NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY & POPULATION HEALTH

ANU
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH INTEGRATION FOR KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION

A SHORT COURSE FOR RESEARCH LEADERS, 29–30 OCTOBER 2008

Effectively tackling real-world problems requires a new type of researcher, who can enhance collaboration between various discipline and practice knowledges. Such researchers need a solid foundation in a set of conceptual and methods skills being developed in the emerging discipline of Integration and Implementation Sciences (I2S). This course provides an introduction to:

- practical frameworks within which to think about integration, and
- the nature of uncertainty, the diverse ways it emerges in cross-disciplinary research, and methods for managing it.

The course will also provide an overview of concepts for problem framing and boundary setting, methods for integrating in cross-disciplinary research, processes for generating fresh thinking on intractable problems and techniques for effective research input into decision making and practice change.

The course leaders will introduce theory and methods to help you understand and meet your particular research integration challenges (see Program Outline). You will have opportunities to consider the application of these tools in your own work and to learn from each other through small and whole group discussions.

Who should attend?

The course is particularly relevant for project or program leaders in:
• Cooperative Research Centres
• Universities
• CSIRO
• Federal and State government research agencies
• Research and development corporations
• Non-government research organisations.

A Land & Water Australia Innovation Grant assisted the development of this course.

The course builds on research and practice in public health and environmental management, but is relevant to researchers facing the challenges of integration in many public sector fields, including policing and security, education and social welfare. We aim to include participants from a diversity of areas.

Additional courses

Short courses expanding on the topics introduced here are offered according to demand.

Duration
One evening (29 October 2008) and one day (30 October 2008)

Number of Participants
This course is limited to 18 people.

Location
University House
The Australian National University
Canberra
http://www.anu.edu.au/unihouse/

Cost
$750 + GST (includes dinner, lunch, morning & afternoon tea, and program materials)

Registration
Register online at
http://nceph.anu.edu.au

Registration and payment must be received by **no later than COB 10 October 2008**

Inquiries
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T: +61 2 6125 5621

Accommodation

University House
http://www.anu.edu.au/unihouse/

http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/

Register online at: http://nceph.anu.edu.au

ANU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, BIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

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Program outline

29 October 2008
6.00–9.00pm, WORKING DINNER

Welcome and introduction to the course, course leaders, and participants.

1. **Overview of Integration and Implementation Sciences (I2S).** An introduction to the four domains of I2S. Real world problems not only require the integration of insights from diverse discipline and practice perspectives, but also need new thinking to determine ways forward, require effective management of knowledge gaps and uncertainties, and need effective uptake of research findings into policy and practice change.

Attendance is a pre-requisite for the program.

30 October 2008
9.00am START

2. **Integration of disciplinary and stakeholder knowledge.** We will present a "taste" of concepts and methods that are useful for integrating research across disciplines and stakeholders. You will apply these concepts to your research setting and discuss your integration challenges with course leaders and other participants.

3. **Understanding and management of ignorance and uncertainty.** We will introduce a variety of ways to begin thinking as critically about what you don't know as what you do know. You will discuss strategies for managing the unknown more effectively in your research setting.

4. **Review of the two other domains of I2S.** We will present an outline of processes for generating fresh thinking on intractable problems, as well as how to understand research impact on decision making and change processes.

5. **Pulling it all together.** As a group we will distill and share key lessons and insights.

4.45pm CLOSE

Course leaders

The course will be run by two leading researchers in the field of research integration at The Australian National University. It draws on their theoretical, empirical and applied work.

Gabriele Bammer is a professor at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health. She is developing the new discipline of Integration and Implementation Sciences (I2S), which provides concepts and methods central to cross-disciplinary tackling of complex problems. I2S has four pillars: generating fresh thinking for intractable problems; integrating disciplinary and practice knowledge; understanding and managing ignorance and uncertainty; and providing research support for decision making and practice change (see www.anu.edu.au/iisn). She has extensive experience in research integration in tackling public health and environmental problems and is a Program Leader in the newly established ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security. She is also a Research Fellow at the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.
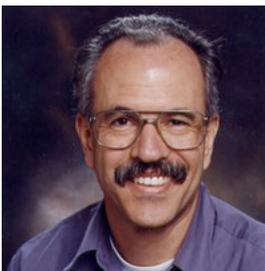
Michael Smithson is a professor in the School of Psychology. He is the author of *Confidence Intervals* (Sage, 2003), *Statistics with Confidence* (Sage, 2000), *Ignorance and Uncertainty* (Springer-Verlag, 1989) and *Fuzzy Set Analysis for the Behavioral and Social Sciences* (Springer-Verlag, 1987). He is co-author of *Fuzzy Set Theory: Applications in the Social Sciences* (Sage 2006), and co-editor of *Resolving Social Dilemmas: Dynamic, Structural, Intergroup Aspects* (Psychology Press, 1999), and *Uncertainty and Risk: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* (Earthscan, 2008), with Professor Gabriele Bammer. His primary research interests are in judgment and decision-making under uncertainty, social dilemmas, applications of fuzzy set theory to the human sciences, and statistical methods for the human sciences..