Injury prevention: an intranational, multinational, international, transnational or global journal?

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I might have asked the question, ‘Does Injury Prevention publish intradisciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary or global research?’. While I did not on this occasion, the analogy is useful in its identification of the critical aspects of the question asked.

A discipline is a clearly delineated area of study supported by an internally consistent epistemology.1 Intradisciplinary research works within the boundaries that circumscribe the discipline. Multidisciplinary research draws knowledge from different disciplines, and summatively, combines this knowledge to create new insights.2 Interdisciplinary research compares and contrasts knowledge from different disciplines, explores the links and interactions between them and uses the between-discipline dynamic to generate knowledge.3 Transdisciplinary research dissolves the disciplinary boundaries and uses the disciplinary DNA from a number of sources to create a new epistemological entity.4 Global research goes one step beyond this into the realm of methodological pluralism, with the obligatory integration of multiple perspectives in a globally consistent approach to the development of new knowledge.5

Injury Prevention receives manuscripts describing the nature and extent of the injury problem in the authors’ country of residence, from authors resident in countries across the globe. These intranational research reports are of high value particularly to citizens of the relevant country, as they help focus intervention effort on country-specific factors, but instead use material from many countries to develop approaches that could be adopted by any. It is understandably difficult for individual researchers or research groups to conduct and publish work of this scale. However, given the important impact of transnational injury prevention activity, the field may benefit from researchers’ increased efforts to organise themselves into large transnational collectives.

The Journal is also global, at least in the sense that its focus is on publishing the science that can be used to support the injury-related health of all people wherever they are and wherever they live. The Journal accepts a plurality of disciplines and acknowledges the importance of integrating knowledge from different countries, regions and perspectives in the pursuit of useful evidence.

I would argue Injury Prevention is it all: an intranational, multinational, international, transnational and a global scientific journal. I am not so sure though, how many would agree.

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