Studies at the Interface: Engineering Education as a Field of Research

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February 1, 2011

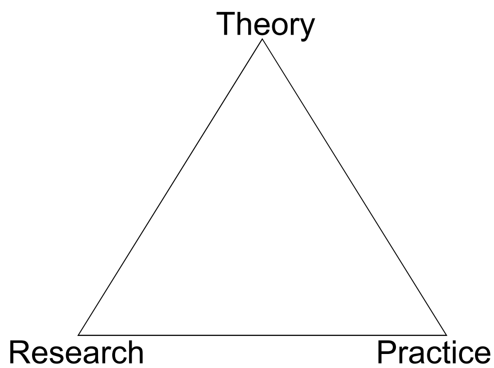
Engineering Education as a Field of Research


Guest Editorial
Quiet No Longer: Birth of a New Discipline
Kamyar Haghighi

Guest Editorial
From the Margins to the Mainstream: The Emerging Landscape of Engineering Education Research
Ruth A. Streveler
Karl A. Smith

- Studies at Interfaces
  - Metallurgy
  - Engineering and Education
- Theory-Research-Practice
- Engineering Education Research
  - History & Developments
  - Emerging Landscape
  - Features

Studies at Interfaces



Process Metallurgy

Learning

Design

Scholarship – Engineering Education Research

Process Metallurgy

- Dissolution Kinetics – liquid-solid interface
- Iron Ore Desliming – solid-solid interface
- Metal-oxide reduction roasting – gas-solid interface

Dissolution Kinetics

- Theory – Governing Equation for Mass Transport
- Research – rotating disk
- Practice – leaching of silver bearing metallic copper

$$(\nabla c \bullet \underline{v}) = D\nabla^2 c$$

$$v_y \frac{dc}{dy} = D\frac{d^2c}{dy^2}$$

Iron Ore Desliming

- Theory – DLVO [$V(h) = V_A(h) + V_R(h)$]
- Research – streaming potential
- Practice – recovery of iron from low-grade Fe_2O_3 ores (Selective removal of silicates)

Metal Oxide Reduction Roasting

- Theory – catalyzed gas-solid reactions
  Boudouard Reaction [$CO_2 + C = 2CO$]
- Research method – thermogravimetric analysis
- Practice – extraction of Ti from $FeTiO_3$, Al from Al_2O_3 – bearing minerals

First Teaching Experience

- Practice – Third-year course in metallurgical reactions – thermodynamics and kinetics

Engineering Education

- Practice – Third-year course in metallurgical reactions – thermodynamics and kinetics
- Research – ?
- Theory – ?

University of Minnesota College of Education
Social, Psychological and Philosophical
Foundations of Education

- Statistics, Measurement, Research Methodology
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Learning and Cognitive Psychology
- Knowledge Acquisition, Artificial Intelligence, Expert Systems
- Social psychology of learning – student – student interaction

Acquisition of Expertise

Fitts P, & Posner MI. Human Performance. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1967.

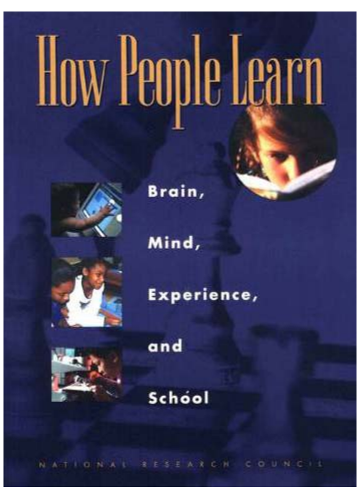
- Cognition: Learn from instruction or observation what knowledge and actions are appropriate
- Associative: Practice (with feedback) allowing smooth and accurate performance
- Automaticity: “Compilation” or performance and associative sequences so that they can be done without large amounts of cognitive resources

“The secret of expertise is that there is no secret. It takes at least 10 years of concentrated effort to develop expertise.” Herbert Simon

Paradox of Expertise

- The very knowledge we wish to teach others (as well as the knowledge we wish to represent in computer programs) often turns out to be the knowledge we are least able to talk about.

Expertise Implies:

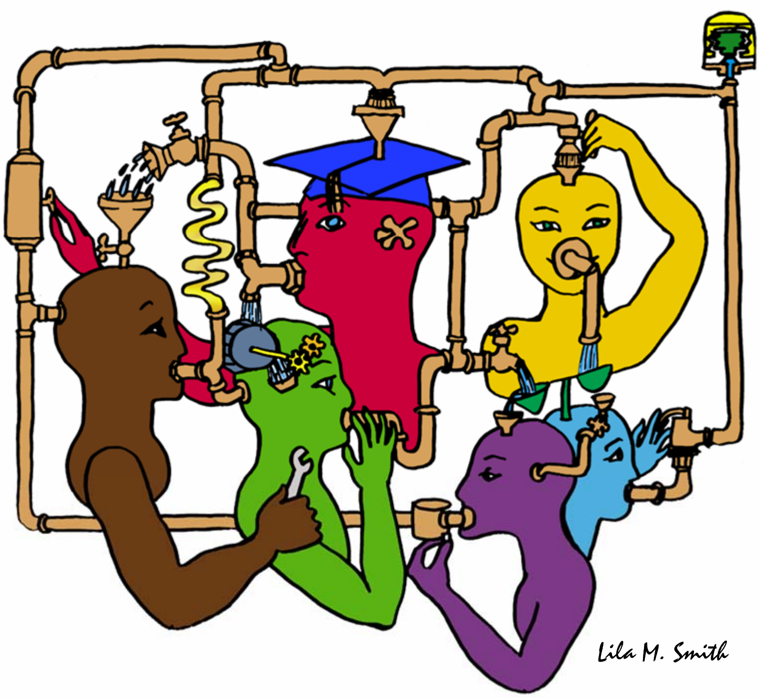


- a set of cognitive and metacognitive skills
- an organized body of knowledge that is deep and contextualized
- an ability to notice patterns of information in a new situation
- flexibility in retrieving and applying that knowledge to a new problem

Bransford, Brown & Cocking. 1999. *How people learn.* National Academy Press.

