

Investigating Interdisciplinary Practice: Methodological Challenges

15-17 June 2015, University of Helsinki Main Building, Auditorium XII, Unioninkatu 34, Senate Square side

Interdisciplinarity is one of the most prominent ideas driving science policy today. It is applied widely as a conception of what particularly creative and socially relevant science should consist of, whether natural or social science. For the last 40 years researchers have built up a substantial body of literature constructing various visions of what interdisciplinarity should be like. Until recently, however, there has been little concern for how it is practiced in distinct research settings and fields. This brings to the fore the need to pay particular attention to the methodological and conceptual resources required to investigate and understand interdisciplinary research in action.

The workshop brings together scholars from the broad range of humanities and social sciences backgrounds. Their contributions will introduce, discuss, and reflect upon their distinct methodological approaches – both empirical and theoretical – for studying interdisciplinary science in practice.



Photo by: Rebekka Lehtola/Visit Helsinki

Programme

Monday 15

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 14:00–14:15 | Uskali Mäki, Opening Remarks |
| 14:15–15:15 | Invited talk 1: Sabine Maasen, "Looking at Interdisciplinarity from a Discourse Analytical Perspective. Im/possible, Ir/resistible, In/feasible?" |
| 15:15–16:00 | Carlos Cuevas-García, "Interdisciplinary Identities, Discourses and Ideological Dilemmas: Reflections on Methods and Findings" |
| 16:00–16:30 | Tea/coffee break |
| 16:30–17:15 | Endla Lõhkivi, "Creating Common Language: About Cultural Analysis of Interdisciplinary Research on the Example of Language Technology" |

Tuesday 16

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00–10:45 | Inkeri Koskinen, "'Culture' and 'Knowledge': Using Concordance Software in the Philosophical Study of Ambiguous Terms in Inter- and Transdisciplinary Contexts" |
| 10:45–11:15 | Tea/coffee break |
| 11:15–12:00 | Martina Merz, "Mixed Qualitative Analysis of Interdisciplinarity" |
| 12:00–12:45 | Simone Rödder, "'We are your lab mice!' On Doing Research on Doing Interdisciplinarity" |
| 12:45–14:15 | Lunch |
| 14:15–15:15 | Invited talk 2: Mitchell Ash, "Interdisciplinarity in Historical Perspective" |
| 15:15–16:00 | Enno Aljets and Frank Meier, "Interdisciplinarity and Decision-making – An Organizational Perspective" |
| 16:00–16:30 | Tea/coffee break |
| 16:30–17:30 | Invited talk 3: Ismael Rafols, "Mapping Interdisciplinary Research Using Scientometric Tools: Methods, Potential Insights, and Pitfalls" |
| 19:00 | Workshop dinner |

Invited lectures

Mitchell Ash (University of Vienna):
"Interdisciplinarity in Historical Perspective"

Sabine Maasen (TU Munich):
"Looking at Interdisciplinarity from a Discourse Analytical Perspective. Im/possible, Ir/resistible, In/feasible?"

Nancy Nersessian (Harvard University):
"Interdisciplinarity on the Benchtop: Cognitive Ethnography of Research Laboratory Practices"

Ismael Rafols (CSIC-UPV, València):
"Mapping Interdisciplinary Research Using Scientometric Tools: Methods, Potential Insights, and Pitfalls"

Wednesday 17

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 10:00–10:45 | Caterina Schürch, "Interdisciplinary Research on Plant Growth Hormones" |
| 10:45–11:15 | Tea/coffee break |
| 11:15–12:00 | Katri Huutoniemi, "Investigating the Quality of Interdisciplinary Research" |
| 12:00–12:45 | Melinda Fagan, "Stem Cells and Systems Models: Obstacles to Interdisciplinary Explanation" |
| 12:45–14:15 | Lunch |
| 14:15–15:15 | Invited talk 4: Nancy Nersessian, "Interdisciplinarity on the Benchtop: Cognitive Ethnography of Research Laboratory Practices" |
| 15:15–15:45 | Concluding Discussion |

Organizing committee

Uskali Mäki
Miles MacLeod
Martina Merz
Michiru Nagatsu