

Spring 2006
Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life
University of Michigan

CONSENT TO BE PART OF A RESEARCH STUDY
IA TENURE TEAM INITIATIVE

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS FORM

This form gives you important information about the study. It describes the purpose of the study, and the risks and possible benefits of participating in the study.

Acceptance of the invitation to join the Tenure Team (TT) or the Consulting Scholars and Artists (CS&A) is the first level of consent to participate in completing the web survey and (for Tenure Team members only) to participate in individual, in-person, or telephone interviews. This invitation was issued in letter form (via USPS) under signature of the national co-chairs of the Tenure Team initiative (TTI). Records of these responses (e-mail or USPS letters) are available in the TTI project archive. A second level of consent is specific to the web survey and must be read and approved before access is granted; participants are requested to indicate a valid e-mail address. This serves as the sole means of consent for non TTI and/or CS&A participants.

When individuals attend the Imagining America (IA) annual conference, various constituent meetings and visit the Tenure Team website, they will have the option of completing the questionnaire. This brief instrument is designed to help people share their opinions about promotion and tenure policies in the Arts, Humanities and Design. Prior experience makes us aware that participants in IA programs are passionate about transformations in Higher Ed. and eager to weigh in on these issues.

This helps us to address core values of the consortium namely, engagement and listening. In other words it is primarily about fostering a certain relationship with consortium members. We do not expect any revelations to come from non TTI and/or CS&A participants, nor do we expect any greater depth to emerge from this group when compared to that of our target groups. Therefore, while we will collect and examine these responses we do not anticipate using them in the final report. However, in any instance where we feel that the information has been rich enough to warrant further attention we will contact the contributor for further dialogue and permission to cite. These "other" respondents will be adult professionals in higher education, non profits or similar organizations.

Please take time to review this information carefully. After you have finished, you should talk to the researchers about the study and ask them any questions you have. You may also wish to talk to others (for example, your friends, family, or other doctors) about your participation in this study. If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to sign this form. *Before you sign this form, be sure you understand what the study is about, including the risks and possible benefits to you.*

1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STUDY AND THE RESEARCHERS

Study title: Imagining America Tenure Team Initiative: Policy Perspectives on Public Scholarship in the Cultural Disciplines

Company or agency sponsoring the study: Imagining America

Researchers conducting the study:

Principal Investigator - Julie Ellison, Ph.D., Founding Director of Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life and Professor of American Culture, English, and Art and Design at the University of Michigan

Co-Principal Investigator - Timothy K. Eatman, Ph.D., Project Director for Research and Policy of imagining America at the University of Michigan

2. PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The purpose of this survey is to solicit the policy views of our leadership team and other interested educators about critical aspects of promotion and tenure policy in the arts, humanities, and design. The primary objective of the survey portion of this project is to gather perspectives from key leaders in U.S. higher education. This will tell us what their goals for the project are and will give us an early indication of their policy priorities. The survey will alert us to divergences of opinion among our Tenure Team members. It will also allow others interested in the issue to make their views known. There are three specific aims of this project. We seek to respond to the professional needs of faculty and the institutional priorities of higher education leadership by generating a report that includes: 1) a consensus definition of public scholarship in the cultural disciplines; 2) an analysis of its diverse forms and manifestations; and 3) tenure and promotion policy options suitable to different kinds of colleges and universities.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT STUDY PARTICIPANTS (SUBJECTS)

Taking part in this study is completely **voluntary**. You do not have to participate if you don't want to. You may also leave the study at any time. If you leave the study before it is finished, there will be no penalty to you, and you will not lose any benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Who can take part in this study?

Members of the Tenure Team and Consulting Scholars and Artists groups will complete the web survey. Self selected persons from among the IA Consortium member institutions will also have access to the web survey. Only Tenure Team members will take part in the structured interviews.

How many people (subjects) are expected to take part in this study?

