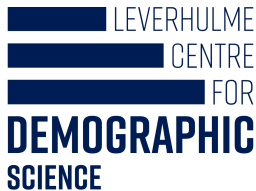


A Pragmatist's Guide to Academic Collaboration

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Communication. Lots of it!

- It isn't a cliché to say communication is *key*!
 - This is true of both relationships with coauthors and supervisors.
- For example: Schedule *extremely* regular meetings.
 - I meet with an RA once per week at the same time.
 - I (try) to meet with students at the same time each month.
- This works both ways: everyone is *busy*!
 - Regular meetings only valuable when collaborators prepare.
- Consider project *workspaces* for effective communication.
 - *Slack* has become an invaluable tool for academic collaboration.

Trust via Openness and Reproducibility

- Trust is an essential part of the collaborative process.
- Trust can be built out of shared version control systems.
- This could be via Dropbox or – ideally – GitHub.
 - You don't have to be a programmer to use GitHub!
- It allows transparency and puts everybody on the same page.
- It also facilitates 'code reviews' and avoids rogue action.
- Be aware of data licensing issues with this approach.

Agree as much as possible in advance

1. Where will code be stored?
2. Will you use Word, $\text{\LaTeX}$, or GoogleDocs?
3. Who will be responsible for which parts of the process?
4. How will you make the figures? What stylesheets?
5. Under what license to make code, preprint and data available?
6. Who will be the lead author? Who the first?

But, be amenable to change.

Dealing with Tardy Co-authors

“As an author, one works tirelessly in an attempt to improve a paper and move it one step closer to submission to a peer-reviewed outlet only to have it stall (sometimes permanently) on the desk of a co-author.”

- The above quotation is taken from Cooke et al. (2014).
- The path forward is context dependent.
- At some point, you will likely have been in both positions.
- Keep a formal record of correspondence (w/ reminders).
- Assert that non-response indicates compliance.