TRANSFORMATIONS:

Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change

HONORS PROGRAM GUIDE

January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019

HONORS IN ACTION

The Phi Theta Kappa Experience:
Honoring Scholars, Building Servant Leaders

PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

ABOUT PHI THETA KAPPA

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations.

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ABOUT HONORS IN ACTION

OUR HONORS PROGRAM: HONORS IN ACTION

Phi Theta Kappa has an Honors Program, Honors in Action, designed to engage students in informed action that fosters student success and helps fulfill our mission to provide college students opportunities to grow as scholars and leaders.

HONORS IN ACTION LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participation in Honors in Action contributes to personal, academic, and career development and affords students opportunities to have an impact on their campuses and in their communities by addressing challenges related to their Honors Study Topic research. Members who participate in the development and implementation of an Honors in Action project will be able to:

1. Evaluate multiple, global perspectives of a theme as it relates to the Honors Study Topic.

2. Demonstrate undergraduate research fundamentals by identifying sources, appraising their credibility, and formulating conclusions based on evidence.

3. Demonstrate critical thinking and reflective skills throughout the research process.

4. Design, organize, and implement a plan of action that solves a real-world problem related to the Honors Study Topic.

5. Form and develop teams that collaborate and communicate with college and community partners to enhance the impact of the project.

6. Provide evidence of project impact through the use of quantitative and/or qualitative assessments.

7. Compile a report using clear, correct, and effective language.

Achievement of these learning outcomes builds the analytic and collaborative problem-solving and leadership skills necessary and valued in advanced academic pursuits, work places, and communities.

HONORS IN ACTION

Honors in Action was developed by Phi Theta Kappa to support its mission to develop opportunities for college students to grow as scholars and leaders. The program allows students to identify issues confronting humanity, consider ideas from varied perspectives, apply what they learn to address a real-world, complex issue, develop collaborative partnerships, exercise leadership, and reflect on the outcomes of their projects.

ASSESS AND REFLECT
Evaluate the research and action success of the project and assess scholarship and teamwork throughout the Honors in Action process. Write, edit, and submit your team's Honors in Action Hallmark Award entry.

ACT AND SERVE
Identify collaborators on campus and in the community and execute the plan of action.

Develop a plan of action to address the local problem identified by Honors Study Topic research findings.

STRATEGIZE AND LEAD
Consider how research findings manifest locally, identify a real-world problem requiring both leadership and action, and brainstorm possible solutions to the problem.

Develop a plan of action to investigate academic sources related to your research question.

Develop a research question to guide the Honors Study Topic investigation.

INVESTIGATE AND ANALYZE
Review the Honors Program Guide and plan research into a specific theme related to Phi Theta Kappa's biennial Honors Study Topic.

Transformations: Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change

By Susan Edwards, Associate Vice President, Honors Programming and Undergraduate Research, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

As the present now
Will later be past
The order is rapidly fading
And the first one now will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'
                    ~Bob Dylan

When Nobel Laureate Bob Dylan recorded "The Times They Are a-Changin'" in 1963, he acknowledged it was a song with a purpose. Influenced by Irish and Scottish ballads, Dylan wanted to write concise, hypnotic verses that acknowledged and assessed social transformations. He was part of the changes about which he wrote as a young man, even performing with Joan Baez at the March on Washington two months before recording the song. The 1950s and 1960s were times of significant change worldwide, and Bob Dylan's poetry documented the transformations. More than 55 years later, we still live in interesting, changing times and still connect through music. What can we learn from transformations like the ones about which Dylan wrote? Mark Twain believed, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes." Filmmaker Ken Burns argues that history arms people for the present and, even in times of great change, makes us hopeful about the future.

Joel Sartore is hopeful about the future of animals on Earth, so much so that he has spent 12 years traveling the globe to photograph more than 7,000 rare animals in human care before some of them become extinct. As Sartore pondered the 25-year project, one question haunted him, "How can I get people to care that we could lose half of all species by the turn of the next century?" His extraordinary photographs are an effort to get people to look into the eyes of animals to see their beauty, intelligence, and dignity and to care about their survival before it's too late. Sartore recognized that we and the animals he photographed are part of global networks of life that transform all of us.

Networks of life for the world's animals are tied to economies of everything. How do we save rare animals while transforming economic systems to meet

contemporary needs? To help preserve Panama's biodiversity, conservation biologist Brian Gratwicke works to save amphibians who are at risk. Gratwicke is one scientist among many working in Panama as the nation navigates the balance between development that boosts its economy and protection of its 255 species of mammals and 972 species of indigenous birds.

Connections between nature and economies of everything abound worldwide. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria devastated parts of the United States and the Caribbean. Beyond causing tremendous human suffering, Moody's Analytics estimated that the 2017 hurricanes could cost between $150 and $200 billion in damages and lost productivity though the real costs of the storms could be much higher. While acknowledging the transformations resulting from the storms, *Fortune International* journalist Clay Dillow argued that in the long run recovery efforts and spending bumps after natural disasters, while uneven for people of varied socioeconomic status, can bring positive changes that offset economic wreckage and, in the best-case scenario, help nations better withstand future disasters.

Natural disasters have an impact on global agriculture which accounts for 47 percent of India's labor force. Services are the major source of economic growth in India and account for more than two-thirds of the nation's economic output. With a large, educated English-speaking population, India has capitalized on exporting information technology services, business outsourcing, and software workers. Businessman Dhirubhai Ambani believed young entrepreneurs are the key to India's transformation as a 21st-century economic power.

Members of the U.S. Congress would agree with Ambani and repeatedly comment that small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy, yet the rate at which new businesses have been created has steadily fallen over the past 40 years. The more common trajectory is corporate consolidation. In 2017, television host John Oliver noted that the United States had 10 major airlines in 2000. Today, there are only four. Together, these corporations control 83 percent of the U.S. market. Their consolidation resulted in new fees for travelers for everything from luggage to seats with extra legroom. According to the Bureau of Transportation Services, the fees charged by the four major American airlines earned $543 million in 2007. By 2016, fees earned these airlines $4.2 billion. If small businesses are the key to economic success in the 21st century, how do we stem the growth of increasingly large, often multinational corporations? Is that necessary, or do large global corporations transform the economies of everything and worlds of work in ways that meet contemporary needs and future expectations?

The National Football League is a force in the economy but not often a force in identity politics. Colin Kaepernick expressed his concern about police brutality against African American males by taking a knee during the performance of the National Anthem before San Francisco 49ers football games. His gesture was part of a larger effort to use his high-profile platform as an NFL quarterback to fight global oppression in all forms through his foundation. His detractors argued Kaepernick's gesture was disrespectful to the nation's flag and to people who fought to defend its freedom. In what ways is society transformed when we engage in respectful dialogues about differences? How do we achieve change if we fail to listen to one another about divergent worldviews?

The digital revolution and big data mean people have unprecedented access to information that can support or challenge worldviews. Businesses have unprecedented access to big data, too. Wisconsin-based company Three Square Market has embedded chips in employees in lieu of company badges or log-ons and hopes someday to transform to a cashless society in which customers use the chips in their hands to make payments for goods and services. They promised the chips would not be used as tracking devices, though people worldwide are tracked every day on the Internet. Has society transformed to the point that it is nearly impossible to keep information private?

Global medical researchers have traditionally been reluctant to share findings with colleagues. Yale cardiologist Harlan Krumholz believes, "If our job is to save lives, then it doesn't make sense that we not share data and get as many people working on the problems as possible." There is movement toward the idea that medical data is owned by individuals, not researchers. If so, sharing of data by individuals with multiple researchers could transform medical research. Could sharing also make data vulnerable to breaches? Sharing hacked data with social media and campaigns is complex and troubling. *Meet the Press Daily* host Chuck Todd mused, "Can democracy survive the digital revolution?" Evidence shows that Russia used hackers and bots to interfere in U.S., French, and German 2016 and 2017 elections with varying degrees of success and has used drones to sabotage Ukrainian munitions plants. To what extent has technology and access to big data transformed society faster than people have had opportunity to work out the ethics of using and strategies to safeguard that data?

