



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



SCIENCE OF TEAM SCIENCE | Fostering Collaborations

Explore the Science Behind Effective Interdisciplinary Research Teams with SESYNC's Resources

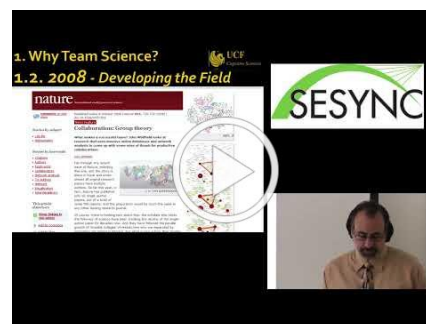
Being able to collaborate and communicate across disciplinary boundaries is an increasingly necessary skill for solving complex socio-environmental problems. But figuring out how exactly to form partnerships with people in other fields isn't always so easy. And once you finally do locate your team, finding effective ways for integrating ideas and methodologies can be even more challenging.

SESYNC knows how difficult these barriers can be, so we've funneled our experience hosting hundreds of interdisciplinary collaborations over the years into resources that can help.

From understanding what **team science** is, to finding your people, to applying different methodologies and best practices—our **resources** help you navigate the science of team science to generate collaborations that are productive, positive, and powerful.

The Science of Team Science Part 1: Why Team Science?

In the first video of this three-part series, Dr. Steve Fiore introduces the science of team science. He explains how this field of study originated from the need for increased interdisciplinary collaboration and more effective teamwork. He explains how the field developed and its relationship to interdisciplinary research. [Learn more.](#)





The Toolbox Initiative: An Approach to Facilitating Discussion Among Interdisciplinary Teams

This video introduces the "Toolbox Initiative"—a method for facilitating discussion among interdisciplinary teams. Here Dr. Sanford Eigenbrode, a co-developer of the initiative, explains how to use the toolkit to prompt an open and honest discussion of values, beliefs, and methods relevant to the research task and team work. He provides insight into how implementing such an approach can enhance the success of diverse research teams and individual team members' satisfaction. [Learn more.](#)

Best Practices for Interdisciplinary Team Research: Shaping a Team's Social Environment Explainer

This explainer introduces the concept of a team's "social environment"—the environment that teams collectively create as they interact. It covers why a team's social environment has a significant influence on the likelihood that participants will have a positive and productive experience. It then describes what fosters collaborative environments and provides a few practical ways to enhance them. [Learn more.](#)



Building an Interdisciplinary Team

Team composition is well known to influence the success or failure of collaborative research; it influences a team's performance, creativity, research impact, and sense of satisfaction by its members. This explainer addresses some common questions related to assembling interdisciplinary teams and offers useful tips for doing so. [Learn more.](#)

Creating Interdisciplinary Research Teams, A Two-Session Exercise

In this lesson, learners will practice the art of selecting, recruiting, and synergizing an interdisciplinary research team. Through this exercise, they will learn that when creating interdisciplinary teams, certain strategies are important: fostering team diversity (both identity- and disciplinary-based diversity); learning empathy, interpersonal skills, and communication styles; supporting researchers across age and academic hierarchies; and integrating individual skills and styles effectively to synergize research operations. [Learn more.](#)





Facilitating Interdisciplinary Meetings: A Practical Guide

This guide is intended to be a practical introduction to approaches and practices used at SESYNC in facilitating synthesis meetings, trainings, and workshops to help improve teamwork processes. It includes descriptions of different facilitative roles, covers pre-meeting steps to ensure an effective session, and presents

common facilitation techniques and practices. It concludes with steps to take following the meeting and to continue the collaboration. [Learn more.](#)

Knowledge Integration Across Disciplines Part 1: Introduction to Collaboration Across Disciplines

In the first video of this four-part series, Dr. Deana Pennington introduces knowledge integration across disciplines by first reviewing some empirical data collected about interdisciplinary research teams and then explaining how to think of interdisciplinary teams as cognitive systems. [Learn more.](#)



Synthesis Research and Team Science Process to Address Socio-Environmental Problems

This video introduces how interdisciplinary teams—comprising social and natural scientists, as well as stakeholders and practitioners—can synthesize together diverse types of data to study socio-environmental systems. It also presents concepts and approaches used to facilitate socio-environmental team science. [Learn more.](#)

RELEVANT RESEARCH | Science of Team Science

- [Pathways for assessing interdisciplinarity: A systematic review](#)
- [The value of facilitation in interdisciplinary socio-environmental team research](#)
- [Pathway profiles: Learning from five main approaches to assessing interdisciplinarity](#)
- [Who are boundary spanners and how can we support them in making knowledge more actionable in sustainability fields?](#)
- [Practices for facilitating interdisciplinary synthetic research: the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center \(SESYNC\)](#)

CONTACT US | We Want To Hear From You!

Have updates or outcomes tied to your SESYNC research that would make for an

interesting research spotlight? Looking for a resource on a topic that we haven't covered yet? Want to share an idea? Contact us at communications@sesync.org.

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