

# WEBS2002

## Interdisciplinary Project

Integrating Disciplines  
reviewing methods

# purpose

- The purpose of this session is to prompt you to build on your learning from the project review session in week 6
- Understand how interdisciplinarity means integrating understandings and methods
  - Think critically about your project
  - Identify the methods you have adopted
  - Identify other methods which might increase your understanding
  - Identify where you might include this understanding in your project report

Frame your understanding through your practical activity of the project

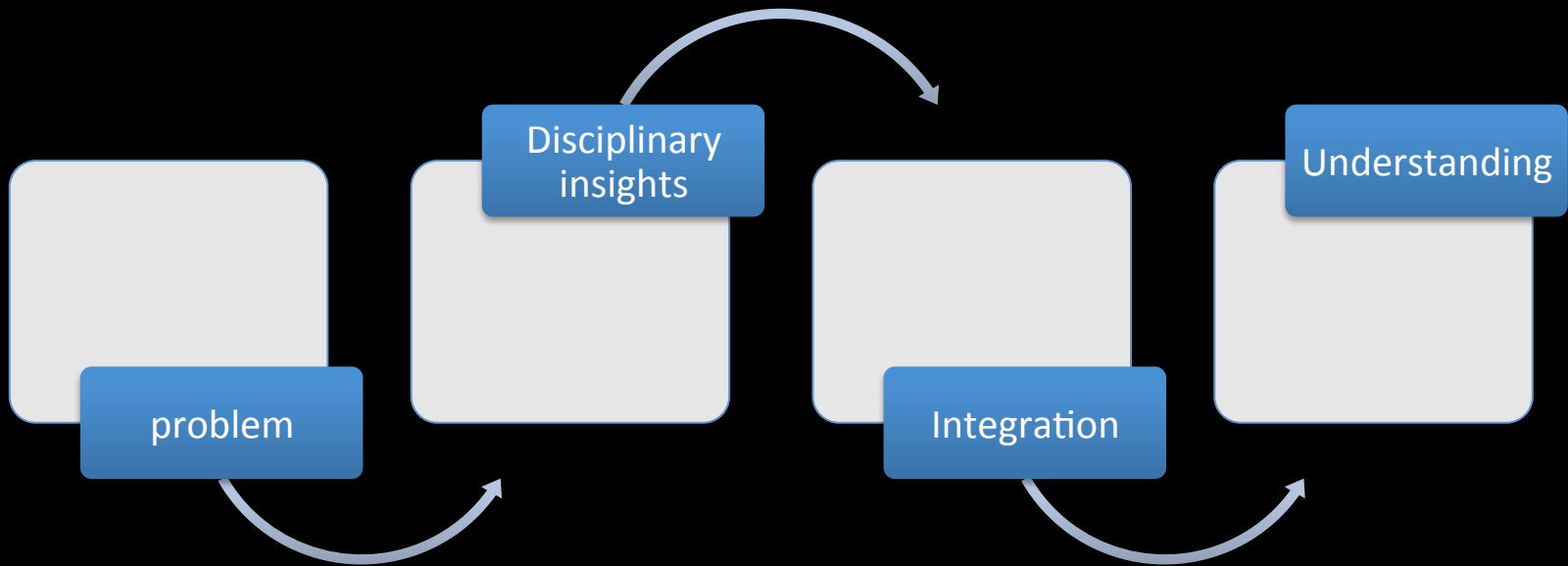
Applying the theory

# **YOUR PROJECT AS A FOCUS**

# Last week's review

- How have you used your reflections?
- What are your top priorities for your project right now?

