▶ Chair
  – Konrad Mould, AHRC

▶ Introductory remarks and facilitation
  – Manija Kamal, ESRC
  – Rachel Kelley, ESRC
  – Malgorzata Czerwiec, UKRO

▶ Presentation
  – Laura Carletti, University of Cambridge
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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Why interdisciplinarity?

- interdisciplinarity is increasingly used to tackle large societal challenges (‘wicked’ societal problems)
- the more difficult a problem, the more disciplines should shine their light on it!
The importance of Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities in interdisciplinary research

- Societal challenges arise from people and behaviour
- A rich understanding of how individuals, firms, markets, communities and governments behave and interact is required
- Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities are needed to generate that rich understanding!
Six questions framework

1) What is the interdisciplinary research aiming to achieve?
2) What is being ‘combined’? (which disciplines, which practitioner knowledge, which end-user perspectives and acknowledging differences in research disciplines’ languages and priorities, values, and cultures)
3) What is the context in which the interdisciplinary research is occurring?
4) What is the decision-making process?
5) How is the interdisciplinary research undertaken?
6) What is the impact and outcome?
Good example of interdisciplinary research

▶ https://www.dwr-uisce.eu/water-energy-nexus
Interdisciplinary toolkit

▶ Future useful resource for UK researchers and research offices

▶ Will look similar to the ESRC’s impact toolkit:
Interdisciplinary events

- UK events being planned for early 2020
- Encourage networking across disciplines
  - within thematic areas (e.g. mission board areas or in conjunction with other NCPs)
- Input on structure/audience welcome!
- European SSH integration brokerage event TBC
  - run by Net4Society
Dr. Laura Carletti
European & International Policy Manager
University of Cambridge
Integrating Social Sciences and Humanities: an ELO’s and a Researcher’s Perspective

UKRO Conference - Birmingham, 27th June 2019
The ELO’s Perspective at the University of Cambridge
Strategic Research Initiatives & Networks

- Big Data
- Academy of Therapeutic Sciences
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Global Challenges
- Public Policy
- Reproduction
- Synthetic Biology
- Trustworthy Technologies
- Digital Humanities
- Immunology
- Metabolism
- Public Health
- Sensors
Cross-School Research Support

Centrally administered fund to support the preparation of large collaborative bids. Applications must demonstrate strong academic leadership with clear goals, and involve researchers from at least two Schools. An allocation of around £10k may be made to individual applications, although the sum available will depend on the value and nature of the bid.
Case-study: ERC-2018-STG IMAGINE

Understanding transboundary volcanic risk by integrating social and physical science research through a socio-scientific approach that incorporates the materiality of the environment into understandings of the social
IMAGINE: Methodology

Surveys (WP2, cross-WP)
Maps, models, documents (WP3)
Interviews (all WP)
Participant observation (all WP)

Geographical imaginations: cultural, social, scientific, political thought about the earth system and potential futures across scales (all WP)
IMAGINE: the PI’s Perspective on Integrating Disciplines

- World-class Interdisciplinary Advisory Group
- Multi-method Research
- Multi/mono-authored Papers
The Researcher’s Perspective at the University of Nottingham
Interdisciplinary Global Research Themes

- Cultures and Communications
- Developing Sustainable Societies
- Digital Futures
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transformative Technologies

30 Research Priority Areas
Disciplines Bridging Award

Bid for funding up to £25k for programmes to be spent within a 12-month period. The DBA funds innovative programmes of people-based activities that will stimulate innovative approaches to research collaboration between disciplines.
Case-study: Digital Humanities & Arts Praxis
Interrogating Interdisciplinarity

Between 2014 and 2016, the DHA Praxis project received funding from the University of Nottingham’s Discipline Bridging Award. The project undertook a critical metareflection on the drivers, opportunities and benefits of interdisciplinarity, as well as on the risks and obstacles that researchers face when undertaking collaborative interdisciplinary work. The project considered these issues from the perspectives of the institution and academics, using digital humanities and arts as a case study.

https://dhapraxis.wp.horizon.ac.uk/project-outcomes
Final Reflections (Views Are My Own)

- Incentives?
- Spaces/Facilities?
- Time?
- Other Measures?

Thanks for your attention
Q&A
## Timings

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Questions for you!

▶ 5 minutes on each set of questions (3 sets in total)
▶ Post-its on your tables
▶ Please write your thoughts/comments/suggestions on these
▶ We will collect these to put on our flipcharts at the front
▶ We will summarise at the end
Questions 1

- Do you have examples of successful interdisciplinary working?
- Why are they good?
- What encourages these collaborations?
Questions 2

► Do you have examples of less successful interdisciplinary working? (do not have to specify)
► Why are they less good?
► What are the current barriers for including SSH (including arts) expertise?
Questions 3

▶ If you could have *any* type of support to offer SSH and STEM researchers to enable them to collaborate more effectively together, what would it be/look like?

▶ Do you have examples of the ways research offices or universities are already encouraging interdisciplinarity?
Next steps

▶ ESRC (National Contact Point) working long-term on interdisciplinarity toolkit and series of events

▶ Email Challenge6NCP@esrc.ukri.org with any further feedback or comments or to sign up to mailing list

▶ New work programmes to be published imminently (sign up to UKRO mailing list to be notified)

▶ For interdisciplinary funding opportunities which may be of interest please see: Opportunities for SSH Researchers (will be refreshed with new topics in November 2019)
Thank you!