

RESEARCH QUESTIONS



- Is interdisciplinarity a *Hodge Podge/ Hotch Potch*?
- Is interdisciplinary research a *Catch all Phrase*?
- How do we define boundaries of disciplines and what opportunities are we missing at the boundaries of disciplines?

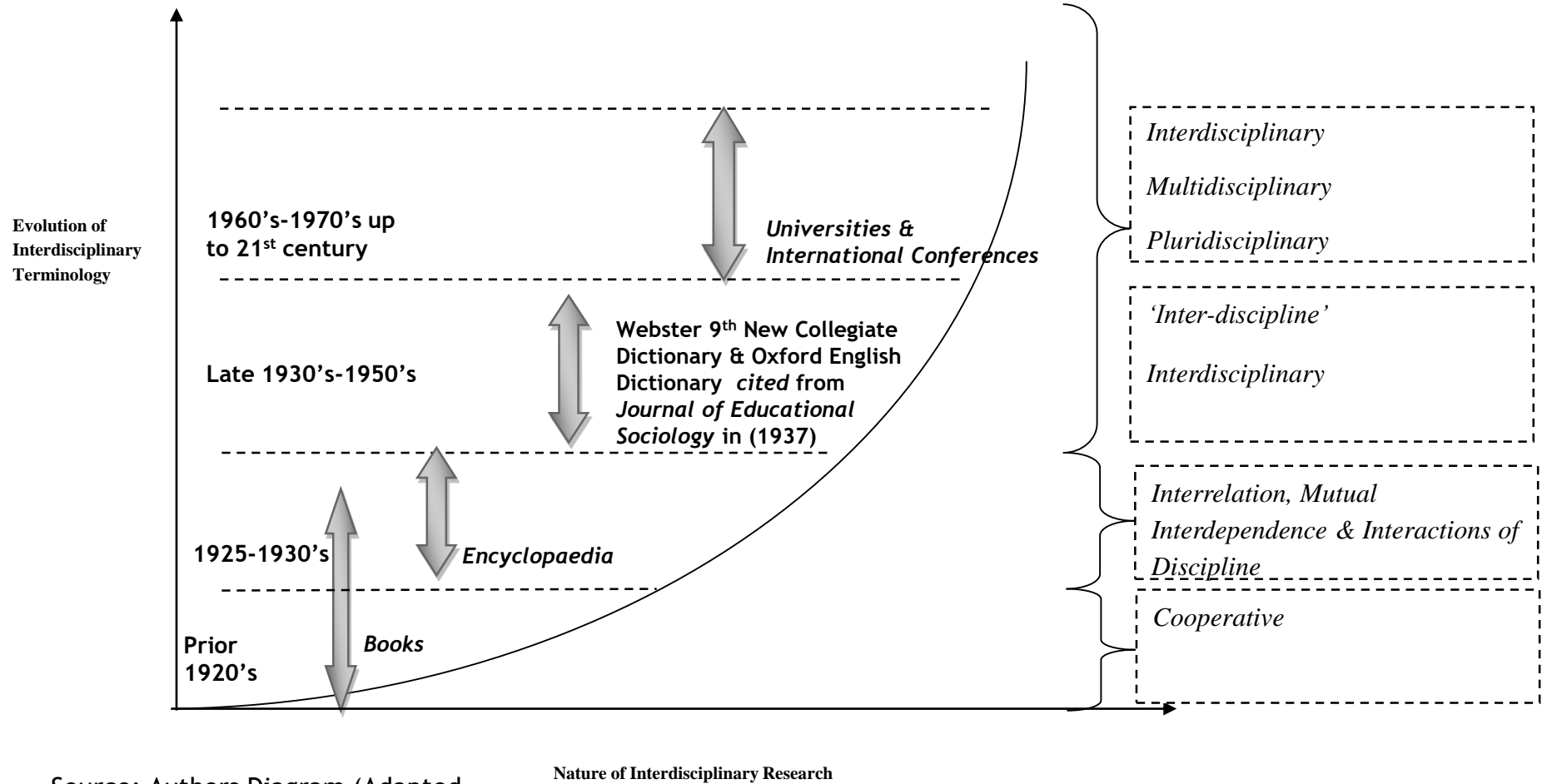


INTERDISCIPLINARITY: THE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AT THE BOUNDARIES

Nasiru Taura

WHY INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH?