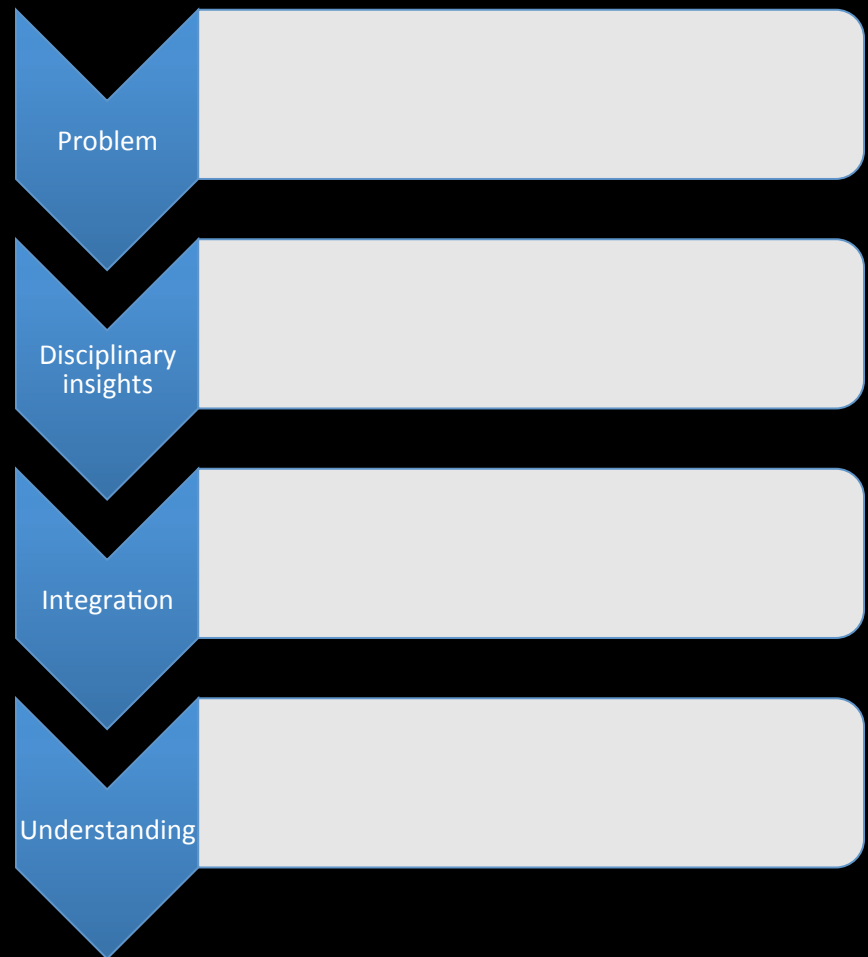
# Repko: The flow of activities



This week we will focus on integration

# Repko (method)

- Have you created common ground?
- Do your findings and conclusions integrate insights?
- Have you explained and tested your interdisciplinary understanding?



# Which sections of your report may benefit most?

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Background
- Method
- Discussion
- Conclusions and Future Work
- References
- Bibliography
- Appendix
- How have you presented data?
- Have you chosen methods which can
  - Summarise complexity
  - Show your insights
  - Help your writing

# Thinking about integration

## Integration

Combine (two or more things) so that they form a whole

## Interdisciplinary integration

...

“the cognitive process of critically evaluating disciplinary insights and creating common ground among them to construct a more comprehensive understanding. The understanding is the product or result of the integrative process”

