

Community as an Enabler of Scientific Progress and Innovation

A multi-disciplinary project investigating the role of community in driving forward research

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with ~20 Physicists, Philosophers, Psychologists, Sociologists, Anthropologists, and Business Academics



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Project background: how do we make progress in research?

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Community: advances shaped by the research community (e.g. communication, meetings, networks, mental wellbeing, funding).

Our aim in this project is to investigate the role of **community**...

What does a “good” research community look like?

- Values individual identities
- Collective care and pride
- Shared problems and shared sense of working together
- Shared ways of working and use of language
- Collective vision and ambition
- Moving beyond individual research to collective/collected research
- Collaborative
- Genuinely diverse
- Balance of disruptive ideas and incremental work
- Recognition of achievements
- Supportive, welcoming, inclusive
- Critical and constructive
- Mentoring

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A good research community is a *caring* community

type of care	general manifestation
caring about	attentiveness
taking care of	responsibility
care giving	competence
caring with	solidarity

Joan C. Tronto, "An Ethic of Care," *Generations: Journal of the American Society on Aging* 22, no. 3 (1998): 15-20.

What does care look like in a research community?

type of care	general manifestation	specific examples
caring about	attentiveness	genuine listening; mentoring;
taking care of	responsibility	organising workshops; providing training
care giving	competence	good research practices (citations, peer review)
caring with	solidarity	working collectively; sharing best practices

Challenges

Introducing the vocabulary of care into the vocabulary of science: Not just a change in language but a change in habits.

- Getting people to care about caring
- Genuine care takes time, energy, and effort
- Care is cyclical and continuous
- Care-giving requires care-receiving
- Care-ful practices are often not aligned with reward and recognition structures