

Collaboration

in multidisciplinary and multigender research environments

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Where innovation starts



schoolplay – Julia Fullerton-Batten

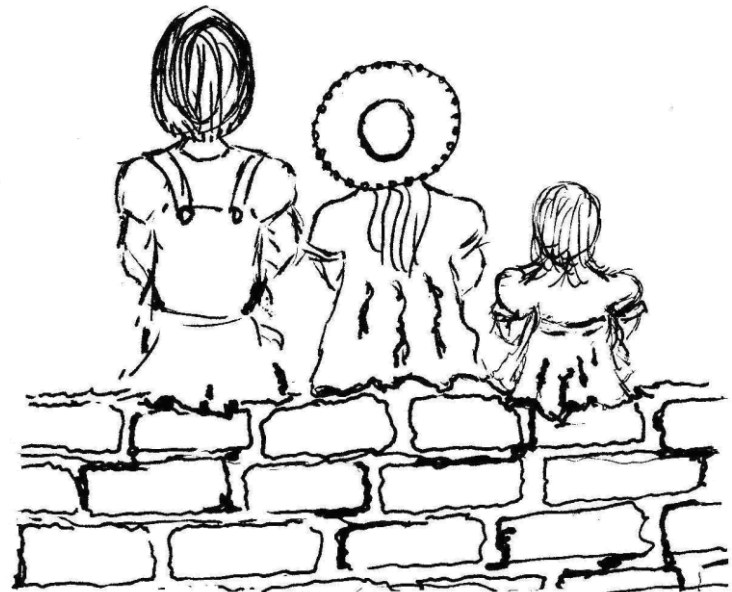
Advances in Tissue Regeneration, Nov 14-15, 2013



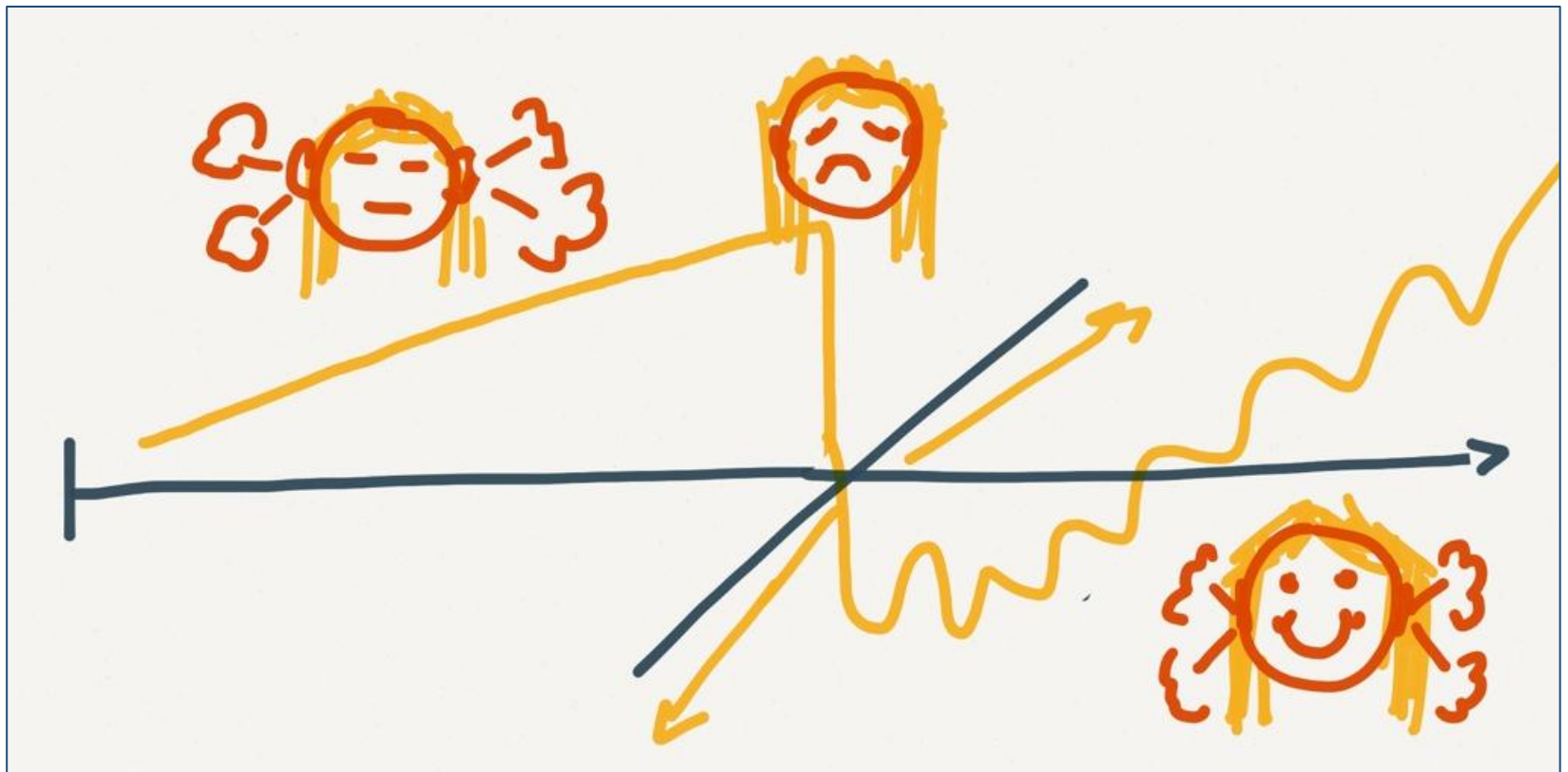
- *excellent, ambitious scientists*
- *good competitors*
- *good collaborators*
- *engaged in multidisciplinary science*
- *80% mother*
- *they love their job*
- *no easy careers*
- *conscious about the stumbling blocks*
- *some of them followed a career program*

