

Planning and Organization

Group 1

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Social science vs other science disciplines

Feeling of separation

Study of nature vs building upon nature (LB)

Social science needs multiple representatives and internal collaboration

Problem solving vs building theory and funding (LS)

Value of data collection and limited opportunity (DW)

Natural sciences vs social science funding opportunities (BT)

LTBR funding goes to predetermined ideas, and integration is required of some disciplines and not others (BT)

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Is the “tweener” community large enough? (BT)

First evaluative criteria vs second, practical impact vs larger scientific impact (Jeryl M)

What worked in term of organization? What created opportunity for cross-disciplinary work? What made collaboration work? What was a barrier? (LS)

Face-to-face meetings, at least initially. Intense intro, retreats, few times per year. (LS & Jami M)

Centralized vs decentralized

Hybrid model of frequent interaction, need not be permanent

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Incentives to participate (Jeryl M)

Bring social scientists together over data (DW)

Moved away from top-heavy organization. Too much separation from data and daily decisions. (Jami M)

Local systems have different problems at individual facilities, central office would not be able to cover it all (Jami M)

Centralized function taken over by board (Jami M)

Something like the field stations with both central and local systems (NC)

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How to get scientists out to use the data? (DW)

How to make the data useable to different scientists? (DW)

Comprehensive models of systems only recently include human aspects (Jeryl M)

LTERs would now allow anybody to scale up, just a bunch of little data sets (BT)

Are the observatories about collecting data or about turning data into knowledge? (LS)

If both, how do they differ from universities? (LS)

No one has the capacity to produce long term data sets (LB)

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Engineering is going to be top-down (LB)

Social scientists and engineers need each other to achieve change (LB, DW)

Where do social scientists fit into observatories and the observatory network? (LS)

Some top-down organization (Jami M)

PI driven research as well (Jami M)

Social scientists need to be affiliated with observatories, possibly universities (LS)

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Who decides what data gets collected, when, for social scientists? (LS)

Data collected with aim to answer questions (Jami M)

“Tweener” projects get slaughtered in both the social and physical sciences at NSF (BT)

Disincentives for social scientists make it difficult to get interdisciplinary funding (Jeryl M)

If it is not required, it must be incentivized, otherwise it does not happen (Jeryl M)

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Long-term data collection can be helped by social scientists in what ways? What to collect? When? (LS)

Incentives to include social scientists (Jeryl M)

Budget organization often means that there is competition for money between social and physical sciences (Jeryl M)

New questions often arise after research has begun, which is too late for funding (NC)

Data needs an infrastructure such that it can be shared in different places at the same time (LB)

Satellite data is difficult to organize and deal with because it is so huge (LB)

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What data is needed to explain behaviors, rather than just observe? (LS)

Longitudinal survey data collection is needed in the social sciences (BT)