introduction to systems science

lecture 17: Interdisciplinarity



introduction to systems science

evaluation

Participation: 20%.

- class discussion, everybody reads and discusses every paper
- engagement in class, including online
- Paper Presentation and Discussion: 20%
 - All students are assigned to a Reading and Discussion Group
 - SSIE501 students in group present and discuss papers
 - all students are supposed to read and participate in discussion of every paper.
 - section 01 groups present in class, section 20 groups present via zoom or send a video
 - Presenter group prepares short summary of assigned paper (15 minutes)
 - no formal presentations or PowerPoint unless figures are indispensable.
 - Summary should:
 - 1) Identify the key goals of the paper (not go in detail over every section)
 - 2) What discussant liked and did not like
 - 3) What authors achieved and did not
 - 4) Any other relevant connections to other class readings and beyond.
 - **ISE440** students in group participate as lead discussants
 - not to present the paper, but to comment on points 2-3) above
 - Class discussion is opened to all
 - lead discussant ensures important paper contributions and failures are addressed
 - Post presentation 1-2 page report uploaded to Brightspace
 - 1-4) plus 5) statement of individual contributions
- Black Box: 60%
 - Group Project (2 parts)
 - Assignment I (25%) and Assignment II (35%)

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course outlook

more upcoming readings (check brightspace)

- Paper Presentation: 20%
 - Present (501) and lead (501&440) the discussion of an article related to the class materials
 - section 01 presents in class, section 20 (Enginet) posts videos on Brightspace (exceptions possible)
- <u>Module 4</u> Multi-level complexity
 - November 28th ?
 - Reading and Discussion Group 1
 - Prieto-Curiel, et al [2023]. "Reducing Cartel Recruitment Is the Only Way to Lower Violence in Mexico." Science 381 (6664): 1312–16.
 - Optional: Caulkins, Jonathan P., Beau Kilmer, and Peter Reuter [2023]. "Modeling Cartel Size to Inform Violence Reduction in Mexico." Science 381, no. 6664: 1291–93.
 - Reading and Discussion Group 2
 - Gan, Xiao et al. [2023] "Network Medicine Framework Reveals Generic Herb-Symptom Effectiveness of Traditional Chinese Medicine." Science Advances 9, (43): eadh0215
- <u>Module 5</u> Interdisciplinarity
 - November 30th ?
 - Reading and Discussion Group 3
 - Wu, L., Wang, D., & Evans, J. A. [2019]."Large teams develop and small teams disrupt science and technology". Nature 566: 378–382
 - Reading and Discussion Group 4
 - Trochim, William M et al [2006]. "Practical Challenges of Systems Thinking and Modeling in Public Health." American Journal of Public Health 96(3): 538–46.
 - Optional: Rusoja, Evan, et al [2018]. "Thinking about Complexity in Health: A Systematic Review of the Key Systems Thinking and Complexity Ideas in Health." *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* 24 (3): 600–6
 - Reading and Discussion Group 5
 - Editorial. (2015). Mind meld. Nature, 525(7569), 289-90.
 - Van Noorden, R. (2015). Interdisciplinary research by the numbers. Nature, 525(7569), 306-7.
 - Ledford, H. (2015). How to solve the world's biggest problems. Nature, 525(7569), 308-11.
 - Optional: Kaushal, A., & Altman, R. B. (2019). "Wiring minds". Nature, 576(7787), S62-S63.
 - Optional: Iwasaki, A. (2019) "Why we need to increase diversity in the immunology research community". Nat Immunol 20, 1085–1088.
 - See brightspace



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deductive theory example

modeling crowd disasters

- People modeled as self-driven many-particle systems
- Testing individualistic vs herding behavior as well as environmental solutions





D. Helbing, A. Johansson and H. Z. Al-Abideen (2007) The Dynamics of Crowd Disasters: An Empirical Study. Physical Review E 75, 046109.

