 DOES MY RESEARCH PROJECT NEED IRB REVIEW?

Does my research DESIGN require review?

**45 CFR 46** requires review of: Systematic investigations, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

*Development, testing and evaluation of what?* It is widely accepted that this refers to the components of a research design including your procedures (e.g., surveys, interviews, observations), methods and instruments. What does “develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge” mean? It is widely accepted that this refers to making the components of a research design (procedures, methods, and instruments) as well as your analyzed findings available for other professionals and/or academics to peer review, replicate and utilize. Traditionally this occurs when publishing or presenting at a professionally refereed venue, conference or competition but it may also occur through new-media methods of professional discourse.

You DO NOT need to submit an application if your project is not a systematic investigation. Examples of project types which are typically not designed as systematic investigations:

- Oral Histories
- Journalism

And, you DO NOT need to submit an application if your project does not develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. For example, disseminating your findings exclusively at CSUF in a class, group or at Student Research Competition typically does not develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.*

*Caution:* There is no retroactive approval of “Human Subjects Research”. Research (designs and findings) from a class, group or Capstone project cannot be used later to develop or “contribute to generalizable knowledge”. The research may be repeated under a reviewed and approved protocol.

Does my research involve HUMAN SUBJECTS?

**45 CFR 46.102f** requires review of systematic investigations which develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge AND involve:

- Living individuals about whom the researcher obtains
  - Data through intervention or interaction with the individuals, or
  - Existing data which contains individually identifiable private information.

You DO NOT need to submit an application if you do not obtain data through intervention or interaction with a living individual, or if you’re using existing data that contains:

- Data from ONLY deceased individuals, or
- Data with NO individually identifiable private information and the researcher/collaborators cannot readily ascertain the identity of a living individual from the data.

*Attention:* Projects from Faculty in Kinesiology must be pre-reviewed by an IRB member from Kinesiology prior to submitting to the IRB office. The roster for the IRB members is available here, [http://fullerton.edu/research/research-compliance/irb/index.asp](http://fullerton.edu/research/research-compliance/irb/index.asp).

**Human Subjects Research** details are at: [http://fullerton.edu/research/research-compliance/irb/index.asp](http://fullerton.edu/research/research-compliance/irb/index.asp) which is administered by the [CSUF IRB Office](http://fullerton.edu/research/research-compliance/irb/index.asp). Questions: (657) 278-7640 or [irb@fullerton.edu](mailto:irb@fullerton.edu).