

Virtual workshop

Benefits and challenges of collaboration in research

**Investigating the manifold aspects of mono-, inter-
and transdisciplinary collaboration**

organised by the **German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)**,
the **Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf**, Faculty of Arts and Humanities,
Department of Communication and Media Studies, and

The Stifterverband

Location: Virtual workshop, hosted by the DZHW

Date: November 4th, 2021

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Call for Papers

Benefits and challenges of collaboration in research

Increasing interorganizational, national and international, and inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration is a megatrend in science (Wagner & Leydesdorff 2005; Bozeman et al. 2013; Bozeman & Boardman 2014; Hall et al. 2018). The number of papers published by teams in co-authorship is steadily increasing, with more than one-third of all papers being published by international teams (Huang 2015; Nabout et al. 2015; Wagner et al. 2015). Since scientific collaboration is considered vital to address complex challenges in research specifically and more generally for society as a whole, it has become an essential part of knowledge production, being associated with various advantages (e.g. synergies, pooling of resources and expertise). Working in diverse teams across disciplinary, organizational, or cultural boundaries is expected to increase the likelihood of discovery and

innovation in science and high-impact research (Wuchty et al. 2007; Uzzi et al. 2013). However, scientific collaboration is also facing manifold challenges (e.g. transaction costs, trust, power struggles and reciprocity among collaborating partners, or heterogeneity of disciplinary and epistemic cultures). Further, as institutions and individuals compete for resources and reputation, the question arises how collaboration is possible under conditions of prevailing competition in science (e.g. van den Besselaar et al. 2012).

To date, however, little research has examined the determinants of successful collaboration – and its effects – in research. Accordingly, central concerns requiring attention and desiderata include the following:

- How can collaboration be *successfully organized* in large teams and what are the *boundary conditions* for successful research collaboration?
- Which *collaboration problems* arise and what are their *causes*?
- How can these problems be *solved at different levels*?
- Which *effects* do they have on the success and productivity of research collaboration and how do actors *deal* with these problems?
- Which *specifications* can research funding agencies apply to facilitate collaborative research and implement appropriate governance structures?

Studies that address the manifestations, conditions, challenges, and effects of scientific collaboration are methodologically based on different levels and on different approaches. An important approach to detecting collaborative relationships and analysing the impact of collaboration via co-authorships is bibliometric analyses (Subramanyam 1983; Gänzel et al. 1999; Gänzel 2002). However, there exist internal dynamics of collaborative relationships and forms of collaboration that cannot be analysed on the basis of publications and citations (Shrum et al. 2001; Laudel 2002; Shrum et al. 2007; Bozeman et al. 2016; Bozeman & Youtie 2016; Dusdal & Powell 2021). For this purpose, besides bibliometrics different research approaches are of interest for contributions to the workshop, such as in-depth case studies, interviews, and surveys that embrace the perspectives and experiences of scientific team members or the actors involved in the implementation and management of collaborative research projects.

The one-day workshop is dedicated to scientific collaboration as an interdisciplinary object of investigation. It aims at bringing together scholars that study the practices, outcomes, and effects of collaboration from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives and with different methodological approaches. With this in mind, we welcome theoretical and empirical submissions that focus on the above and related issues. We particularly welcome micro-level perspectives that focus on the internal dynamics within research networks and mixed-methods approaches that link patterns of collaborative behaviour on both the meso and micro level (e.g. in terms of inter-/transdisciplinarity or internationality) with these internal dynamics as well as submissions that centre on the interplay between science policy and science production in a macro level perspective. In addition to scientific findings, concrete practical suggestions for improving collaboration in research alliances are also of interest.

Workshop presentations should be approximately **20 minutes** in length and will allow 10-15 minutes for discussion. Working language of the workshop is English. Please send your proposals to the following e-mail address by **31 July 2021**: collaboration-in-research@dzhw.eu

Your submission should include:

- a) an abstract of the paper that will be presented (up to 500 words excluding references);
- b) a short biographical note (up to 100 words).

Confirmation about acceptance will be sent out by **August 15th, 2021** at the latest. It is intended to submit a Special Issue with papers from the workshop. Selected papers will be invited to participate in the Special Issue after the conference. We are looking forward to receiving your contribution and to welcoming you on **November 4th, 2021** to our virtual workshop.

The workshop is organized by the project „Determinants and effects of cooperation in homogenous and heterogeneous research clusters“ (DEKiF), funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Participating researchers: Malte Hückstädt, Melike Janßen, Prof. Dr. Monika Jungbauer-Gans, Prof. Dr. Bernd Kleimann, Dr. Axel Oberschelp, Dr. Zhao Qu, Prof. Dr. Martin Reinhart, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Vowe, Dr. Carina Weinmann.

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