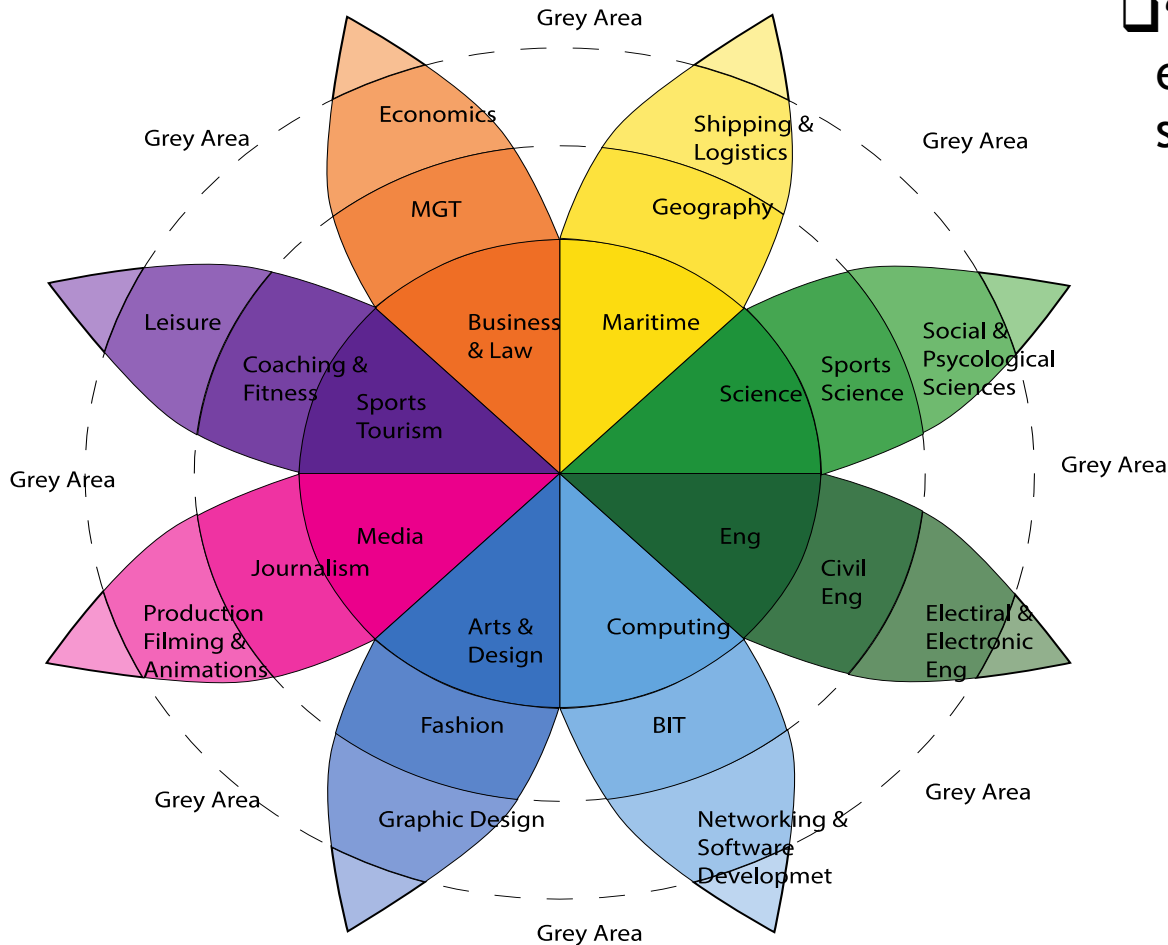
Because Interdisciplinary research is linked closely with innovation and novel approaches (Klein, 2007)



Source: Authors Diagram (Adapted from Klein, 2007)

SOLENT INTERDISCIPLINARITY SPECTRUM

□ “August Comte, for one, envisioned a unified social science from the outset”
(Miller, 1982:1)



