

# B10i: Key Trends in IP Research: A Macrosociological Analysis from 1970 to 2010

Laura Bekes

## Key trends in interprofessional research: A Macrosociological analysis from 1970 to 2010

Laura Bekes  
on behalf of  
Scott Reeves, Elise Paradis  
University of California, San Francisco



## Background

- Increasing need for effective interprofessional collaboration (e.g. quality/safety, chronic illnesses, workforce shortages)
- Expansion of interprofessional education and practice activities – globally
- Growth of interprofessional research

## Questions

- How has the IP field grown over time?
- How wide is its reach?
- Which concepts and keywords have researchers used over time?

## Methods

- Macro-sociology
- Focus on international process of legitimation:
  - How novel ideas emerge and become 'institutionalized' (e.g. taken for granted)

## Examples

- Expansion of higher education around the world (Frank & Meyer, 2007)
- Importance of science (Drori et al 2003)
- Rise of the human rights (Meyer et al 2010)
- Growth of obesity-related knowledge production (Paradis, 2011)

## Theoretical Lens

- Pierre Bourdieu
- Focus on power struggles within the academic domain
- Use of Bourdieu's concepts of field, capital and symbolic struggle to illuminate process of academic status and legitimacy

# B10i: Key Trends in IP Research: A Macrosociological Analysis from 1970 to 2010

Laura Bekes

## Focus

1. Investigate the growth of interprofessional research and discuss its representation in various publications
2. Document the evolution of language use in the interprofessional literature.
3. Explore how interprofessional research as a field trying to establish academic legitimacy

## Data Collection

- PubMed search of interprofessional-related articles
- 1970-2010 time period
- Key terms – interprofessional\*, inter-professional\*, multi-professional\*, multiprofessional\*, multidisciplinary\*, multidisciplinary\*, interdisciplinary\*
- Yield: 100,488 articles, from 1970-2010

## Analysis

- 436 keywords were identified using key texts in the IP literature; 202 countries covered
- Data were input into a Python-language computer program that coded the titles of all 100,488 articles into a binary matrix (0=keyword not present; 1=keyword present)
- Data were aggregated and mapped over time using SPSS 17

