Comments on Transdisciplinary Graduate Education

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2006.10.31

I'll be honest, I had trouble reading this document. I felt as if the document was written for those who were already researching the problem as a discipline in an of itself. Obviously I found this disturbing as an individual interested in *-disciplinary research as the article speaks to my interests and yet left me without a path to understanding the terms or the problem being addressed.

From the abstract I strongly agree that theoretically grounded research is needed. However, the article seems to assume there is a fundamental problem without spending any effort to convince a reader who has not studied the problem that there is in fact a problem. The use of incompletely defined disciplinary language is the critical component to this difficulty. Example, *Transdisciplinary Competencies* seems to mean something but on rereading it seems to simply means foundational research methods learning skills. Yet I cannot believe the article is arguing for what should be already in place and I have seen no evidence of it not being present. Therefore I'm not sure how to evaluate the article as a whole. My only comment is that my understanding of the general difference between a Doctorate in a field and a PhD is that the Doctorate shows deeper mastery in a particular field than a master's degree while a PhD is degree of mastery of graduate level research. Therefore aren't graduate programs conferring PhDs already supposed to be preparing students to do *-disciplinary research?

I also strongly question the repeated call for the use of "new media" in the document. What exactly is new media in this context? What problem does it solve? I am assuming new media is based on the use of videos, slides, visual simulations, and the like in a learning environment. My rebuttal to this call is that to date strongly technical and non-technical disciplines each learn their discipline without the need for new media. To date I find the use of visual simulations and the like to be distracting. In one recent case we, as a class, were asked to use a simulator that was designed to be visual but had a text based command line version, I found the command line version superior to the graphical version for my learning and only moderately superior to simply reading the papers it was based on.