

Back to Basics:

Interdisciplinary Research

Sharing our Experiences: Lessons from researchers, for researchers



The Researcher's Identity

Exploring the intellectual stimulation and personal
hurdles of working across borders.

The Identity Crisis

Intellectual Gain

Participants noted that acquiring new skills and knowledge was deeply stimulating. It offers a unique opportunity to see your work through a completely different lens.

Personal Loss

Interdisciplinary work can also bring a sense of loss. CVs may look unfocused, making permanent job applications more complicated in traditional structures.






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“Interdisciplinary research can include loss as well as gain.”

— Shared Participant Experience

Strategizing Your Identity

-  **Define Your Contribution:** Spend time identifying your specific skills and expertise to clarify your role on any project.
 -  **Stay Up to Date:** Ensure you maintain your core disciplinary knowledge while branching out.
 -  **Identify the "Added Value":** Always be able to articulate why your interdisciplinary perspective is essential.
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The Communication Pillar

Reach Out Early

Communication is the absolute key. People are often far more willing to help and learn from you than you might expect.

Advice: Take time to understand the career interests and output requirements of colleagues in other disciplines early in the process.



Practical Communication Strategies



Transparency

Clearly communicate the weaknesses of your own data and methods to your collaborators.



Question-Driven

Stay focused on the core research questions rather than getting lost in disciplinary silos.



Embrace Fun

Don't forget to enjoy the process of talking through new ideas and seeing them grow.



Bridging the Language Gap

Decoding Jargon

Recognise that the same words can mean very different things in different disciplines.

Language awareness is a critical skill for success.

Internal Diversity

Remember that even within one discipline, there is often a massive range of approaches, preferences, and sub-fields.

Internal Disciplinary Depth



A Range of Approaches

A single discipline is rarely a monolith. "Remember that even within one discipline, there can be many different specialist areas and types of practitioner."

Avoid making broad assumptions about a collaborator's background based solely on their department title.

Navigating Data Conflict

Quant vs Qual Respect

Critical Success Factor

Selective Use Only

Project Risk

"Conflict in the area of quantitative versus qualitative data can be project-ending.

*To succeed, we must respect the **whole contribution** of a discipline."*

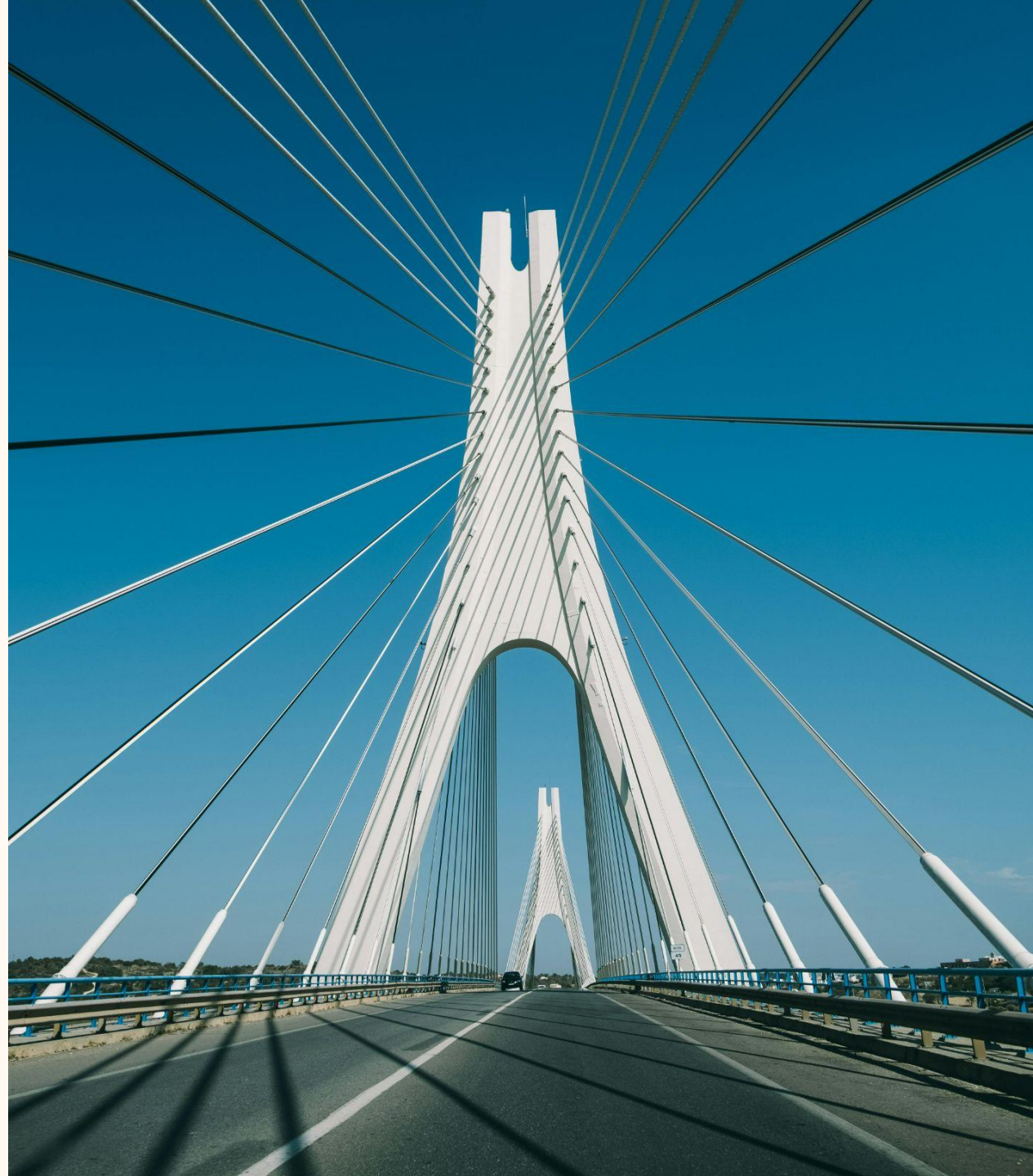


Successful Collaboration

Respect the Whole

True interdisciplinary success comes from respecting the entire contribution made by a discipline, rather than just treating it as a toolbox for selected features.

Building a bridge between methodologies requires humility, patience, and a willingness to see the value in unfamiliar frameworks.



Questions?

Thank you for sharing your experiences and feedback.

Back to Basics: Interdisciplinary Training
Facilitated Learning & Research Development

