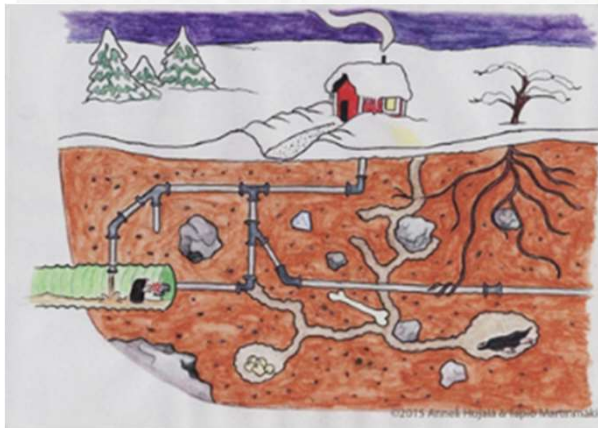


# Four meta-theoretical ways to view IC

## What is Integrated Care?

Imagine that IC is an apple tree. You can see an apple tree in different ways during different seasons. Similarly, you can view IC (and related cross-boundary collaboration between sectors, units and professionals) from different perspectives (i.e. meta-theoretical approaches).



### Spring (pragmatism/practice-based approach)

IC is realized in everyday practices and routines. Do e.g. financial procedures support cross-boundary collaboration between actors from different sectors or units?

### Winter (critical realism)

The success or failure of IC depends on (hidden) causal mechanisms. Structures or cultural differences may complicate actors' cross-boundary collaboration.

### Summer (social constructionism)

IC is constituted in talk and interaction by people. What and how do we speak about IC? Is collaboration a resource or are we defending our own positions and thus defending 'silos'?

### Autumn (phenomenology)

Everyone experiences IC in her/his own way. Emotions, values – and even unconscious embodied experiences – affect our willingness to collaborate.

**As a manager or scholar, do you identify your own assumptions behind your IC thinking?**

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Please read more from our forthcoming article and from this book chapter: Hujala Anneli, Laulainen Sanna, Brookes Andy, Lammasaari Maarit & Mulherin Tamara 2019. Four Different Ways to View Wicked Problems. In *The Management of Wicked Problems in Health and Social Care* (ed. By Will Thomas, Anneli Hujala & Sanna Laulainen), Routledge, New York, 211-234. You are welcome to contact us: [anneli.hujala@uef.fi](mailto:anneli.hujala@uef.fi)



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