Technology has had an impact on channels of creativity, too. Tokyo's *Comiket* is the world's largest comic market and cosplayer event. In 2016, 590,000 participants perused *dōjinshi*, or self-published works, that can be rare and resold on the Internet for many times their original prices. Comiket has become a global phenomenon as have the top 2016 music acts. Drake, Adele, Twenty-One Pilots, Rihanna, and The Weeknd rank among the top-selling artists worldwide and were promoted by corporations headquartered in the West, as was Ed Sheeran, 2017's top-selling artist. Less well-known artists get noticed by using technology such as SoundCloud to upload, record, and promote their original work. French-Algerian singer Ta-ha has released music via SoundCloud for several years and was designated an artist to follow in 2017. *Fader* also uses the Internet to promote up-and-coming artists. Turkey's Aylin Gungor photographs musicians to document their work, Trinidad's Bunji Garlin is king of contemporary Soca, and Ethiopia's Mikael Seifu infuses Ethiopian influences into electronic sounds. Singapore's Cherry Chan is a disc jockey and co-founder of the Syndicate music collective, and Brazil's Cashu runs *Mamba Negra* techno happenings in abandoned São Paulo buildings to bring attention to

political issues among partygoers. *Fader* has featured each of them to help music lovers broaden and transform views of the arts and entertainment.

Artists are often at the forefront of visions of justice. U2's Bono has long lent time and money to combatting global poverty. Jessica Rubin serves as an advocate for abused cats and dogs in Connecticut courts. Gloria Steinem has spent her life promoting women's issues and proclaimed, "If you say, I'm for equal pay, that's a reform. But if you say, I'm a feminist, that's a transformation of society." For her, justice includes equal pay for equal work. Edie Windsor envisioned and fought for marriage equality for the LGBTQIA community with all the legal protections enjoyed by heterosexual couples. For women in Saudi Arabia, driving may be the reform that transforms society. King Salman announced that women would be allowed to drive starting in June 2018. Proponents cheered the change. Saudi leaders hoped the move would repair the nation's reputation of violating human rights. Opponents of the measure feared the transformation would be the beginning of secularization in Saudi society.

In its online archive, the British Broadcasting Corporation lists 20 systems of belief related to religion. They range from Christianity with its 2.1 billion adherents worldwide to Islam with 1.3 billion believers to 376 million Buddhists, 300 million Primal-indigenous practitioners, and 1.1

billion Atheists, Agnostics, and Secularists. Most of these beliefs have ancient origins and have adapted to changing times. Evangelical Christian pastor and author Rick Warren believes, "Transformation is a process ... there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair." For him, religion is a guiding and comforting force through changing times. Thirteenth-century Persian poet and Islamic scholar Rumi believed, "What you seek is seeking you" – that people should let themselves be drawn to what they love. Love transcends the space between religious and secular systems of belief. Yoga, for example, is a group of meditative physical, mental, and spiritual practices that originated in pre-Vedic India. The term stems from two Sanskrit roots, *yujir yoga* – to yoke or unite – and yuj *samadhau* – to concentrate. For yogis the practice is a way to seek inner peace.

Finding inner peace is a daunting task in an ever-changing world. Film director Alejandro González Iñárritu articulated, "Life and death are illusions. We are in a constant state of transformation." Like Ken Burns, mythologist and comparative religion expert Joseph Campbell believed in hope, "If you want to change the world, change the metaphor, change the story." Bob Dylan's poetry and music helped change the story in the 1960s. How will you change the metaphor? How will you change the story? The light and love in you can transform the world. *Namaste.*

THEME 1: Networks of Life

How do relationships among organisms, their environments, and the systems in which they exist transform each other?

Drop a pebble into a still lake. Concentric waves move across the surface of the water, disrupting distant locations. Our interdependent world is like that. Changes in one area lead to changes in other areas. Discoveries in one area can have uses in another. The most precise clocks in the world, atomic clocks, use quantum theory to measure time; those same quantum concepts, like the pebble in the still lake, increase accuracy for banking transactions and microscopes.

The consequences of transformative experiences can be intended or unintended. The National Park Service reintroduced wolves into Yellowstone National Park and, as a result, transformed the environment. The elk population shifts frequently to escape predators. Willow trees survive longer. Beavers flourish, creating dams. Dams provide cool, shaded water for fish. Fish and songbird populations increase. Collect oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, and high demand results in creation of mechanical dredges that results in the oyster population dropping significantly. Algae population increases. Decreased oxygen in the water results in declining marine life biodiversity. Likewise, combating soil erosion during the Great Depression by planting the Asian vine kudzu. Civilian Conservation Corps pays workers to plant kudzu throughout the South. The fast-growing plant climbs over trees and shrubs, killing them by blocking access to sunlight.

Like plant and animal life, human transformations, such as experiencing stress and hardship, can have intended or unintended consequences. Become a parent. Parental stress impacts the DNA of children and future generations through epigenetic modification. Prevent cracked skulls among football players by mandating use of helmets. Skulls are protected, but brains are shaken like eggs inside shells, and there is an increase in concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). Ban the manufacture, sale, or distribution of alcohol in the United States with the Eighteenth Amendment. Crimes associated with use of alcohol decline. Crimes associated with manufacture or distribution of alcohol increase. Organized criminal syndicates develop to smuggle alcohol, and murderous, powerful groups fight for dominance.

Realizing the complexity of the networks of life prompts intellectual curiosity. How are things inter-related? Is it possible to live in the world and not make an impact on it? Is it possible to live in the world and not have the world affect us? What are the known consequences of certain actions? What correlations have not yet been found? What questions about interdependence have not yet been asked? How can asking such questions and being armed with the knowledge of the complex interconnectedness of the networks of life arm us to acknowledge, assess, or achieve change?

READ MORE

Diamond, J. (2011). *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed: Revised Edition.*
Pulitzer Prize-winning author explores how concepts such as climate change, rapid population growth, and political discord have an impact on societies that can create conditions that lead to the collapse of civilizations.

Gladwell, M. (2000). *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference.*
Explores the concept that when a small group of people change behavior there is a moment when an idea or event increases until it becomes a "tipping point" resulting in transformative change.

Gleick, J. (2011). *Chaos: Making a New Science.*
Exploration of chaos theory and how it provides a new view of the universe, including complex systems such as weather and animal behavior, and the connections within it.

Levitt, S. & Dubner, S. (2011). *SuperFreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance.*
Levitt and Dubner utilize cost-benefit analysis and thought-provoking examples to discuss often unexpected ways societies interact.

Planet Earth. (2009).
BBC mini-series showing the diversity and interconnectedness of life on the planet Earth.

Sartore, J. (2017). *National Geographic The Photo Ark: One Man's Quest to Document the World's Animals.*
Sartore documents his work to photograph 12,000 animals, particularly rare and endangered species. In this book, he includes photos of 6,000 animals and makes the case that networks of life matter, and changes to one species transform the rest.

THEME 2: Economies of Everything

How are economic systems transforming to meet contemporary needs and future expectations?

Does money really make the world go 'round? Why does a labor union strike in Nicaragua affect clothing you can purchase in the United States? How does a hurricane have the ability to impact global oil prices? Global connectivity has created a world in which events in one country can dramatically affect economies in another country.

The modernization of business practices over time has yielded a reality where products move smoothly and swiftly from one corner of the world to another. Many products are manufactured, assembled, and distributed in wholly separate locations across the globe. For years, outsourcing has been used to decrease companies' expenses. However, this has led to certain unexpected consequences. For example, India's young professionals now demand higher wages than similarly skilled workers in the United States, thus instigating a transformation in the standard of living for thousands of Indian workers.