Disclosures

- I did not 'engineer' my career
- I compete mostly with myself
- I mainly collaborate or bring people together
- I will just share my personal experience



Role model - or typical example?

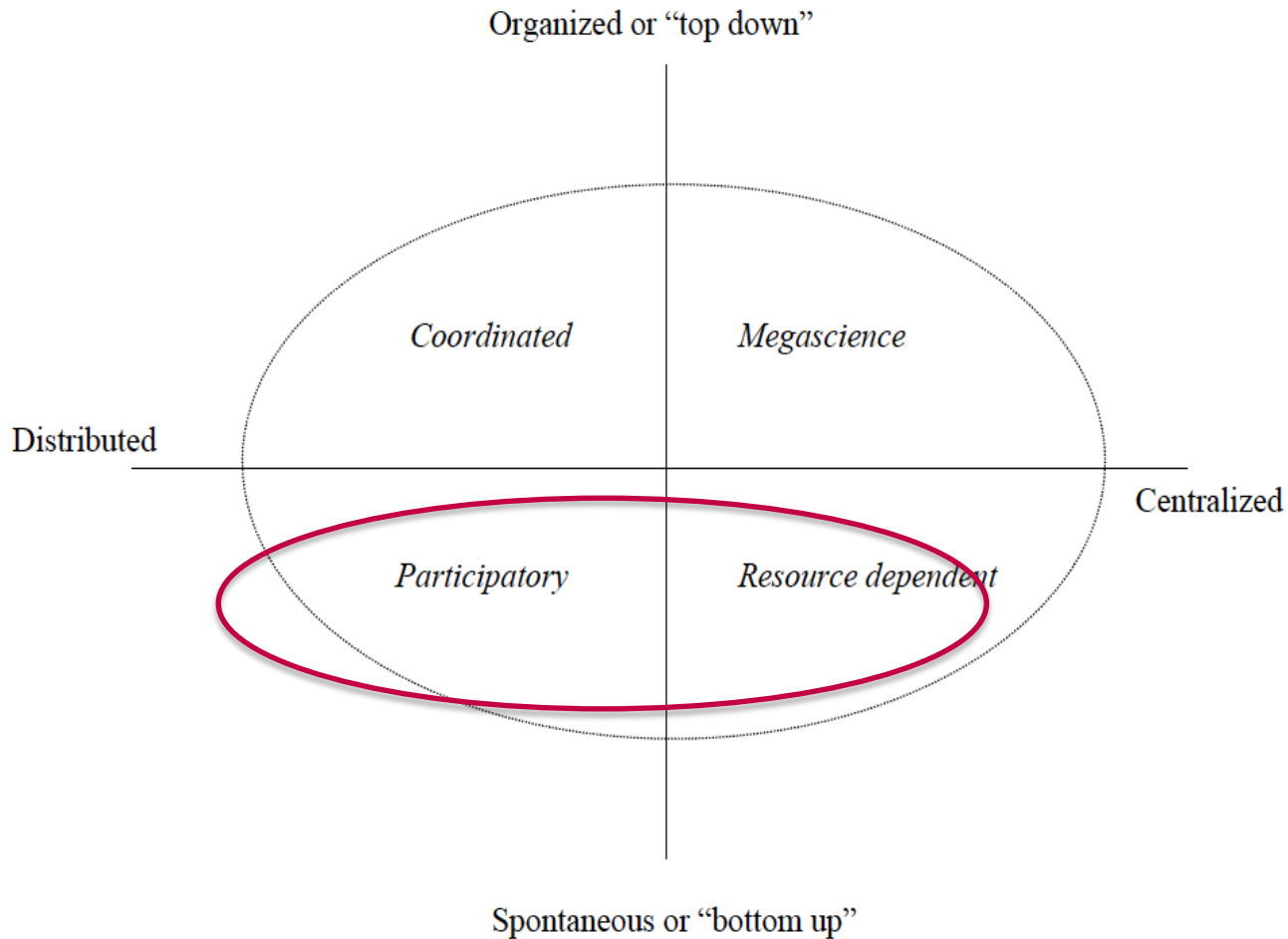


Science & technology are changing

