

Making Research Personal

This assignment is part of the Making Research Personal project, which was supported through the Association for Psychological Science Teaching Fund Microgrants program. If you use this assignment, please credit it appropriately.

LEARNING CHECK-IN: Dr. Thomas Joiner Interview

Objectives

- ✓ *To learn about the life of a prominent psychological researcher*
- ✓ *To expand awareness of what psychology research looks like*



APA Goals for the Undergraduate Psychology Major (2.0)

- GOAL 1: Knowledge Base in Psychology
 - 1.3 Describe applications of psychology
- GOAL 4: Communication
 - 4.1 Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes
- GOAL 5: Professional Development
 - 5.5 Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation

Instructions

View the [interview](#) with Dr. Thomas Joiner and answer the following questions:

1. Dr. Joiner described how his background and family tragedy (suicide) influenced his research. How might your background have an impact on your own career trajectory and/or research focus?
2. A “compassionate scientist” is how Dr. Joiner described himself when studying a topic such as suicide. Define this term and explain how compassion could still fit into that model.
3. Dr. Joiner studies the need for human interaction and how the lack of this interaction may be a suicidal agent. How may the pandemic impact the rise or fall of the risk of suicide? Be specific.
4. How does Dr. Joiner suggest that scientists disseminate the results of their research?
5. What did Dr. Joiner discuss regarding his experiences and opinions that resonated with you? Were there areas that surprised you? Explain your answers.
6. Considering Dr. Joiner’s view of his career and responsibilities, do you believe life as an academic researcher may be a good fit for you? Why or why not?