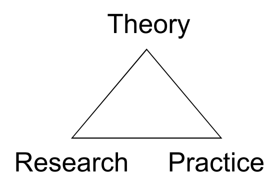
University of Minnesota College of Education
Social, Psychological and Philosophical
Foundations of Education

- Statistics, Measurement, Research Methodology
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Learning and Cognitive Psychology
- Knowledge Acquisition, Artificial Intelligence, Expert Systems
- **Social psychology of learning – student – student interaction**



Cooperative Learning

- Theory – Social Interdependence – Lewin – Deutsch – Johnson & Johnson
- Research – Randomized Design Field Experiments
- Practice – Formal Teams/Professor's Role



Student – Student Interaction Lewin's Contributions

- Founded field of social psychology
- Action Research
- Force-Field analysis
- B = f(P,E)
- Social Interdependence Theory
- "There is nothing so practical as a good theory"

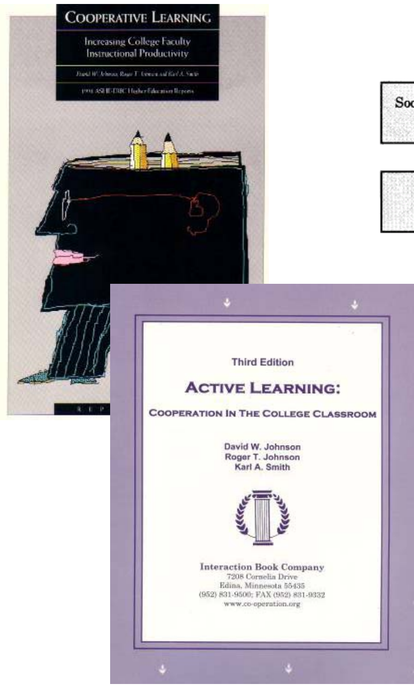
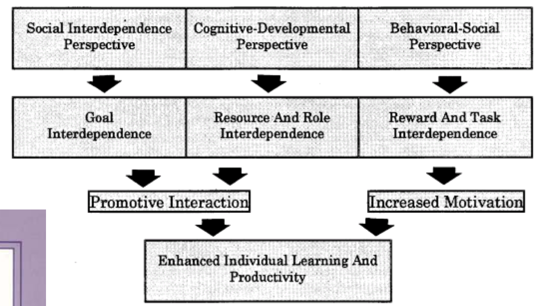


Figure A.1 A General Theoretical Framework



Cooperative Learning

- Positive Interdependence
- Individual and Group Accountability
- Face-to-Face Promotive Interaction
- Teamwork Skills
- Group Processing

[*First edition 1991]

Cooperative Learning Research Support

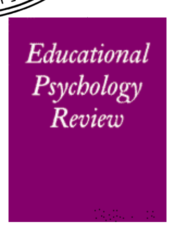
Johnson, D.W., Johnson, R.T., & Smith, K.A. 1998. Cooperative learning returns to college: What evidence is there that it works? *Change*, *30* (4), 26-35.

- Over 300 Experimental Studies
- First study conducted in 1924
- High Generalizability
- Multiple Outcomes

Outcomes

1. Achievement and retention
2. Critical thinking and higher-level reasoning
3. Differentiated views of others
4. Accurate understanding of others' perspectives
5. Liking for classmates and teacher
6. Liking for subject areas
7. Teamwork skills

January 2005



March 2007

Small-Group Learning: Meta-analysis

Springer, L., Stanne, M. E., & Donovan, S. 1999. Effects of small-group learning on undergraduates in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology: A meta-analysis. Review of Educational Research, 69(1), 21-52.

Small-group (predominantly cooperative) learning in postsecondary science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SMET). 383 reports from 1980 or later, 39 of which met the rigorous inclusion criteria for meta-analysis.

The main effect of small-group learning on achievement, persistence, and attitudes among undergraduates in SMET was significant and positive. Mean effect sizes for achievement, persistence, and attitudes were 0.51, 0.46, and 0.55, respectively.

Cooperative Learning is instruction that involves people working in teams to accomplish a common goal, under conditions that involve both *positive interdependence* (all members must cooperate to complete the task) and *individual and group accountability* (each member is accountable for the complete final outcome).

Key Concepts

- •Positive Interdependence
- •Individual and Group Accountability
- •Face-to-Face Promotive Interaction
- •Teamwork Skills
- •Group Processing

http://www.ce.umn.edu/~smith/docs/Smith-CL%20Handout%2008.pdf

Active and Cooperative Learning

EDUCATION

Farewell, Lecture?

Eric Mazur

A physics professor describes his evolution from lecturing to dynamically engaging students during class and improving how they learn.

Discussions of education are generally predicated on the assumption that we know what education is. I hope to convince you otherwise by recounting some of my own experiences. When I started teaching introductory physics to undergraduates at Harvard University, I never asked myself how I would educate my students. I did what my teachers had done—I lectured. I thought that was how one learns. Look around anywhere in the world and you'll find lecture halls filled with students and, at the front, an instructor. This approach to education has not changed since before the Renaissance and the birth of scientific inquiry. Early in my career I received the first hints that something was wrong with teaching in this manner, but I had ignored it. Sometimes it's hard to face reality.

When I started teaching, I prepared lecture notes and then taught from them. Because my lectures deviated from the textbook, I provided students with copies of these lecture notes. The infuriating result was that on my end-of-semester evaluations—which were quite good otherwise—a number of students complained that I was "lecturing straight from (his) lecture notes." What was I supposed to do? Develop a set of lecture notes different from the ones I handed out? I decided to ignore the students' complaints.

Click here. Students continually discuss concepts among themselves and with the instructor during class. Discussions are spurred by multiple-choice conceptual questions that students answer using a clicker device. See supporting online text for examples of such "clicker questions."

A few years later, I discovered that the students were right. My lecturing was ineffective, despite the high evaluations. Early on in the physics curriculum—in week 2 of a typical introductory physics course—the Laws of Newton are presented. Every student in such a course can recite Newton's third law of motion, which states that the force of object A on object B in an interaction between two objects is equal in magnitude to the force of B on A—it sometimes is known as "action is reaction." One day, when the course had progressed to more complicated material, I decided to test my students' understanding of this concept not by doing traditional problems, but by asking them a set of basic conceptual questions (*1*, *2*). One of the questions, for example, requires students to compare the forces that a heavy truck and a light car exert on one another when they collide. I expected that the students would have no trouble tackling such questions, but much to my surprise, hardly a minute after the test began, one student asked, "How should I answer these questions? According to what you taught me or according to the way I usually think about these things?" To my dismay, students had great difficulty with the conceptual questions. That was when it began to dawn on me that something was amiss.

