

THE BECOMING OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY IDENTITIES

PERSONAL STORIES

With 25 storytellers

Katrin Paadam and Liis Ojamäe
Marta Varanda, Olivia Bina, Maria Helena Guimarães

Lisbon, 26 March 2019
Final MC Meeting

EXPERIENTIAL NARRATIVES

shorter or longer self-presentations

observant, intimate, emotional – exchange and personal advancement

reserved, academic, pragmatic - career and research field oriented

‘poetic correspondence’ – raising essential values

‘haiku’

expression in drawing/visualisations

RELATED ISSUES PRESENT IN STORIES

participation

‘almost full participants’, ‘late-joiners’, ‘early-leavers’, ‘occasional visitors’
(professional & family & expenses)

academic career

long-term, midway, beginning

STORIES BEHIND

motivations to join INTREPID

- need for science-political cooperation to meet social & ecological challenges
 - previous (positive) attempts to bridge disciplinary research & teaching
 - clarification of MD, ID, TD confusion
 - new knowledge-base support for research and practice
 - curiosity & interest in ID/TD knowledge – no previous experience
- disappointment in apparent discrepancy between national ID research agenda & research funding realities
 - feeling loneliness, an outsider in the study field

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

discovering

- people of similar problems & interest & desire & inclined to networking
 - opportunity to express one's position/doubts
 - politeness/attentiveness to other people
- creative process – cross-cultural joint-production of knowledge
- good leadership & management of different cultural dispositions
 - surprise * joy 😊

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

process

- demanding in professional & emotional terms:
 - listening to & working together across different ‘cultures of thinking’
 - leaders perspective: responsibility to make the ‘strangers’ work together
- confusion * frustration * resistance * spontaneity * discouragement * impatience
 - but rewarding!

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

process

critical comments:

- unbalanced focus between disciplines and intra-disciplinary perspectives
 - perception of unclarity of tasks to be engaged with (guidelines)
- stuck for an extended time in the variety of approaches to ID/TD discourses

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

gaining (1) professional advancement

- learning: discussions, experts, lectures, new methods, training, visiting universities and cities
 - deeper understanding & new ID/TD competences
- capacity built to conceive TD & transformational research
 - empowerment & confidence in career choice
- encouraged commitment to ID/TD research & practice

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

gaining (2) relations

- inspiring atmosphere created by participants & leaders
 - new networks – new consortiums – new projects
- new friendships: exchange on professional and personal levels

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

gaining (3) personal growth

curiosity * humility * trust * gratuity

authenticity * complicity * willingness

open-mindedness rather than 'black and white'

disclosing one's best potentials

avowing the pleasure of sharing knowledge

sense of belonging * building identity

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

essentials

- building on multi-disciplinarity but towards interdisciplinarity
 - developing terminology
 - from ID/TD discussions back to a discipline – a fresh look
- defining oneself between the continuum of disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity

STORIES OF INTREPID EXPERIENCE

particular ‘stations’/turning points

- WG-level in-depth discussions (clearer perception of self: through engagement and contribution) – (e.g. book occasion WG3)
 - attractive lectures, study visits
 - (re)discovering philosophy of science
 - training school activities (WG2)

EFFECT ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DURING & AFTER INTREPID

- actual use of ID approach in research applications
- elaborating criteria for assessment on the national level of funding
- contribution to universities' teaching modules/programmes, PhD theses
etc

CONCERNS & CHALLENGES CONTINUED

- ID/TD challenges still to be met in our institutions
 - challenges and risks for young ID/TD scholars
- ID/TD concepts in research – imbalanced knowledge masked → need for much stronger collaboration
- at the university - hard not to culturally reproduce boundaries and traditions
 - some hope – not entirely convinced
 - a long process to go

...I see the need for greater humility, on the part of all of us, disciplinary scholars...when presenting one's own discipline... as just one possible lens of interpretation...

...I learned...all you need is love!!!...each and everyone, the humility to open our minds and hearts to different types of knowledge, to other ways of expressing knowledge, to other ways of building knowledge.

There can't be a future without social justice, at all levels, in all realms. There is a fundamental, ethical and pragmatic need for justice, within and without academia – transdisciplinary practices are concerned with the within and the without.

...the key for this, I think, was in one word...GRATUITY