- multidisciplinary
 - aiming at grand societal challenges
 - public-private-partnerships
 - international collaborations
-
- how do women perform in this arena?



Collaboration in science

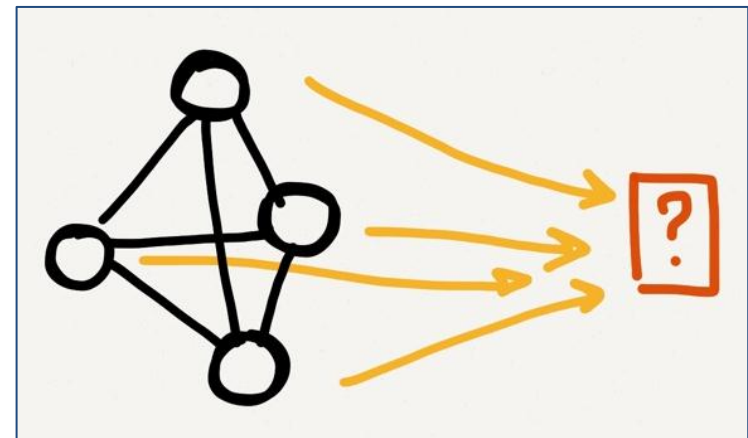
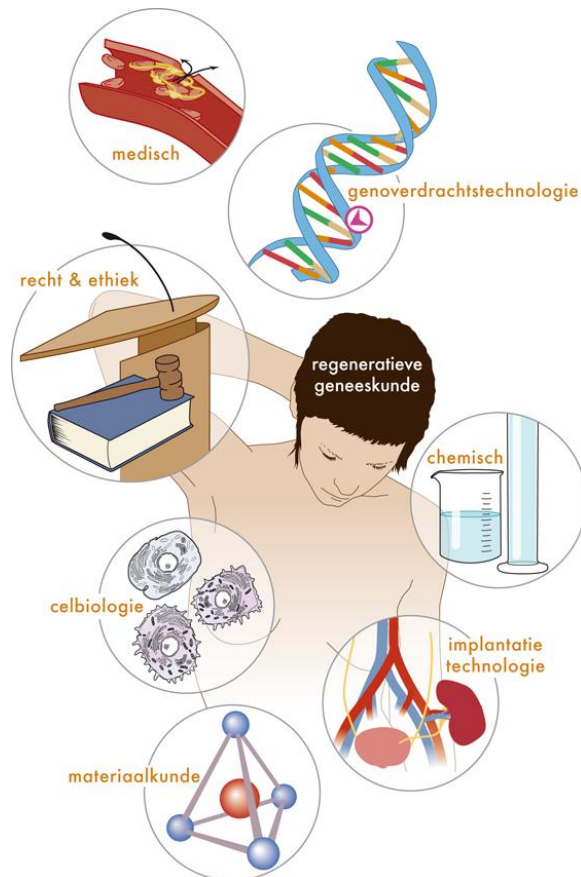


