



# IAI PDS Transdisciplinary Integration Strategies

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# True TD/ID integration is HARD





# BIOPIRE Research Team



# Strategies to Make it Easier

- Focus on development of shared goals, rinse and repeat
- Learn about each others' goals, assumptions, approaches, “currencies”
- Develop integrated research question(s), objective(s) + sub “disciplinary” Qs
- Keep talking, presenting on subgroup activities, findings, periodic presentations



# Build Trust, Respect, Commitment, Social Media





# *Easier integration*

- Don't be afraid to repeat information, discuss goals, research questions, approaches, problem focus
- Develop at least one question that rests on different types of data – “birds” paper
- *Use integrating concepts*: tradeoffs, values, ecosystem services, policies
- May need multiple funding sources – f ex: science agency + foundation; international + national

# Social Science Methods and Epistemologies

- Experiments, surveys, interviews, ethnography
- Empiricist, positivistic to interpretative, participatory
- Cause-effect relationships to thick description
- Reductionist to holistic understanding
- Repeatability, objectivity to uniqueness, thick description
- Hypotheses to research questions to broad, open-ended participatory research foci



# Qualitative Grassland Interviews

5 groups of 4 participants – social and natural science methods

## *Interviewees*

- 6 general public
- Social actors: 2 environmentalists, 2 policy makers, 2 ranchers
- One pair per group interviews general public, the other pair interviews social actors
- Each pair is doing 6 interviews for 10 minutes each
- Each group conducts and analyzes 12 interviews