



The Association

The Association for Integrative Studies is an organized voice and information source for integrative and interdisciplinary approaches to the discovery, transmission, and application of knowledge. It has actively encouraged research and scholarship in interdisciplinarity for more than 30 years and continues to provide support and guidance for interdisciplinary studies programs worldwide. AIS is dedicated to the idea that interdisciplinary studies is a vital aspect of academic excellence and a crucial strategy for addressing complex real-world problems.



Machiel Keestra, left, of The Netherlands, is among members working on global initiatives on behalf of AIS.

Benefits of Membership

AIS offers interdisciplinary teachers, administrators, graduate students, and independent scholars a collegial and nurturing environment at conferences and through our publications and resource-rich website. We provide resources for keeping abreast of research on interdisciplinary curriculum development and teaching and learning and assist in the development of interdisciplinary studies programs. AIS is a productive forum for the exchange of ideas concerning interdisciplinary and integrative issues.



"I discovered AIS early on, as a grad student interested in interdisciplinary studies, and the organization has really enhanced my development as a teacher and scholar: It's given me an academic home ..."

—James Welch, University of Texas at Arlington

"AIS has provided an intellectual home, resources, and stature for me to successfully develop and run our interdisciplinary seminar ... This reaps rewards for our students, giving them an advantage in applying for employment or graduate school. AIS members are among the most collegial and sharing of any professional organization I have been involved in throughout more than 30 years as a professor."

—Marilyn Tayler, Montclair State University



Association for Integrative Studies

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Your professional association for interdisciplinary studies



"The search for common ground is the fundamental element of all interdisciplinary investigation."

—Joseph Kockelmans, 1979

AIS website:
www.muohio.edu/ais



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Our Mission

The Association:

- Promotes the interchange of ideas among scholars, teachers, administrators, and the public regarding interdisciplinarity and integration;
- Advocates best-practice techniques for interdisciplinary teaching;
- Advocates best-practice techniques for interdisciplinary research;
- Advances the exploration of key terms and seeks out new theoretical models essential to interdisciplinarity and integration;
- Sustains the development of real-world applications of interdisciplinarity and integration;
- Encourages high quality interdisciplinary curriculum development at both the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- Sponsors the development of standards for interdisciplinary program accreditation;
- Offers best-practice methods for assessing interdisciplinary programs and coursework;
- Encourages the development of administrative structures, personnel policies, and financial models in higher education that support interdisciplinary teaching and research;
- Promotes the scholarship of interdisciplinary and integrative teaching and learning;
- Supports the development of strategies for strengthening the role of interdisciplinarity and integration within (and beyond) the Academy;
- Documents the importance of interdisciplinary and integrative studies for higher education and society in general.



Presenter Ken Fuchsman takes questions during a conference session.

Who Are We?

AIS members are teachers, administrators, graduate students, and independent scholars engaged in interdisciplinary instruction and research, as well as institutions with programs in interdisciplinary studies. Our commitment to interdisciplinarity creates a collegial environment of diversity and encourages the open-minded exchange of information and ideas.

"It was a revelation to me as a first-timer to discover such a warm, sharing, practical but at the same time theoretically and conceptually sophisticated group."

—Attendee, 2006 AIS Conference, Atlanta

Annual Conference

AIS conferences attract teachers, administrators, graduate students, and independent scholars from around the world with a keen interest in developing research and instruction in interdisciplinary studies. Conference sessions reflect the wide range of viewpoints that distinguish interdisciplinarity, within an atmosphere of mutual respect, interest, and encouragement. Our conferences provide a fruitful opportunity for networking and interdisciplinary problem-solving.



Julie Thompson Klein speaks at a conference.

Publications

AIS Newsletter—This quarterly publication supplies AIS members with reviews, articles, and updates in interdisciplinary studies.

Issues in Integrative Studies—The AIS annual, peer-reviewed journal presents scholarship on interdisciplinary theory and methodology, the nature of integrative research, practices of interdisciplinary curriculum and pedagogy, and the status of the field. It is a wonderful forum for emerging scholars. Back issues, along with other electronic resources, are available to members through our website.

Connections

AIS promotes interconnectivity in numerous ways. We have compiled electronic directories of related organizations and interdisciplinary doctoral and master's programs. Participation in our email list provides a forum for information, discussion, and debate. Our website also identifies current job postings in interdisciplinary fields.

Resources and Assistance

AIS provides a reference list of qualified interdisciplinarians who are available to visit campuses and provide assistance in initiating, developing, modifying, or evaluating interdisciplinary programs or curricula. Our website offers exemplary interdisciplinary syllabi for program development, along with an extensive bibliography of important interdisciplinary scholarship.

"We found superb external evaluators through AIS. [They] were perceptive, knowledgeable, experienced, thoughtful, and thorough in their report. We have been able to implement most all of their recommendations. Huge thanks."

—Patricia La Noue, University of Maryland, Baltimore County