Reasons to start a collaboration

- Resources, funding
- For fun and inspiration
- Career (e.g. collaborative publication, CV building)
- Complexity of nowadays scientific challenges (1+1=3)
- ..

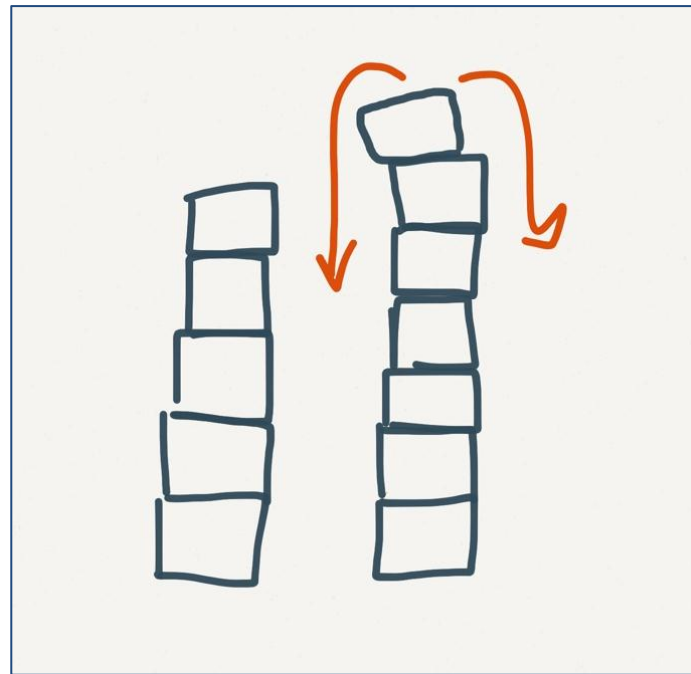
My field: regenerative medicine

- engineering **vs** life sciences



Types of collaboration

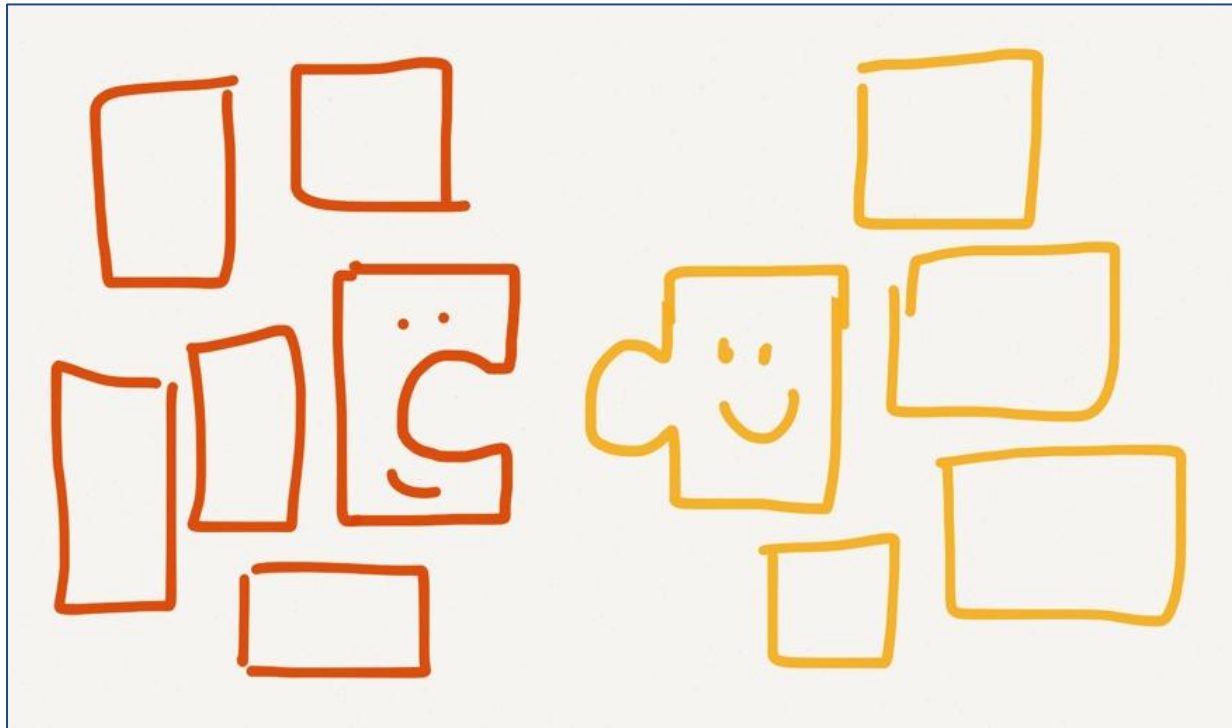
- To bundle forces (e.g. in PPPs)



