

IPCR Approval of Wesley Theological Seminary Thesis

In order for a Wesley Theological Seminary Thesis to receive American University credit, it must meet the following requirements:

- The research should demonstrate original investigation and requisite review of pertinent literature.
- The research should appropriately apply one or more quantitative and/or qualitative research methods in the examination of secondary and primary source material.
- If the research entails the gathering of information from human subjects through interviews, questionnaires, observations, focus groups or other methods, approval (or an exemption from review) must be given by [American University's Institutional Review Board](#) or Wesley Theological Seminary's counterpart to assure that proper guidelines are followed.
- The research should demonstrate substantive analysis of findings, consistent with the research method(s) employed.
- The thesis should be organized in the design formats described below or in the [M.T.S Paper Guidelines Supplement](#). Students must indicate which design format they will be following in the paper proposal.
- The thesis must demonstrate a commitment to the ideals associated with peace and conflict resolution, such as human security, peacebuilding, negotiation and mediation, intercultural understanding, public service, social justice, and/or the promotion of human rights and human dignity.

IPCR Approval

_____ thesis meets the standard required of graduate International Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) students. This thesis meets the rigor, excellence, and integrity associated with the IPCR program.

IPCR Faculty Signature

Date

The following IPCR faculty can sign this form:

Pamela Aall (McPherson)	Doga Eralp	Kwaku Nuamah
Mohammed Abu-Nimer	Carole Gallaher	Susan Shepler
Jeffrey Bachman	Philip Gamaghelyan	Fereshteh Simone
Charles (Chuck) Call	Hrach Gregorian	Margaret Smith
Susanna Campbell	Claudia Hofmann	Elizabeth Thompson
Alexander Cromwell	Shadi Mokhtari	Anthony Wanis-St. John
Ken Conca	Claire Metelits	

This completed form must be emailed or handed to Jessica MacArthur, IPCR Academic Advisor. Jessica's office is in SIS 250. Her email address is jmacarth@american.edu.

Research Designs

Quantitative Research Studies

Quantitatively oriented research efforts involve inquiry into a social topic or issue based on the development, testing or application of theory that is operationalized into variables that may be connected by hypotheses with an analysis using statistical procedures. The primary modes of data collection include experiments, surveys using questionnaires or interviews, field/observational research, content and conversation analysis, evaluation research, or action research. The format for presenting results from a quantitative study should include:

Chapter 1: Introduction [provides an overview to the research effort]

Context or Statement of the Problem

Purpose of the Study

Research Questions, Objectives or Hypotheses of the Study

Theoretical Perspective

Definition of Terms

Limitations of the Study

Significance of the Study

Chapter 2: Review of Literature [summarizes the relevant, major research studies and writings on the topic]

Subsections are designated in relation to the literature or hypotheses

Chapter 3: Methods [provides a description of the research approach and procedures used in gathering and interpreting data]

Research Design

Sample, Population, Subjects

Variables in the Study

Instrumentation and Materials

Data Analysis Procedures

Chapter 4: Results [presents major findings of the study]

Research Question/Hypothesis # 1 Results
Research Question/Hypothesis # 2 Results
Research Question/Hypothesis # 3 Results
[Continue for each question/hypothesis]

Chapter 5: Discussion [provides an overall discussion of findings through comparison to other research findings and/or literature covered in the review or elsewhere]

Summary of Results
Relation of Results to Literature
Relation of Topic and Results to IPCR Field

Chapter 6: Conclusion

Significance of Research Findings
Implications for Future Research and Practice in IPCR
Recommendations for Future Research

References

Appendixes

Instruments (Interview Schedule, Questionnaire, etc.)

Qualitative Research Studies

Qualitatively oriented research efforts involve inquiry into a social topic or issue based on a holistic analysis of information that is often gathered in a field setting and is described using methods that provide for the drawing of general conclusions. Primary qualitative methods include: (1) Ethnography (description and interpretation of a cultural or social group by observing the patterns of behavior over time), (2) Grounded theory (derives a general or abstract theory of a process, action or interaction based on the views of participants), (3) Case studies (in depth examination of a program, event or activity over time through detailed data collection involving multiple sources of information), (4) Phenomenological research (describes the meaning or essence of lived experiences as described by individuals about a topic or concept), and (5) Narrative research (studies the lives of individuals through stories they provide) (Creswell, 2008). The format for presenting results from a qualitative study should include:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose of the Study
Statement of the Research Question and Sub questions
Importance of the Questions
Limitations of the Study
Significance of the Study
Outline of the Paper

Chapter 2: Review of Literature [summarizes the relevant, major research studies and writings on the topic]

Subsections are designated in relation to the literature or subquestions

Chapter 3: Design of the Study

Type of Design

Assumptions and Rationale of the Design

Role of the Researcher

Information Collection Procedures

Procedures for Analysis and Verification

Chapter 4: Outcomes of the Study

Description and Interpretations (Outcomes) of Phenomena Studied

Relation of Outcomes to Theory and Literature

Recommendations for Future Research, Theory and Practice

Chapter 5: Discussion [provides an overall discussion of findings through comparison to other research findings and/or literature]

Summary of Outcomes

Relation of Outcomes to Literature

Relation of Topic and Results to IPCR Field

Chapter 6: Conclusion

Significance of Research Findings

Implications for Future Research and Practice in IPCR

Recommendations for Future Research

References

Appendixes

Works Cited

Cresswell, J. W. (2008). Research design: *Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.