

Bridging the Gaps



Cognitive Systems Science

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Linguistics, Neuro-Psychology

Mathematics

Engineering, Cybernetics

Mathematics

Physics

Linguistics, Manager

Cross Disciplinary agendas our BTG supports

- BCI
 - Capacitive electrodes
 - Real time signal analysis
- BCI-HCI reverse loop
 - Recovery from acquired language and motor disorders
- Decision Making
- Diet and Cognition
- GPU clusters as cloud resource for computational modelling
- Neural Field modelling (field theoretic models of neuro-cognitive processing)
- Data Visualization
- Hyperscanning and simultaneous multi-platform brain imaging

Successes

- Consolidated the ties between the three core departments
 - Leading to Neuroscience and Neurodynamics MSc
- Established or expanded links to
 - ICMR (Institute for Cardiology and Metabolic Research)
 - Pharmacology
 - Food and Nutritional Sciences
 - Agriculture
 - Economics and International Relations
 - Henley Business School
 - Royal Berkshire Hospital, NHS and NHSR (DeNDroN)
- Developed continuing joint studentship programmes
- Grants
- Leveraged BTG to broad University support
 - CINN now a University Research Platform
 - Cross-Disciplinary management position

Things that work well

- Joint studentships
- Summer School
- Focussed Workshops
- Sponsored Seminar Series
- Grant Writing Support
- Summer Students / research internships
- Public Forums

Difficulties

- Overcoming multiple departments, schools and faculties
 - Signing chain dotting the is
 - Resolving issues wrt to overheads
 - Not just who gets it but "why should we bother, there is no financial benefit to department"
 - REF Cross disciplinary publications considered lower value
- Convincing the finance office to cooperate
 - Transparency for effective management essential
- Home Office

Solutions

- Talk to other (smaller) interdisciplinary grant holders and learn about common problems
- Use status as BTG to promote effective university policies
- Get your manager appointed as a permanent cross disciplinary enabler
- Make it your business to know what people's research interests really are and act as an advocate
- Work to generate good will