

# Introduction to Research Integration for Knowledge and Action

## 29 – 30 October 2008

### EVALUATION

#### Learning Outcomes

<p><b>Was the information presented in the course new to you?</b>  <i>Comment: (n=4)</i>            Some very, Some not so much (rated 3)            Definitely a new way to put together ideas I am familiar with &amp; some new ideas (rated 3)            I had heard of many of the concepts eg uncertainty, involving stakeholder, systemic approaches, but I had never seen them synthesized into a coherent whole (rated 3)            Not new, but brought concepts together well (rated 2)</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Not at all</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Moderately</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Very</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1(1)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2(2)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3(7) 4(5) 5(2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding-top: 10px;">Median: 3 Range 1-5</td> </tr> </table>	Not at all	Moderately	Very	1(1)	2(2)	3(7) 4(5) 5(2)	Median: 3 Range 1-5		
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1(1)	2(2)	3(7) 4(5) 5(2)								
Median: 3 Range 1-5										
<p><b>How helpful was the course overall?</b>  <i>Comment: (n=5)</i>            Helpful →complements project management and systems engineering skills (rated 4)            The systematization of the variables was very useful – the knowledge that someone is actually thinking about it seriously (rated 4)            Not sure yet – how will I use this? Helpful for making integration explicit (rated 3)            I think it would need to be longer with exploration of practical examples to be more helpful (rated 3)            Separation of integration and wicked evolving problems useful – systematic basis (more) – people to tie in with (rated 2)</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Not at all</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Moderately</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Very</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2(2) 2.5(1) 3(4)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4(5) 5(5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding-top: 10px;">Median: 4 Range: 2-5</td> </tr> </table>	Not at all	Moderately	Very	1	2(2) 2.5(1) 3(4)	4(5) 5(5)	Median: 4 Range: 2-5		
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1	2(2) 2.5(1) 3(4)	4(5) 5(5)								
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<p><b>How relevant was the course I2S framework for the cross-disciplinary research issues you confront?</b>  <i>Comment: (n=2)</i>            Majority of my projects are, or require, multiple disciplines (rated 5)            Yet to see if it is a normative process framework to use in projects, or a way to organize emergent concepts (rated 4)</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Not at all</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Moderately</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Very</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2(1) 3(4) 4(6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5(6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding-top: 10px;">Median: 4 Range 2-5</td> </tr> </table>	Not at all	Moderately	Very	1	2(1) 3(4) 4(6)	5(6)	Median: 4 Range 2-5		
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<p><b>How helpful was the course in providing you with a better understanding of the integration tasks you confront?</b>  <i>Comment: (n=3)</i>            Raised my awareness to approach (rated 5)            I didn't give a '5' because I need to know 'more' (rated 4)            Feedback from other participants useful to make me see some new unknowns (rated 4 – says 'see above' for next Q)</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Not at all</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Moderately</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Very</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2(2) 3(4) 4(6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5(5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding-top: 10px;">Median: 4 Range 2-5</td> </tr> </table>	Not at all	Moderately	Very	1	2(2) 3(4) 4(6)	5(5)	Median: 4 Range 2-5		
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<p><b>How helpful was the course in assisting you to think in new ways about what you don't know?</b>  <i>Comment: (n=7)</i>            I need to think much more about different perspectives, what I don't know (rated 5)            See above (rated 4)            People's stories on how they were grappling with integration</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Not at all</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Moderately</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Very</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1(1)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2(1) 3(4) 4(8)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5(3)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding-top: 10px;">Median: 4 Range 1-5</td> </tr> </table>	Not at all	Moderately	Very	1(1)	2(1) 3(4) 4(8)	5(3)	Median: 4 Range 1-5		
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were very valuable (rated 4)  
 It gave me a structure to think about things in (rated 4)  
 Will need to do some more thinking! (rated 4)  
 I'm probably too new to the area. Everything is new (rated 3)  
 Although different types of uncertainty was interesting and may be more useful upon reflection (rated 1)

**How helpful was the course for meeting like-minded peers?**

*Comment: (n=1)*

And some non like-minded peers as well (rated 5)

Not at all		Moderately		Very
1	2(1)	3(6)	4(4)	5(6)

Median: 4  
 Range 2-5

**Content & Delivery**

**How appropriate was the depth of the content?**

*Comment: (n=5)*

Would like more detail on methods discussed as options (rated 3)

Considering we had 1.5 days! (rated 3)

Appropriate for 1½ day intro course – would like more (rated 3)

