Networking, networks, and knowledge translation

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IKON: Innovation, Knowledge and Organizational Networks

- **Mission:** To develop the social science of innovation by applying theoretical perspectives from social/organization theory to empirical studies of the creation, translation and adoption of technological and organizational innovation

- **Emphasis on networked innovation processes**

- **Networked Centre** (team-based research): University of Warwick; Bentley University, Boston; Leicester University; Queen Mary University of London; Fundação Dom Cabral

Recent research portfolio

- The Management and Organization of Clinical Trials (EPSRC)
- Producing evidence and learning from accidents in Healthcare (WIMRC/EPSRC)
- The role of Communities of Practice in improving business performance' (ESRC)
- The Evolution of Biomedical Knowledge: Interactive Innovation in the UK and US (ESRC/EPSRC)
- Dynamics of networked science commercialisation (ESRC/CMIT Inst)
- Knowledge Management for Project-based Learning in in Construction
- Learning from practice (EPSRC/ KIN/ Schlumberger)
- KM in Healthcare (WIMRC)

Networked innovation

- Examine the production, circulation, and appropriation of innovations as the outcome and effect of networking processes and practices
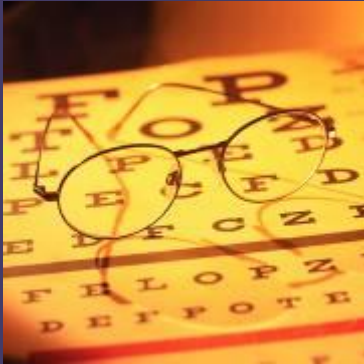- Performative
- Political
- Heterogeneous view

Translation instead of transfer

- Decontextualisation, travel, recontextualisation
- Uninterrupted chains and intermediaries
- To 'transfer' is to transform
- Central role of imitation, fashion, interests, bandwagons

Central role of networking processes in the process of KT

- Interorg., intraorg., and personal networking activities
- Emergent, purposive, opportunistic and institutionalised networking processes, e.g.: Institutes, Prof assoc., CoP, collaborations, etc.
- Networks ⟺ innovation
- Continuity of networking processes and arrangements

Networking: innovation as power and politics

- Networks create, legitimate, transform knowledge (not just transfer it)
- Networks not only as carriers (as in Rogers) but also as barriers
- Translation depends on capacity to capture interest(s)
- Innovations always produce (dis)empowering effects
- Limit of planned approach

Some questions (in no particular order)

- What are the inherent limits of planned approaches? Are 'planned change' approaches the most appropriate or just the only want we know? In which conditions are they most appropriate? At what point do they start to become counterproductive?

- What can we learn form political activism, marketing and social movement?

- How much can networks be institutionalised?

- What are the appropriate mediators of different form of translation? What is the most "appropriable form of evidence"

- How can we leverage existing networks? Can we?

- How can we prevent network boundaries to become barriers? Can we?

- How can we facilitate the back translation of knowledge and innovation

- Is the academic model of KT (practice-theory- practice) the most appropriate in all cases, or should we leverage networking process to promote practitioner-to-practitioner circulation?