56 Indicators of Impact

H-index	Social networking contacts	Meetings with important ppl
G-index	Increased diversity	Invitations to present
Universal H-index	Degree of ID/TD	Invitations to consult
HM-index (standardizes co-authorship)	Degree of transformativity	Invitations to evaluate
Peer review	ID/TD rigor	Protests/demonstrations/ sit-ins
Place of publication	CSID advisors	
# of pubs	Special problem requests with CSID faculty	Coining/debunking phrase or buzzword
# of citations	Internationalization	Trending in social media
Book sales	Grant $	Esteem surveys
~~Article~~ Product downloads	Audience size @ CSID events	Trust/reputation
Website hits	Success of faculty fellows	Rankings
Media mentions	Esteem of senior fellows	Blog mentions
Quotes in media	Success of graduate / UG presentations & grants	Student surveys
Quotes in policy		Student testimonials
Developing a metric that people use	Posters?	Faculty recommendations
Rabble rousing	Impact factor of journals in which CSID publishes	Faculty award/prize
Muckraking		Textbooks
Lawsuits	~~Number of~~ Angry letters from important people	Influencing curriculum creation
Arrests	Mention by policy makers	Participating in public education programs
Cited in testimonials		
Town hall meetings		

In 2011, several core members of the Center for the Study of Interdisciplinarity (CSID) at the University of North Texas held a meeting during which we imagined different ways to indicate the impact of our activities. We scribbled them on the blackboard as they occurred, and the table above is a faithful rendering of what we wrote down – complete with abbreviations. The activity was meant to be fun, as well as serious. We certainly did not imagine at the time that anyone else would be seriously interested in this list. However, when we present at conferences and include this table as one of our slides, many audience members ask where it is published. The answer, it appears, is here – and there is a modified version of the same table published as a correspondence in *Nature*.

Included in the list are not only quantitative indicators of scholarly impact (such as the H-index), but also qualitative indicators that we might be having some impact on the world (such as meetings with, or even angry letters from, important people). We think, especially in an age of increasing demands for accountability, that we academics ought to own impact, rather than having it determined by someone else.

The list was never meant to be authoritative. Generating it was meant, originally, to spur our own imaginations about the various ways we might document the impacts of our research. We publish

it now in an effort to spur your imaginations to tackle the same task for yourselves. We would love to see comments that suggest other indicators of impact, as well as comments on our own suggestions.

Abbreviations:

ID/TD, Interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary, or sometimes interdisciplinarity/transdisciplinarity
UG, Undergraduate
ppl, people

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