Working Across Social Science Disciplines and Beyond

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Outline

• Why interdisciplinary working
• Social Science Disciplines and AMR
• Social-Natural Sciences and AMR
Why interdisciplinary working?

1. Transcend disciplinary boundaries
   - Withdrawl within disciplinary boundaries hinders our abilities to address complex issues of our time
   - Interdisciplinarity involves a common framework shared across disciplines to which each contributes (Strathern 2005)
   - Eg. One Health

Multi-disciplinarity ‘alignment of skills from different disciplines’ (Strathern 2005)
Transdisciplinarity ‘mutual interpenetration of disciplinary epistemologies’ (Gibbons et al 1994)
Why interdisciplinary working?

1. Transcend disciplinary boundaries
2. Revisit existing divisions in our categorisations
   - Eg. mainstream framings tend to delineate ‘nature’ and ‘society’ (in science and policy)
   - This may be an unhelpful categorisation, especially for ‘biosocial’ issues
Why interdisciplinary working?

1. Transcend disciplinary boundaries
2. Revisit existing divisions in our categorisations
3. Because it’s trendy. Why?

   – Rise of interdisciplinarity relates to generalised transformation in the relations between science, technology and society

   – This particular mode of knowledge production is driven by logics of innovation, accountability and ontology (Barry, Born, Weszkalnys 2008) i.e. a solution to contemporary problems of the

     • need to foster innovation in the knowledge economy
     • development of accountability
     • relations between science and society
Interdisciplinary Social Science

‘Constructing Antimicrobial Resistance’ workshop, Aug 2016

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Workshop report available at amr.lshtm.ac.uk
What did we learn?

- Analysis of what is produced eg work
- Analysis of what is said eg metaphors
- Analysis of what is imagined eg images
- Analysis of what goes unsaid eg infrastructure

Report available at amr.lshtm.ac.uk
Interdisciplinary Social-Natural Science

• Trickier, more resistance – crosses fields which organise themselves differently (Strathern 2005):
  – Experimental
    • Many natural sciences
  – Descriptive
    • Anthropology, philosophy, humanities
  – Normative
    • Law, ethics, management
Ways to work together

• Reflexivity – a central analytical tool

• Instructive to reflect on the history of science, and the values and framings that affect science today (questions (un)asked, interpretations (not)drawn)

For AMR: what could we learn if we up-ended our framings, linguistically, visually, infrastructurally?
Some ways to work together

• Actually work together – eg
  – Working with disciplines, and the public to gain new perspectives on AMR and how we are, and can, tackle this

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Follow-up

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