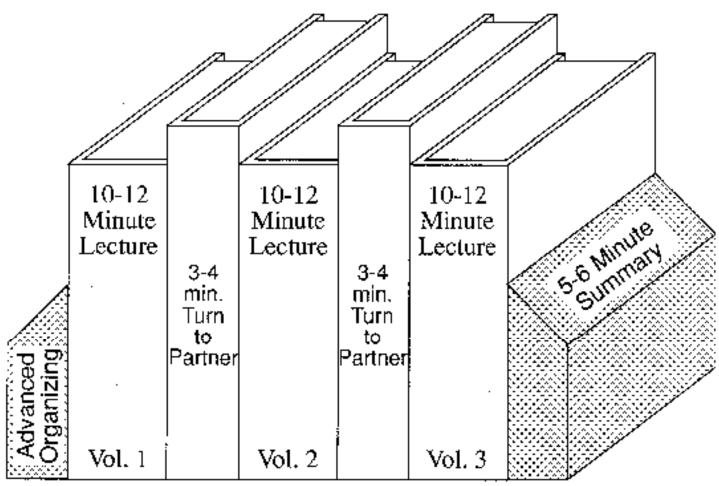
In hindsight, the reason for my students' poor performance is simple. The traditional approach to teaching reduces education to a transfer of information. Before the industrial revolution, when books were not yet mass commodities, the lecture method was the only way to transfer information from one generation to the next. However, education is so

Department of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA. E-mail: mazur@physics.harvard.edu

January 2, 2009—Science, Vol. 323 – www.sciencemag.org

Calls for evidence-based promising practices

Book Ends on a Class Session



Thinking Together: Collaborative Learning in the Sciences – Harvard University – Derek Bok Center – www.fas.harvard.edu/~bok_cen/

Problem-Based Cooperative Learning

At M.I.T., Large Lectures Are Going the Way of the Blackboard

Jodi Hilton for The New York Times

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has changed the way it offers some introductory classes. Prof. Gabriella Sciolla at a class on electricity and magnetism.

By SARA RIMER
Published: January 12, 2009

COMMENTS (00)
E-MAIL
PRINT
SINGLE PAGE

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — For as long as anyone can remember, introductory physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was taught in a vast windowless amphitheater known by its number,

January 13, 2009—New York Times – http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/13/us/13physics.html?em

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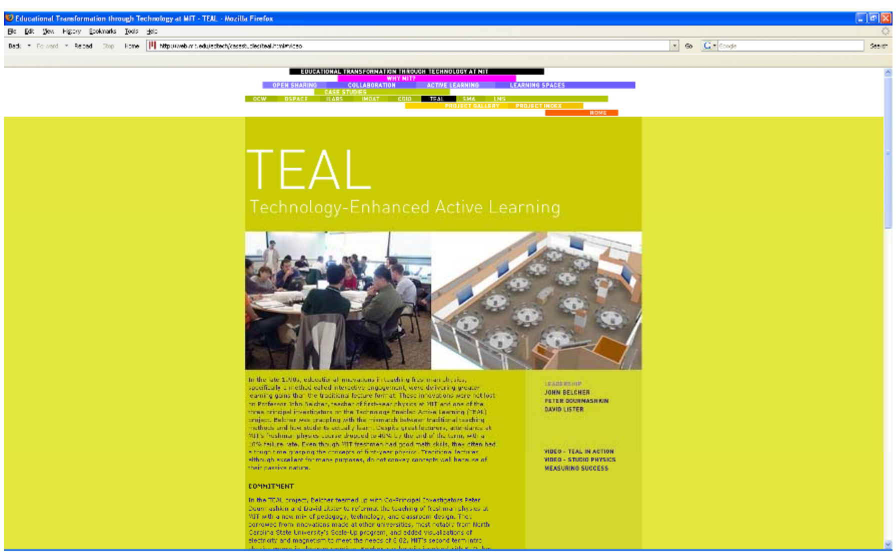

http://web.mit.edu/edtech/casestudies/teal.html#video

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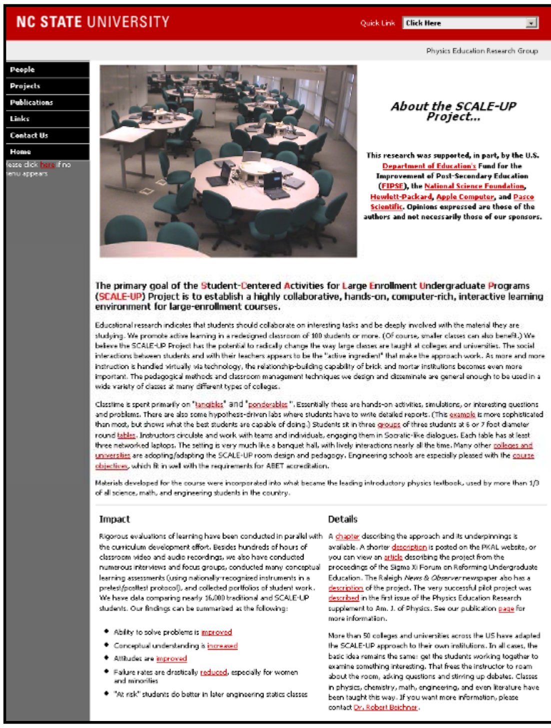

http://www.ncsu.edu/PER/scaleup.html

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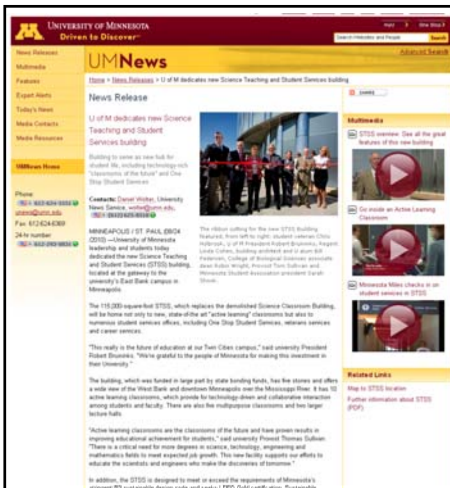