## Findings

Fig. 1: IP Articles in and as a Percent of PubMed, 1970-2010

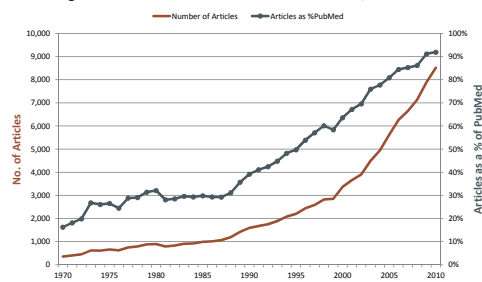


Fig. 2: Number of Journals that Published IP Research, 1970-2010

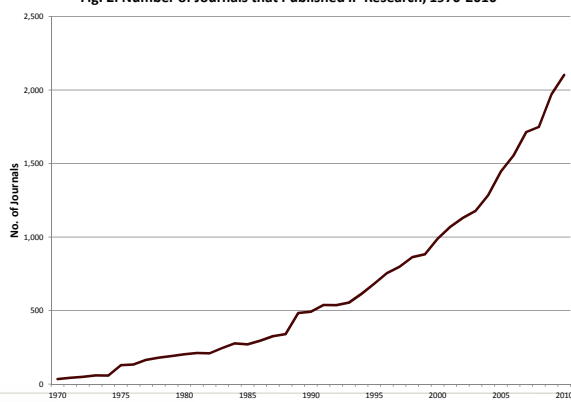
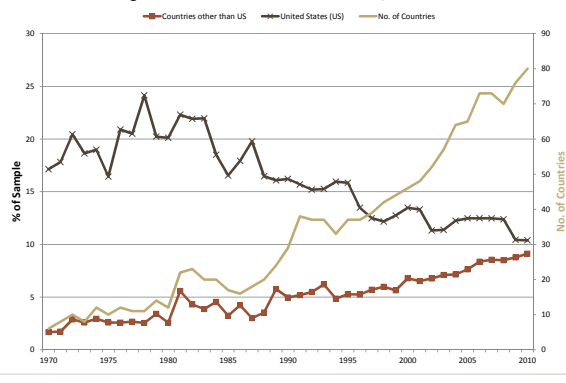
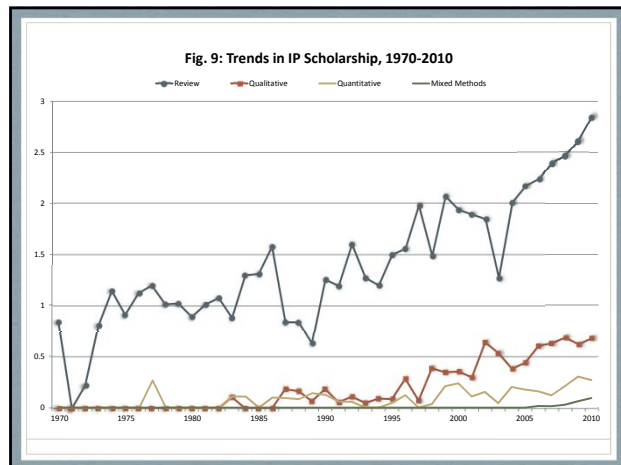
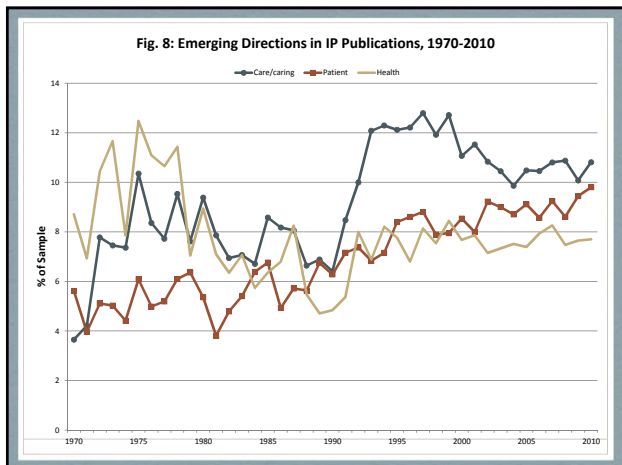
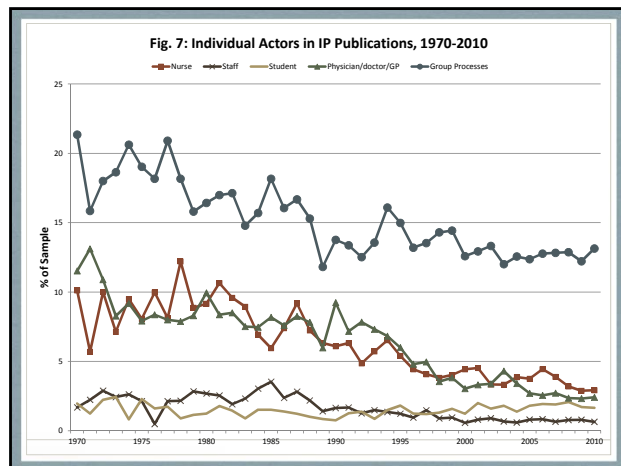
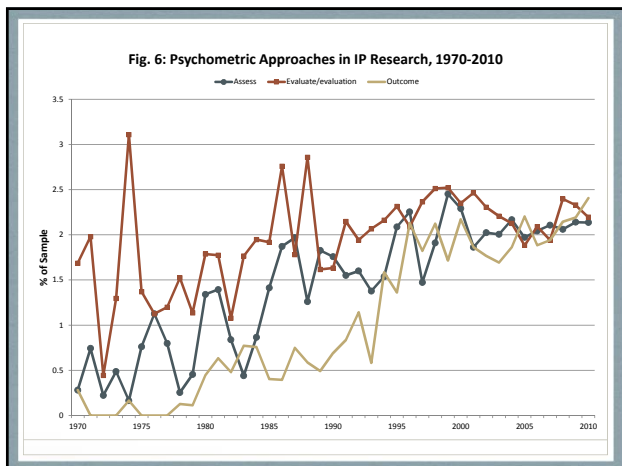
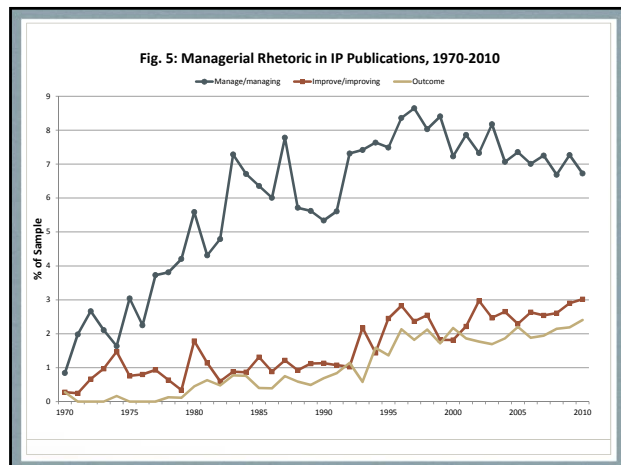
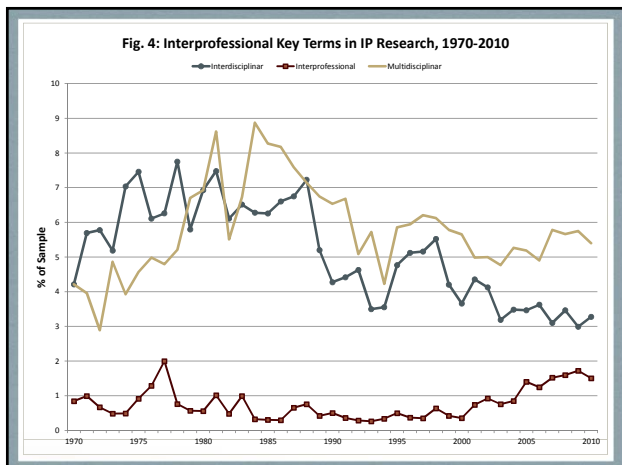