According to the World Bank, more people have access across the globe to cellular phones than to toilets. By 2020, 90 percent of the world's population over six years of age will have a cellular phone. Does technology hold the key to creating global economic equality? With the current global economy, have we reached the point where physical currency is no longer relevant? Is Bitcoin or the "Masterpass" the way of the future? The demand for access to quick technology has created numerous new industries and millions of jobs worldwide. Elon Musk and his SpaceX company are privatizing uninhabited locations in outer space. Pet owners have been able to find economic profit by using their pet's social media presence to secure marketing dollars spent by large companies. As of 2017, there are multiple professional video-gaming tournaments worldwide that carry millions of dollars in prize money. This leads to the question, can everything in the world be commodified?

The global economic crisis of 2008 was felt in countries as far-reaching as China, Iceland, Greece, and England. Institutions, like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, make decisions daily that affect individuals, corporations, and governments throughout the world. The cycle of credit and debt has left many heavily-indebted poor countries on the verge of both political and economic collapse, while others, such as Qatar, have per capital GDPs in excess of $150,000. Walmart, the world's largest corporation, has a value of $482 billion, does business in more than 30 countries, and has an economic value larger than the GDP of more than 150 countries.

As technology speeds the world forward, economic systems must now grapple with new challenges that have far reaching economic consequences. Are we addressing the global impact of these changes? Is capitalism failing as a system? Is the debate between John Maynard Keynes and Friedrich Hayek relevant now more than ever?

READ MORE

Banerjee, A. V. & Duflo, E. (2012). *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty.*
Banerjee and Duflo pose and answer questions about why poor people borrow to save and why they make choices that appear to go against their economic interests. Their interest in answering these questions is to find ways to eradicate global poverty.

Cline, E. L. (2013). *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost Of Cheap Fashion.*
The West's desire for inexpensive clothes has global economic, social, and environmental impact. Cline explores the hidden costs of having so many clothes at prices that have not kept pace with other goods and services.

Davutoğlu, A. (January 2013). "Two different poverty reduction approaches: Neoliberal market based microfinance versus social rights defender basic income." *International Journal of Social Inquiry,* 6(1), 39-47.
Davutoğlu examines microfinance as a strategy for eradicating poverty and the literature analyzing it as an effective tool. The author compares and contrasts microfinance with the social rights defender basic income model as a way to help people rise from poverty.

Klein, N. (2014). *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate.*
Klein argues that global poverty is about capitalism, not climate. For her, the free market model and political systems are waging against life on Earth, but there are solutions that thoughtful people willing to embrace radical change can enact to change the world.

Schroeder, J. (Summer 2016/2017). "On combating poverty." *Policy,* 32(4), 35-40.
The article offers the author's argument on microcredit as a tool to combat poverty. Schroeder argues that, instead of microcredit, the poor need access to bank loans. Regular banks loans more than microcredit loans, he maintains, offer a longer-term solution to economic inequality and poverty.

THEME 3: Politics of Identity

How do the ways in which people and communities identify themselves and others transform societies?

We are the sum of our experiences. Our biology, our environment, our culture, our relationships, and our constantly evolving perception of self and other groups shape our identity and how we perceive the world. How do we acknowledge our identity when we enter into social contracts? Do we use identity to create stronger bonds, or do we use it to undermine the value of others? The concept of nationalism since the French Revolution has galvanized modern nation states to bond around a common language, culture, and identity. Nationalism has instilled pride in those groups who uphold a common identity, but where does that leave those who do not identify with the dominant culture? How do these identities become articulated in public policy?

In *A Long Walk to Freedom*, Former South African President Nelson Mandela discusses his own battle for equality—his road to freedom, respect, and dignity for minority culture was long and the journey arduous, but transformative. Mandela had a western-style education of which he was proud. His education led to opportunities to witness the way Afrikaners treated black South Africans under the system of Apartheid. Minority and oppressed cultures often have fought generations of implicit bias and overt prejudice to make small gains. A joke about race, an off-hand comment about gender, a stereotype about sexuality—all, however inadvertently, support implicit bias.

University of Wisconsin Professor Patricia Devine maintains that implicit bias creates a culture of discrimination that fuels what Edward Said called otherness. Modes of thinking that create inequity are part of the narrative of otherness for myriad groups in different parts of the world: women, the LGBTQIA community, Muslims, Jews, atheists, Kurds, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and the poor to name a few. Implicit bias is created through repetitive, learned behavior that becomes part of societies' decision-making frameworks. J.D. Vance, in his memoir, *Hillbilly Elegy*, wrote about how people like his relatives see elites who make decisions discuss the politics of identity in terms of stagnation and inequality, whereas many working class white Americans feel powerless in the face of what they feel is the shattering of their way of life. They feel otherness.

Otherness helps solidify and perpetuate cultures of inequality as well as those of supremacy. It is not just a contemporary issue. Greeks and Romans created stereotypes about Macedonians and Gauls respectively. Ahmad ibn Fadlan wrote about *Rūsiyyah* culture. The British Raj wrote extensively about their intentions to "civilize" Indians. European and American cultures chronicled their dehumanization of Africans through the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Given that the politics of identity can be divisive, how do we challenge ideas of otherness? How do humans move past otherness to embrace diversity and inclusivity? How can we see the best of what all people bring to society, acknowledge and assess those strengths, and use them to transform humanity?

READ MORE

Anderson, C. (2016). *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide.*
Anderson's work analyzes the history, conditions, and consequences that gave rise to "white rage" and its impact on the divisiveness facing Western democracies like the United States.

Basu, A., Ed. (2016). W*omen's Movements in the Global Era: The Power of Local Feminisms, 2nd Edition.*
Basu's edited collection of essays explore the origins, growth, successes, and dilemmas of global women's movements with an emphasis on the global South.

Clarke, H. D., Goodwin, M., & Whiteley, P. (2017). *Brexit: Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union.*
Clarke, Goodwin, and Whiteley explore the trends in domestic politics and Britain's relationship with the European Union with analysis of surveys collected over 10 years and the dynamics of public opinion during divisive campaigns like the referendum on Brexit.

Coates, T-N. (2015). *Between the World and Me.*
Coates considers race and its connections to rights and responsibilities over the course of history. Throughout this memoir, he challenges readers to consider their lives and how each person has to learn to live in, and potentially transform, the world.

Davis, A. Y. & Barat, F. (2016). *Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement.*
In a series of essays, Davis and Barat explore the global history and current manifestations of state violence and oppression. The authors challenge readers to build a world that liberates all humans.

Vance, J. D. (2016). *Hillbilly Elegy: Memoir of a Family and a Culture in Crisis.*
Vance discusses the disintegration over 40 years of lifestyles and culture of poor white Americans. He focuses on the story of the Vance family, its geographic move from Kentucky to Ohio, its economic move into the middle class, and the struggles those moves created.

THEME 4: Dynamics of Discovery

How have changes in research and technology transformed the process of inquiry and discovery?

Frank Herbert once said that the beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand. Methods of research and discovery have evolved significantly over time, causing much to change regarding how we learn about the world around us. Does change in the way we conduct research impact the questions we ask? Does new research technology mean we can find the answers to questions that we once thought impossible?

Netflix knows which movies its customers like to watch. Next Big Sound can predict which artists will be the next big thing in music, and Amazon knows the type of books its customers like to read. These advanced analytical possibilities are made possible by big data. Many of the most successful businesses and corporations use big data to discover new information about human behavior, and to research new patterns and trends related to just about anything you can imagine. Not only has big data changed the way we conduct research, it has changed our process of inquiry and discovery. What questions do we ask today that we didn't ask 50 years ago?

In August 2012, Curiosity, an exploration robot created by NASA, landed on Mars. Since its historic landing, Curiosity has helped NASA scientists make important discoveries that human explorers could not have made alone. Exploration robots are crucial to our ability to send scientific instruments to places that are too dangerous or impossible for human explorers to reach. Evolving technology has made a significant global impact on how we make new discoveries about the universe.

Petra, Jordan, one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world, can now boast a recent discovery. Although this "Lost City" was built thousands of years ago and explorers have been surveying it for centuries, archaeologists only recently discovered a massive ancient structure unlike anything else on site by using Google Earth, satellite imagery, and drones. Many modern-day archaeologists have added drones to their discovery toolboxes.

