Interdisciplinarity & Building Teams
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Sustainability in Turbulent Times
Lessons from the Nexus Network for supporting transdisciplinary research

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY MULTI, INTER & TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH?

It is increasingly recognised that narrow single disciplinary approaches are ill equipped to address complex, interconnected challenges. But there are various approaches to the involvement of multiple disciplines within research:

A **multidisciplinary** approach draws upon the strengths or expertise of different disciplines, and more effectively joins up their findings, but leaves disciplinary boundaries (and sometimes hierarchies) intact.

An **interdisciplinary** approach involves the fuller integration of disciplines, to develop potentially novel ways of approaching research questions, recognising that there is a diversity of ways to understand and address particular problems.

**Transdisciplinary** research not only integrates expertise from across academic disciplines, but also involves societal stakeholders in the design stage, and throughout the research process. In transdisciplinary research, knowledge can come from beyond formal academic disciplines, and insights are often provided through other kinds of tacit knowledge – as held by local communities, businesses, social movements or practitioners.

Nexus Network activities and projects have included all three of these types of cross-disciplinary collaboration, with a particular emphasis on transdisciplinary processes.
The 2022 Science of Team Science Planning Committee is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2022 SciTS conference, from July 31 to August 3. We have received an outstanding set of submissions covering a broad range of SciTS topics. We have designed a conference to be an engaging virtual experience for our attendees.
Celebrating all research outputs

The hidden REF is a competition that recognises all research outputs and every role that makes research possible.

Submissions to the competition have now closed, but our main purpose, which is to campaign for a broader recognition of the work and the people who are vital to research, continues.

We crowd-sourced submission categories to construct a broad set of categories that we hope will recognise everyone who contributes to the success of research.

Submissions opened on 14th December 2020 and closed on 14th
Fit for the Future: Research Leadership Matters
A Review of Research Leadership in the Social Sciences
by Professor Matthew Flinders, University of Sheffield
Eiríkur Smári Sigurðarson
Research Specialist at University of Iceland,
Iceland
Issues

• Getting to a common understanding of a challenge.
• Aligning “institutional” interests.
• Fair distribution and use of resources, based on an understanding of different needs and capabilities.
• Respecting different epistemologies.
• Approaching the “meeting” as an important event, as a transformative encounter.
Questions

• Are some types of problems more relevant for interdisciplinary and intersectoral work than other?
• What kind of leadership facilitates interdisciplinary team building?
• What kind of meeting ground enhances the transformative potential of open science?
Recommendation

Roundtable: Interdisciplinarity & Building Teams

“The changing research ecosystem demands a fresh approach to nurturing research leadership”