

WEBS2002
Interdisciplinary Project
Understanding Interdisciplinarity
How do we know?
Have we shown interdisciplinarity?

purpose

- The purpose of this session is to prompt you to think critically
 - Review your progress
 - Deepen your understanding of interdisciplinarity
 - Frame your understanding
 - through your practical activity of the project

Issues: navigating the language

- How have you navigated the language of different disciplines?
 - As you have conducted your research
 - Individually
 - As a group
- Are you reflecting this?
 - In each section of the report?
 - In the language and subtexts of the report
- You have further opportunities via the reflection

Introduction

Background

Method

Discussion

Conclusions & future work

References

Bibliography

Appendices

First

- Project and FAQ section
- live edit

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Literature: models

Sociology/interdisciplinarity

Digital Sociology
We are a @BritSoci study group

About Us Bibliography Getting Started

Twitter Fever; how should (Digital) Sociology respond?

August 11, 2014 11:11 am · Leave a Comment · Huw Davies

When describing the growing number of social science papers devoted to Twitter it's now becoming difficult to avoid hyperbolic metaphors; an initial trickle of research is becoming a deluge. To date [Web of Science](#) has indexed over 150 papers from sociology alone that address Twitter. The rush to exploit Twitter's research potential is understandable. There are now free tools available, such as [Node XL](#), which, at unprecedented speeds and scales allow us to access, harvest, and analyse the traces of people's thoughts, opinions and behaviours. Seemingly combining the scale and generalisability of methods such as national surveys with the granularity and detail of close textual analysis, ethnography, or participant observation ([Driscoll & Walker, 2014, p1746](#)), Twitter is often considered the holy grail of data sources. Sociology is responding to [Savage & Burrow's](#) widely cited and knowingly provocative epitaph for traditional empirical sociology with initiatives such as Digital Sociology, but how should this new project position itself to Twitter-fever? The answer lies in finding a fine balance between being critical and constructive.

A "reflexive critique" ([Lupton 2014](#)) of new methods is crucial. A closer examination reveals many of

<http://digitalsociology.org.uk>

CS/Interdisciplinarity

Networks, Crowds, and Markets
Reasoning About a Highly Connected World

TEXTBOOK

AUTHORS:
[David Easley](#), Cornell University, New York
[Jon Kleinberg](#), Cornell University, New York