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Inductive and deductive actionable models

may work in complex interrelated domain (with rare control events)





general-purpose study of "systems" properties of nature, technology, and society complex networks & systems thinking

- Traditional disciplines
 - defined by specific discernable levels of human experience in nature and society
 - Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc
- CNS, systems/computational thinking
 - General-purpose tools and universal laws
 - Search for general principles of organization
 - Produce machines and tools for all sciences
 - Disciplines are orthogonal to traditional disciplines
 - machine learning, network science, data science & analytics, dynamical systems theory, operations research, etc.
 - 2-dimensional science
 - traditional disciplines focus on experimental and observational methods for specific subject matter
 - disciplines of CNS focus on generality of their own methods to any type of data
 - Neither parallel disciplines nor general-purpose methods are sufficient to achieve *interdisciplinarity*
 - Team culture is necessary
 - E.g. Systems biology, computational biology, computational social science, etc.



Pesceolido, B.A. 2006 Journal of Health and Social Behavior 47:189-208.



BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY rocha@binghamton.edu casci.binghamton.edu/academics/ssie501 general-purpose study of "systems" properties of nature, technology, and society complex networks: & systems thinking

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Interdisciplinarity

HLEY PARK National Codes Centre



Necessity is the mother of invention

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interdisciplinarity

necessary to tackle 21st century problems



Nature, 525(7569):289-90.

Ledford, H. [2015]. Nature, 525(7569):308-11.

nature International weekly journal of science		
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Archive > Volume 525 > Issue 7569 > News Feature > Article		
NATURE NEWS FEATURE	4	\times

How to solve the world's biggest problems

Interdisciplinarity has become all the rage as scientists tackle climate change and other intractable issues. But there is still strong resistance to crossing borders.

Heidi Ledford

16 September 2015 | Corrected: 21 September 2015

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Van Noorden, R. [2015]. "Interdisciplinary research by the numbers". *Nature*, **525**(7569):306–7.

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interdisciplinarity



necessary to tackle 21st century problems

Van Noorden, R. [2015]. "Interdisciplinary research by the numbers". *Nature*, **525**(7569):306–7.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY casci.binghamton.edu/academics/ssie501 siloed academic, research, and career incentives

S. Baker. "Interdisciplinary research 'struggles to bridge academic silos'". *Times Higher Education*. June 7, 2019.

CNS, interdisciplinarity and universities

- Frozen department structure
 - university departments built within disciplinary walls hinder collaboration and team building
 - difficult for a single-PI group to develop interdisciplinary competence
 - promotion of Faculty/PIs based on short-term rewards
 - incentives for teaching and training to move within walls (e.g. tuition revenue, faculty lines)
 - academic inbreeding





siloed academic, research, and career incentives

Thorp, Holden, and Buck Goldstein. "How to create a problem-solving institution." *Chronicle of Higher Education* **57**.2 (2010): A43-A44.

CNS, interdisciplinarity and universities

- How to increase Collaboration & Team Science?
 - University departments built within disciplinary walls make it very difficult for a single-PI group to develop competence in computational/systems science as well as the methodology of the natural and social sciences.
 - How to enable teams capable of escaping the silos of disciplinary training and be collectively rewarded, rather than made to follow the single agenda of a lead investigator?
 - no single lab can address the complex challenges of the 21st century

S. Baker. "Interdisciplinary research 'struggles to bridge academic silos'". *Times Higher Education*. June 7, 2019.



CNS, interdisciplinarity and funding

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siloed peer-evaluation



Thorp, Holden, and Buck Goldstein. "How to create a problem-solving institution." *Chronicle of Higher Education* **57**.2 (2010): A43-A44.

