

ISSTI Interdisciplinary Masterclass for Postgraduates



'We are not students of some subject matter, but students of problems. And problems may cut right across the borders of any subject matter or discipline'

(Popper, 1963, *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*)

3rd - 5th December 2007

The University of Edinburgh

see overleaf for details

Register online at: www.crfr.ac.uk/events/isstibooking.html

This workshop is aimed at postgraduate researchers involved in designing, managing and carrying out interdisciplinary research projects which span the social and natural sciences.

Research funders frequently call for interdisciplinary research and collaboration between the social and natural sciences as a means to promote scientific and technological advance and to foster its more effective acceptance and use in society. There is, however, less understanding about how such interdisciplinary research expertise can be achieved, about the problems involved in such research and how they might most effectively be addressed.

At the end of the workshop we hope that students will have:

- developed a better understanding of how to design an interdisciplinary PhD project so that the social science and natural science inputs are appropriate
- discussed strategies for conducting that research that will enable them to thrive in an interdisciplinary environment
- gained a better idea of how to write up and disseminate an integrated thesis/research report
- contributed to the production of a guide to supervising interdisciplinary PhDs

The workshop programme will include talks from experienced interdisciplinary researchers who will draw on their own research to illustrate a number of key themes such as:

- different models of interdisciplinarity and the impact this has on research design
- developing and communicating understanding of socio-economic dimensions of complex technical issues
- the challenges of interviewing technical people
- how to frame an integrated final report/thesis
- appropriate dissemination for different audiences

There will be an opportunity to hear about interdisciplinary careers and plenty of time for networking with other interdisciplinary PhD students.

This workshop is open to any ESRC-funded PhD students who are engaged in interdisciplinary research between the social and natural sciences (including students who are funded via cross-council initiatives such as the ESRC-NERC and ESRC-MRC joint studentships and cross-council programmes such as RELU).

There will be no charge for this event, which will include accommodation and meals, but attendees must be able to cover their own travel expenses. The meeting will run from Monday afternoon to Wednesday lunchtime.

The Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation (ISSTI) at the University of Edinburgh is a leading centre for interdisciplinary research into all aspects of science and technology and their social dimensions www.issti.ed.ac.uk

This event is funded by the ESRC's Researcher Development Initiative (RDI) which supports the training and development of researchers in the social sciences at all stages of their career www.rdi.ac.uk

As places will be limited to 25, participants are encouraged to register early for the workshop. Any queries can be directed to Dr Catherine Lyall c.lyall@ed.ac.uk

This event is for postgraduate students. A further event for postdoctoral researchers will be held in Spring 2008.