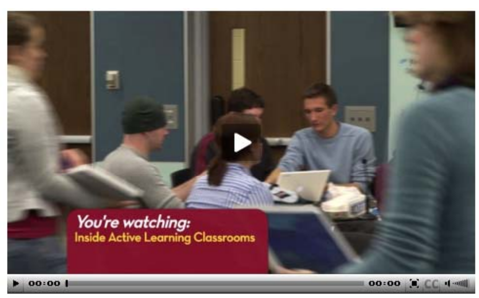

http://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/embed/78755

http://www1.umn.edu/news/news-releases/2010/UR_CONTENT_248261.html

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PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

- UD PBL articles and books
- UD PBL in the news
- Sample PBL problems
- UD PBL courses and syllabi
- PBL Clearinghouse
- PBL Conferences and Other PBL sites
- Institute for Transforming Undergraduate Education
- Other related UD sites

"How can I get my students to think?" is a question asked by many faculty, regardless of their disciplines. Problem-based learning (PBL) is an instructional method that challenges students to "learn to learn," working cooperatively in groups to seek solutions to real world problems. These problems are used to engage students' curiosity and initiate learning the subject matter. PBL prepares students to think critically and analytically, and to find and use appropriate learning resources. -- *Barbara Duch*

PBL2002:
A Pathway to Better Learning

Recipient of 1999 Hesburgh Certificate of Excellence

Please direct comments, suggestions, or requests to ud-pbl@udel.edu.
"http://www.udel.edu/pbl/"
Last updated March 13, 2004.
© Univ. of Delaware, 1999.

http://www.udel.edu/pbl/

Cooperative Learning Adopted

The American College Teacher:

National Norms for 2007-2008

Methods Used in "All" or "Most"	All – 2005	All – 2008	Assistant - 2008
Cooperative Learning	48	59	66
Group Projects	33	36	61
Grading on a curve	19	17	14
Term/research papers	35	44	47

http://www.heri.ucla.edu/index.php

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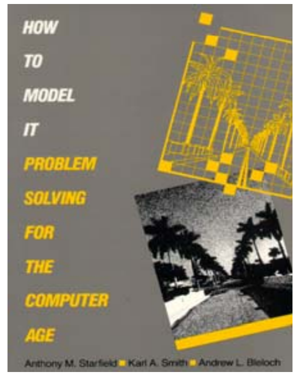
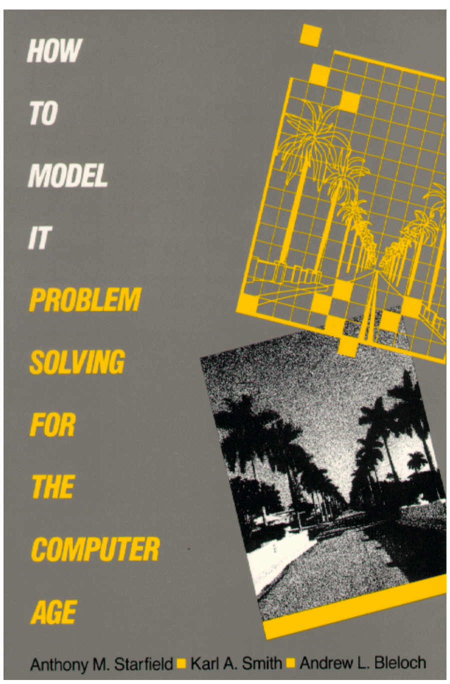
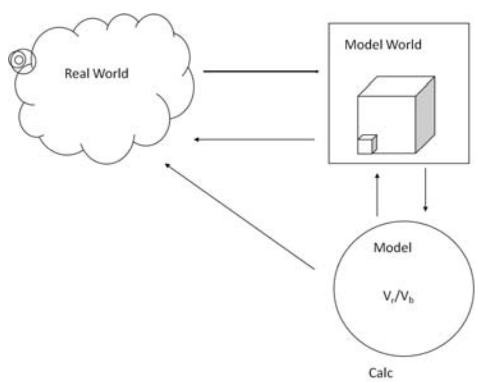
First Course Design Experience UMN – Institute of Technology

- Thinking Like an Engineer
- Problem Identification
- Problem Formulation
- Problem Representation
- Problem Solving



Problem-Based Learning

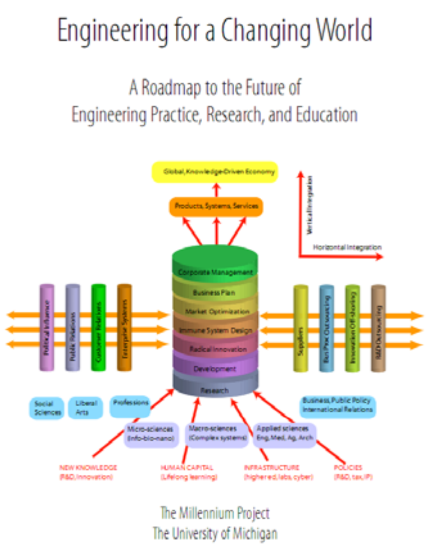




*Based on First Year Engineering course – Problem-based cooperative learning approach published in 1990.

It could well be that faculty members of the twenty-first century college or university will find it necessary to set aside their roles as teachers and instead become designers of learning experiences, processes, and environments.

James Duderstadt, 1999 [Nuclear Engineering Professor; Dean, Provost and President of the University of Michigan]



…objectives for engineering practice, research, and education:

To adopt a systemic, research-based approach to innovation and continuous improvement of engineering education, recognizing the importance of diverse approaches–albeit characterized by quality and rigor–to serve the highly diverse technology needs of our society

http://milproj.ummu.umich.edu/publications/EngFlex%20report/download/EngFlex%20Report.pdf

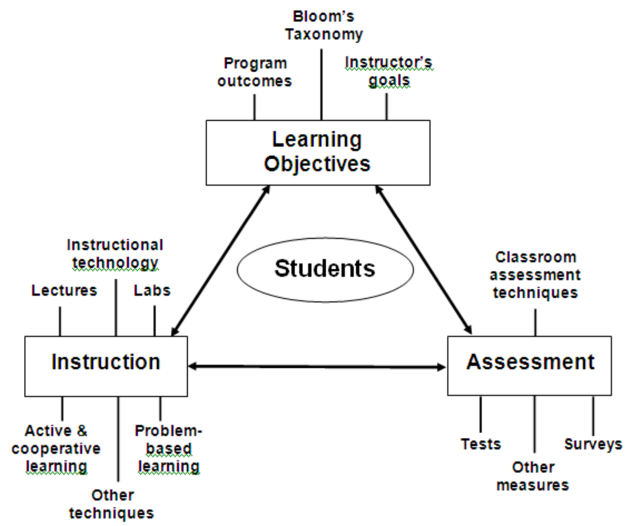


Figure 1. Elements of Course Design*

*R.M. Felder and R. Brent. (2003). Designing and Teaching Courses to Satisfy the ABET Engineering Criteria. *J. Engr. Education, 92*(1), 7–25.

