percentage of people age 15 and older who are single is on the rise, with 43.77% in 2000, 46.41% in 2010, and 47.95% in 2020. In 2014, Barna reported

that only 23% of active churchgoers were single. Single adults are even less likely to be represented in church leadership. In the case of Neighborhood Church (Rockville, MD), 2 out of 12 (17%) of the ministry staff/ elders/ governing board members are single adults, and this is typical of the other two churches named in this proposal. These trends in singleness in society, combined with the under-representation of single adults in the local church poses a significant problem for the current and future health and effectiveness of the local church. Pathways and barriers to the inclusion of single adults in the local church must be identified, and adjustments made accordingly if the church is to reach and retain this growing demographic.

“Historical Marital Status Tables.” census.gov. Last modified October 8, 2021.
<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/families/marital.html>.

Joyce Chiu. “A Single-Minded Church.” *Barna*. February 9, 2017.
<https://www.barna.com/single-minded-church/>.

26. Please discuss previous research related to yours, if any. Cite the publication information.

Singles ministry advocates such as Dennis Franck argue that the answer is for every church to have or be connected with others who provide specific ministry to and with singles. He cites several reasons for such a ministry, including the unique needs and issues of single adults, and the (single) life of Jesus himself. Others such as Lauren Winner, say, “One of the reasons I settled at the church I joined is that it doesn’t have a singles ministry.” She cites Terry Hershey, cofounder of the now defunct National Association of Single Adult Leaders, who now advocates against what he calls “ghettoizing” people into groups such as by marital status. This researcher suspects that the presence or absence of a specific “singles ministry” is less significant to the inclusion of single adults in the church than the presence or absence of a Biblical theology of singleness that plays out in practical church life. Goering and Krause allude to something similar

in their research around the marginalization of Mennonite singles, referring to the “privileged” status of married adults in the church, and the effect of such on church structures and programming, as well as frames placed on singleness.

Franck, Dennis. *Reaching Single Adults: An Essential Guide for Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.

Winner, Lauren. “Solitary Refinement.” *Christianity Today*, June 11, 2001.

Goering, Elizabeth and Andrea Krause. “Odd Wo/Man Out: The Systematic Marginalization of Mennonite Singles by the Church’s Focus on Family.” *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 75, no. 2 (2001): 211-230.

27. Please list and discuss any theories or theorists whose ideas are essential or foundational to your research

More of a theologian than a theorist. Barry Danylak’s book provides the most comprehensive and robust theology of singleness I have found.

Danylak, Barry. *Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

PART 4: DESCRIPTIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

28. Which applies to your research?

 X Descriptive research (describing the state of things as they are) (Skip to Part 5)

 Experimental research (comparing states before and after an intervention):
Answer Section 4A (p.6)

Section 4A: If, Experimental Research,
Discuss Your Intervention

29. Describe what treatment you propose to apply to your participants

30. Is the proposed treatment standardized, i.e. the same for all participants? If yes, go to Q31. If not, go to Q32.

31. If the treatment is standardized for all participants, do you have a plan to verify compliance to the standardized treatment for all participants? What is that plan?

32. If the treatment is different for different groups (e.g. differing dosages), do you have a plan to verify each group's compliance to its assigned treatment? What is that plan?

PART 5: THE DATA YOU PROPOSE TO COLLECT

33. Which type of data do you propose to collect?

Quantitative (numerical) data: Go to Section 5A: Quantitative Instrument (below, p.7)

Qualitative (verbal) data: Go to Section 5B: Qualitative Instrument below, p. 7)

Both: Fill out both 5A and 5B

Section 5A: Quantitative Data: Numerical Instrument(s) (Attach a copy to this form)

34. Name and Describe the Instrument(s) You Propose to Use. Call them Instrument 1, Instrument 2, etc

Is this (Are these) instrument(s) published?

_____ yes (published by another researcher): Answer only Q35-Q38 (p. 7)

_____ no (created by the present researcher for this project): Skip to Q39-Q42 (p.8)

35. Give the publication information for the instrument(s). What variable(s) do they measure for? In your project, are these variables the IV? the DV?

36. Tell if the instrument(s) is/are valid and reliable. Cite the validity and reliability studies.

37. Tell what subscores, if any, the instruments contain.

38. Tell how the instrument(s) are scored. What are their range of points?

39. If this instrument(s) is/are your creation for this project, state what variable your instrument measures for. Are the variable(s) the IV? the DV?

40. Discuss the "content validity" of this instrument(s) by citing scholarly sources that discuss the variable and, using these sources, demonstrate how the instrument measures for this variable

41. Tell how the instrument(s) is scored. What is/are the range of points?

42. Has this instrument(s) been field tested? If yes, was it found to be valid and reliable?

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Section 5B: Qualitative Instrument (attach the interview script to this form)

43. What variable(s) does this interview script measure for? State if these variable(s) are the IV for this project? The DV?

The interview scripts measures the dependent variable, a sense of inclusion for the single adult in the congregation, relative to the independent variable, church practices.

44. Can the variable your qualitative data is measuring be differentiated into sub constructs (i.e. component concepts)? (Note: You will have to list these in Q59 below)

It is possible that the data will be differentiated into sub constructs. It depends on what emerges from the data.

45. Do you plan to record the interviews (be sure to include this in the informed consent)? Do you plan to transcribe the interviews?