DATE PUBLISHED: July 2010

AVAILABILITY: In stock

FORMAT: Hardback

ISBN: 9780521195331

<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/networks-book/>

Su White <http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/13525/>

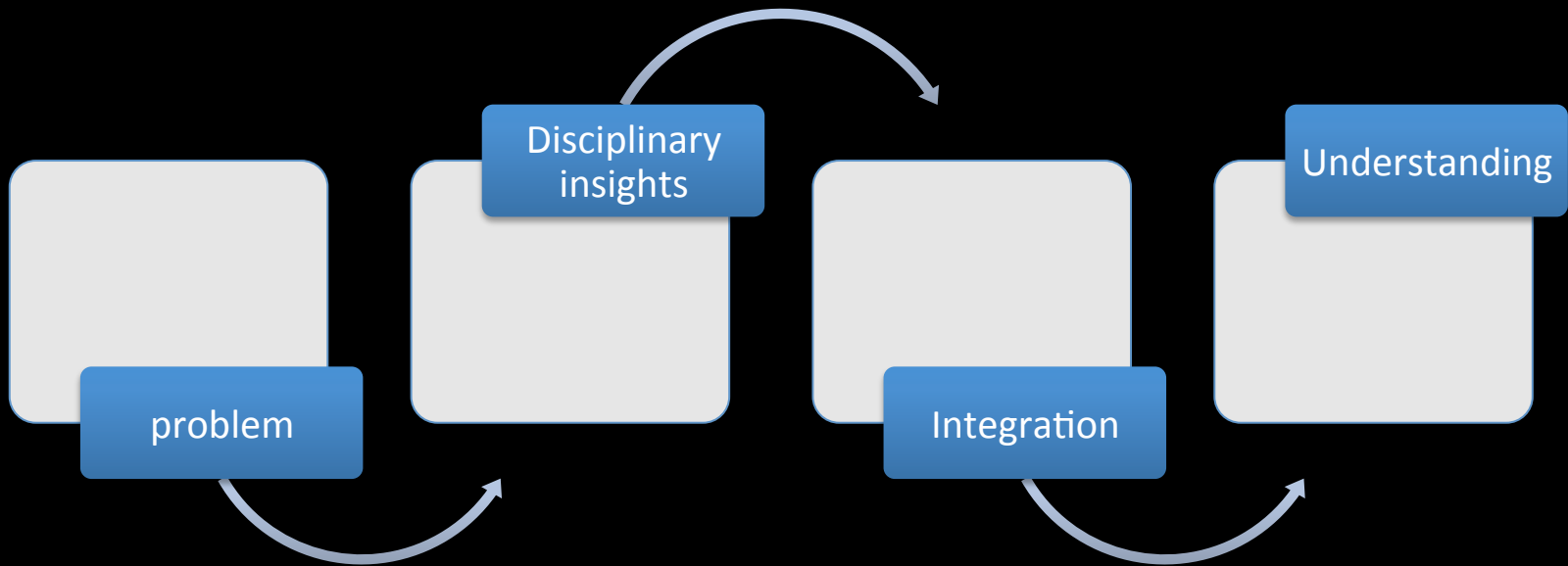
Follow up: Look at the two sites

- Look at the two sites
 - Compare the language
 - The way they define the area
 - The way they define problems and possible approaches to solutions in the area
- Think about your own work, are you using the language of one community/discipline?
- How might you change aspects of your approach?

Applying the theory

YOUR PROJECT AS A FOCUS

Repko: The flow of activities



Repko (method)

- Have you mapped the problem space?
 - Which bits of the problem relate to which parts of possible findings?
- Mapped?
 - Suggests a visualisation (another Mendeley group)

<http://www.mendeley.com/groups/3963921/visualliteracy/>

Methods (Repko)

- Have you justified the interdisciplinary approach?
- Possible arguments
 - Complexity
 - Additional insights of ID approach
 - Shortcomings of existing single discipline approaches
 - Problem at the interface
 - Unresolved societal need/issue

Repko Method

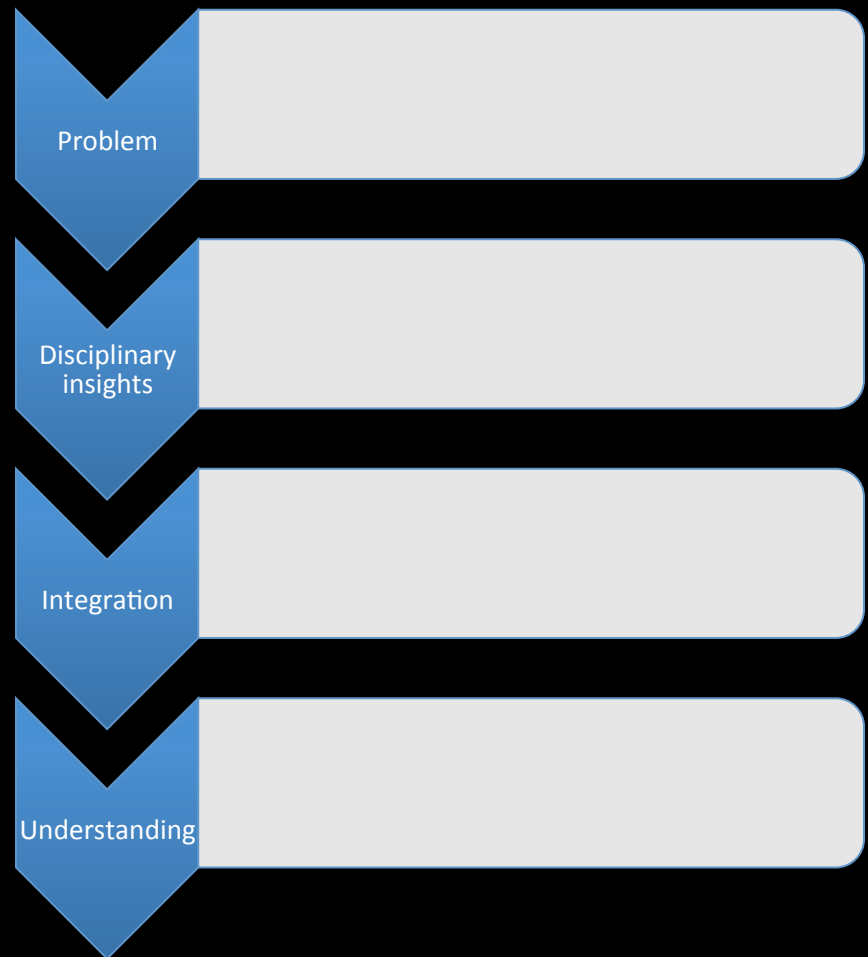
- Have you analysed the Literature?
 - Search
 - Review
- Have you been methodical?
- Is your review consistent with your arguments?
- What is the common ground?
- What are the conflicts?

Repko (method)

- Does your method draw from your chosen disciplines?
- Does your discussion analyse the problem (again)
- Does your discussion evaluate your insights (findings)

Repko (method)

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



Use the student wiki

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- Now and later
 - Do you have more questions to add?
 - What needs to be debugged?

References/further reading

Set text & illustrative sites

- Repko Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory, 2008
- Digital Sociology (BSA)
<http://digitalsociology.org.uk>
- Jon Kleinberg at Cornell Networks
<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/networks-book/>

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