We might all agree that new discoveries are profoundly important, but finding new ways to make new discoveries is not to be overlooked. If Claude Shannon had not developed the information theory back in 1948, big data as we know it might not exist. How do advancements in research methods shape the discovery process? How do they shape the world we live in? Where would we be in the realm of new discoveries if it were not for consistent changes in the research methods we use?

READ MORE

Cheng, A., Auerbach, M., Hunt, E. A., Chang, T. P., Pusic, M., Nadkarni, V., & Kessler, D. (June 2014). "Designing and Conducting Simulation-Based Research." *Pediatrics,* 133(6), 1091-1101.
In this article, the authors discuss important aspects of conducting rigorous simulation-based research in pediatrics and how the methodology has had a transformative effect on dynamic discoveries in the field.

Foreman, J. (2013). *Data Smart: Using Data Science to Transform Information into Insight.*
Data science gets thrown around in the press like it's magic. Major retailers are predicting everything from when their customers are pregnant to when they want a new pair of Chuck Taylors. It's a brave new world where seemingly meaningless data can be transformed into valuable insight to drive smart business decisions.

Hagan, F. (2013). *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology.*
Hagan teaches contemporary research methods using examples of real criminological and criminal justice studies to illustrate concepts and techniques.

Mayer-Schönberger, V. & Cukier, K. (2014). *Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think.*
Big Data is the first major book about this earthshaking subject, with leading experts Mayer-Schönberger and Cukier explaining what big data is, how it will change our lives, and what we can do to protect ourselves from its hazards.

Morgan, G. & Smith, D. (2013). *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques.*
Using innovative methods to unearth hard-to-find ancestors, Morgan and Smith provide step-by-step examples of how to uncover elusive details about family data by taking advantage of specialized tools and software programs.

THEME 5: Channels of Creativity

How does our broadened view of arts and entertainment transform us and the world around us?

Who shot J.R.? If you know the answer to this question, you are likely one of the 350 million people who tuned in on November 21, 1980, after an eight-month wait to learn that J.R.'s sister-in-law, Kristin, shot the oil magnate at the center of the television show *Dallas*. By comparison, 16 million people watched the highest-rated episode of the popular HBO series, *Game of Thrones*. What has changed in the world of entertainment? For most of the history of television in the United States there were only three or four network channels for people to view. Today, on average, people have access to 189 cable channels. Though most people only watch 17 of those channels, the transformation has meant that television shows no longer reach audiences like the one that watched to see who shot J.R. Most young people, in fact, no longer watch television sets as the principle mode of watching television shows. *Dallas* was popular worldwide in the 1980s, and though global viewership of Hollywood television shows has waned since then, shows still have an impact on how people view Americans. As Secretary of State in 2011, Hillary Clinton had an Afghani general tell her that what he knew about Americans, that the men wrestle and the women wear bikinis, he learned from watching *World Wide Wrestling* and *Baywatch*.

Diversification of the ways we watch television shows means there is more variety and more freedom for artists to create, and the 2010s have been called the Renaissance of television entertainment. Entertainers use webcasts to reach audiences, and, when those audiences get large or desirable enough to advertisers, webcast entertainers can earn cable or network shows. Music has been transformed by the Internet, too. YouTube is the number one global arts and entertainment site and has helped launch stars such as Justin Bieber, Pentatonix, The Weeknd, Ed Sheeran, and Alessia Cara. Music in a digital format is preferred by more than 75 percent of buyers, though vinyl purchases, that seemed to be a thing of the past, have risen by nearly 36 percent over the past few years.

One key factor driving the diversification and individuation of the arts and entertainment is the proliferation of mobile devices. For the first time in 2014, there were more mobile devices than people in the world. The devices help artists from the West reach the world, and they help new global artists, such as Forever South, the electronic music cooperative from Pakistan, and Kenya's Jinku, who invented Swahili bass genre, reach broader audiences as well. What does the transformative democratization of the arts and entertainment mean for traditional arts organizations? These organizations also have the ability to transform us and the world around us. So, how do they acknowledge changes in the arts world and transform themselves to compete with personal devices through which people seek and receive entertainment and other innovations that have altered the arts and entertainment worlds?

READ MORE

Bacon, J. U. & Heward, L. (2006). *Cirque du Soleil: The Spark – Igniting the Creative Fire that Lives Within Us All.*
Bacon and Heward use the story of sports agent Frank Castle to go inside the world of Cirque du Soleil and discuss the role creativity can play in people's lives and the sparks that ignite creativity.

Hornaday, A. (2017). *Talking Pictures: How to Watch Movies.*
Washington Post film critic and Pulitzer Prize finalist Hornaday discusses the production of films from writing to cinematography, acting, and directing.

Rowling, J. K. (2015). *Very Good Lives: The Fringe Benefits of Failure and the Importance of Imagination.*
In this published version of Rowling's commencement address to Harvard graduates, she discusses embracing failure and using creativity to transform the world around us.

Smith, C. & Stewart, J. (2016). *The Daily Show (The Book): An Oral History as Told by Jon Stewart, the Correspondents, Staff and Guests.*
This oral history gives readers a behind-the-scenes understanding of a television show that redrew the lines between comedy, political satire, and news show and, in the process, won 23 Emmy Awards and launched the careers of myriad television and movie stars.

Starr, L. & Waterman, C. (2017). *American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3.*
Starr and Waterman explore the social and cultural history of American popular music and its global appeal.

Towse, R. (2010). *A Textbook Of Cultural Economics.*
What determines the price of a pop concert or an opera? Why does Hollywood dominate the film industry? Does illegal downloading damage the record industry? Does free entry to museums bring in more visitors? In *A Textbook of Cultural Economics*, one of the world's leading cultural economists shows how we can use the theories and methods of economics to answer these and a host of other questions concerning the arts and creative industries.

THEME 6: Visions of Justice

How are shifting views of justice transforming global realities, and how are communities responding?

Debates about the meaning of justice are transforming the world. In India, over 150 million workers participated in a strike to demand a higher minimum wage. In the aftermath of the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union, hundreds of thousands of pro-immigrant protesters took to the streets. The 2017 Women's March inspired millions to organize for women's rights, challenging systems of government that remain largely male-dominated.

In recent years, social movements have altered our assumptions about justice and reshaped our collective understanding of fairness. They have turned our attention to uncomfortable realities and stirred new debates in the worlds of politics, economics, media, and the arts. Yet they have also met with fierce resistance and faced criticism for undermining social cohesion. In the United States, Black Lives Matter activists have drawn attention to the country's high rate of incarceration, particularly for young people of color. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani spoke for many traditionalists when he attacked the movement as "inherently racist" and insisted upon the phrase, "All Lives Matter." Yet author Ta-Nehisi Coates declared, "America's struggle is not to be post-racial but to be post-racist." For him, the country's history matters: Americans "have forgotten the scale of theft that enriched them in slavery; the terror that allowed them, for a century, to pilfer the vote; the segregationist policy that gave them their suburbs."

Across the globe, disputes about the meaning of justice are raging. In Venezuela, free speech advocates and supporters of democracy have clashed with an unpopular and anti-democratic regime. In Chechnya, President Ramzan Kadyrov claims that gay men do not exist, even as his government follows Russia's lead in torturing, imprisoning, and killing accused homosexuals. In China, Nobel Prize winner Liu Xiaobo died in state custody, drawing attention to the country's long history of jailing dissidents and repressing human rights. In the United States, President Donald Trump has moved to purge the military of transgender soldiers, despite a growing movement for equal rights.

Are these movements creating discord or revealing solutions? Are they undermining the fabric of society or holding up a mirror in which we can view ourselves more accurately? The stakes of this debate are enormous because the dispute is not about abstract philosophies but about the treatment of human beings. Given the intensity of these discussions, is it even possible to disagree amicably? If the answer is yes, what might that disagreement look like? If the answer is no, what are our responsibilities as scholars and servant leaders? In answering these questions, we will gain a better understanding of how social transformation functions throughout the world and the best ways of acknowledging, assessing, and achieving it in our own communities.

