

Issues in researching academic identity in different countries:

Reflexive deliberation in international research collaboration: minimising risk and maximising opportunity

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Exploring international collaboration in research

- ✿ Drawing on our experiences of a specific international research collaboration;
- ✿ Rambur's (2009) conceptual framework for multinational research;
- ✿ Archer's (2007) notion of 'reflexive deliberations';
- ✿ Explores factors that enable and constrain progress in collaborative research.

The international research study

Comparative exploration of how academics develop specific academic identities -

- How do mid-career academics think about and act upon the perceived constraints and opportunities for development in their context?
- How do these academics come to position themselves in relation to research and teaching? What has influenced this positioning?




The study

Universities

Australia: 6 universities – 2 GO8; 2 ATNs; and 2 innovative research universities

England: 2 Russell Group; 1 1964; 2 1984?; 1 new

Disciplines

-  Science, Engineering and Technology
-  Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
-  Medical and Health Sciences

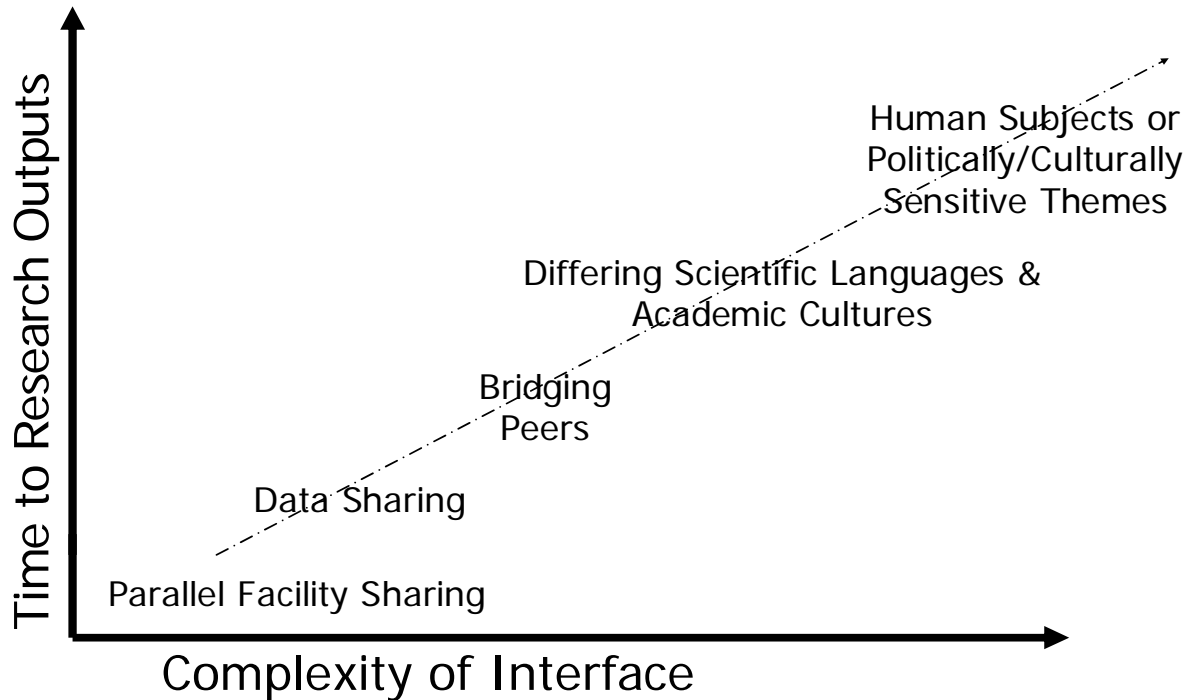
The study: Survey

	Australia	England
Number surveyed	4035	4042
Responses	1098	1033
Gender	54.89 Males 45.11 Females	60.1 Males 39.1 Females
Discipline		
Medicine & Health	19.7%, n=216	10.8%, n=112
Science, Engineering Technology	53.1%, n=583	33.4%, n=345
Social sciences, Humanities, Arts	27.2%, n=299	55.8%, n=576
Completed a doctorate	81.4%, n=894	82.6%, n=815

Archer's three-stage model

1. Structural and cultural properties *objectively* shape the situations that agents confront involuntarily and *inter alia* possess generative powers of constraint and enablement in relation to
2. Subjects' own constellations of concerns, as *subjectively* defined in relation to the three orders of natural reality: nature, practice and the social
3. Courses of action are produced through the *reflexive deliberations* of subjects who subjectively determine their practical projects in relation to their *objective* circumstances (Archer, 2007, p. 17)