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no single lab can address the complex challenges of the 21st century
Funding
 national agencies tend to organize opportunities within disciplinary walls and prefer to fund the agendas of lead principal investigators from a discipline.
need to foster diverse teams tackling truly vexing interdisciplinary problems

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cost of interdisciplinarity

Funding biases (Australian Research Council)



Interdisciplinary research has consistently lower funding success

Lindell Bromham, Russell Dinnage & Xia Hua

Affiliations | Contributions | Corresponding author

Nature **534**, 684–687 (30 June 2016) | doi:10.1038/nature18315 Received 10 December 2015 | Accepted 11 May 2016 | Published online 29 June 2016



cost of interdisciplinarity

Funding biases (Australian Research Council)





supporting interdisciplinary science

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Search NIH) Data Science at NIH National Institutes of Health Office of Strategic Coordination - The O BD2K News & Events **Data Science Community** About Commons номе PROGRAMS **RESEARCH FUN** BD2K Organization Funded Programs Announcements Events Contact Us About News Interdisciplinary Research Interdisciplinary Research program has transitioned from BD2K funds biomedical data Systems Science and Health in the Behavioral and Sciences (R01) science research programs. LIMITED Research Program 🚣 Advances in Biological The ability to harvest the wealth of information contained in biomedical Big Data will advance our understanding of human health and disease; however, lack of appropriate tools, poor data accessibility, and insufficient training, Smart and Connected are major impediments to rapid translational impact. To meet this challenge, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) launched the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) initiative in 2012. Division of Molecular Initiated Research Proj BD2K is a trans-NIH initiative established to enable biomedical research as a digital research enterprise, to Development of Innova facilitate discovery and support new knowledge, and to maximize community engagement. for Cancer Research ar (A^+) Computational Mathematics 44 **BD2K Recent News** Collaborative Activity Awards Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research in the 27 Feb 2017 rocha@binghamton.edu Binghamton Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences (RIDIR)

National Institutes of Health, USA

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Full Proposal

supporting interdisciplinary science

National Science Foundation, NSF



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science 2.0: collective decision

human "elite" choice problematic





L.M. Rocha [2014]. Expresso 8 Fevereiro, pp. 35.

Dead Heat



Bollen J et al [2014] EMBO Rep. 10.1002/embr.201338068

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Mervis, J. [2014]. *Science*. **343** (6171), 596-598

science 2.0: collective decision

deVolkskrant

human "elite" choice problematic

Luís Mateus Rocha

NIH proposals



Mervis, J. [2014]. *Science*. **34**; (6171), 596-598

L.M. Rocha [2014]. *Expresso* 8 Fevereiro, pp. 35. Ciência 2.O: do elitismo à decisão coletiva

nova estratégia da Fundação para a

Ciência e Tecnologia foi resumida por

Leonor Parreira, secretária de Estado

da Ciência, ao reforço da "seletividade e exigência da qualidade". A ênfase na

qualidade da ciência por parte dos diri-

gentes do Ministério, pelos quais te-

nho o maior respeito, vai no zeitgeist

internacional nesta matéria. Mas exis-

tem problemas sérios com esta ideia. À partida temos a

ironia do conceito de qualidade não ser científico. Daí que na prática, através da avaliação por pares, se tente prever o impacto futuro de investigação proposta ou fei-

Convém notar que impacto académico e económico não estão necessariamente alinhados. Darwin teve o

maior impacto académico possível, mas Turing e Von Neumann causaram a era da informação de muito

maior impacto económico. Pior, está demonstrado que

a avaliação por pares falha a prever o impacto académico futuro. Por exemplo, as pontuações de avaliadores da National Science Foundation nos Estados Unidos não são correlacionadas com sucesso (detalhes em http:// h.ly/id&ix08). É irónico que cientis-

falha profunda, mas na fé que a avaliação por pa-

Além da falta de eficácia, este processo é caro e

elitista. Grande parte do orçamento de ciência vai

para a avaliação e gestão de projetos. O elitismo deriva dos cientistas, como pessoas, preferirem

quem concorda com eles, vem da mesma família académica, ou tem o melhor pedigree (MIT. Har-

vard, etc.) Por exemplo, apesar do impacto de Turing e Von Neumann, o Concelho nacional de ciéncia e tecnologia, no século XXI, não inclui um dou-

torado em Informática. No contexto de afunilamen

tificos, tecnológicos e sociais

to de fundos, o que se perde com a énfase na "qualidade" é a diversidade de soluções para problemas cie