Repko 2102 p263

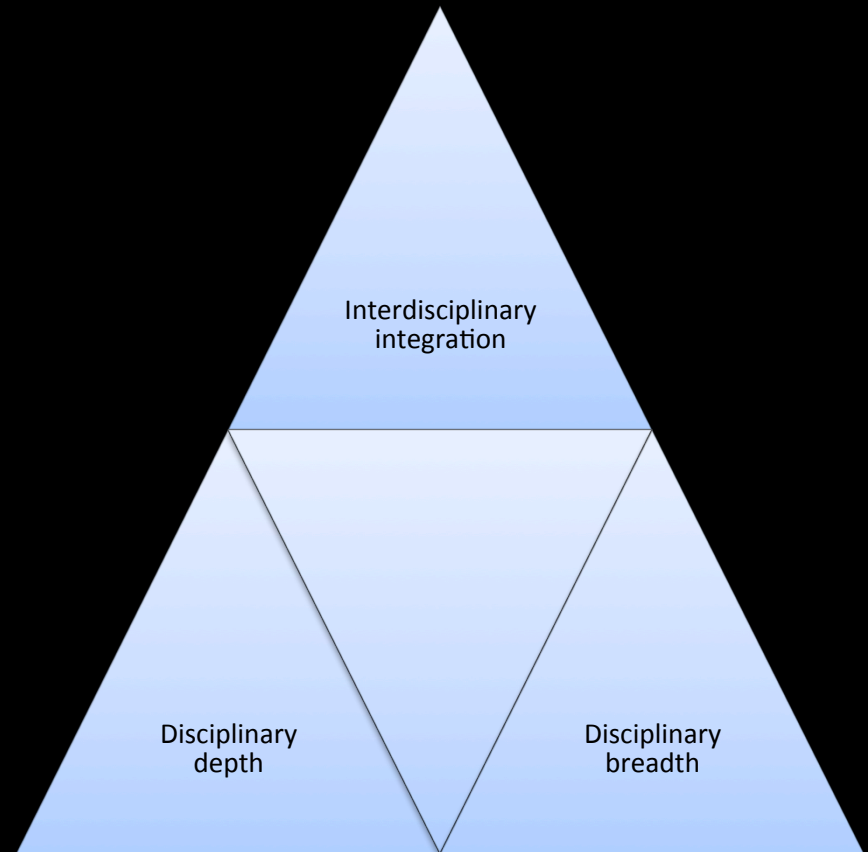


# Mixed methods and triangulation

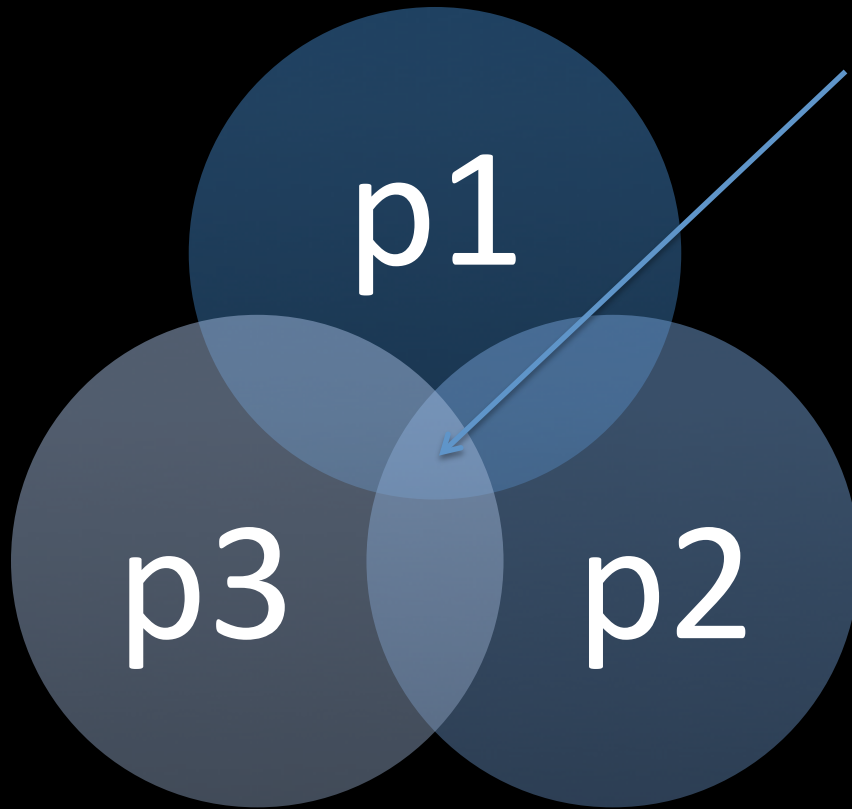
- When geographers try to map a landscape, they make observations from multiple perspectives
- When researchers try to map a landscape they are advised to collect and view data from multiple perspectives
- A data source can be analysed in more than one way
- More than one data source can be analysed (in more than one way)

