

Interdisciplinarity:

Grounding social research and practice in an age of complexity
5th ENQUIRE Postgraduate Conference, 11th and 12th September 2012

Keynote Speakers

- ◆ Professor Alison Pilnick
- ◆ Professor Stephen Frosh
- ◆ Professor Nick Crossley
- ◆ Professor Marie Gillespie

Call for Abstracts

This conference aims to bring together post-graduate researchers and early career academics with an interest in interdisciplinarity in its multiple forms. It explores the extent to which dialogue is taking place in practice and focuses on the theoretical, methodological and ethical consequences of interdisciplinarity.

Example themes (not limited to):

- Ethics
- Disseminating research
- Integrating research and practice
- Methodological issues
- Engaging with the consumers of research (the public, professionals and policy-makers)
- Working between disciplines
- Evaluating interdisciplinary research

Poster presentations may also be submitted instead of a paper. Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words by 9:00 am on Monday 2nd July 2012 to:
enquire@nottingham.ac.uk

The interconnectedness of our world has never been more apparent. In a challenge to sociology and the social sciences, contemporary researchers attempt to explain the complexity of social worlds by embracing methods and theoretical approaches that push beyond the traditional boundaries of academic disciplines.

Interdisciplinarity as a concept may serve a multiplicity of goals in research, policy and practice. It may include the need to answer complex questions and broad issues, beyond the scope of a single discipline, as well as the need to achieve unity of knowledge in a fragmented world. Arguments for interdisciplinarity appeal to notions of pulling together to solve common problems, which has resonance in the practice sphere with calls for multi-agency working and efficiency.

But is the call for interdisciplinarity a generalised plea for cooperation or is it something more? How are we to consider this challenge to established academic disciplines? How do we 'do' interdisciplinarity in our research? What does such research set out to achieve? Why do policy-makers look to multi-agency practices to solve complex issues? How should we reconcile the appeal of interdisciplinarity with warnings that it threatens distinctions between genres and leads to the loss of disciplinary identities?

We welcome papers addressing the theoretical, methodological and ethical implications of interdisciplinarity. We are particularly interested in papers that explore experiences and debates of working across disciplinary boundaries, within or beyond academia.

The conference provides an excellent opportunity for Postgraduates interested in publication, as selected papers from the conference will appear in the peer-reviewed Enquire Journal.