

## **CHANDRA!**

*Thanks... explanation of project ...*

Tell us about your personal history pre-UCSD ... — Where from etc.

Our “RQ” guiding interviews for this: The UCSD comm dept. is described *ad nauseum* as a haven for interdisciplinary research. But what does that really mean in practice?

- Difference between multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary?
- We’ll get into the history of the dept., but it is unusual for a department to start out with the goal of interdisciplinary work, yes? (Usually come to that later...)

*Her work...*

Tell us about your work, and how it meets some standard of interdisciplinary inquiry...

- What are the main themes that have contributed to your work?

You came from sociology ...

- Hist of comm study has same trajectory: started in sociology, burst the banks ...

How do you bring an interdisciplinary approach to teaching (undergraduates)?

- In designing coursework, how unusual is it (for a comm program) to reach far and wide for sources, theory, etc.?
- Christina took your Gender & Science course...

How does this interdisciplinary concept connect to the work you’ve done on distributed cognition, on connecting material things to cultural patterns? (Does it?)

Has the Internet made interdisciplinary approaches inevitable?

*Dept. history ...*

I’ve been reading some of the foundational documents/proposals for this dept. ...

Creating a Communication Department was very controversial idea here! Why?

- The 1984 status report, opening line: “Since its inception over a decade ago, the program in Communications at UCSD has generated more controversy in the committees of the Senate than any other single issue.”
- What was the controversy?

Why reach broadly? Why not hire a bunch of people who focus solely on communication? (Is there such a thing?)

- Original proposal document, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: “The Communications Program at UCSD is an interdisciplinary undergraduate social science curriculum.”
- 1981 proposal, proposes a dept. where “humanists and social scientists teach courses together, sit at the same faculty meetings, and find ‘interdisciplinary’ work less an experiment than an obvious requirement and less a bold departure than an element in everyday work life.”