# definition

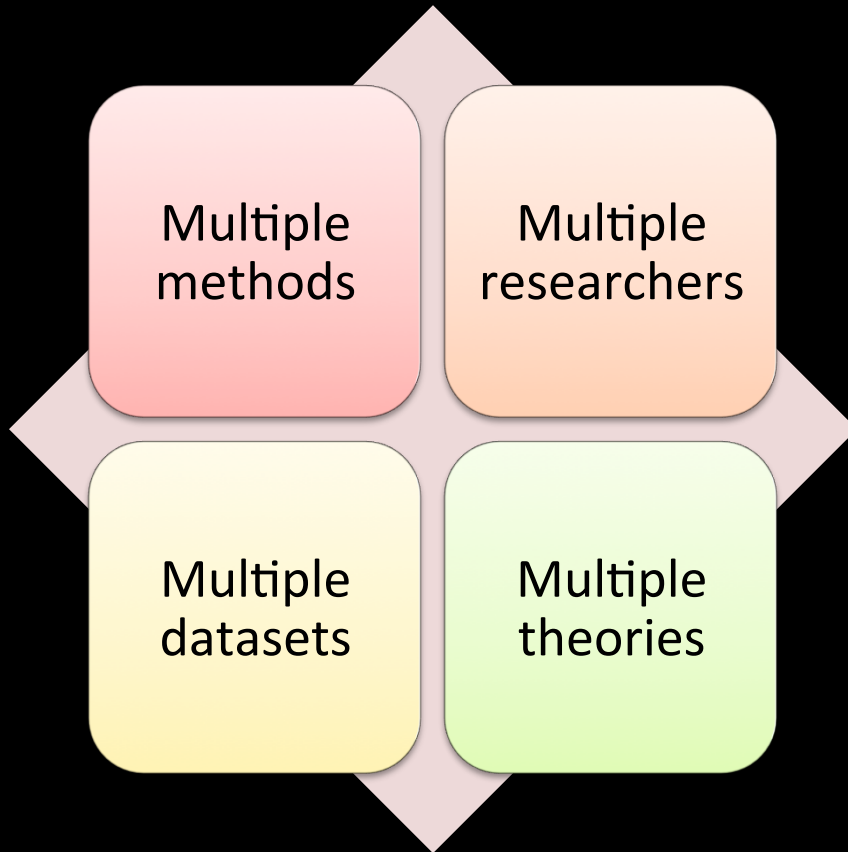
- Triangulation as an approach to research
  - uses a combination of more than one research strategies in a single investigation
- As an interdisciplinary tool, Repko presents triangulation as a method to encompass depth, breadth and integration



# Triangulation reveals a small focus




- Triangulation
  - Is not limited to three measures!
  - Triangulation can be performed within one method!



- Often a qualitative and quantitative approach is ideal/preferred
- But may be constrained e.g.
  - Time
  - Budget
  - Expertise
  - Access to data
- Multiple analysis within method may also be insightful

# Your criticality thinking skills

- Seek what is useful even if it is problematic
- Think inclusively and integratively – not exclusively
- Analyse responsively to each perspective, do not allow one to dominate
- Strive for balance among conflicting disciplinary perspectives and insights
- Maintain intellectual flexibility
- Think inductively and deductively
- Think about the WHOLE working with all the parts!



Apply this to  
your report!

# References/further reading

## Set text & illustrative sites

- Repko Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory, 2008
- Repko Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2012 Chapter 9 Understanding Integration

## Papers and sites

Tinati, R., Halford, S., Carr, L., & Pope, C. (2014).  
Big Data: Methodological Challenges and Approaches for Sociological Analysis. *Sociology*.  
doi:10.1177/0038038513511561