Fig. 3: Internationalization of IP Research, 1970-2010



# B10i: Key Trends in IP Research: A Macrosociological Analysis from 1970 to 2010

Laura Bekes



## B10i: Key Trends in IP Research: A Macrosociological Analysis from 1970 to 2010

Laura Bekes

### Discussion

- Continuous growth of interprofessional – research publications
- 'Interprofessional' more common since 2000
- Rise of management rhetoric & psychometrics: focus mirrors broader trends
- Decline in individual professions
- Rise in the use of the terms 'care/caring' and 'patient' – patient advocacy, user involvement and patient-centered care

- Bourdieu's framework – interprofessional research process of legitimization:
  - High impact journals
  - International reach
- Symbolic struggle:
  - Terminological issues – 'interprofessional', 'interdisciplinary', 'multidisciplinary'
  - Psychometric paradigm – metrics and assessment

### Questions?

Paradis E & Reeves S (forthcoming) Key trends in interprofessional research: a macrosociological analysis from 1970 to 2010. *J Interprof Care*.

DOI: 10.3109/13561820.2012.719943  
<http://informahealthcare.com/toc/jic/0/0>

[Scott.Reeves@ucsf.edu](mailto:Scott.Reeves@ucsf.edu)  
[Elise.Paradis@ucsf.edu](mailto:Elise.Paradis@ucsf.edu)