Delft University of Technology

Established in 1842 originally as a Royal Academy

19,600 students; 3,100 international

3,000 scientific staff; 230 professors (fte)

350 PhDs awarded annually

5,000 academic publications per year

€140 million annual research funding
Faculty of Architecture & Built Environment

- Largest of the 8 faculties in Delft
- 3,000 students and 700 staff
- Bachelor programme taught in Dutch
- Master programmes taught in English
- 30% of master’s students from outside Netherlands
Research programmes in the Faculty

- Architectural Computation and Performance
- Architectural Design and History
- Architectural Projects
- Geo-information Technology and Governance
- Green Building Innovation
- Housing
- Management of the Built Environment
- Urban and Regional Studies
- Urbanism
Why this workshop?

Interdisciplinarity is increasingly being cited as central to research agendas and recognised as a precondition for sustainability (e.g. Porter & Rafols, 2009; Rickards, 2010; Sterling, 2004; van Rijnsoever & Hessels, 2011)

But its effective implementation in research projects and programmes remains an exception (Owens et al, 2006)
If only things were so simple...
Barriers/obstacles to interdisciplinarity

- institutional/academic culture (silos)
- education/training
- limited experience
- academic/professional risks
- time consuming
- terminology/vocabulary
- few incentives
- research funding arrangements
- academic prestige
- publication opportunities
Fundamental tension

Expectation that research should be interdisciplinary

Rewards and recognition favouring disciplinarity
Questions for today – interdisciplinarity and co-creation

- Why and how should urban research be more interdisciplinary?
- What does this imply for research funding? And the research process? And the role of urban policy-makers?
- What is the potential role of knowledge brokers (e.g. university valorisation centres, professional bodies, information networks)?
- Is co-creation of knowledge important for urban research and policy-making?
- How can knowledge co-creation be promoted and achieved in urban research?
- What are the experiences and expectations of researchers, research funders and policy officials in promoting interdisciplinarity and knowledge co-creation?