More time needed – 2 days. You opened scores of ideas we didn't quite have time to chew through (rated 3)

Perfect for the time we had available – a week long course - and the depth that would come with that would be great (rated 1)

Insufficient		About Right		Too Deep
1(1)	2(5)	3(9)	4(2)	5

Median: 3  
 Range 1-4

**How appropriate was the breadth of the content?**

*Comment: (n=4)*

Considering we had 1.5 days! – as above (rated 3)

Appropriate for 1½ day intro course – would like more – as above (rated 3)

More time needed – 2 days. You opened scores of ideas we didn't quite have time to chew through – as above (rated 3)

Recognise time constraints (rated 3)

Insufficient		About Right		Too Broad
1	2(1)	3(14)	4(2)	5

Median: 3  
 Range 2-4

**How suitable was the structure, ie mix of presentations, reflection and small and large group discussion?**

*Comment: (n=6)*

I really enjoyed the structure (rated 5)

Good to break up presentations (rated 5)

Enjoyed the variation (rated 5)

Really good mix of individual, small group and large group work (rated 5)

Small group discussion did not add much to my knowledge in its current form. If tied to examples/methods, I would have preferred it (rated 3)

I think the group discussions are only useful if you have some depth of experience already. Not that useful for the beginner (rated 2)

Not at all		Moderately		Very
1	2(1)	3(3)	4(5)	5(8)

Median: 4  
 Range 2-5

**How suitable was the length of the course?**

*Comment: (n=11)*

Good for what was covered. 2 days with more depth and breadth would be great, but understand it's harder to get attendees for longer than one day (rated 4)

I would have appreciated 2-3 days. I think the increase in depth would have been significant and very helpful (rated 4)

Longer with more depth/breadth better (rated 3)

Not at all		Moderately		Very
1	2(4)	3(8)	4(5)	5

Median: 4  
 Range 2-4

Two days and more content on methods (rated 3)  
 Two days would be better (rated 3)  
 Should be run over 2 days (rated 3)  
 Material very well presented in time available; and opened up so much that more time would be good (rated 3)  
 Was fine – we knew it was only a day – so got a full days worth of activities – but would love the length to be longer (rated 3)  
 Could have spent many more days (rated 3)  
 More time needed – 2 days. You opened scores of ideas we didn't quite have time to chew through – as above (rated 2)  
 Too short, but acknowledge intro course. When is the advanced one? (rated 2)

## Quality & Value

**How would you rate the quality of presentations overall?**  
*Comment: (n=3)*  
 Great (rated 5)  
 I think they were especially good given that the area is in such early days and still being developed (rated 5)  
 Recommend using font without inflections, Times New Roman can be difficult to read (rated 5)

	Low		Moderate		High
	1	2	3(1)	4(8)	5(8)
	<b>Median: 4</b>				
	<b>Range 3-5</b>				

**How would you rate the quality of discussion overall?**  
*Comment: (n=3)*  
 Most valuable part (rated 5)  
 Thought-provoking (rated 5)  
 Really surprised how well this went (rated 5)

	Low		Moderate		High
	1	2	3(3)	4(7)	5(7)
	Median: 4				
	Range 3-5				

**Did the course generally meet your expectations?**  
*Comment: (n=0)*

	Not at all		Moderately		Very well
	1	2(1)	3(5)	4(4)	5(7)
	Median: 4				
	Range 2-5				

**What was the most important thing you will take away from the course?**  
*Comment: (n=15)*  
 Link to I2S network and framework and components. That others are struggling with the same challenges.  
 All the points of interest I can go along with to follow up on. Also having time to reflect on my research process was valuable  
 A “place” to go to find more things about integration and implementation science. By “place” I don't mean a physical place but rather a “home”, a way of searching for things, ideas on what to search for, a context etc  
 Structured way to approach my projects that is complementary to my project management and systems engineering skills/experience.  
 Recognise complexity in integrating various strands.  
 Exposure to issues I had not considered. Knowing that what I do has value.  
 The knowledge that we are all struggling with similar problems, and are at a similar ability.  
 Explicit consideration of integration and implementation  
 Ideas for promoting inclusion of integration into project designs.  
 How much I2S is being done in different areas by practitioners who may not be linked.  
 The need to develop a research field into I2S, a community of interest...  
 There is a structured way to approach integration of research.  
 Discipline still emerging and techniques we are developing will have value outside defence. May join I2S network.  
 Insight into how other academic disciplines think about integration and implementation problems.  
 Approach to research problems and design and typologies of research methods.