Approximately 100 subjects are expected to participate around the United States, 40 from among the Tenure Team and Consulting Scholars and Artists groups and 60 from the Imagining America Consortium member institutions at other sites.

4. INFORMATION ABOUT STUDY PROCEDURES

Research Procedures

This study is comprised of a brief web-based questionnaire and structured one-on-one interviews with Tenure Team members and Consulting Scholars and Artists. Other interested persons eager to express their views will also be able to fill out the web-based questionnaire. The questionnaire instrument addresses those with a special interest in the evolving field of public scholarship, community engagement, and the development of appropriate evaluation methods about promotion and tenure policy. Statistical analysis will include (but are not limited to) simple descriptive measures on response items. The open-ended questions will be categorized and used in the development of the structured interviews. Permission will be sought to audiotape interviews. Themes will be generated through content analysis. No more than three email requests for participation in the questionnaire. In most cases, we anticipate that an email request will be followed by a single telephone follow-up with a staff person or with the participant him/herself.

Time Commitment

The web survey/questionnaire is designed to take about 30 minutes to complete. Structured Interviews (Tenure Team members only) are planned to last no more than 1 hour with possible follow-ups. The entire project is planned to last two years, with completion and final report issued in January, 2008.

5. INFORMATION ABOUT RISKS AND BENEFITS

While we are unable to discern any subject specific risks, we do realize that raising questions about existing tenure and promotion policies can be a sensitive subject, especially for faculty. We anticipate and welcome some debate, both philosophical and practical, about how faculty, student, institutional, and public interests are served by different aspects of tenure and promotion policy. As with any research study, there may be additional risks that are unknown or unexpected.

The University of the Twenty-first Century must become a place where innovations in public scholarship and interdisciplinary community-based research can be appropriately evaluated and valued within the tenure and promotion system and other assessment systems. Communities and society at large, as well as undergraduate education, will benefit from publicly-engaged academic and creative work by faculty. In particular, involvement with diverse communities and neighboring publics will help universities to build more diverse faculties and student bodies.

Although you may not receive direct benefit from your participation, others may ultimately benefit from the knowledge obtained in this study.

8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

You will not incur any financial costs or be paid in by taking part in this study. Currently all costs associated with this study are supported by the Imagining America Consortium. Funding proposals are also being developed and pursued.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY OF SUBJECT RECORDS AND AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Information that you give to us will be used in a report and conference presentations. You will not be identified by name, institution, or city. We will use pseudonyms and general designations (i.e. “the chief administrative officer of a large humanities association,” “the executive director of a small association of interdisciplinary scholars” etc.)

The principal investigator and Imagining America and American Council for Learned Societies staff will be aware of your answers. Your answers, once identifying information is removed, will be used in reports that will be publicly available, as well as in conference presentations. The main audience for this information will be people who, like you, are actively involved in higher education in the humanities and related disciplines. They will not know your name.

The Tenure Team membership and membership in the Consulting Scholars and Artists group are public information and have been announced in a press release. We will not release the names of people who contribute to the study only by filling out the online survey, though the report will acknowledge the insights provided by such participants. The results of this study could be published in an article, but would not include any information that would let others know who you are.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the researchers listed below if there are questions and concerns about the study

Principal Investigator: Dr. Julie Ellison
Mailing Address: Imagining America 1210 Buhr Bldg 3213; jeson@umich.edu
Telephone: 734/615-8370

Co-PI and Study Coordinator: Dr. Timothy K. Eatman
Mailing Address: Imagining America 1210 Buhr Bldg 3213; tkeatman@umich.edu
Telephone: 734/615-8370

You may also express a concern about a study by contacting the Institutional Review Board listed below, or by calling the University of Michigan Compliance Help Line at 1-888-296-2481.

Should you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant in research, please contact the Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board, Kate Keever, 540 E. Liberty Street, Suite 202, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2210, (734) 936-0933, email: irbhsbs@umich.edu

Click [here](#) to proceed to web survey.