A Case for Disciplining Interdisciplinarity

Michael O'Rourke

Michigan State University

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- <u>No</u>. This isn't like starting a solipsist society, or an Anarchist Party.
  - Interdisciplinarity is a form of practice that can be studied by those interested in general patterns and common approaches.

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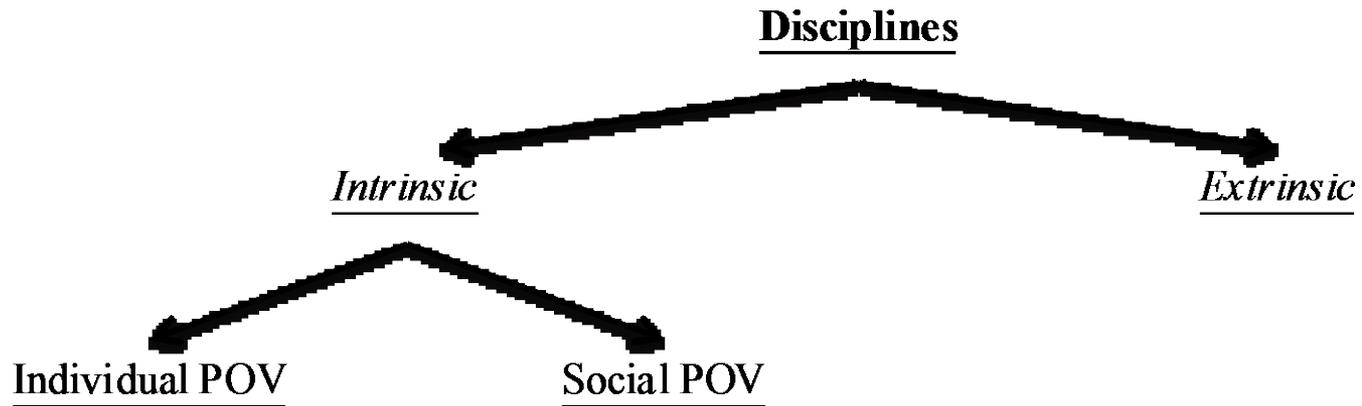 - *Intrinsic*: "form of life", "knowledge culture"

