

Interview Protocol and Questions

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am a graduate student/administrator at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and part of a research team with Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life. Thank you for agreeing to participate in this structured phone interview. We have six questions, which should take approximately 30-minutes. The purpose of this study is to better understand graduate students and early career professionals’ journey as public scholars. The questions focus on your interests in and development of public scholarship. With your help, we hope to contribute to national conversations and policy development on public engagement.

If you feel uncomfortable at any time during the interview, please tell me and we can either skip that question or conclude the interview altogether. We will record our conversation for research purposes; however, all names will remain confidential. At no time will we identify you with your responses in any of our publications or presentations. Please say, “I agree” if you understand the interview protocol and are ready to begin. **(Wait for response.)** Do you have any questions? **(Estimated time 1 minute)**

##### Potential Follow-up Questions:

* **What do you plan to do with the results?** We hope to use the data for publications and presentations that can better educate others on the pathways of a public scholar. The results may lead to policy changes, program development, as well as, other research projects.
* **How many interviews are you conducting?** We are conducting approximately 50 phone interviews.
* **How was my name chosen?** The research team invited everyone who indicated their willingness to interview in the survey a chance to participate.
* **Can I see the data after the research is conducted?** The results are confidential, but we encourage you to attend our Imagining America conference in Seattle, WA to hear the findings. We will also publish briefs and updates on the IA webpage.
* **What is Imagining America?** Imagining America is a consortium of colleges and universities that work toward supporting the needs of publicly engaged scholars throughout the cultural disciplines. The current headquarters are at Syracuse University and the current director is Jan Cohen-Cruise.

##### Interview Questions:

* **Why Publicly Engaged Scholarship Question: (5 minutes)**
  + The on-line survey, required participants to self-identify as a publicly engaged scholar. Please share with me how you came to consider yourself a publicly engaged scholar?
    - If the interviewee asks, “what is the definition of publicly engaged scholarship?” Please say, “scholarly or creative activity integral to a faculty member’s academic area. It encompasses different forms of making knowledge about, for, and with diverse publics and communities. Through a coherent, purposeful sequence of activities, it contributes to the public good and yields artifacts of public and intellectual value." Then, follow-up with, “Do you consider yourself a publicly engaged scholar?”
      * **Yes**- Please share with me how you came to consider yourself a publicly engaged scholar?
        + PROMPT: Can you please provide us with an example of your work?
      * **No**- Why not?
        + After receiving the answer, please terminate the interview by saying. “We appreciate your candid response. Part of our criteria for participating in the study is that participants self-identify as a publicly engaged scholar. Since you do not, we will conclude the study here. Thank you for your time.”
      * **Not sure**- That is ok if you do not know whether or not you consider yourself a publicly engaged scholar. Can you please talk about why you may or may not consider yourself one?
    - If they comment, “they are not a faculty member,” please say “we know our definition does not fit all participants. For now, if you can please just use the general idea of our definition that would be helpful. Please share with me how you came to consider yourself a publicly engaged scholar?”
      * PROMPT: Can you please provide us with an example of your work?
* **Value and Motivation Behind Publicly Engaged Scholarship Question: (4 minutes)**
  + Why do you value publicly engaged scholarship?
* **Support Question: (3 minutes)**
  + Many of our questionnaire respondents mentioned the importance of peers and mentors as publicly engaged scholars. Can you please talk about the support or the lack of support you received during your graduate experience?
* **Pathways Question 1: (2 minutes)**
  + Graduate student – How did you learn about publicly engaged scholarship?
  + Faculty member – What has led you to the scholarship and research you do today?
  + Non-Faculty – How has your background and educational experience led you to the work you do today?
* **Pathways Question 2: (5 minutes)**
  + Do you have the Pathways Sheet we sent you via e-mail in front of you?
    - **Yes** – The sheet in front of you provides hypothetical examples of critical moments and experiences regarding public scholarship. We have six categories or actions across the left and career stages across the top. Can you please reflect on these actions and their relevance to your growth as a publicly engaged scholar?
    - **No** – move onto next question.
* **Pathways Question 3 (only for PAGE participants): (5 minutes)**
  + On the survey we asked, “How have you pursued your professional pathways differently as a result of the PAGE summit and/or professional practice?” Can you please expound upon your answer with examples?
    - PROMPT: What elements of the PAGE program helped you to do (what the interviewee mentioned above?)
  + How can Imagining America better support you as a publicly engaged scholar?
* **Career Aspirations Question: (3 minutes)**
  + If you could create your dream job, what would that look like?

That concludes our formal interview. Are there any additional comments you would like to add? We would also like to offer you the opportunity to send additional thoughts to us via e-mail. Please send them to Staci Weber at sweber@syr.edu.

Again, thank you so much for your time and candor. On behalf of Imagining America, we are so appreciative. All the best. Hope to see you at our National Conference in Seattle. Good-bye.