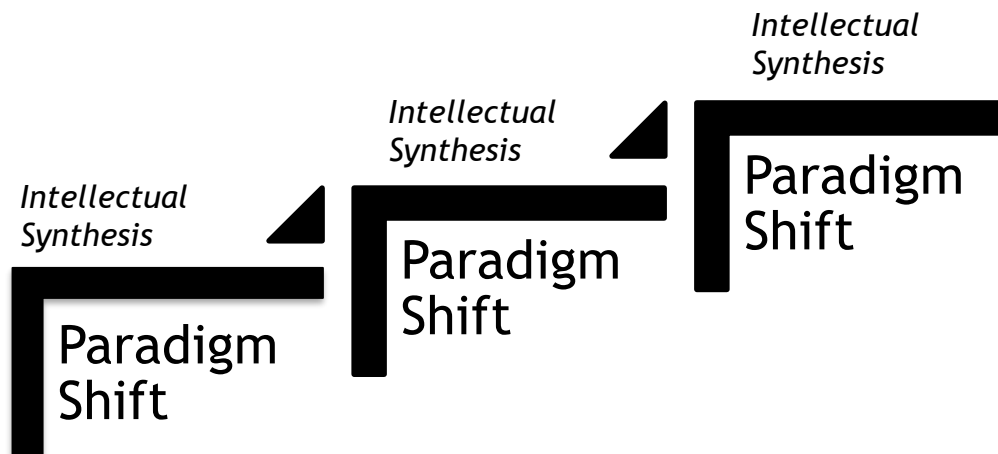
Source: Authors Diagram

METHODS

- ❑ Unstructured Interviews:
(*Experienced* and *New career* researchers at Solent University)
- ❑ Self Administered Questionnaires:
(Research cluster members from 8 clusters identified at Solent University)
- ❑ Systematic Review: (R &E conferences for three 3 years 2010-2012)(Petticrew and Roberts, 2006)

EXPERIENCED RESEARCHERS APPROACH TO INTERDISCIPLINARITY AT SOLENT

Step Approach

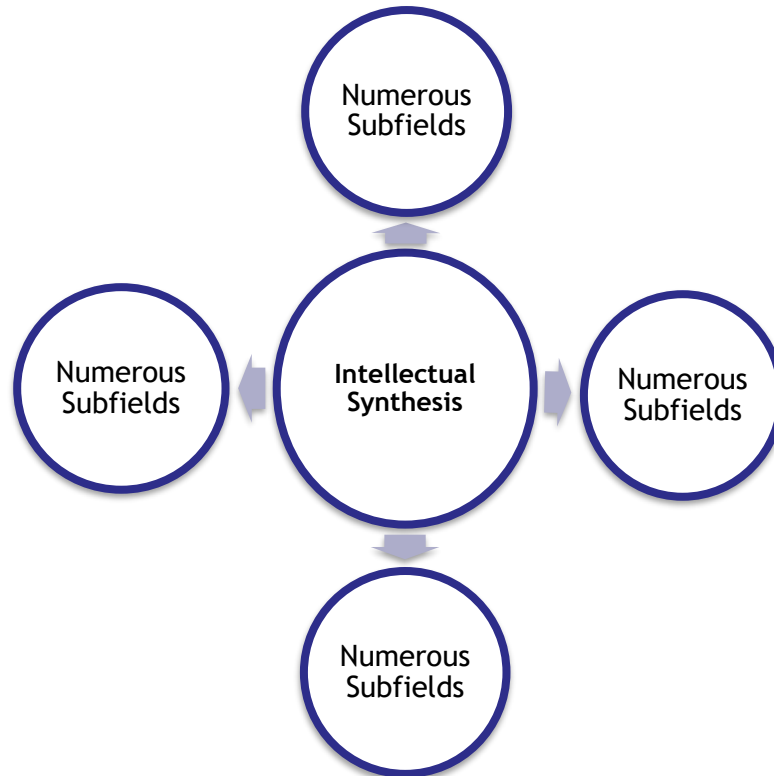


SUMMARY FINDINGS: (INTERVIEW

- Influence of Thomas Kuhn Structure of Scientific Revolution
- Boredom
- Recycling the same

