

Take note of the diversity of points that people noted (after only 2+ hours of the workshop)

how to extend what we did

Observation Lack of focus

Here is the compilation of responses from the short survey, completed (midway) during the Creative Thinking in Epidemiology workshop on 21 September. The symbols and lines indicate some common threads that struck me as someone thinking about building on the experience and making changes in future workshops of this kind. Others may pick up on other threads and see other commonalities. PT

✓ = same point made by > 1 person
M = a tension

1. Name one incident/comment/reaction/quote that stands out from this session(s).

Look at data in non-traditional ways / David's comments about "grade dependency" rethinking / David's comments: great discoveries based on observations, not reams of data + techniques / Ways your ideas are presented is important / Role of academy in fostering thinking / People come into epidemiology incidentally / "Flaw" when doing work / A different look (2nd born gender imbalance in Indian families, who quits smoking)

2a. What excited you?

Triggers a creative process within me - a pull toward datasets I've worked with; how looking at the data in non-traditional ways... could help understand story differently / Humpty Dumpty & excessive reductionism / Most of us are not epidemiologists at all + are seeking different ways of improving our work / approach / Commonality of ideas/problems shared / Getting different perspectives / Hearing people talk about moments of prof., scholarly creativity

2b. What frustrated or perplexed you?

How to find colleagues + time to pursue the process / Observation vs. intervention / There is a 'kernel' of insight or depth of understanding that is being missed - perhaps another session would help? / Varying levels of depth of thinking / General sense of too little time for important things - whose fault? / Nothing

3a. What ideas are you going to chew on, develop, inquire into, or put into practice? (Feel free to take more time on this question.)

1. Explore ways to revise the stale epi. tasks we set for our med. students. 2. Explore possible connections w/ people attending the workshop / Peter's concept a brief discussion paper w/ structured discussion (use to strat. dev't in dept & w/ grad-students) / Need time to creatively think vs. timelines for projects / How to organize workshop / scientific school for better research output / Providing opportunities for non-epid. in epi. projects / Reversing logic; data mining outside of current hypotheses

Emphasize plate-injury

3b. For the group as a whole, what patterns or trends do you see in the lines of INQUIRY or CONTRIBUTIONS to the TOPIC of the project?

Analyzing data in non-traditional ways / Context of screening / Data mining + novel approaches to data handling / We are only touching the surface, tho' some good points made / Questions varied; opinions wide / Interpretations are broad / Visualization of results. Openmindedness of researcher. !? / Parallels: mortality changes in C. elegans vs. UK women; seeing patterns; historical perspectives; change encounters / Observations in all contexts; seeing what happens + noting irregularities

3c. For the group as a whole, what patterns or trends do you see in the PROCESS of our INTERACTIONS and contributions?

Openness to acknowledge what others say & how one's thinking aligns with it / Desire to communicate more / Different directions in how to tackle common problems / Openness to hearing others' high / Everyone is encouraged to contribute / Sharing riskier communication

4. What requests/suggestions/support needs do you have as a learner-participant in this project?

A bit more clarity around what it is we are to discuss, esp. the 2nd activity / How to continue this process after today. / Making time!! / Followup session - will motivate us to begin reflective journal. / Email contacts for participants. / Let's be more specific... More cases of observation

Here is the compilation of responses from the short survey, completed midway during the Creative Thinking in Epidemiology workshop on 21 September. The symbols ~~and lines~~ indicate some common threads that struck me as someone thinking about building on the experience and making changes in future workshops of this kind. Others may pick up on other threads and see other commonalities. PT

1. Name one incident/comment/reaction/quote that stands out from this session(s).

Lack of observation in current training vs. emphasis on laboratory discovery /
"How you name what you look at influences the solution you find"
Our brains don't know how they think! / "Students at universities aren't taught to think creatively anymore"
The exact timing of the talking - no overruns / Sharing of ideas or thoughts

2a. What excited you?

Different perspectives of similar issues - unfamiliar approaches / Openness + diversity in the room
Non-linear ideas to support linear ideas / Experienced researchers attending & interested in creative thinking
Interesting + pleasant discussions, presentations / Very diverse experiences & backgrounds
Creative thinking: What, how, why, why

2b. What frustrated or perplexed you?

Trying to consider researcher/academic focus vs. my own applied settings
More practical examples would have been helpful / Not so much digging deep in response to the discussion paper
Lack of direction or focus w.r.t. topics discussed (but this allowed total free speech)
Lack of a common goal / Is there an antonym for creativity? What is it not happening?

3a. What ideas are you going to chew on, develop, inquire into, or put into practice? (Feel free to take more time on this question.)

Renewed interest in "observation" as important tool for discovery / Giving epi. students a practicum experience that allows them to pursue creative thinking (on their own)
Data mining. Push staff/student into non-linear hours /
Discussions around visual representations. / Knowledge of the individuals who have some interest in this issue
Taking less predictable paths w.r.t. research endeavors
Learn to appreciate another person's ideas + thoughts before criticizing them

3b. For the group as a whole, what patterns or trends do you see in the lines of INQUIRY or CONTRIBUTIONS to the TOPIC of the project?

Observation being important & possibly lost / - / Very broad topic / Topic of this project is nebulous (perhaps that has to be)
People are thinking, exploring, evaluating, making connections

3c. For the group as a whole, what patterns or trends do you see in the PROCESS of our INTERACTIONS and contributions?

Generally strong engagement + contributions / - / Making space for discussions about the non-urgent
I don't understand this question given that process is controlled by leader / A diversity
They are interactive, responding to one another

4. What requests/suggestions/support needs do you have as a learner-participant in this project?

Looking for more to put into the tool box / Some key background papers would be helpful.
Difficult to "learn" creativity in the workshop - probably requires practice
Define "creativity" - examine differences b/w being creative & non-creative