

Here is the compilation of responses from the short survey, completed midway during the workshop on 19 September. The color coding indicates 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).

"next big idea" in epidemiology to move it forward (and not incrementally)

"They don't fund malaria."

Discouraged by epi

how quickly the discussion moved to admissions of difficulty with epidemiology as a discipline

I am disturbed by epidemiology

"uncomfortable with epidemiology"

one person thinking of discomfort with epi made other people think the same

i feel uncomfortable with epidemiology

hearing from epidemiologists about discomfort with the profession

Paul's comments were a great summary of many issues in epi

general discomfort w/ epi methods

study of population<->individual; for some reports we need to explain something, not just the value

epidemiologists disillusioned w/ epi; biostatistician troubled by statistics

2a. What excited you?

The possibility that epidemiology can be used to make a big change in one swoop (or perhaps one study?)

Many people willing to collaborate in a cross disciplinary way.

Not much yet

The amount of interest evident in the group

Everyone speaking their thoughts

people talking after freewrite

the way that people opened up as they started talking

richness of experience of participants

learning tools/processes for finding creativity

It's been a while since I've done anything like this so I found it very interesting

the number of non-epidemiologists in attendance

communicate with others

2b. What frustrated or perplexed you ?

that the process is started and cannot be completed without much additional work

Frustration that I cannot continue school (lack of money).

Why epidemiologist seem so confined in their thinking

How easy it was to move off the suggested topic, and to follow on to previous comments. Themes

set by first speakers

Long duration

discussion paper not directly discussed

even people who teach epi or bio stats can have different or opposing ideas about epi/biostats

lack of direction or focus

my own lack of ideas/insights

Wondering how to implement

the redundancy of the comments

not learning more epidemiology knowledge

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.)

Epidemiology as a driver for a big change Thinking about populations versus individuals "I don't believe in statistics but I teach it."

More reading, but more asking epidemiologists to be proactive in the public health arena as opposed to just chroniclers of events.

Collaborate!

Not sure

Individual vs population effects; how to handle the shortcomings of our accepted methods

What are the limitations of epidemiology

graduate students choose to come to workshops like this; established researchers tend not to creative thinking can be difficult when one thinks alone but can be easy when multiple people think & provide the ideas

how to introduce depth into group dynamics

the ideas of cross-disciplinary work/discussion, not just w/in science/health, but in more tangential study, i.e., history

How to put some of this into action

what exactly is "creativity" in the context of epi. science & method? how can researchers apply creative ideas responsibly without sacrificing validity?

learn more epidemiology knowledge; apply them in paper

problem of making sense of a body of literature gap b/w what epi/stats says about a populations and what that means for the individual role of money/politics/institutions in directing creativity

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?

the idea that everyone may bring their own "baggage" regarding epi whether its the interpretation of research, or funding, etc

I see a lot of people nodding and agreeing with others -- realizing that many have had the same thoughts and the need to try or consider something different.

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Some people had discomfort with funding issues

people here have made moves already => explore why and get insight into future move-ability there is a connection b/w each person's thinking and this trend continues

inquiries **regarding the "bigger picture" -- how epi research fits into the world, into science, and health promotion**

Discomfort with the field

discomfort with epi; enigma of "knowing"

discussion and present some problems

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

whoever speaks first drives the conversation for a while; perhaps others want to explore other inquiry

I see respectful listening and building upon others' ideas.

Good listening and respect

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People picked up on the theme followed by first 2 speakers

large size of this group is too large for following up on what people say

the pattern of thinking (sometime what the other person thinks and sometimes what they think)

process is good but disjointed

building off what each other says, building on an idea or facets of an idea rather than lots of new ideas

The initial comments sets the tone and topic

follow-the-leader

present some questions
close listening, making connections

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

More time to be able to process the work

More seminars, please! (I'll carry your books!)

Would like more suggestions rather than focusing on negatives.

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Shorter time

this is a good way for people to interact and it would work superbly in a classroom for students

difficult to articulate what has been learned, apart from process

examples of what people consider creative ideas

make more discussions about the topic