A única correlação significativa no investimento

precisa de ser cego. Pode ser reforçado e gerido de for-

em ciência é a quantidade: mais dinheiro aumen-

ta a produtividade. É também da diversidade de investigação que nasce a criatividade e daí

o impacto económico. Não foi da elite académica que saíram Bill Gates e Steve Jobs. Mas, o financiamento da ciência em quantidade e diversidade não

segue identificar "qualidade"

ta no presente um substituto mensurável.

tas e organismos que financiam a ciência se baseiem não na evidência desta

res co

ma automática e económica. Colegas na Indiana University propuseram uma solução de crouvd-sourcing para o problema. Utiliza o algoritmo que deu origem ao Google, em que a recomendação de páginas é uma decisão coletiva medida do padrão de linAs na uvb. Os resultados não dependem de elites de anotadores como fazia o Yahoo! original. No caso do financiamento da ciência, em vez de links, os cientistas recebem um montante fixo. Uma parte é para eles, a outra é por eles distribuída por outros cientistas. No Google, links para uma página são votos de relevância; aqui os fundos distribuídos coletivamente são votos de reconhecimento. As vantagens são óbvias: mais dinheiro e tempo para a ciên cia, sem burocracias para alocar e gerir projetos, e um sistema comprovadamente born a identificar o que é relevante. Porque não esta alternativa, em vez de seguir o que é (mal) feito por outros?

Sander Dekker Secretary of Ed Science. © Reuters Sys Sys Sys

News

<text>

Researchers will grant each other subsidies themselves

Culture & Life

State Secretary Dekker embraces radical plan Christian Union

Secretary Sander Dekker talks to science funding body NWO an experiment in which scientists can grant each other direct research funding. He said Thursday in parliament. Dekker took a motion from the Christian Union is pushing for such an experiment.

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CNS, interdisciplinarity and training

Challenges and opportunities



Thorp, Holden, and Buck Goldstein. "How to create a problem-solving institution." *Chronicle of Higher Education* **57**.2 (2010): A43-A44.

How to increase Collaboration & Team Science? University departments built within disciplinary walls make it very difficult for a single-PI group to develop competence in computational/systems science as well as the methodology of the natural and social sciences. How to enable teams capable of escaping the silos of disciplinary training and be collectively rewarded, rather than made to follow the single agenda of ACULTY a lead investigator? no single lab can address the complex challenges of the 21st century Funding national agencies tend to organize opportunities within disciplinary walls and prefer to fund the agendas of lead principal investigators from a discipline. need to foster diverse teams tackling truly vexing interdisciplinary problems Training graduate training in one of the two dimensions experimental and observational methods in a specific area or in general methodologies. shortening of academic training periods make it more difficult need to integrate the general-purpose, computational expertise of CNS with the deep, domain-specific research methodologies of the natural, behavioral, and social sciences.

S. Baker. "Interdisciplinary research 'struggles to bridge academic silos". *Times Higher Education*. June 7, 2019.

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NSF Research Traineeship Opportunity