NEW CAREER RESEARCHERS: APPROACH TO INTERDISCIPLINARITY AT SOLENT

Pragmatic Approach

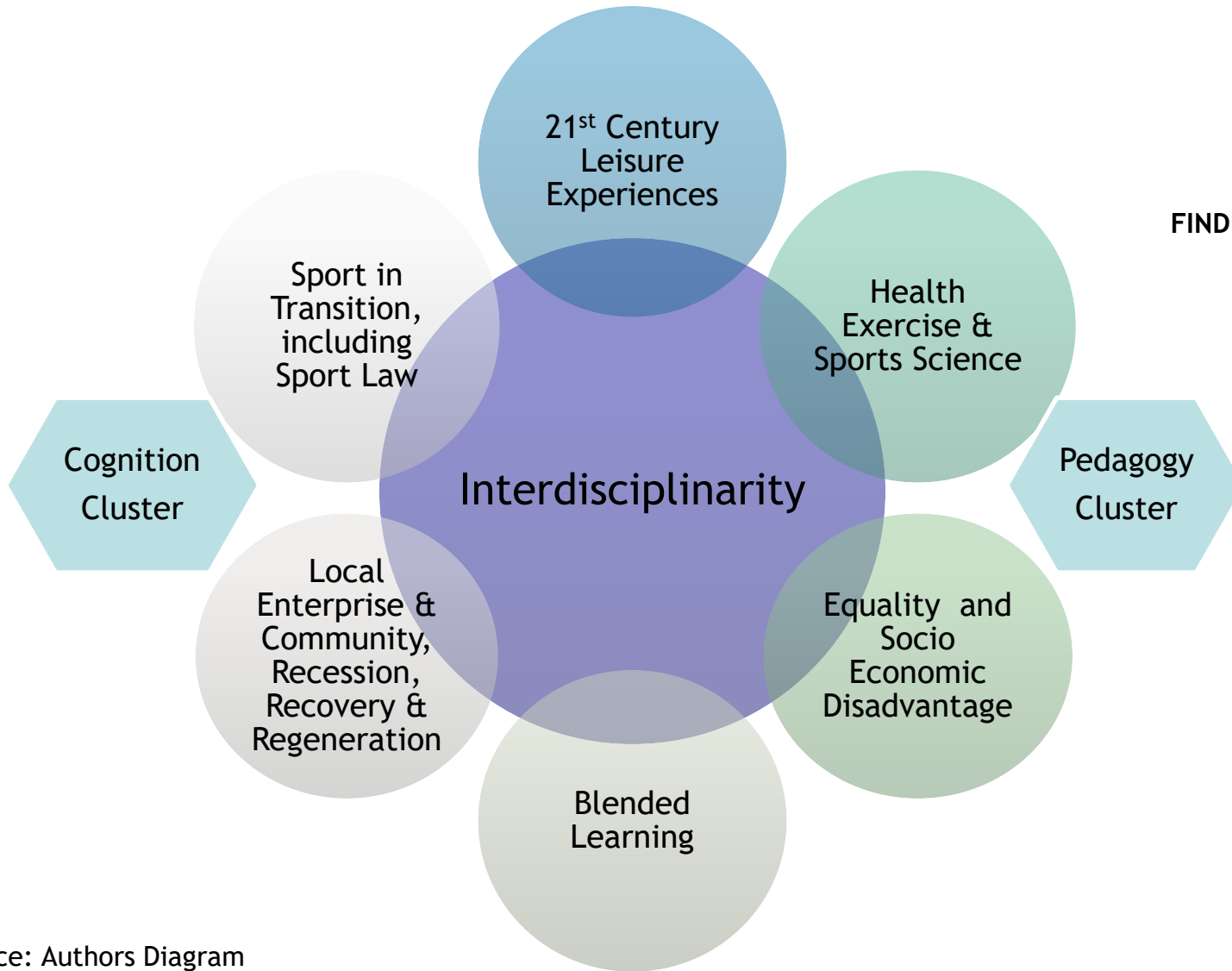


SUMMARY FINDINGS: (INTERVIEWS)

- Maturity of Fields
- Mostly without notice

Source: Authors Diagram

SOLENT RESEARCH CLUSTERS



FINDINGS: QUESTIONNAIRES

- Natural Vs Artificial* team formations
- Dilution of research Clusters: *Nominal Vs Practical*
- Mergers of research clusters: *Hard Vs. Soft Sciences*

