WEBS2002
Interdisciplinary Project

Integrating Disciplines
reviewing methods

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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

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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

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Repko (method)

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

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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

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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

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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)

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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

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Triangulation reveals a small focus

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

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• 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!

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After Repko 20112 p280
Set text & illustrative sites
- Repko Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory, 2008
  Chapter 9 Understanding Integration

Papers and sites
Big Data: Methodological Challenges and Approaches for Sociological Analysis.
Sociology.
doi:10.1177/0038038513511561

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