

Interdisciplinarity at the Faculty of Social Sciences

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Introduction

- Information gathered by asking the people at the faculty by email about their interdisciplinary research, teaching and supervision
- My impression: *there is considerably more interdisciplinarity at the Faculty than expected* – especially in research
- Interdisciplinarity that cut across the social/behavioural sciences and human/natural sciences divisions are particularly important, “deep” interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinary Research: examples (big and small)

Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History and Political Science

- Academy project **EPIC (Education, Political Efficacy and Informed Citizenship, 2019-2023)** combines political science, sociology and educational sciences
- Political scientist Matti Wiberg has during the past decades had research co-operation with legal scholars, economists, linguists, mathematicians, sociologists, etc.
- Philosopher Valtteri Arstila is a researcher at **KULTA - The Latent Bond-related Needs of Consumers** (2017-2019) led by economists at the business school
- Research at the **the John Morton Center for North American Studies** is programmatically inter- (or trans-) disciplinary

Department of Psychology and Speech-Language Pathology

- **FinnBrain research project** is a large joint project of medical scientists representing different specialities (clinical medicine, child psychiatry, etc.) **AND** psychologists and researchers in speech-language pathology – as well as education and statistics
- Psychologist Henry Railo has studied and published about the mind/body problem with philosophers
- Unit of Psychology is centrally involved in Faculty of Medicine's **PIPARI** (Development and Functioning of Very Low Birth Weight Infants from Infancy to School Age) research program

Department of Social Research

- The UTU led Strategic Research Council (SRC) consortium **Tackling Inequalities in Time of Austerity** (TITA, 2015—2021) combines researchers from sociology, social policy and social work with those representing economics, pharmacy, statistics, mathematics and business studies
- The Aalto University led SRC consortium **Digital Disruption of Industry** (DDI, 2015-2020): over 40 professors and researchers are working together across disciplines and organisations, including the unit of Economic Sociology at UTU
- The UTU led Flagship project **Inequalities, Interventions, and New Welfare State** (INVEST, 2019-2023 [2024-2027]) is co-operation of researchers in sociology, social policy, psychology, child psychiatry involving also e.g. biologists

Teaching: examples

Co-operation between psychology, social policy, social work and speech-language pathology

- **Multiprofessional Teaching Clinic** is a learning and teaching environment built on true customer relations which focuses on the examination, counselling and rehabilitation of children, adolescents, adults and families
- **Monelle - Multiprofessional Cooperation in Healthcare** course for those studying to be professionals in social work, speech therapy and healthcare

John Morton Center for North American Studies

- **North American Studies**: a joint program within Social Sciences and Humanities, organized by the JMC and the Department of English
- The program offers an transdisciplinary and multi-methodological approach to the study of North America

TOPSOS programme for further education of professionals in social policy branch

- **TOPSOS**, the specialization program for top experts in social insurance provides teaching by scholars in social policy, law and economics

Co-operation between Psychology and Medicine

- **Master's Degree Programme in Human Neuroscience:** students learn noninvasive imaging methods to investigate brain activation and structure as well as behavioral methods to measure human cognition and performance

Supervision

General points about interdisciplinary supervision

- It is not uncommon that doctoral students, sometimes also master's students, have a second or third supervisor from a bordering discipline
- Examples: philosopher supervising with psychologist; sociologist supervising with health scientists; sociologist supervising with urban planner;
- ***Deeply*** cross-disciplinary supervision may, however, be rare
- One possible reason: there are no incentives in supervising in another discipline other than personal merit

Thanks for your attention! Any questions?

