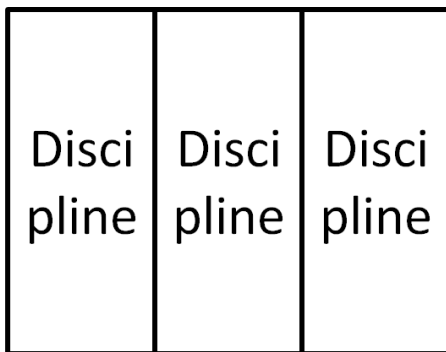


3. Multi, inter or trans?



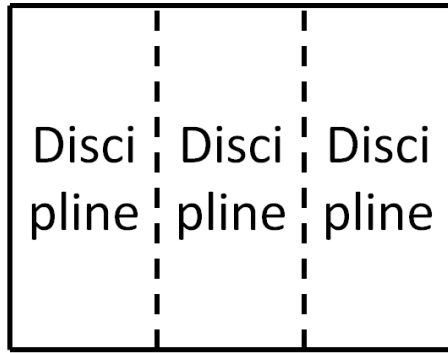
M O N O

Multi, inter and **trans** are often used together or interchangeably. There is often confusion about what they mean exactly. People don't know that there is in fact a difference between them.



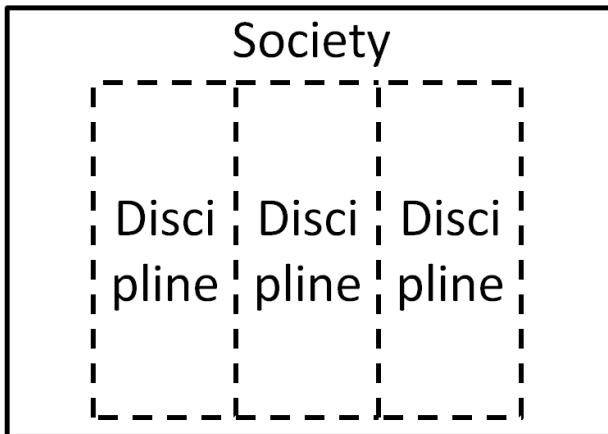
M U L T I

Multidisciplinary is when you bring disciplines together to approach a problem from their perspective. They collaborate, but there is a clear separation between the disciplines during this process. At the end of the project, the disciplines go their own way again and work on other projects. An example is the study of barefoot walking of African communities to develop new shoe designs.



I N T E R

Interdisciplinary means bringing disciplines together to approach a problem from their perspective and they use their combined expertise to develop new tools, models and methods that would be impossible if one discipline would approach them on their own. They create new knowledge that integrates the different perspectives. The result is a new world view by a new discipline. An example is our biomaterials research.



T R A N S

Transdisciplinary is when the collaboration transcends science, when the complex link between science and society explicitly takes the main stage. Non academic input is of equal value as academic input. Stakeholders learn together to find solutions to their problems. An example is ethnography, which brings together ethics, anthropology, sociology, history and more.