Integration of Theory, Research, and Practice: A Social Cognitive Perspective

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Integration... What do we mean?

- Integration across theories versus...
- Integration within theories

[Diagram showing integration between theories: SCCT Theory, SCCT Research, SCCT Practice]
Important Aspects of Theories

- Explanatory system
- Testable hypotheses to guide research and, potentially, practice
- Immediate implications for practice are a plus, not a necessity
What are the Barriers to Theory-Research-Practice Integration?
Beware the Silos

Research Theory Practice
“Birds of a feather...”
Bridging the Investigative/Artistic – Social Gap
Some Solutions – None really original

- **Theory-Research Linkages** – theorists need to provide:
  - Clear definitions of central concepts
  - Testable hypotheses
  - Research showing how the theory can be tested
  - Accessible and (ideally) free measures
Some Solutions

- Theory-Practice Linkages – facilitated by
  - Provision of case examples by theorists
  - Research creating and testing theory-based interventions
  - Theorists working with creative practitioners
Some Solutions

- **Research-Practice Linkages** – facilitated by
  - Researchers avoiding pursuit of complexity as an end in itself
  - Practitioners seeing “practice-far” research as part of programmatic inquiry
  - Collaborations, dialogues, attendance at same conferences