READ MORE

Adichie, C. N. (2015). *We Should All Be Feminists.*
Drawing on her personal experiences with a conservative religious subculture, Adichie offers a broad, inclusive view of 21st-century feminism. She gives particular attention to the ways in which young women of color have challenged patriarchal ideas and embraced feminist ones. This work draws attention to the intersectional nature of modern feminist movements.

Alexander, M. (2010). *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.*
Alexander demonstrates how mass incarceration works as a system of social control. She argues that our modern prison system constitutes a new form of Jim Crow that targets and disfranchises young people of color. The book challenges our understanding of racial justice and our notion of a "colorblind society."

Dreisinger, B. (2016). *Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World.*
Dreisinger recounts her experiences with prison systems across the world. Drawing on research in African, European, Asian, and American countries, she demonstrates some surprising continuities and differences among international prison systems. This work makes clear the global dynamics of justice.

Flores, T. (2010). *The Slave Across the Street: The True Story of How an American Teen Survived the World of Human Trafficking.*
Flores recounts her experience as an "all-American" teenage girl who spent years in sexual servitude. Shockingly, her experiences took place while she lived with her parents in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit. This book complicates our understanding of slavery and human trafficking by calling attention to the nuanced ways in which modern-day enslavers operate to trap victims.

Sandel, M. J. (2010). *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*
Based on Sandel's acclaimed political science course at Harvard University, this seminal book offers a philosophical approach to a wide range of social justice issues. Sandel takes an interdisciplinary approach, arguing that the tools of many disciplines can help us understand and face society's most perplexing challenges. The book provides a strong overview of philosophical approaches to achieving justice.

THEME 7: Powers of Connection

How are the ways we connect evolving and transforming the world?

How easily we can take our connectedness for granted. It is ubiquitous and is often more noticed in its absence. All levels of Abraham Maslow's *Hierarchy of Needs*, beyond physiological needs like water, food, and shelter involve social connections. We are wired for social connection, both physiologically and, for many, electronically. As Maslow explained, when the "wires" are not connected, or do not exist, the consequences include unfulfilled potential and psychological and physiological illness.

Connection with others is such an important part of what it means to be human that medical doctors, biologists, chemists, and physicists research human connection on the biochemical, neural, and atomic levels. Psychologists, sociologists, economists, political scientists, and historians investigate it on the personal, interpersonal, group, economic, and political levels. Writers, artists, musicians, and theologians consider the human experience, expression, and spirituality of connection.

The questions to investigate about connection and the ways it is a powerful transformational force abound. In the personal domain, in what ways is a friendship connection different when it is facilitated through meetup.com rather than an in-person introduction? Whether we connect virtually or face-to-face, does it have a different transformational effect if we seek connection intentionally rather than waiting for it passively? Poet and essayist Susan Sontag suggests there is a difference when she implores, "Do stuff. Be clenched, curious. Not waiting for inspiration's shove or society's kiss on your forehead. Pay attention. It's all about paying attention. Attention is vitality. It connects you with others. It makes you eager. Stay eager." To what extent can staying eager and being involved with the world transform engaged people and the world around them?

In domains beyond the personal, the ways we connect have also evolved. What is the impact on employees and businesses that have embraced telecommuting and virtual teams? How can we assess the impact of differences in social connections in distance education? How are global relations affected as international exchange programs grow? What are the long-term implications for individual mental health, social harmony, and global relations when connections in some spheres are debased, repressed, or cut off? For example, in regions with long-standing violent conflict such as the Middle East, how are social connections transformed? How does "fake news," or the perception of "fake news," and other deceitful or manipulative efforts that take advantage of social networks affect political connections? In China, the government monitors and interferes with phone and internet use. What kinds of authentic, unmonitored connections develop in this climate?

If thriving requires authentic connections to others in many domains, how do we guard or enhance connections in a global and increasingly distracted world? Thomas Friedman argues that, "More people in more places can now compete, connect, and collaborate with equal power and equal tools than ever before." To what extent can an even global playing field help us achieve greater powers of connection?

READ MORE

Anand, B. (January 5, 2017). "The U.S. Media's Problems are Much Bigger than Fake News and Filter Bubbles." *Harvard Business Review.*
Anand explains transformations in the mass media, how it is structured now, and how it influences how we connect to news and information these sources present.

Becker, E. (2016). *Overbooked: The Exploding Business of Travel and Tourism.*
Becker explores how travel and tourism have transformed the numbers of people and costs of connecting to others around the world.

French, J. R. P., Jr. & Raven, B. (1959). "The Bases of Social Power." In D. Cartwright (Ed.) *Studies in Social Power,* **150-167.**
This classic leadership and sociology work explains different sources of power that affect the connections among leaders and followers.

Iacoboni, M. (2009). *Mirroring People: The New Science of How We Connect with Others.*
Neuroscience has transformed our understanding of interpersonal connections, and Iacoboni investigates how science helps people connect.

Kirby, A., Jones, C., & Copello, A. (February 2014). "The Impact of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs) on Psychological Wellbeing and the Role of Play Motivations and Problematic Use." *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction,* **12(1), 36-51.**
Kirby, Jones, and Copello explore transformations that MMORPGs have introduced, their impact on how we connect, and the influence of games on psychological wellbeing.

THEME 8: Worlds of Work

How are global trends transforming the work we do, and how do we navigate these changes?

Most of us expect to work in some capacity throughout our lives because the work that we do has the capacity to sustain us, enhance our lives, and transform the world around us. The world of work is expected to change dramatically in the decades to come. Researchers have predicted that 65 percent of children entering primary school today will ultimately end up working in completely new job types that don't yet exist. Knowing that disruptive changes such as artificial intelligence and the share economy will have a profound effect on the world of work, how will we prepare ourselves for the jobs of the future? How do these changes redirect human work?

There are many drivers of the change that we can anticipate in the world of work. Artificial intelligence, the Internet of things, and machine learning are contributing to the rise of robotics, while also increasing the threat of cyber insecurity. Nanotechnology, 3D printing, and the rapidly developing understanding of genomics have accelerated solutions in biotechnology. Big data and instant analytics increase the stakes of every decision. Some countries' workforces are aging while others are becoming more youthful. Women are becoming a larger percentage of adults working outside the home, but there is a gender gap in technical and emerging fields. And human migration due to geopolitical volatility and climate change will put pressure on labor markets.

The World Economic Forum states that "while only a minority of the world's global workforce of more than three billion people is directly employed by large and emerging multinational employers, these companies often act as anchors for smaller firms and local entrepreneurship ecosystems. In such a rapidly evolving employment landscape, the ability to anticipate and prepare for future skills requirements, job content and the aggregate effect on employment is increasingly critical for businesses, governments, and individuals in order to fully seize the opportunities presented by these trends—and to mitigate undesirable outcomes."

Individuals have adapted their expectations of work in response to emerging trends. Flexibility of scheduling, cloud technology, crowdsourcing/share economy, and the global marketplace make marketing your personal brand and reskilling/retraining imperative to every worker. Skills such as communication, critical thinking – asking the right questions and complex decision making, cognitive flexibility, mathematical reasoning, creativity, emotional intelligence, and time management are highly sought after in all fields.

How can public policy facilitate nimble responses to labor market needs? Where does public education fit into the picture? What is the optimal balance between personal and employer responsibility for life-long upskilling/reskilling that will be necessary for success in the workforce? Should it be a goal to move toward a world where machines can do the preponderance of manual labor, leaving humans to explore other means of expression? Will transformations in the world of work transform our basic expectations of how we live our lives?

READ MORE

De Stefano, V. (November 2015). "The Rise of the 'just-in-time workforce': On-demand work, crowdwork, and labor protection in the 'gig-economy.'" *Comparative Labor Law and Policy Journal,* **37(3).**
This article analyzes the opportunities and risks of the gig-economy from the perspective of labor protection. While on-demand work offers greater flexibility, it also paves the way to a severe commodification of work.

