

IM941-20 Adventures in Interdisciplinary Research: Knowledge, Practice, Values

26/27

Department

Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Celia Lury

Credit value

20

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

In an increasingly complex and changing world, researchers inside and outside the academy are constantly facing challenges that require collaborating and thinking across and beyond disciplinary boundaries. Interdisciplinary skills are said to improve not only creativity and critical thinking but also academic performance and employability.

But what is interdisciplinarity?

The module will combine an introduction to a range of theoretical and practical approaches to interdisciplinary research with a critical evaluation of the challenges and advantages of developing methods and approaches to work across and in-between disciplines. The discussion of cases and examples will play a core role.

Module aims

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Describe and identify the value of interdisciplinarity for contemporary research;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history of inter-disciplinarity;
- Distinguish interdisciplinarity from disciplinary, trans- and multi-disciplinarity work;
- Demonstrate knowledge of a range of creative and innovative approaches to interdisciplinary research;
- Critically reflect upon the relevance of interdisciplinary skills to implement collaborations in professional, practitioner and academic contexts.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Lecture themes:

Week 1: Introducing Disciplines and Interdisciplinarity

Week 2: Knowledge Infrastructures

Week 3: The Politics of Knowledge Making

Week 4: Governance

Week 5: Environment

Week 7: Data

Week 8: Participation

Week 9: Design

Week 10: What are the values of interdisciplinarity?

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Take initiative in their own learning and development of critical, interdisciplinary insights.
- Design and develop structured responses, based on prior knowledge and experience, to interdisciplinary topics.
- Think critically about a particular area of interdisciplinary study, on which the student has elected to focus.
- Systematically evaluate and synthesise research in a particular area of study.
- Demonstrate their learning through a written, spoken and other formats.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Research element

Students will need to conduct a literature search to complete the assessment. They will also need to develop an original analysis of this literature.

Interdisciplinary

The subject of the module is interdisciplinarity, and will provide students with knowledge about different (inter-)disciplinary approaches to interdisciplinarity.

International

The approaches to interdisciplinarity discussed will include those that situate interdisciplinarity in relation to different national cultures of research, as well as considering the challenge to conducting international research, including those relating to language, data protection and issues of epistemic authority.

Subject specific skills

An advanced understanding of the values and practice of interdisciplinary research that will enable students to evaluate different claims to knowledge.

Transferable skills

An advanced understanding of different approaches to interdisciplinary practice that students can apply to conducting research in diverse social, disciplinary and professional contexts.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	5 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Seminars	5 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Practical classes	(0%)
Other activity	12 hours (6%)
Private study	58 hours (29%)
Assessment	120 hours (60%)
Total	200 hours

Private study description

Students will be expected to prepare for seminars and workshops, and this will involve reading a couple of articles or chapters per week and/or preparing short reports. Students will be required to participate in group discussions and to use the readings to contribute to group work. They will also need to prepare assessment.

Other activity description

Workshops, with supervised group activity.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Portfolio submission with interdisciplinary artefact, written submission and presentation	70%	80 hours	Yes (extension)
Interdisciplinary artefact and presentation due in Week 10, written submission due at end of module			
o Interdisciplinary artefact (Pass/Fail = not separately assessed, but required to pass the portfolio component i.e. was a suitable artefact produced.)			
To be presented as part of class exhibition of portfolio work *			
Can include: a poster, video, voice over / podcast, project plan or proposal, made object etc.			
Should be discussed with the module leads in advance of submission			
o Presentation (Pass/Fail = not separately assessed, but required to pass the portfolio component i.e. can student speak to the work created and topics addressed.)			
In-class presentation of 5 mins *			
This will be as part of class exhibition of portfolio work			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
o Written submission (Graded 0-100)			
2,000 word reflection on the production of the interdisciplinary artefact and learnings therein, supported by concepts / theories / literature from the module and beyond			
• Online option by arrangement when a student cannot be present in person for presentation assessment			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Reflective Diary	30%	40 hours	Yes (extension)
One reflection per class week. Up to 250 words each. Submitted at end of Week 10			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Verbal feedback provided in class and feedback hours; written feedback on summative assessment.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of TIMS-L990 Postgraduate Big Data and Digital Futures
- TIMA-L995 Postgraduate Taught Data Visualisation
 - Year 1 of L995 Data Visualisation
 - Year 2 of L995 Data Visualisation
- TIMA-L99A Postgraduate Taught Digital Media and Culture
 - Year 1 of L99A Digital Media and Culture
 - Year 2 of L99A Digital Media and Culture

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of TIMS-L990 Postgraduate Big Data and Digital Futures