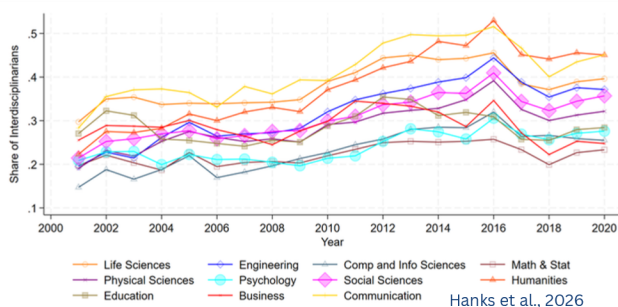


Institutions praise interdisciplinarity but often fail to recognize the barriers interdisciplinary researchers face

#2100234: Collaborative Research: Examining Training Environments and Career Outcomes of Interdisciplinary STEM PhD Students

Interdisciplinarity is trending up



But...interdisciplinary researchers often fall through disciplinary divides, discouraging convergent research



Berkes et al., 2024

Interdisciplinarians are less likely to continue publishing

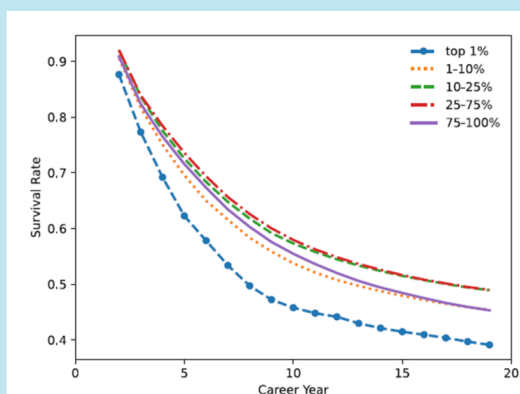


Fig. 1. Interdisciplinary researchers are less likely to continue publishing. Survival rate of researchers with PhDs in biomedical fields who graduated between 1970 and 2013 divided based on the levels of initial (dissertation-stage) interdisciplinarity. A researcher's career is considered ended when that person does not publish for a period of 5 y. Researchers with high initial interdisciplinarity (i.e., in the top 1% or 1% to 10%) have lower survival rates at all career stages.

Berkes et al., 2024

In the year after graduation, interdisciplinarians are more likely to accept postdoctoral positions and are compensated based on their primary field

Those with closely related disciplinary areas (local interdisciplinarians) experience a bigger salary penalty



Hanks et al., 2026

Methods

- Utilized multiple data sources
 - Researcher and Publication database
 - ProQuest Dissertation and Thesis database
 - Clarivate Analytics Web of Science
 - Survey of Earned Doctorates
- Empirical methods
 - Regression modeling
 - Survival analysis

Challenges Overcome

- Transitions between graduate students and postdocs who understand data sets
- Changes in interdisciplinary measurement
- Merging different data sets
- Different, and often lengthy, disclosure processes for restricted access data



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