I plan to record and transcribe the interviews.

46. Is there a rubric or interpretive guide that will offer an objective standard by which to analyze the verbal data? If so, please attach the rubric or interpretive guide and describe it below.

No, there is not an outside rubric.

PART 6: THE HUMAN PARTICIPANTS YOU PROPOSE TO STUDY

Section 6A: Recruitment and Selection

47. From what population will you be recruiting your participants?

I will interview single adults from three local Christian & Missionary Alliance Churches: Neighborhood Church (Rockville, MD), First Alliance Church (Silver Spring, MD), and Washington International Church (Washington, DC).

48. What selection criteria will you use to select your participants?

Each participant will be identified by the respective pastor as a current member of the congregation, and will be an adult age 18 or older who has never been married, or is separated, divorced, or widowed.

49. Are any of your participants 18 years old or younger? No If not, what is your plan for parental consent?

50. Are any of your participants intellectually disabled? No If not, what is your plan for informed consent?

51. How many participants do you propose to study? If you have various groups of participants for each instrument, please tell the size of the participant pool for instrument 1, instrument 2, etc. Does the number of participants meet the minimum required by your program regulations?

I will ask each pastor to give me 10 names of potential participants, and will meet or exceed the recommended 20 participants for interviews. If I am struggling to get the minimum number of participants from these three churches, there are at least two more local Christian & Missionary Alliance churches that I could approach.

Section 6B: Potential Dangers This Research Project Poses to Participants

52. Discuss the potential dangers, if any, this research project poses to your participants. Discuss specifically what risks, if any, your participants take (a) physically, (b) emotionally-psychologically, (c) legally, and what steps you are taking to minimize or eliminate these risks.

Participants may perceive an emotional/ relational risk in sharing honest feedback about their church experience. I will assure them that their feedback will remain anonymous.

Section 6C: Informed Consent Procedures

53. List what information you intend to disclose to your participants about your research

project

I will disclose to all participants that they are being interviewed as research for my dissertation in the Doctor of Ministry program at Alliance Theological Seminary, and that the dissertation will be published. I will assure them that their identities will not be disclosed.

54. Explain how you plan to protect the identities of your participants

Participants will be identified by number.

55. Explain how you will obtain your participants' permission to be recorded, and to offer you data and information about themselves. If you plan to offer a written statement for participants to read, or you plan to read a written script to them, please attach that statement or script to this form:

Please see attached consent form.

PART 7: THE ANALYSIS OF THE DATA YOU INTEND TO PERFORM

56. Again, what type of data do you plan to collect?

Quantitative Data (Numerical Data): Answer Section 7A below (p. 11)

Qualitative Data (Verbal Data): Answer Section 7B below (p. 12)

Section 7A: Statistical Operations to Use for Quantitative Data:

Group 1: Descriptive Statistics for Central Tendencies

- a) Mean
- b) Median
- c) Mode
- d) Standard Deviation

Group 2: There are several statistical tests to specify:

- a) T-test and ANOVA
- b) Pearson Correlation
- c) Chi-Square

57. For each hypothesis (H1, H2, H3. etc), state the statistical operation you intend to use, whether for description or testing, or to prove your hypothesis

Section 7B: Analysis of Qualitative Data: Your Coding System

58. We'll assume you are working off an interview transcript. If you are using a grounded theory approach (the theory arises from your data), tell what "tags" you will apply to words and phrases in each "pass" over the transcripts. (e.g. "affective," behavioral" and "cognitive" are popular tags). Call the "passes" Pass 1, Pass 2, Pass 3, etc.

In Pass 1, I will tag "inclusion" with key words such as "included," "welcome," "understood," "respected," "fit in." I will tag "exclusion" with key words such as "excluded," "ignored," "invisible," "left out," "awkward," "lonely," "irrelevant." Additional tags will emerge from the data.

59. If instead you are coding to an existing theory, please list the sub-constructs--the component mental states--to the variable you are pursuing. (e.g. if you are seeking to measure "resistance to change," according to psychologist Shaul Oreg, "resistance to change" is detectable if one is "routine seeking," has "emotional reaction" to change, has "short term focus," and has "cognitive rigidity"--four sub-constructs)

Specific sub-constructs may emerge from the data.

PART 8: THE RESOURCES YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR PROJECT

60. What site supervisors' permissions will you need to perform this research?

Rev. Mark Trinkl, Lead Pastor Neighborhood Church
(signature, or written permission granted, by site supervisor)

Rev. Mike Mercurio, Lead Pastor First Alliance Church
(signature, or written permission granted, by site supervisor)

Rev. Shawn Wallace, Lead Pastor Washington International Church
(signature, or written permission granted, by site supervisor)

61. What personnel will you need to assist you in performing this research? Have you arranged for this personnel?

NA

62. What equipment or facilities will you need to perform this research? Have you arranged for this equipment or facilities?

I will need a room at each church in which to conduct interviews. This is not yet arranged with two of the churches.

63. What is the approximate timeline for your research?

Interviews completed and transcribed by December 31, 2022. Interviews analyzed by June 30, 2023. Entire dissertation draft completed by December 31, 2023. Final dissertation draft completed and prepared to defend by March 31, 2024.

PLEASE ATTACH ALL INSTRUMENTS and INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURES TO THIS FORM.