- risk: unnecessary competition

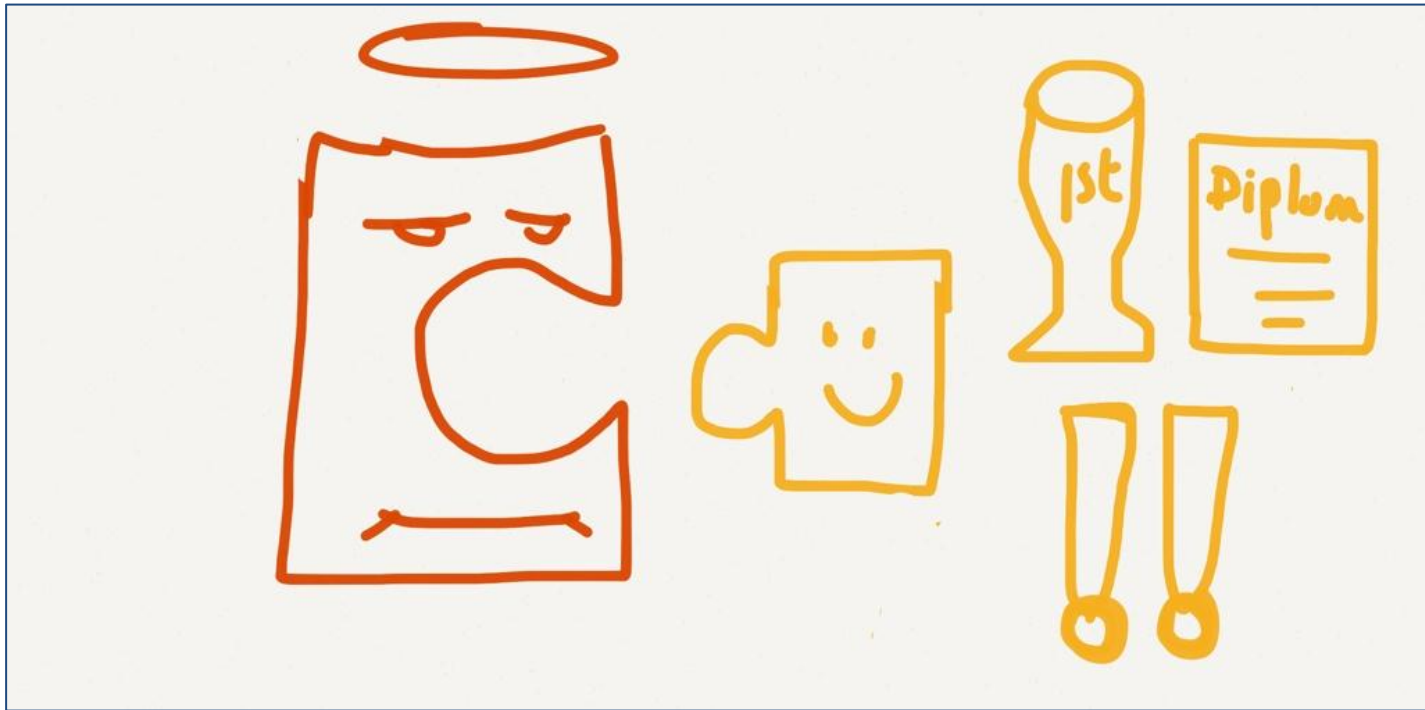
Types of collaboration

- A missing link – complementary



Types of collaboration

- Risk: lack of respect for each others' discipline



multi-gender collaborations

female - female

- assumption: difficult (is this true?)
- who is the boss?

female – male

- easy in the team
- more difficult at the top

Continuing collaboration

Successful

- Benefits for science
- Benefits for you
- Complementary
- Enough competition to excel
- ..

Evaluating your collaboration

Content

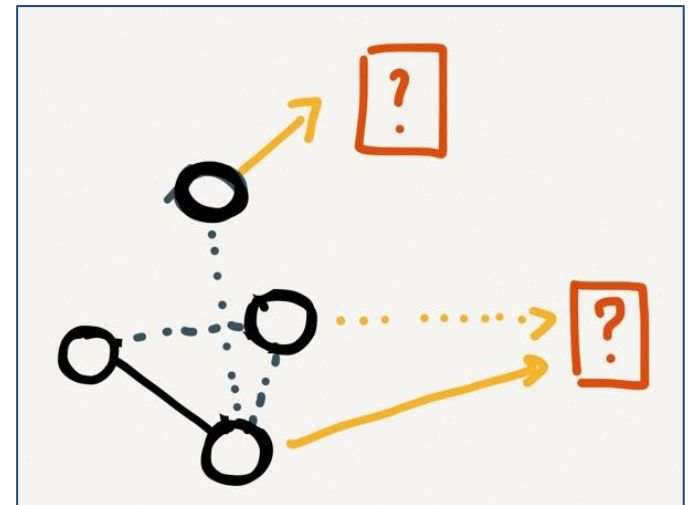
- what is the (scientific) outcome?
- do you work with the experts?
- do you need more/other input?
- can you provide enough input?

Process

- intellectual properties
- relationships, respect within the collaboration
- rewards?
- win-win?

Ending or reconsidering a collaboration

- no funding
- project 'ready'
- no success
- weak or no interactions
- ...
- ending seems easier for men



Leadership in collaborations

requires other skills

- leadership, vision
- focus on end-goals
- established scientific track record
- invest in the team interactions
- invest in knowing the disciplines
- easier if you are outside the direct collaboration



Recipe Ingredients

- excellence and competition are crucial for your career and for science
- engage in / build networks early
- define the purpose of a collaboration
- define (or be conscious of) your role in a collaboration
- stay in a complementary role
- be(come) the expert in that role
- invest in fruitful collaborations



Add (female) flavors and toppings

- give and take
- evaluate
- stay inspired
- follow a course, join a network
- dare to make mistakes, experiment
- discuss the rewards for your role
- build a safety net for yourself