### What was the most disappointing thing you'll remember from the course?

*Comment: (n=9)*

Too short! Lack of "how to" manual – but that would be pointless anyway! And false expectation.

Not enough time – maybe the intro course should be a minimum of 2 days

It was over so quickly

Not applicable. I have not been disappointed with any aspect of this course.

Did not get as much value as I would like – due to fact that it is a new area (to me) and my background knowledge was/is sparse.

It had to end.

That there are so many impediments to integration.

Was not practical enough.

Will have to wait for next course to meet desire for more discussions of methodologies.

### How would you describe this course to your colleagues?

*Comment: (n=5)*

For those in relevant areas (rated 5)

Particularly valuable for some parts of the organization (rated 4.5)

Course material was well covered given that course was only one day in length. Worth a day out of the office to raise awareness of some important points and approaches to tackling research problems/projects (rated 4)

Depends on knowledge. Better for more junior staff than people who already have their heads around (at least partially) the problem. Would probably be much higher for a 2 day course with more on methods (rated 2)

Very colleague dependent! Worth it for some, not for others (no score)

a waste so-so informative worth it take it!

1 2(1) 3(4) 4(5) 4.5(1) 5(5)

No score (1)

Median: 4

Range: no score/2-5

## Recommendations & Requests

### What is the best way to improve the course?

*Comment: (n=12)*

It's good the way it is.

Examples to work through (any discipline). Too much on what I2S discipline should do vs what it can do now for a training course vs a conference workshop

Practical examples. Discuss experiences in more depth.

More details about methodologies and examples of research approaches. Meta-analysis of research methodologies from several disciplines and projected ways they can be used to inform research.

Would find additional reading/examples of course work covered useful.

Allow 'lecture' sessions to be more interactive (ie can discuss points as they are presented).

Add more examples, work on group problems together, bring in practitioner.

Would like context of process around project as boundary of success ie need an enabling environment in terms of project management being applied, partnership model, people and people skills if integration is to succeed.

Make it two days and increase the two other boxes.

Two days maybe even with a "project" in between.

Really going to depend on what people want to take away from it, I guess. Have a conversation with attendees in advance to get a grip on exactly what they are expecting. No complaints at all about it – just flagging it as a key aspect.

Active workshops on concrete examples. Would like to dig deeper on uncertainty and decision support.

More reflection on inhibitors or obstacles to integration, and strategies for dealing with them would be great – but difficult in time available (and might be a bit discouraging in a one way (day?) course!).

### On which topics would you attend an advanced module?

*Comment: (n=14)*

All of the above.

Methods for integration particularly “meta-methodologies”.

Integrating disciplinary and practice knowledge, provide research support for policy making and practice change.

Exploration of the regions of convergence between disciplines – how much should we integrate? What are the boundaries?

Research methodologies with meta-analysis of research successes by integrating research methodologies.

Providing research support for decision-making and practice change.

Explore ignorance and uncertainty & how to cope with this in work environment.

Implementation – change – creating fresh thinking tools.

How to deal with politics, policy and decision makers. How to “sell” research results to the stakeholders.

Uncertainty, fresh thinking, research support for decision making & integrating. All of them! Maybe that’s not the best way to organize them.

All of them!

I’m really interested in the implementation part – ie how to ensure the research outcomes are useful and used. Working with stakeholders to develop integrated research programs.

All, concepts and methods most of all.

Typology of problems; problem and definition and scoping. Implementation studies.

### **Other Comments, Recommendations, Requests?**

*Comment: (n=10)*

I would really like some continued involvement at an academic level (Damien Farire)

For slides with complex diagrams, put a copy in the handout – 1 page each – as well as the one on notes page. Community of practice – how does it work in the future. Expansion and explicit separation of dealing with wicked/evolving problems and the integration approaches.

The course was informative and professionally conducted. I am interested in following the research efforts and being involved in stakeholder meetings in regards to defining research methodologies and the integration into new frameworks or new ways of thinking about research.

Thoroughly enjoyed course and received practical tools that can be applied in my day-to-day work. Well conveyed (great to stick to time!) and exceptionally well organized. Particular thanks for catering for people with restrictive dietary needs.

Thanks for a good course. I would appreciate opportunity of participating in the network.

Would like some work with people from my area to allow greater depth and exploration of how to apply in practice.

Still interested in whether this is “the” foundation set of tasks... Thank you. Mike Dunlop.

Follow-up reading list. Maybe a glossary of sorts. I know it’s on the website – but being able to have it at hand here and now would invest the details with greater, and more personal relevance.

☺

Great course and very well managed and organized.