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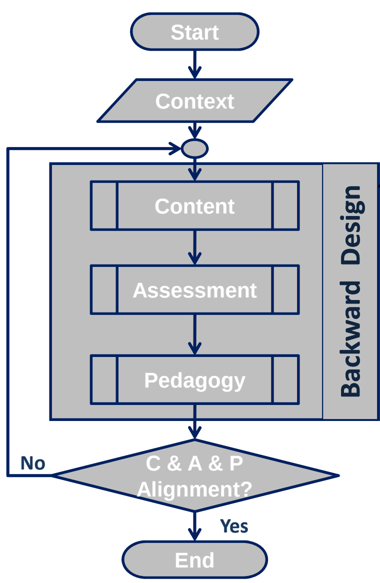
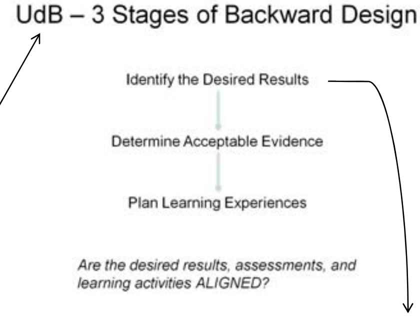
Content-Assessment-Pedagogy (CAP) Design Process Flowchart



Understanding by Design (Wiggins & McTighe, 2005)

UdB – 3 Stages of Backward Design

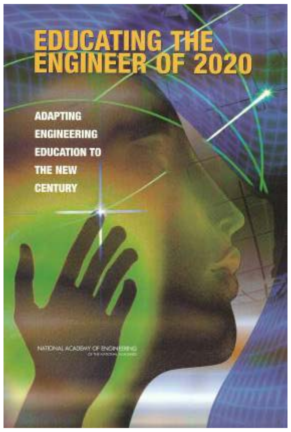


UbD Filters for Curricular Priorities

- Are the topics enduring and transferable big ideas having value beyond the classroom?
- Are the topics big ideas and core processes at the heart of the discipline?
- Are the topics abstract, counterintuitive, often misunderstood, or easily misunderstood ideas requiring coverage?
- Are the topics big ideas embedded in facts, skills and activities?

Understanding by Design, pp. 10-11

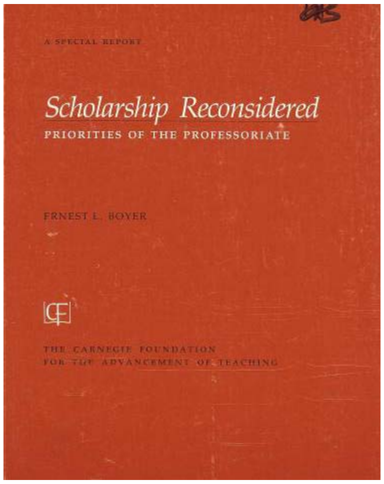
Engineering Education Research



Colleges and universities should endorse research in engineering education as a valued and rewarded activity for engineering faculty and should develop new standards for faculty qualifications.

Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate Ernest L. Boyer

- The **Scholarship of Discovery**, research that increases the storehouse of new knowledge within the disciplines;
- The **Scholarship of Integration**, including efforts by faculty to explore the connectedness of knowledge within and across disciplines, and thereby bring new insights to original research;
- The **Scholarship of Application**, which leads faculty to explore how knowledge can be applied to consequential problems in service to the community and society; and
- The **Scholarship of Teaching**, which views teaching not as a routine task, but as perhaps the highest form of scholarly enterprise, involving the constant interplay of teaching and learning.



Getting Started in Engineering Education Research

Fundamentals of Engineering Education Research

sponsored by the
ASEE Educational Research and Methods Division

in partnership with
Rigorous Research in Engineering Education Initiative
CLEERhub.org
And the *Journal of Engineering Education*

ASEE Annual Conference – June 20, 2010 – Session 0230

Ruth A.Streveler
Purdue University

Karl A. Smith
Purdue University and
University of Minnesota

Levels of Engineering Education Inquiry

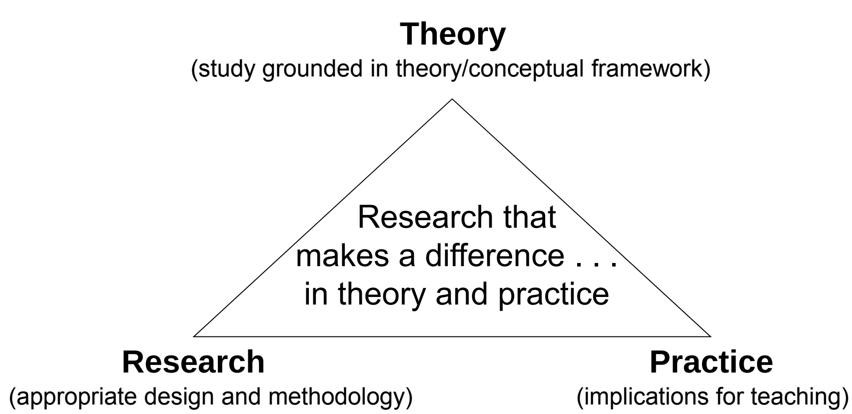
- **Level 0** Teacher
  - Teach as taught ("distal pedagogy")
- **Level 1** Effective Teacher
  - Teach using accepted teaching theories and practices
- **Level 2** Scholarly Teacher
  - Assesses performance and makes improvements
- **Level 3** Scholar of Teaching and Learning
  - Engages in educational experimentation, shares results
- **Level 4** Engineering Education Researcher
  - Conducts educational research, publishes archival papers

Source: Streveler, R., Borrego, M. and Smith, K.A. 2007. Moving from the "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning" to "Educational Research:" An Example from Engineering. *Improve the Academy,* Vol. 25, 139-149.