Interdisciplinary Complex Networks & Systems

National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN				 Sustainable Food, Energy, and Water Systems (SFEWS): Rakesh Agrawal, Purdue University, and Aavudai Anandhi Swamy, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Training in Theory and Application of Cross-Scale Resilience in Agriculturally Dominated Social Ecological Systems: Craig Allen, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A Training Incubator for Addressing Urban Environmental Change From Ridge to Reef (R2R): Steven Allison, University of California, Irvine. Indigenous Ecod Energy, and Water Sociality and Sourceigners, Kadetta Chief, University of California, Irvine. 		
Research Areas	Funding	Awards	Document Library	 Imagenous Food, Energy, and Water Security and Sovereignty. Ranetta Chief, Oniversity of Arizona. Improving Strategies for Hunger Relief and Food Security Using Computational Data Science: Lauren Davis, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. 		
News	Home → News			Training the Next Generation of Researchers in Engineering and Deciphering of Miniature Brain Machinery: Martha Gillette, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Graduate Training Program in Sensory Science: Optimizing the Information Available for Mind and Brain: Viscous Interaction University of Minoresta Turing Citize.		
All News	News Release 17-	7-065 7				
For News Media Multimedia Gallery	NSF Rese	NSF Research Traineeship program mak - Computational Data Science to Advance Research at the Energy-E Elisabeth Moyer, University of Chicago. - Quantizative & Evolutionary STEM Training (QUEST): An Integration				
NSF Director's Newsletter	awarus			Guardiative a Evolutionary of term maining (GOES). An integrated maining Program for Versatile STEM Professionals to Solve Environmental and Global Health Problems: Melissa Pespeni, University of Vermont & State Agricultural College. Integrated Urban Solutions for Food, Energy, and Water Management: Laurent Pilon, University of California, Los Angeles. Interdisciplinary Training in Complex Networks and Systems: Luis Rocha, Indiana University. Sustainable Oceans: From Policy to Science to Decisions: James Sanchirico, University of		
Search News	Awards support p	reparation of future STE	M workforce for interdisciplinary			
Speeches and Lectures	Scope Banking Annora State Banking Annora State Banking and Annora State Banking and Annora State Banking a tal			 California, Davis. Boston UniverCity - Partnering Graduate Students and Cities to Tackle Urban Environmental Challenges: Pamela Templer, Boston University. Systems Training for Research on Geography-Based Coastal Food Energy Water Systems 		
				 (STRONG-CFEWS): Maya Trotz, University of South Florida, and Sennai Habtes, University of the Virgin Islands. Disaster Resilience and Risk Management (DRRM) - Creating Quantitative Decision Making Frameworks for Multi-Dimensional and Multi-Scale Analysis of Hazard Impact: Robert Weiss, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. 		
				rocha@binghamton.edu casci.binghamton.edu/academics/ssie501		

interdisciplinary training in complex networks & systems

integrated graduate training in both dimensions of science

dual Ph.D. degree: students are trained in Informatics/CNS and domain-specific program interdisciplinary Ph.D. program committees, co-chaired by research mentors from both embedded in interdisciplinary teams at the *Indiana University Network Science Institute*

160+ faculty members who participate in CNS research integrates academic education with interdisciplinary hands-on research research rotations, extended colloquium, summer internships professional development in academic and industry environments

dual PhD training in general-purpose systems and empirical science



CNS-NRT

core faculty + more than 160 faculty at IUNI



CNS-NRT

advisory board



https://cns-nrt.indiana.edu/the-program/advisory-board/

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NSF Research Traineeship Opportunity

Figure 1: Network of trainees, affiliates and faculty. Dual-major PhD students (red node labels) establish bridges between disciplines via dual faculty (black node labels) mentorship. The academic areas shown contain various departments. Yellow : Art History, Philosophy of Science, Folklore. Green: Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior, Public Health, Health Informatics, Intelligent Systems Engineering, Geography. Blue: Sociology, Political Science, Media Studies, Computing, Culture, and Society. Red: Cognitive Science, Psychology and Brain Sciences, Neuroscience, Physics.

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systems/computational thinking

Training to see the world differently

- The complexity worldview
 - Interdisciplinary and collaborative
 - Integration of empirical sciences with general-purpose modeling
 - Thrives in problem-driven environments
 - Los Alamos, Santa Fe, new computing centers
 - Data-driven, computational and mathematical modeling
 - Massive combinatorial searches
 - Networks, feedback, statistics, machine learning, dynamical systems
 - study of organization
 - whole is more than sum of parts
 - Nonlinear thinking
 - Counterintuitive system-level properties

Small changes in micro-level rules can change macro-level behavior dramatically

- Intuition can be a poor guide to predicting the behavior of a complex system.
- Simulation is a powerful tool for harnessing the dynamics of complex systems, but simplification is necessary dur to computational complexity.
- Induction can fail in the face of true complexity.
- Actionable models + parameter induction good strategy in the face of multi-level complexity.
- Interdisciplinarity and team culture essential in 2-dimensional science.



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