Ford, M. (2016). *Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future.*
Ford predicts soaring income inequality due to the loss of "good paying" jobs to machines at the same time rising health care and education costs further threaten our way of life. Yet, he argues this reality is not inevitable if leaders work together now to ensure society as a whole will continue to benefit from technological advancements.

Kolbjørnsrud, V., Amico, R. & Thomas, R. J. (2017). "Partnering with AI: How organizations can win over skeptical managers." *Strategy & Leadership* **45(1), 37-43.**
Artificial intelligence (AI) promises to transform the nature of work. Managers must learn to deal with this coming upheaval so they can be successful in navigating the largest transformation in the workplace since the Industrial Revolution.

Ross, A. (2016). *The Industries of the Future.*
Leading innovation expert Alec Ross explains what's next for the world, mapping out the advances and stumbling blocks that will emerge in the next 10 years—for businesses, governments, and the global community—and how we can navigate them. Specific fields covered include cybercrime, commercialization of genomics, and big data.

Sullivan, J. & Zutavern, A. (2017). *The Mathematical Corporation: Where Machine Intelligence + Human Ingenuity Achieve the Impossible.*
The new business model will be what the authors call the "mathematical corporation," where artificial intelligence and imaginative human intellect transform the world of work. With machines' ability to process unfathomable amounts of data, we will be able to see patterns, anomalies, and associations previously unknowable, leading to new products, services, and even industries.

THEME 9: Systems of Belief

How do systems of belief change, and how do they have the power to transform us?

Belief systems help us create a sense of community based on sets of agreed-upon ideas. They are one of the ways by which we create relationships with one another. Belief systems can also create division as much as they create community.

Social activist and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Buddhist monk His Holiness the Dalai Lama sat for a series of interviews with author Douglas Abrams to discuss how people can find lasting happiness in an ever-changing world. Archbishop Tutu believes, "Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another." No stranger to the belief systems of white supremacy in his native South Africa under Apartheid, he has chosen to believe in unity rather than separation and love rather than hate. Archbishop Tutu's friend and collaborator, the Dalai Lama, believes that religion and philosophy should be simple and that temples should be found in our hearts and minds. Through his global work, he promotes his belief in the goodness of humanity. While Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama come from different traditions that may seem incongruous, they find common ground in their belief that finding joy is the way to achieve lasting happiness in an ever-changing world.

Systems of belief are not limited to religious expression. For many people in the United States, preserving the past in the form of Confederate monuments is important and meaningful. Historian Dr. Stan Deaton maintains that monuments preserve the values of those living in the present who seek to protect their historical memory of the past, though interpretations of history change as new evidence is uncovered or beliefs about it re-examined. As many southern cities grapple with the question of whether to remove monuments to the Confederacy, impassioned discussions about the meaning of the monuments and what they represent have sometimes turned violent. Do the monuments represent southern heritage, or do they represent a glorification of a society built on the institution of slavery? Should the monuments stay in city centers, or should they be removed to museums? Why was Baltimore able to peacefully remove its Confederate monuments while other cities have not? How can the systems of belief that inform the debate over the monuments be transformed through dialogues? Why do these dialogues matter in a changing world?

Everything we do is filtered through our belief systems. Consciously or unconsciously, throughout our lives our beliefs guide our actions, reactions, and interactions. How do we acknowledge our systems of belief and those of people whose beliefs are different from ours? How do systems of belief change over time for individuals and societies, and what are the catalysts for these transformations?

READ MORE

Abrams, D., The Dalai Lama, & Archbishop Desmond Tutu. (2016). *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World.*
Two leading spiritual masters share their wisdom about living with joy in the face of adversity and change. The Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu share personal stories and teachings about the science of happiness and belief systems that anchor emotional and spiritual lives.

Egan, A. (2008). "Seeing and Believing: Perception, Belief Formation and the Divided Mind." *Philosophical Studies*, (140)1, 47-63.
Egan explores the idea that humans have a single, consistent corpus of beliefs which guides their rational, deliberate, and intentional actions.

Hoorn, J. (2014). *Creative Confluence.*
Hoorn's highly original work, builds bridges between physics, biology, technology, economy, organizations, neuropsychology, literature, arts, and cultural history and attempts to explain the process of creativity as a universal principle.

Kingsolver, B., Hopp, S. L., & Kingsolver, C. (2008). *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life.*
The authors move from suburban Arizona to rural Appalachia in Virginia, where they take on a new challenge – to feed themselves on locally grown food only from her own garden and those of local farmers, for an entire year.

Orwell, G. (1949). *1984.*
1984 is one of the most famous dystopian satires in the English language. The book describes life under the constant scrutiny of Big Brother in a Totalitarian society. It introduces vocabulary, including "doublethink," "Thought Police," and "un-person," still used today in academic and popular culture sources.

Sternberg, E. (2011). "A Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: Linking Belief to Behavior." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, (1234)1, 98-99.
Sternberg describes historical and evolving ideas of freewill and determinism in relation to one's self as viewed from both philosophical and biological perspectives. He approaches the subject from a neurological-immunologist's perspective about how self-fulfilling prophecies trigger behaviors that may promote self-healing in individuals.

HONORS IN ACTION PLANNING RUBRIC

ACADEMIC RIGOR OF RESEARCH – 34 points

- The chapter developed a thoughtful, answerable research question to guide its investigation of one of the Honors Study Topic themes in the 2018/2019 Honors Program Guide.

- Project objectives clearly emphasized the importance of intentional research as the cornerstone of the Honors in Action project.

- The chapter used eight or more academic publications and/or expert sources. Sources should have been published in the last five years or be considered seminal works by the academic community. The sources should be wide-ranging and include different points of view on the chapter's research question as it directly relates to the 2018/2019 Honors Study Topic.

- The chapter's research activities clearly allowed participants to develop critical thinking skills.

- The in-depth investigation into a research question related to the Honors Study Topic provided substantial material for the chapter to carefully weigh and consider in determining an action to implement that would address a finding from participants' research into the 2018/2019 Honors Study Topic.

- Solid evidence is given that the participants heightened their awareness of self and community in relation to global issues.

- Spelling and grammar are faultless.

ACTION/SERVICE/ADVOCACY – 33 points

- Project objectives clearly emphasized the importance of taking action or serving based on findings from researching the 2018/2019 Honors Study Topic.

- The project clearly shows how the action developed from Honors Study Topic research conclusions.

- Project objectives emphasized the clearly-defined proposed scope of the project.

- The chapter worked with a variety of audiences to successfully complete the action components of the project including 1) people on campus who are not part of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter and 2) people in the community.

- There is strong evidence that participants increased their appreciation for the value of informed action and service.

- Spelling and grammar are faultless.

IMPACT – 33 points

- The project made a substantial contribution to participants' understanding of a theme as it relates to the 2018/2019 Honors Study Topic.

- The project made a substantial contribution to improving an issue within the clearly-defined proposed scope. Without question, the project had significant short-term impact and clear potential for long-term impact.

- The project's research and action outcomes were exceptional for the Honors in Action timeframe and were both quantitative and qualitative.

- The chapter assessed in an intentional and reflective way what they learned and how they grew as scholars and leaders who serve their communities.

- Spelling and grammar are faultless.

A chapter can earn up to 100 points for its Honors in Action Hallmark Award entry.

Check out the latest version of the Honors in Action Hallmark Award questions and judging rubric at **ptk.org/Programs/HallmarkAwards/ HallmarkAwardCategories.**

DEVELOPING A RESEARCH QUESTION

1. Start your exploration of the Honors Study Topic with a broad examination of *Transformations: Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change.*

2. Read the introductory essay in the Honors Program Guide.

3. Read and review the nine themes and their introductions in the Honors Program Guide.

4. Consider themes about which your chapter is passionate.

5. Discuss possible issues relevant to the themes that most interest your team and consider how those issues relate to your campus and community.