Some history about this workshop

- **Rigorous Research in Engineering Education (RREE1)**
  - One-week summer workshop, year-long research project
  - Funded by National Science Foundation (NSF), 2004-2006
  - About 150 engineering faculty participated
- **Goals**
  - Identify engineering faculty interested in conducting engineering education research
  - Develop faculty knowledge and skills for conducting engineering education research (especially in theory and research methodology)
  - Cultivate the development of a Community of Practice of faculty conducting engineering education research

RREE Approach



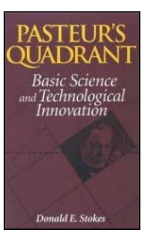
http://inside.mines.edu/research/cee/ND.htm

Guiding Principles for Scientific Research in Education

1. **Question**: pose ***significant*** question that can be investigated ***empirically***
2. **Theory**: link research to relevant theory
3. **Methods**: use methods that permit direct investigation of the question
4. **Reasoning**: provide coherent, explicit chain of reasoning
5. **Replicate and generalize** across studies
6. **Disclose** research to encourage professional scrutiny and critique

National Research Council, 2002

Research can be inspired by …

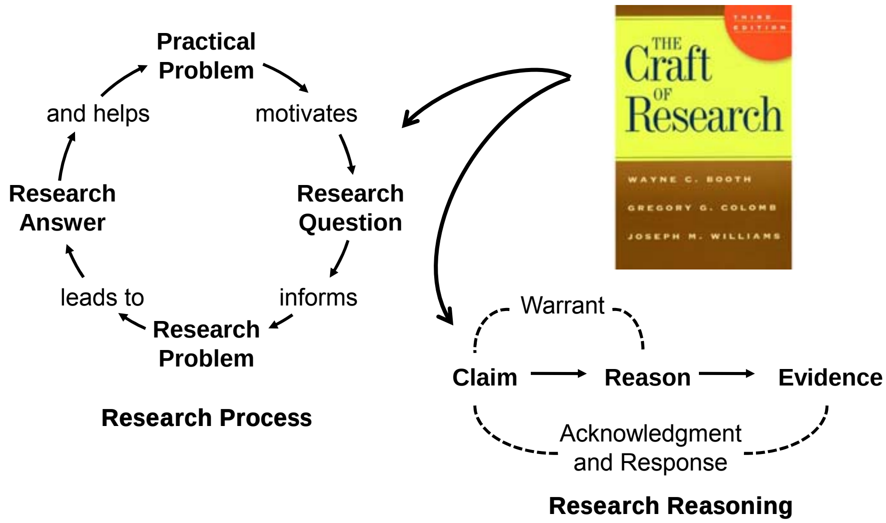


Use (Applied)

Understanding (Basic)	No	Yes
Yes	Pure basic research (Bohr)	Use-inspired basic research (Pasteur)
No		Pure applied research (Edison)

Source: Stokes, D. 1997. Pasteur's quadrant: Basic science and technological innovation. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Research Process



RREE2

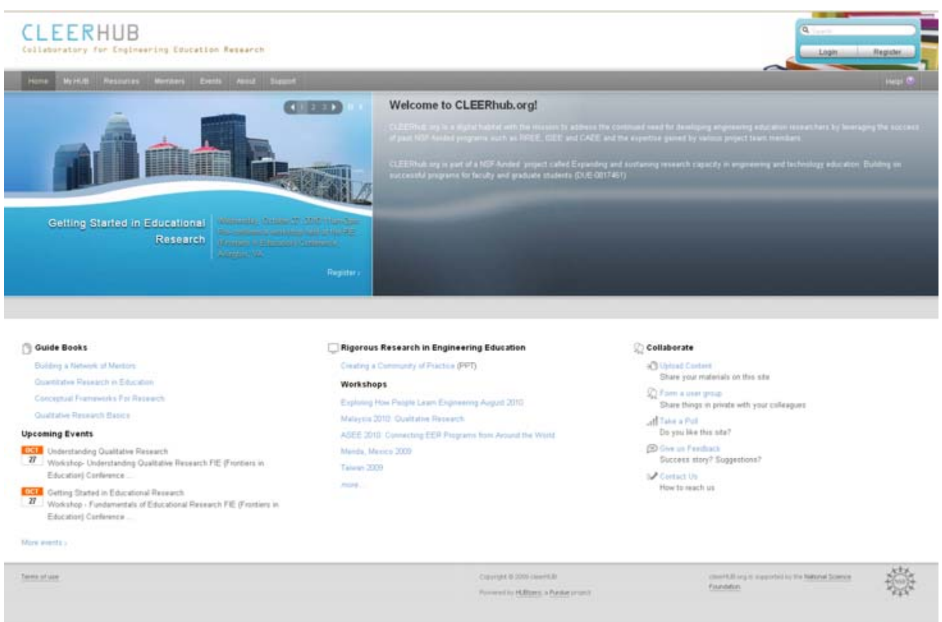
Follow-up proposal has been awarded (RREE2)

- Includes a series of 5 short courses*
  - Fundamentals of Engineering Education Research
  - Selecting Conceptual Frameworks
  - Understanding Qualitative Research
  - Designing Your Research Study
  - Collaborating with Learning and Social Scientists

*To be recorded and posted on the CLEERhub.org

Status of RREE Project

- **EER workshops and EER – JEE Collaboration**
  - **Fundamentals of Educational Research**
    - **ASEE 2010**
    - **FIE 2010**
  - **Selecting Conceptual Frameworks for Engineering Education Research**
    - **RCEE / UTM Malaysia 2010**
    - **ASEE 2010**
  - **Understanding Qualitative Research**
    - **FIE 2010**
- **Collaboratory for Engineering Education Research (CLEERhub.org)**



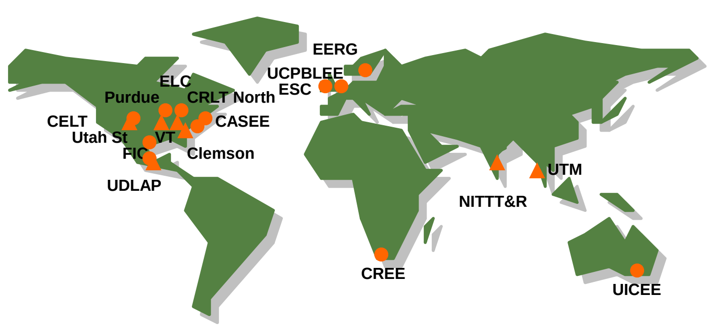
http://cleerhub.org

An emerging global community

- Groups, centers, departments
- Engineering education societies
- Forums for dissemination

What follows is a **sample** — it is NOT an exhaustive list!