Conceptual Framework for Multi-National Research Collaboratives

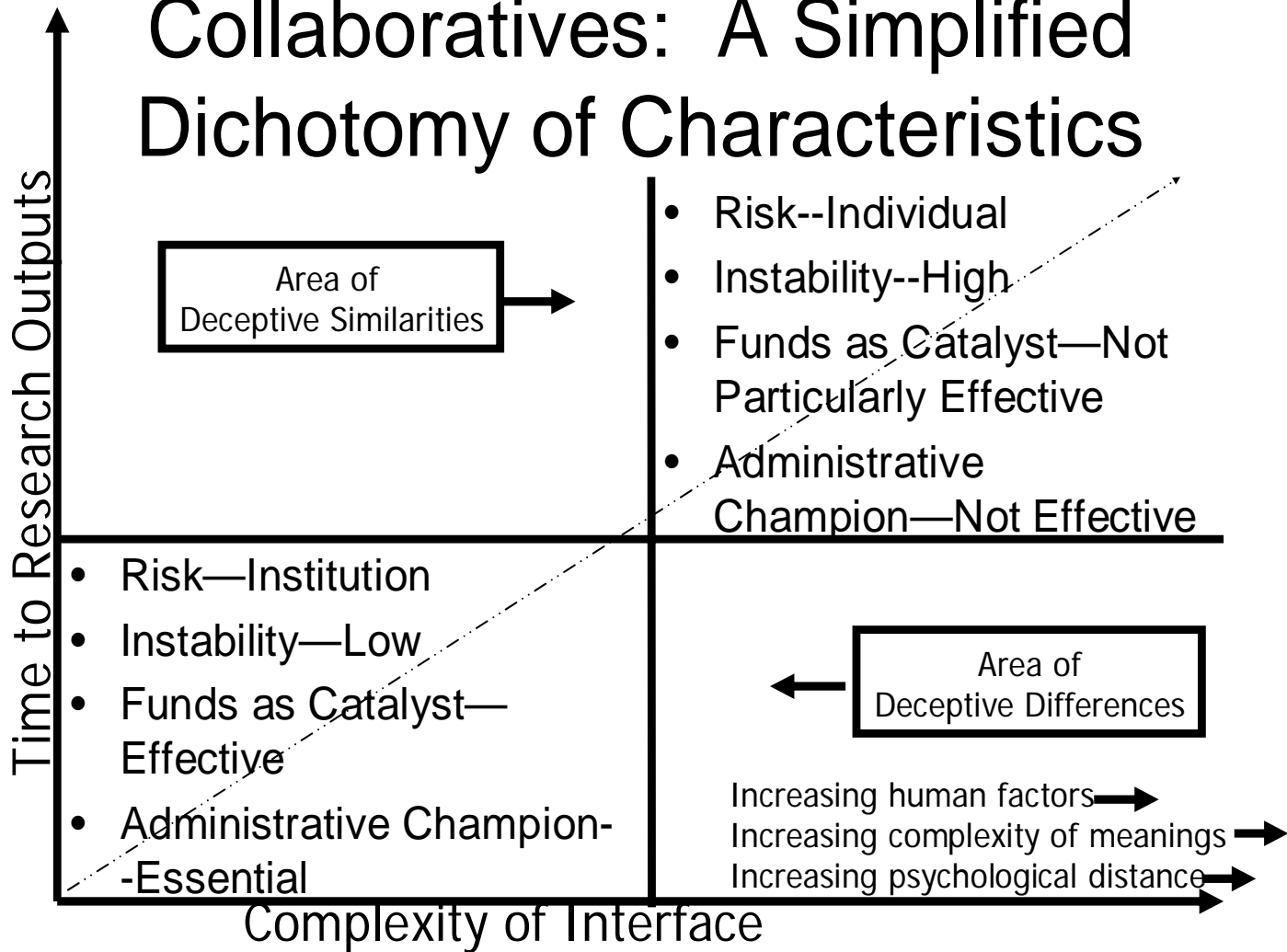


Rambur 2009: 84

Interaction costs

- 🌸 Ethical approval
- 🌸 Research assessment
- 🌸 Technical limitations
- 🌸 Access to participants

Collaboratives: A Simplified Dichotomy of Characteristics



Rambur 2009: 91

The role of structure and agency in managing complexity

- ✿ Structural, institutional and individual risk
- ✿ Funding
- ✿ Communication
- ✿ Working as a research team

Conclusion

- ❁ Reflexive deliberations drawn from a specific international research collaboration;
- ❁ Drawing on theoretical frameworks from Archer (2007) and Rambur (2009) to inform our critical reflections on the processes; strengths and challenges of our joint work
- ❁ Structural constraints and the power of agency identified through reflection on risk and opportunity;
- ❁ Systematic application of personal and collective 'reflexive deliberations' support risk minimisation, managing the complexity and identification of valuable opportunities; can reduce time to outputs.

References

Archer, M. S. (2007). *Making our way through the world: Human reflexivity and social mobility*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Rambur, B. (2009). Creating collaboration: An exploration of multinational research partnerships. In A. Brew & L Lucas (Eds.), *Academic Research and Researchers* (pp. 80-95). Basingstoke, UK: Society for Research into Higher Education and the Open University Press.