6. Begin to become aware of what's current on your campus, in your community, and in the news. You are building contextual knowledge that will direct your team towards a theme and will help you develop a question that will direct your initial research.

   - From your contextual knowledge, use your observation to help lead your team to a question.

   - Explore issues within the themes; remember, not all issues are covered in the theme, as this is an intellectual framework and guide to provoke discussion. As you choose a theme, consider which theme seems most relevant to the intellectual curiosities of your chapter members.

   - Make sure the pursuit of your intellectual curiosity is interdisciplinary.

7. From your team's observations, begin developing research questions. The team should ask:

   - What do we want to find out about our research topic?

   - What research have scholars already conducted?

   - What remains undiscovered about this topic?

   - What are the relevant sources, and how readily available are they?

8. Remember, when you answer these questions, two important developments can happen that are a normal part of the process:

   - The scope and nature of your question can change.

   - Your theme may change based on what your team finds.

9. Sample Research Question: As social justice movements become global in nature, how do they transform our understanding of human rights? (Theme 6)

SAMPLE HONORS IN ACTION PROJECT

1. Provide a brief abstract that includes the chapter's

    a. research question,

    b. concise overview of Honors in Action academic research,

    c. action and the direct connection between the research conducted by the chapter and the action taken, and

    d. outcomes for the project.

After considering what we wanted to find out about transformations, what research has already been done by scholars, and what remains to be uncovered about the economies of everything, our team developed our research question: *What are the causes of housing insecurity, and what do experts say are viable solutions to the problem of housing insecurity?* We considered how acknowledging and assessing the causes of housing insecurity can help communities achieve meaningful change. Our six-person research team utilized library and online sources and found that there is a housing crisis for college students in some areas of the United States. Learning about the devastating effects of the crisis on students and knowing we live in an area with high housing costs, we decided to assess whether students at our college faced a housing crisis. We administered a survey on campus to determine whether housing was an issue for students. Survey data showed that students at our college mirrored statewide statistics about affordable housing shortages. We set a meeting with our college president and her cabinet and the Faculty Senate president to share our research findings, including varied viewpoints about how to best address the problem. Our discussions led us to contact the Human Investment Project, Inc. (HIP), a nonprofit organization that creates affordable places for people to call home. Our collaboration with HIP resulted in securing an on-campus office for the organization, three on-campus workshops for students, and the renovation of two spaces near campus that have been designated affordable student housing.

2. Summarize your measurable objectives for this Honors in Action Project.

We developed three distinct types of measurable objectives. First were objectives related to our team's research and the research process, second were objectives related to collaborations with people on campus and in our community, and third were objectives related to the action component of the project.

Objectives related to research/research process:

- Organize a team to oversee the chapter's academic research process

- Collect and annotate 12 or more resources with varying viewpoints, the analysis of which will lead to our team's action

Objectives related to collaborative outreach:

- Meet with college administrators and the Faculty Senate president to discuss our team's research findings

- Identify and invite three campus groups/leaders with whom we can collaborate to strengthen our project

- Identify one community group/leader with whom we can collaborate to strengthen our project

Objectives related to action component:

Based on our research findings, we determined the following objectives:

- Secure an on-campus office space for HIP

- Conduct two on-campus workshops for students and one for college staff with HIP housing

- Determine at least one space that can be renovated to provide affordable student housing near campus

3. On what theme in the current Honors Program Guide did your chapter focus?

Theme 2: Economies of Everything.

4. By what process did you develop your research question?

Our original focus was on the economics of homelessness. Our research team examined the available sources in our college library and those available through Interlibrary Loan. The sources we found intrigued us and ultimately led to a new field of study that piqued our interest: housing insecurity. We found that people who technically have a home but live in constant fear that they will be evicted are growing in numbers particularly in urban areas and surrounding suburbs. Once we found a focus, the research team shared our findings with the chapter via Dropbox and at a chapter meeting to get feedback and to brainstorm ideas for our research question. We ultimately focused our research on housing insecurity and developed the following research question: What are the causes of housing insecurity, and what do experts say are viable solutions to the problem of housing insecurity?

5. Cite the eight academic/expert sources related to the 2018/2019 Honors Study Topic and the chapter's chosen theme that the team found during the research process that were most enlightening.

Note: These are four sources chosen for a sample abridged bibliography. For the full HiA Hallmark Award entry, eight academic/expert sources are required.

Desmond, M. (2016). *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. New York: Crown.*
Desmond tells the story of eight families in Milwaukee who lived on the edge of poverty. His data offers detailed narratives of the challenges faced by real people as they navigate systems that can be exploitative and that are difficult to escape and overcome. Important for our research and ultimately our action were the possible solutions offered by Desmond and the people he interviewed.

LeVan, A. C., & Olubowale, J. (2014). "'I am here until development comes': Displacement, Demolitions, and Property Rights in Urbanizing Nigeria." *African Affairs*, **113(452), 387-408.**

LeVan and Olubowale offered our team a global view of housing insecurity and potential solutions. Nigeria's housing challenges were exacerbated by property rights land regulations that used ideas about ethnic identities and the concept of "strangers" to keep people in cycles of poverty and insecurity. The authors discuss how efforts to improve housing security have moved from confrontations and protests to engagement of governments to seek solutions.

Schuetz, J. (2009). "No Renters in my Suburban Backyard: Land Use Regulation and Rental Housing." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, **29(2), 296-320.**

There are a number of factors that contribute to housing insecurity in suburbs. Among those factors are zoning laws and land regulations that contribute to low supply and high prices and an interest by suburban dwellers in maintaining property values. Some developers see multifamily rental units as undesirable and utilize regulations to limit availability of these units. Affordable housing laws also have an impact on availability of rental properties in desirable neighborhoods. As our college is located in a suburb with few rental properties, this source led us to investigate local laws and regulations.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2015). *Worst Case Housing Needs 2015: A Report to Congress.* Retrieved from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/Publications/pdf/WorstCaseNeeds_2015.pdf

This federal report examines rental housing. Its focus is data about housing for low-income renters, and the report also includes data about conditions of inadequate housing. Of particular interest to our team was the geographic information about where the housing crisis is most dire and where there are bright spots with programs that are working to alleviate the shortage.

6. At what research conclusions did your chapter arrive that led directly to the action taken?

Housing insecurity, including for people who work one or more jobs, has become an increasing issue for students, young adults, the elderly, and families. For every three rental units built in the past 20 years, two were torn down. Most new buildings cater to higher-end renters and are unaffordable for lower-income renters. The relative lack of new homes has contributed to higher rental prices and for a higher income threshold, even with low(er) interest rates, for home ownership. Only one in three low-income renters receives housing assistance. As a result, nearly half of all renters spend over 30 percent of their income on rent. The affordable standard for budgets has been spending 25 percent or less on housing. For every 100 extremely low-income renters, only 44 units were affordable or occupied by such households. For a subsection of low-income renters or homeowners, having multiple families in places where that is legal, is an option. A survey of 33,000 community college students found that over 50 percent were housing insecure and 14 percent were homeless. This information led us directly to our action to address housing insecurity among students at our college.

7. Describe the action components of the chapter's project.

Based on our research analysis, our team developed a project action plan, determined collaborators who would help us more effectively complete our action plan, and completed the following action components:

- We invited representatives from the Human Investment Project, Inc. (HIP) to meet with our team to help us determine, based on our research analysis, how we can best collaborate to make a meaningful difference about housing insecurity on campus.

- We identified three campus groups with whom to collaborate:

  - College administrators who helped us identify space for a permanent office on campus for a Housing Investment Project, Inc. (HIP) staff member and volunteers.

  - Counselors who helped us better understand the sensitive and confidential nature of our work and the best ways to address issues related to our action. Counselors also volunteered to work with HIP representatives to provide counseling and information about resources to housing-insecure students who needed it.

