Cross-Disciplinarity & Co-creation
- a new cross-ICT priority

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What are we talking about?

This priority encourages collaboration between researchers working in different disciplines and with users of research. It recognises the benefits of cooperation and partnership during the development of research ideas as well as in the research process itself. The ICT landscape has rich opportunities for closer working between disciplines and many of the most exciting opportunities emerge at the interface between established areas. Cross-disciplinary research includes novel collaboration within the ICT community, with researchers across the EPSRC portfolio and with researchers funded by other research councils.
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What are we talking about?

- Working outside your comfort zone
- Truly working together – not just providing data for another team, for example
- Generating new research areas
Where are we?

- Who already has experience of cross-disciplinary working?
- How comfortable do you feel about it?
- How important do you feel it is to your career?
Cross-Disciplinarity: Challenges

- **Personal**
  - Confidence

- **Professional**
  - Funding?
  - Risk to career?
  - REF?
  - Time

- **Scientific**
  - Differences in behaviour
  - Differences in motivation

- **Institutional**
  - Institutional structures
  - REF
  - Attitudes amongst senior staff
Questions:

• Do you feel that cross-disciplinary research will help or hinder your career?

• What do you think are the main barriers to you working on cross-disciplinary research projects?

• What do you feel the following could do to better facilitate cross-disciplinary working?
  • You
  • Your department or institution
  • Journal editors
  • Conference organisers
  • EPSRC
Tips:

- Talk to people
- Don’t be afraid to ask the stupid questions
- Take opportunities
- Learn from others’ experience
- Work together rather than separately
- Watch out for disciplinary differences
- Bear in mind each discipline when writing proposals
- Work with good people – within team, and outside
- Challenge yourself
Rewards:

- Broadened horizons
- Excitement
- Fresh and interesting work
- Fulfilling career
- New research areas
Resources:

  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4415777/

- “The Joys and Sorrows of Cross-Disciplinary Research”
  http://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/the-joys-and-sorrows-of-cross-disciplinary-research#.WLxIRhicYcA
Discussion

- What are the next steps?
- What sources of help do you feel you may need?
- Any other questions, issues, points?