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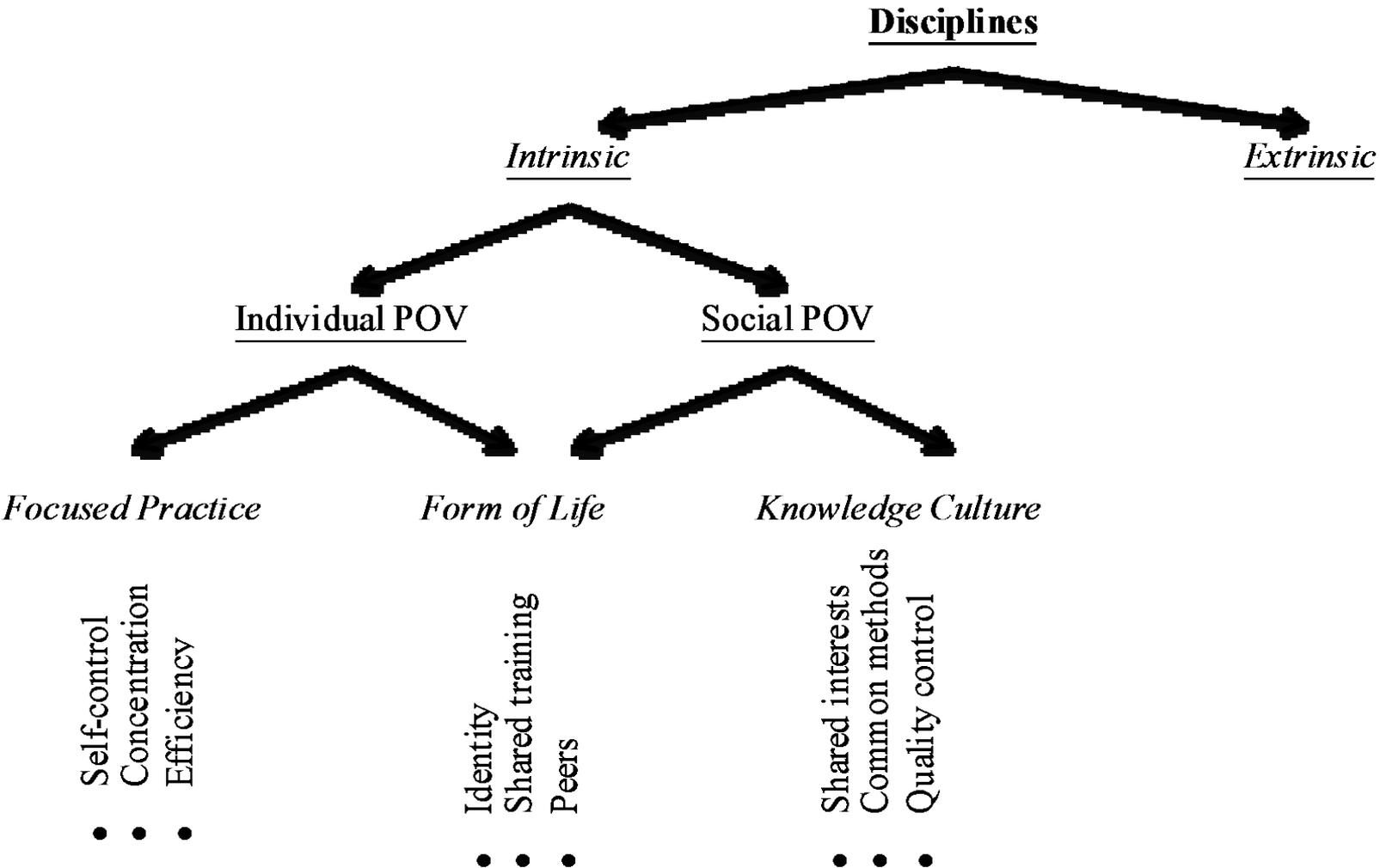 - *Extrinsic*: departments, societies, markets

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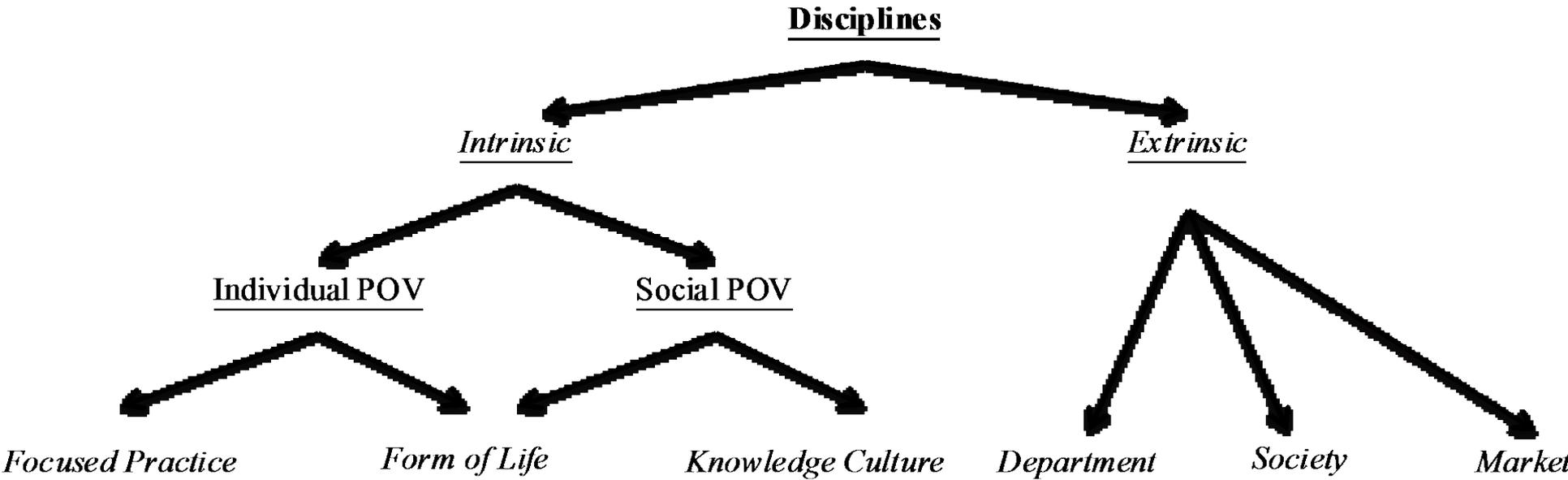*Intrinsic* ←——————————→ *Extrinsic*

