Organizational design and reflexivity: What I have (and have not) learned from starting, designing and managing three interdisciplinary research centers

What factors relate to the origins and life cycles of interdisciplinary research centers? Bozeman discusses the politics, organizational issues, successes and disappointments associated with the Center for Technology and Information Policy (Syracuse University’s Maxwell School), the Research Value Mapping Program (Georgia Tech), the Center for Organization and Design (ASU) and also throws in a few tidbits about the early history of the Consortium for Science Policy and Outcomes. Having studied STEM interdisciplinary research centers and research collaboration for two decades, he also notes some points of convergence and disparity between the research literature and his own experience.

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Barry Bozeman is Regents Professor and Arizona Centennial Professor of Science and Technology and Public Management, School of Public Policy. His research focuses on research collaboration, innovation studies, public values, and bureaucracy and organization theory. His most recent book is “Strength in Numbers: The New Science of Team Science”, written with Jan Youtie (Princeton University Press, 2017).