Groups, centers, departments…



● **Engineering Teaching and Learning Centers** — Australia: UICEE, UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education; Denmark: UCPBLEE, UNESCO Chair in Problem Based Learning in Engineering Education; South Africa: CREE, Centre for Research in Engineering Education, U of Cape Town; Sweden: Engineering Education Research Group, Linköping U; UK: ESC, Engineering Subject Centre, Higher Education Academy; USA: CELT, Center for Engineering Learning and Teaching, U of Washington; CRLT North, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, U of Michigan; Faculty Innovation Center, U of Texas-Austin; Engineering Learning Center, U of Wisconsin-Madison; CASEE, Center for the Advancement of Scholarship in Engineering Education, National Academy of Engineering.

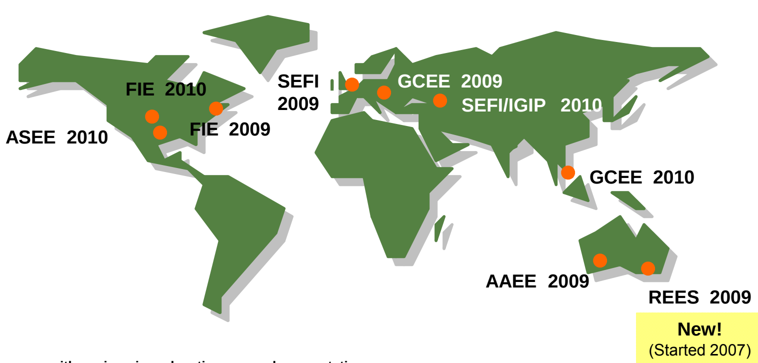
▲ **Engineering Education Degree-granting Departments** — USA: School of Engineering Education, Purdue U; Department of Engineering Education, Virginia Tech; Department of Engineering and Science Education, Clemson U; Department of Engineering and Technology Education, Utah State U; Malaysia: Engineering Education PhD program, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia; India: National Institute for Technical Teacher Training and Research; Mexico: Universidad de las Americas, Puebla

Engineering education societies…

Societies with Engineering Education Research Groups — ASEE, American Society for Engineering Education, Educational Research Methods Division; SEFI, Société Européenne pour la Formation des Ingénieurs (European Society for Engineering Education), Engineering Education Research Working Group; Australasian Association for Engineering Education, Engineering Education Research Working Group; Community of Engineering Education Research Scholars, Latin America and Caribbean Consortium for Engineering Institutions

Societies with Engineering Education Research Interests — Indian Society for Technical Education, Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions, Asociación Nacional de Facultades y Escuelas de Ingeniería (National Association of Engineering Colleges and Schools in Mexico), Internationale Gesellschaft für Ingenieurpädagogik (International Society for Engineering Education), International Federation of Engineering Education Societies

Forums for dissemination…



Conferences with engineering education research presentations:

- **ASEE** — Annual Conference, American Society for Engineering Education, see www.asee.org
- **AAEE** — Annual Conference, Australasian Association for Engineering Education, see www.aaee.com.au
- **FIE** — Frontiers in Education, sponsored by ERM/ASEE, IEEE Education Society and Computer Society, /fie-conference.org/erm
- **GCEE** — Global Colloquium on Engineering Education, sponsored by ASEE and local partners where the meeting is held, see www.asee.org
- **SEFI** — Annual Conference, Société Européenne pour la Formation des Ingénieurs , see www.sefi.be
- **REES** — Research on Engineering Education Symposium, rees2009.pbwiki.com/

Engineering Education Research Networking Session

Connecting Engineering Education Research Programs from Around the World

sponsored by the
ASEE International Division

in partnership with
Rigorous Research in
Engineering Education Initiative
CLEERhub.org
And the *Journal of Engineering Education*

ASEE Annual Conference – June 22, 2010 – Session 2123

Facilitated By

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ASEE 2010 – EER PhD Program Briefings

- **Utah State University – Kurt Becker**
- **Purdue University – David Radcliffe & Robin Adams**
- **Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico – Enrique Palou**
- **Virginia Tech – Maura Borrego**
- **Universiti Teknologi Malaysia – Zaini Ujang**
- **Clemson University – Lisa Benson**
- **NITTTRs – India – R. Natarajan**
- **Arizona State University – Tirupalavanam Ganesh & Chell Roberts**
- **University of Washington – Cindy Atman**
- **Ohio State University – Lisa Abrams**
- **Carnegie Mellon University – Paul Steif**
- **University of Michigan – Cindy Finelli**
- **Washington State University – Denny Davis**
- **University of Georgia – Nadia Kellam & Joachim Walther**
- **Michigan State University – Jon Sticklen**
- **University of Colorado – Boulder – Daria Kotys-Schwartz**

Session slides and links to programs posted to CLEERhub.org

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Status, Contributions, and Future Direction of Discipline-Based Education Research (DBER)

The National Science Foundation has funded a synthesis study on the status, contributions, and future direction of discipline-based education research (DBER) in physics, biological sciences, geosciences, and chemistry. DBER combines knowledge of teaching and learning with deep knowledge of discipline-specific science content. It describes the discipline-specific difficulties learners face and the specialized intellectual and instructional resources that can facilitate student understanding.

This 30-month study will build on two workshops held in 2008 to explore Evidence on Promising Practices in Undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education. It will answer questions that are essential to advancing DBER and broadening its impact on undergraduate science teaching and learning. An interdisciplinary panel of experts will synthesize empirical research on undergraduate teaching and learning in the sciences; explore the extent to which this research currently influences undergraduate instruction; and identify the intellectual and material resources required to further develop DBER.