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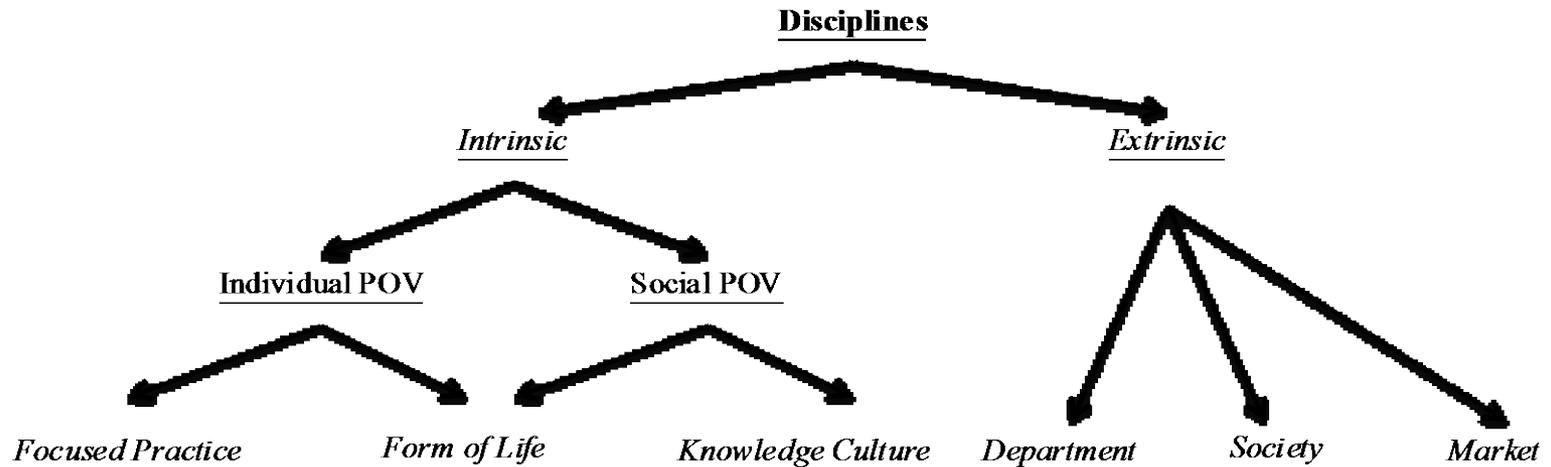
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  - *That is,* effective approaches to real world problems need a discipline like I2S

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  - These constitute a common *form of life* that would be enhanced by association (see: this meeting and others where we share experiences and stories, and by how we train our students)
  - Theoretical and practical work that constitute the *knowledge culture* are undermined by fragmentation, leading us to reinvent the (square) wheel and talk at cross-purposes

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  - Funding is available—a sign of extrinsic affirmation—but would be more available if there was a disciplinary focus to rally around
  - Whether a market arises will depend in part on whether excitement continues to grow about interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work

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- How we respond to this will depend on what our model of a discipline is

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- How we respond to this will depend on what our model of a discipline is
  - E.g., must there be an overarching theory that is applied? Well, not if we choose something like sociology or comm studies as our model
- What of *critical* interdisciplinarity?
  - This is welcome and necessary
- Is there a value in fragmentation?
  - Absolutely! There will *still* be border transgressing interdisciplinarity if I2S is on the scene