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Communicating across Disciplines for Interdisciplinary Research

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Agenda

- 1:00 Framework for interdisciplinary teamwork
- 1:15 Group activity
- 2:00 Report back
- 2:20 Theory and practice
- Finish by 2:30

IDR: An Ecosystem Approach

Context/Environment

Sociopolitical, Organizational/ Institutional Factors

Physical, Social & Technologic Factors

Intrapersonal Factors

Scale

Emergence of system properties:
Shared vision; Aligned research goals

Within-team structure & function

Components (Structure):
People with heterogeneous perspectives
Methods/tools enabling interactions

Interactions (Function):
Participatory, inclusive, and empowering leadership style
Adaptability & flexibility: Evolving the collective
Ability to learn each others perspectives
Development of respect for expertise
Development of common ground

Other products:
Material artifacts
Shared vocabulary
Social ties
Collaboration skill

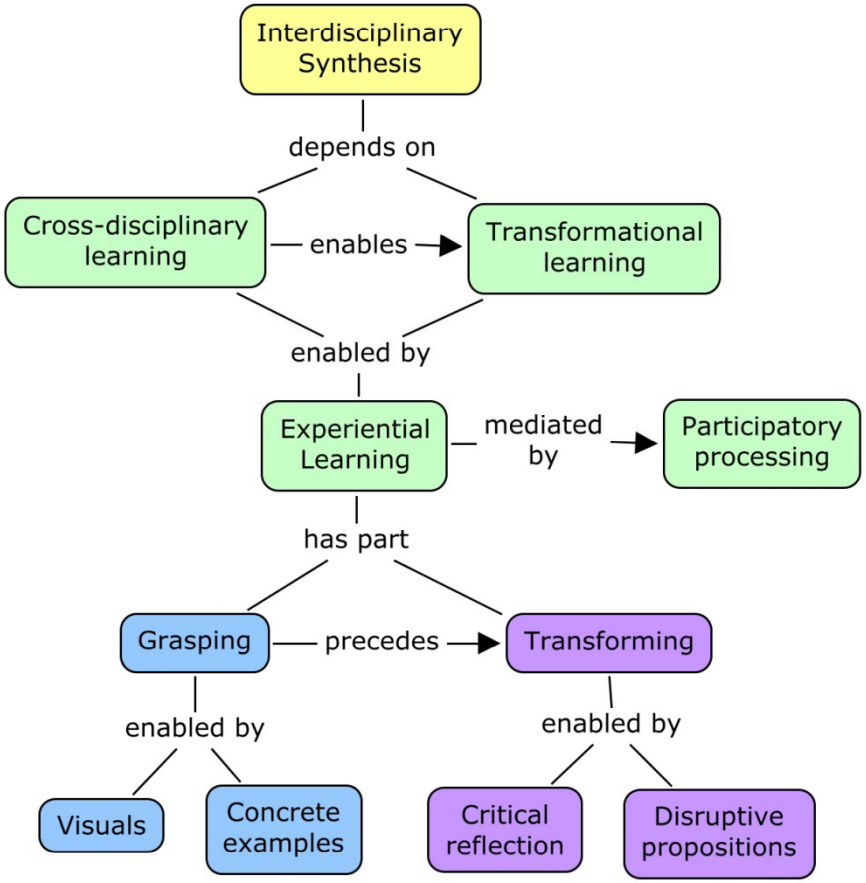
Stokols et al. 2008; Pennington 2012

Today's Learning Objective

- Participatory methods & visual tools enabling:
  - Learning each others disciplines
  - Developing respect for expertise
  - Finding common ground

Example concept map

3 keywords:
Interdisciplinary synthesis
Cross-disciplinary learning
Transformational learning



Activity Part 1 1:15-1:25

- Number off 1-N
- Group by number (N groups of 4 people)
- Each person get a sheet of paper & marker
- 10 minutes
- List 3 research keywords
- Draw concept map of your research context

Group Activity Part 2 1:25-1:55

- One at a time, explain your expertise to your group members, using your visual to help organize your explanation
- ACTIVE listening – Focus on understanding others' research interests (you will get a "pop quiz" on this!)
- 30 minutes: 4 members – 6 minutes each
- Within group, number off 1-4
- Role assignments:
  - 1 = Activity organizer
  - 2 = Time keeper
  - 3 = Vocabulary checker
  - 4 = Commonality identifier

Group Activity Part 3 1:55-2:00

- 5 minutes
- Each person take the visual of the person on your right
- One at a time, explain that persons research interests (1 minute each)

Group Activity Part 5 2:00-2:05

- Time keeper from last part is note taker
- 5 minutes
- As a group, discuss the following:

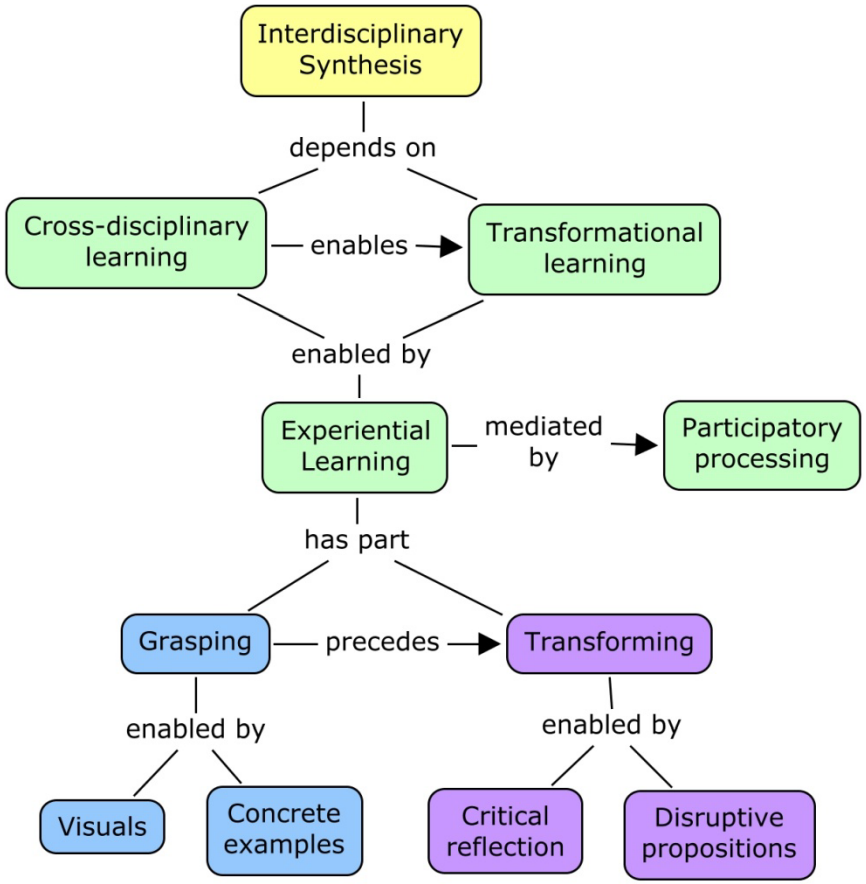
- What elements of this activity were difficult?

- What elements of this activity were helpful?

Report back 2:05-2:20

- As a whole, generate a white board list of elements that difficult/helpful
- 15 minutes

Theory and Practice Discussion



- Methods/tools enabling:
  - Learning each others disciplines
  - Developing respect for expertise
  - Finding common ground

Disruptive Proposition

- Apply what you learned today to your interdisciplinary team meetings. How could you run the next meeting differently?

- No formal research presentations and not unstructured discussion…design something else.

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