- Student Government Association officers and representatives who helped market HIP and on-campus resources to fellow students.
- Our team worked with HIP and campus counselors to develop and facilitate two on-campus workshops for students and community members.
- We worked with HIP and campus counselors to develop and facilitate one on-campus workshop for administrators, faculty, and staff to help them recognize students who may have housing insecurity issues and to understand the resources available on campus and in the community.
- Identified and renovated, with HIP help, one space in the community near campus that is designated for affordable student housing.

8. **What were the quantitative and qualitative outcomes related to academic research and action of the chapter's project? Include the lessons learned by your chapter members and others.**

With help from our collaborators, our team achieved its research and action goals. We learned more about the Economies of Everything and how the Theme relates to Transformations: Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change and to housing insecurity. We had both quantitative and qualitative outcomes that relate specifically to our goals and learned meaningful lessons along the way.

We set a goal of conducting three workshops and were able to collaborate with three representatives from Housing Investment Project, Inc. (HIP) and five on-campus counselors to deliver all three. Two of the workshops were designated for students, and one workshop was designated for college administrators, faculty, and staff. A total of 72 students and seven community members participated in the workshops. Four administrators, 18 faculty members, and 20 staff participated. We worked

with college administrators to designate the staff workshop an official professional development offering that counted toward performance evaluation and that helped boost participation.

We secured a designated space on campus near the wellness center for a permanent HIP office. One HIP staff member and 15 volunteers, including Phi Theta Kappa members, are currently staffing the office.

In addition to the workshops and HIP office, our team worked with HIP to identify and renovate a space near campus that will house four students during the upcoming summer semester and next academic year. Each student will have a single sleeping room, and the apartment has a large shared living and kitchen area. Our next step is to identify two more living spaces near campus to renovate for students.

We have received positive feedback from students, faculty, and community members throughout our work on this Honors in Action project. One student who participated in our workshop wrote, "I didn't think anybody would notice, but spending three months living in my car almost caused me to drop out of college. Now I am able to focus more on my studies, and I realize that people do care."

We learned a number of lessons while planning and implementing our project. First and foremost, we learned about the pervasiveness of housing insecurity among students and how we can employ strategies to make a meaningful difference. We learned that sharing what we learned exponentially increased our reach. We learned strategies to sensitively work with people who may need help. While there are local and regional resources available, students may not know what they are nor may they have access to them. We learned that project planning and setting realistic SMART goals, even when our team knew we could not transform every students' life, meant we could transform life for a few students with the hope that together we can do more to acknowledge, assess, and achieve change in housing insecurity.

HONORS IN ACTION JOURNAL

ACADEMIC INVESTIGATION

- Who served on your research team?

- How and by what process did you choose your theme related to Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Study Topic?

- What is your research question?

- By what process did you develop your research question? Who engaged in the research and development that led to your research question?

- What different disciplines can you connect to your theme as it relates to the Honors Study Topic?

- What are the varied perspectives and points of view to explore? What sources can you identify that represent the varied points of view about your theme as it relates to the Honors Study Topic?

- What are the details of your research plan (number and type of sources, deadlines for reporting, etc.)?

- What academic sources did each researcher consult? What were the three most meaningful things each researcher learned from each source that informed your understanding of the chosen theme as it relates to the Honors Study Topic?

- What did you learn from analyzing and synthesizing the research?

- What are your research conclusions?

- In what ways was the research challenging, and how did you overcome the challenges?

- What are the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of your research?

- How did your academic research into the Honors Study Topic help you better understand the world?

- How have you shared the studies, research, analysis, and conclusions with chapter members, people on campus, and/or community members?

ACTION

- What did you learn during the academic research phase of your HiA project that led you to identify an action that tied directly to your team's research on the Honors Study Topic?

- What do you propose to do to address a real-life, complex issue in your community?

- Whom will you serve? (Demographics, numbers, location, etc.)

- What organizations exist in the world that are engaged in actions similar to what you aim to do? How does their work inform yours?

- What organizations exist locally that are engaged in actions (service, awareness, advocacy) similar to what you aim to do? What can you learn from their work?

- What is the specific impact you intend to make?

- What are the details of your strategies and plans?

- How are you going to measure the impact (quantitative measures and qualitative measures)?

- What are the specific results and impact of your research, growth as scholars and leaders, and the resulting action?

- What are the reactions and feedback from the people and organizations with whom you collaborated?

- What is necessary for the project to be sustained and grow?

OUTCOMES

- How many people participated in your project from the academic research through completion of your reflection? In what specific ways did people participate?

- With whom did you collaborate in order to complete your project? 1) People on campus? 2) Community members?

- With how many people did you collaborate? What were their roles in the project? What difference did their participation make to the overall success of the project?

- In what ways did you stretch in terms of what your chapter had done with Honors in Action in the past?

- How did those who participated in your project evaluate it?

- How did chapter members grow as scholars and leaders who serve your community? What skills did team members hone as a result of their work on the project?

Additional Honors in Action Resources are Available Online at ptk.org/Programs/HonorsinAction

Interested in more Honors-related resources? Visit the following webpages:

Honors Case Study Challenge
ptk.org/casechall

Honors Institute
ptk.org/HonorsInstitute

HONORS PROGRAM COUNCIL

The Phi Theta Kappa Honors Program Council is responsible for making recommendations to Headquarters staff about the new Honors Study Topic and Honors in Action Program and for assisting with the compilation of the Honors Program Guide. Made up of Phi Theta Kappa advisors, Headquarters staff, and consultants, the Honors Program Council is selected for its broad knowledge of the Honors Study Topic and Phi Theta Kappa's integrated approach to the Hallmarks as well as its balance in academic disciplines. The 2018/2019 Honors Study Topic was developed by the 2016/2017 Honors Program Council pictured below.

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PHI THETA KAPPA HONORS STUDY TOPICS

Established in 1968, Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Study Topic is the cornerstone of Honors in Action and the focus of the Society's annual Honors Institute. The following is a list of past Honors Study Topics.

1968 Our Cultural Heritage: 1800-1860

1969 The Changing Nature of American Society: A Challenge to Government

1970 A Study of Twentieth-Century Drama

1971 Man, A Part of Nature/Man, Apart from Nature

1972 The State of Our Nation: Toward Responsible Contributory Citizenship

1973 Voices of Human Experience, I

1974 Voices of Human Experience, II

1975 Franklin and Jefferson: Apostles in '76

1976 William Faulkner: The Man, His Land, His Legend

1977 Music: The Listener's Art

1978 Man Alive: Can He Survive?

1979 The Brilliant Future of Man: Problem Solving Time

1980 A Time for Truth

1981 Man in Crisis: A Quest for Values

1982 The Short Story: Mirror of Humanity

1983 Signed by the Masters

1984 America, A World-Class Citizen: Image and Reality

1985 Ethics and Today's Media: An Endangered Alliance?

1986 The American Dream: Past, Present, and Future

1987 The U.S. Constitution: Assuring Continuity Through Controversy

1988 The Character and Climate of Leadership: Old Frontiers and New Frontiers

1989 The Americas: Distant Neighbors Building Bridges

1990 Civilization at Risk: Challenge of the 90s

1991 The Paradox of Freedom: A Global Dilemma

1992 1492-1992: The Dynamics of Discovery

1993 Our Complex World: Balancing Unity and Diversity

1994 Science, Humanity and Technology: Shaping a New Creation

1995 Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities: An Indelicate Balance

1996 The Arts: Landscape of Our Time

1997 Family: Myth, Metaphor and Reality

1998 The Pursuit of Happiness: Conflicting Visions and Values

1999 The New Millennium: The Past As Prologue

2000 In the Midst of Water: Origin and Destiny of Life

2001 Customs, Traditions, and Celebrations: The Human Drive for Community

2002/2003 Dimensions and Directions of Health: Choices in the Maze

2004/2005 Popular Culture: Shaping and Reflecting Who We Are

2006/2007 Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power

2008/2009 The Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges, and Consequences

2010/2011 The Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise

2012/2013 The Culture of Competition

2014/2015 Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration

2016/2017 How the World Works: Global Perspectives

2018/2019 Transformations: Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change