Contents

Foreword x
Preface xi

Chapter 1: Introduction 1
  Challenges and opportunities 3
  On quality 4
  Background 5
  A note on terminology 7
  Notes 9

Chapter 2: Beyond CP Snow 11
  Quantitative and qualitative studies 12
  Improved understanding and quality 13
  Drawing on commonalities 14
  Context dependence and quantification 18
  Interpretation and context 21
  Notes 23

Chapter 3: Questioning to learn and learning to question 24
  Part I: Interdisciplinary expectations (Questions 1 to 3) 25
  Part II: Transacademic aspirations (Questions 4 and 5) 26
  Part III: Academic rigour (Questions 6 to 10) 27
  Notes 29

Chapter 4: Why do you conduct interdisciplinary work? 30
  Where do you position yourself on the reflection scale? (Question 1) 30
  To what end are you using knowledge from different disciplines? (Question 2) 37
  What makes your work interdisciplinary? (Question 3) 42
  Notes 46
Chapter 5: Why do you interact with society? 48
Academic knowledge and decision-making 48
Who participates in which part of the study and how? (Question 4) 51
Why do you interact with society? (Question 5) 56
A word of warning: Don’t be snobbish 58
Notes 59

Chapter 6: Rigorous but not rigid 61
On quality assessment 63
Confusing form and credibility – an example 64
Communication 67
Notes 73

Chapter 7: Marking your playground 74
Framing 75
Aim 79
Operationalizing the aim 82
Confusing interdisciplinarity with “Everything” 84
Notes 85

Chapter 8: Evidence that holds for scrutiny 86
How or why? 87
Common procedures 90
Mixing various types of empirical evidence 100
Notes 100

Chapter 9: Anchoring your canoe 101
Clarifying your sources 102
Anchoring your frame 103
Anchoring your method 106
Notes 110

Chapter 10: Analysis 111
Defining “analysis” 112
Clarifying the own, the new 115
Relevant literature – your canon 116
Common knowledge 119
Original research 119
Textbooks 122
The style of recognized scholars 124
Passive and active voice 126
Notes 129
Chapter 11: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

Headings 132
Where do I place the reflections? 135
Where do I describe the context? 136
References 137
Notes 141

Chapter 12: Being interdisciplinary

Creating an open and respectful climate 143
Hierarchies that impair 144
Humbleness and courage 147
Outstanding studies 148
Dialogue, feedback and how to manage supervisors 149
Notes 150

References

Primary sources 152
Secondary sources 154

Index 158