The final product will be a consensus report that will provide guidance for future DBER research. In addition, the findings and recommendations of this study may invite, if not assist, postsecondary institutions to:

- increase interest and research activity in DBER, and improve its quality and usefulness, across all natural science disciplines
- guide instruction and assessment across natural science courses to improve student learning
- bring greater focus to issues of student attrition in the natural sciences that are related to quality of instruction

MEETINGS	LOCATION	RESOURCES
Committee Meeting 1 June 28-29, 2010	Keck Center, Room 101 500 5th Street, NW Washington, DC	Agenda
Committee Meeting 2 October 18-19, 2010	Keck Center, Room 201 500 5th Street, NW Washington, DC (limited space)	Agenda
Committee Meeting 3 December 3-4, 2010	Beckman Center Irvine, CA	

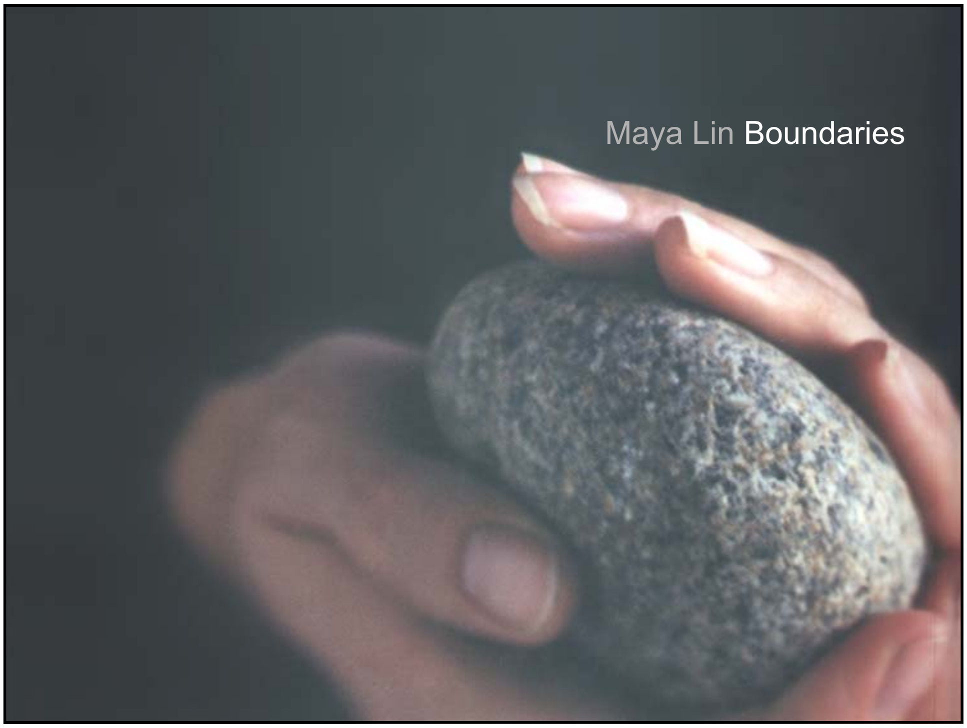
COMMITTEE
Committee Membership

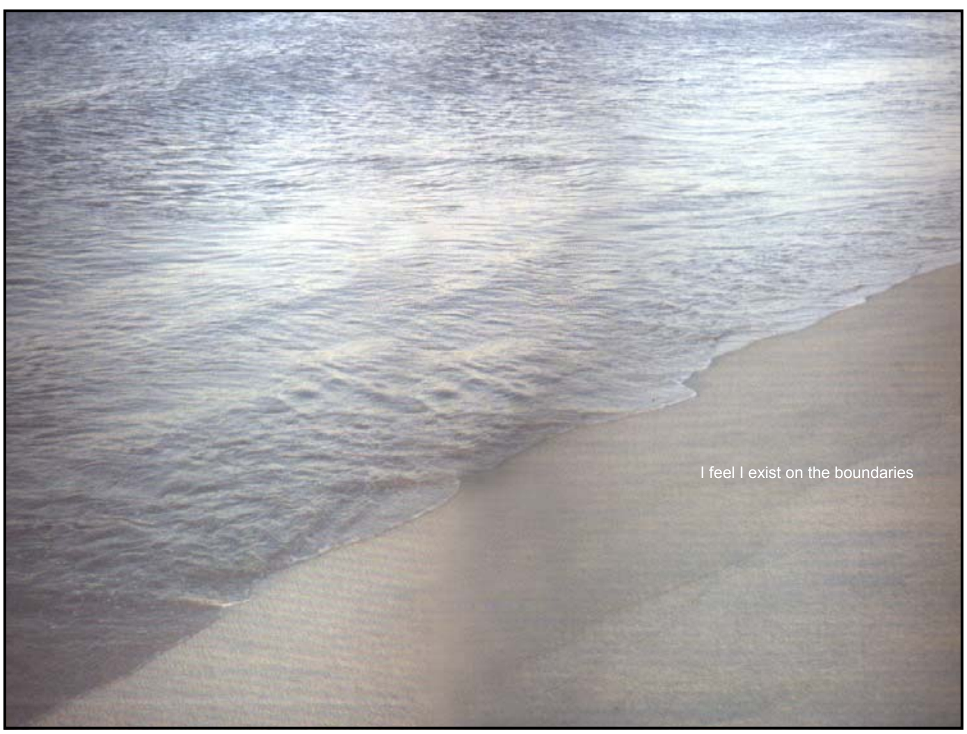
STAFF
Natalie Nielsen Study Director
Heidi Schweingruber, Deputy Director, BOSE
Margaret Hilton, Senior Program Officer, BOSE
Rebecca Krone, Program Associate

http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bose/DBER_Homepage.html

CRITERIA FOR A FIELD

1. **Structural Criteria**
   1. Academic recognition
   2. Research journals
   3. Professional associations
   4. Research conferences
   5. Research centers
   6. Research training
2. **Intra-Research Criteria**
   1. Scientific knowledge
   2. Asking questions
   3. Conceptual and theoretical development
   4. Research methodologies
   5. Progression
   6. Model publications
   7. Seminal publications
3. **Outcome Criteria**
   1. Implications for practice


Maya Lin Boundaries


I feel I exist on the boundaries

Acknowledgement

- We acknowledge the National Science Foundation for funding Karl Smith & Ruth Streveler's participation (DUE 0817461)
  - COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH: Expanding and sustaining research capacity in engineering and technology education: Building on successful programs for faculty and graduate students
- And the University of Florida for hosting this seminar

Thank you!

An e-copy of this presentation will be posted to:
http://CLEERhub.org

University of Florida – Materials Science and Engineering – February 1, 2011

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