



University  
of Idaho

BOISE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Improving Communication in Cross-Disciplinary Research

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Sanford Eigenbrode, Michael O'Rourke,  
J. D. Wulfhorst, Stephen Crowley, Brian Crist,  
Shannon Donovan, Chris Looney  
and Ian O'Laughlin

# The Plan

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- A brief report on (and promotion of) our work on communication challenges in cross disciplinary research (henceforth CDR)
  
- A 3 Step Program
  - Step 1: Challenges of CDR
  - Step 2: Our solution – The Toolbox
  - Step 3: A plea for participation
    - What's in it for you
    - What's in it for us

# Challenges of CDR

- How to work effectively with folk from different backgrounds
  - E.g. Sociologists, Philosophers and Entomologists OR
  - Hydrologists, Climatologists and Economists ...
- Consequences:

**Solve** the Challenge and  
solve your problem

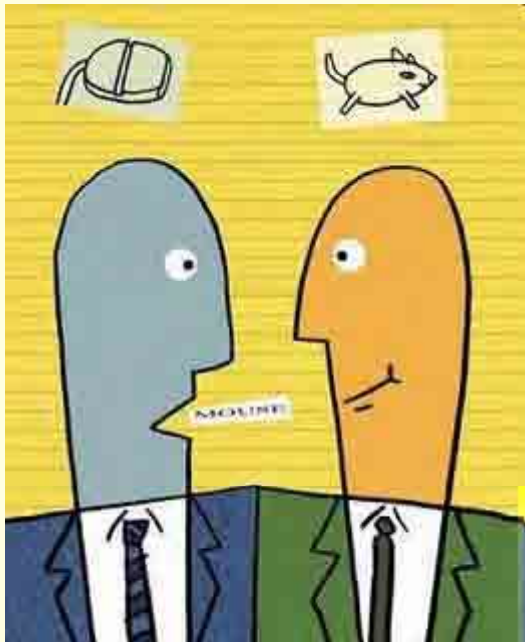


**Fail** the challenge and  
frustration, frustration ....



# Further Challenges ...

- Managing distinct research styles – E.g.
  - Different scales of operation
  - Different terminology
  - Different world views



## •‘Bottle Neck Problem’ – Communication

•Are we talking **to** each other OR **past** each other ....

- E.g. ‘Triangulation’ – is it ...
  - i) Fixing location (topography) OR
  - ii) Cross-checking results using a 2nd method (sociology)

# A Solution we are pursuing...

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- How can we address this to/past issue?
- We suggest:
  - Focus on differing Scientific Worldviews
  - I.e. Sets of methods, products, habits of thought etc
- Worldviews are:
  - Tacit
  - Hence overlooked
  - Crucial for communication
- How do you identify your own habits?

**We** *advocate the*



# The

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- A Structured dialog which –
  - is Philosophically based
  - Facilitates –
    - Identification of team member worldviews
    - Sharing of team worldviews
  - is systematic
  - and comprehensive
  
- Is the central component of a 2 hr Workshop

# What's in it for you

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- A Chance to improve team efficiency at minimal cost.
- A Way to support NSF investment in CDR.
- Access to current research on facilitating CDR communication – via your connection to our group.

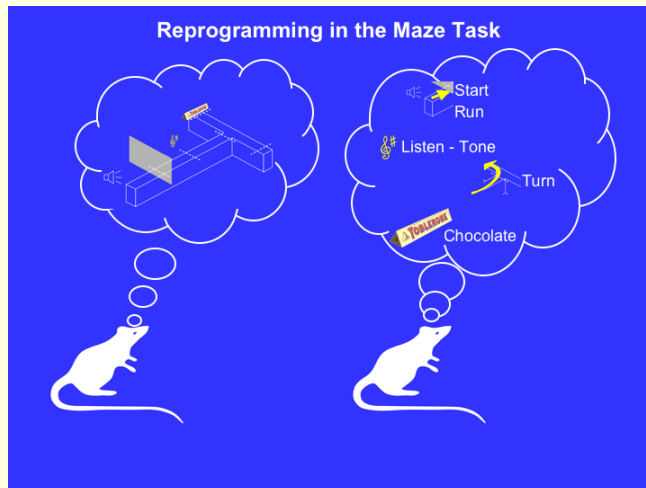
We provide –

- i) Contact
- ii) Prelude to workshop
- iii) Toolbox Workshop
- iv) Follow up – deliverables
- v) On going support



# What's in it for us

- Data for further analysis of CDR
- Feedback Contributing to
  - Mapping the CDR landscape
  - Enhancing Toolbox efficiency
- Adding value to integrated research

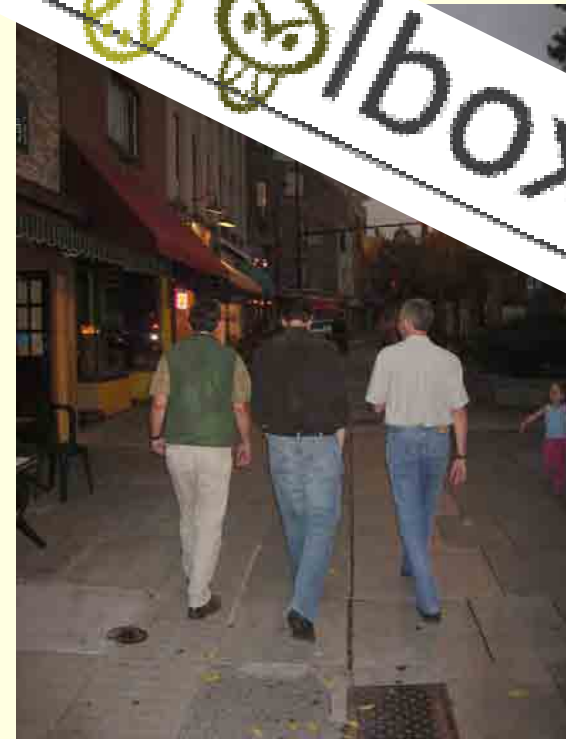


# To schedule YOUR workshop ...

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- See handout
- Webpage –  
<http://home.cals.uidaho.edu/toolbox/index.asp>
- Email
  - Sanford – [sanforde@uidaho.edu](mailto:sanforde@uidaho.edu)
  - Michael – [morourke@uidaho.edu](mailto:morourke@uidaho.edu)
  - J.D. – [jd@uidaho.edu](mailto:jd@uidaho.edu)
  - Stephen – [StephenCrowley@boisestate.edu](mailto:StephenCrowley@boisestate.edu)
- B-Cards

# Thanks!



# Thanks ...

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