

Navigating the SoTLscape: a scholar's guide to a complex space

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- Q1: What does a more-than-three-dimensional landscape look like?
Q2: Can illustration contribute to SoTL?

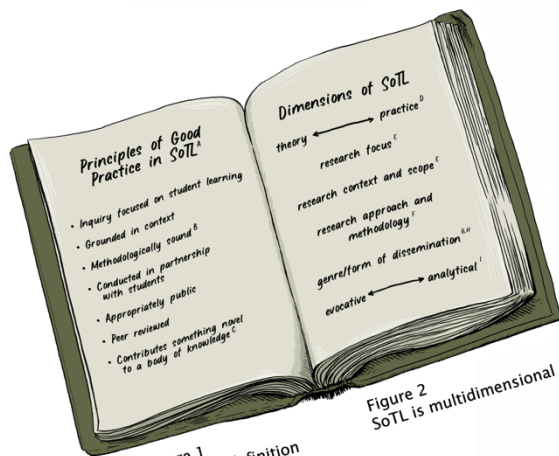


Figure 1
A working definition

Figure 2
SoTL is multidimensional

Figure 3
Theory as scaffolding

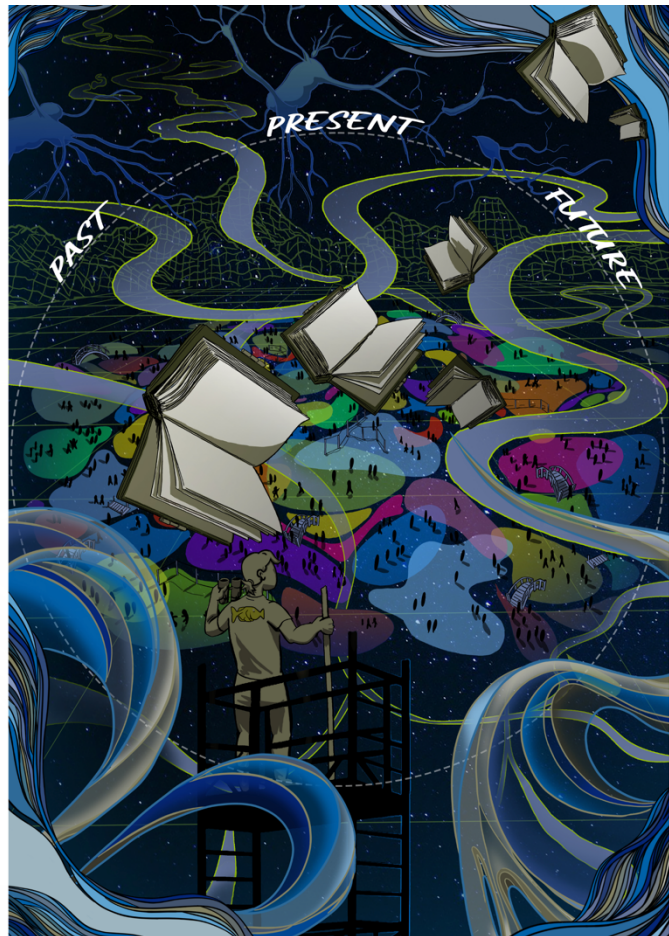


Figure 1. A Working Definition of SoTL:

When talking about SoTL, I've learned over time to start by describing what I mean by the term and trying to find common ground. This is my working definition (A. Felten 2013; B. Miller-Young and Yeo 2015; C. Kanuka 2011).

Figure 2. SoTL is Multidimensional:

In math and physics, the dimension of a space is the number of characteristics needed to describe a location within it. (A landscape implies three dimensions (North-South, East-West, Up-Down). Time is usually defined as the fourth dimension and more than four dimensions allows for time travel.) To me, any given SoTL project could be described by up to 6 dimensions (D. Roxå, Olsson, and Mårtensson 2008; E. Paul, Seniuk Cicek, and Rodrigues 2023; F. Yeo, Miller-

Young, and Manarin (forthcoming); G. Cook-Sather, Abbot, and Felten 2019; H. Poole and Chick 2022; I. Halpern 2023).

Figure 3. Theory as Scaffolding:

The SoTLscape consists of a complex system of overlapping disciplinary and multidisciplinary communities of practice and boundary spaces (Kensington-Miller et al. 2021; Miller-Young, Yeo and Manarin 2023; Wenger 2000).

Theory and literature are the scaffolding scholars can use to be able to see across communities and therefore to situate their findings and ideas in an existing scholarly conversation and to build upon prior work; they also recognize the socially constructed nature of this scaffolding and therefore that their perspectives may change over time (Behari-Leak 2020; Patton and McMahon 2014).

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