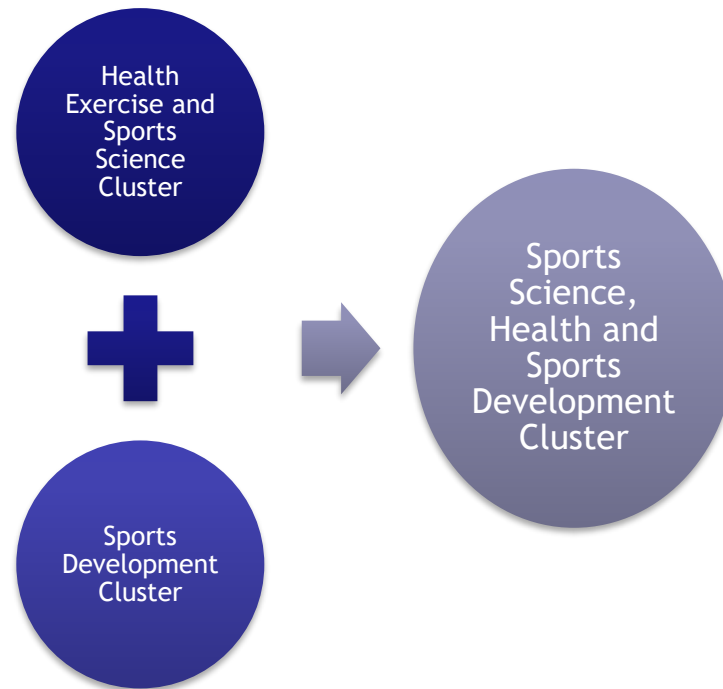
Source: Authors Diagram

BRIDGING BETWEEN HARD VS SOFT SCIENCES EXAMPLE OF SOLENT BEST PRACTICE



Adapted (Harris, 2011)

EXAMPLE OF SOLENT BEST PRACTICE: Interdisciplinary Research between Hard & Soft Sciences



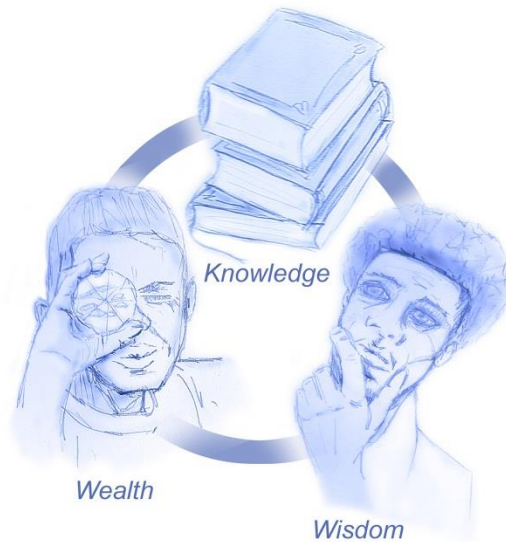
TRIGGER

- Collaborative Research
- Applied Research
- Networks & Links
- Sharing expertise & resources

Source: Authors Diagram

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AT THE BOUNDARIES: THE QUESTIONS WE RARELY ASK

LIFE SEQUENCES



Nasiru Taura

What if the dichotomy between instrumental Vs. critical is not absolute?

What if social goods could be embedded in to games and simulations gadgets and devices?

What if as researchers we begin to question simulations like *Markstrats* or *SimVenture* with a view to making better simulations of business and social reality?

SOURCE: http://www.amazon.co.uk/Life-Sequences-Nasiru-Daiyabu-Taura/dp/1484827775/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1368211405&sr=8-2&keywords=life+sequences

YOUR SUGGESTIONS: HOW TO FOSTER & PROMOTE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AT SOLENT UNIVERSITY

- Funding mechanism that reward interdisciplinary collaborations*
- Synchronisation of time tables*
- Ensure that the team members are like minded*
- Fund clusters rather than only individuals unless.....*
- Support interdisciplinary culture*
- Dedicated social space for researchers; notice boards; news space on the portal etc.*

FINAL REFLECTION

If not here at Solent then where?

If not you (experienced researcher)
and me (new career researcher) then
who?

If not now (when cutting edge
opportunities present themselves at
the boundaries of disciplines) then
when?

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Accessed [10th-May-2013]

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

