

DRUID23
NOVA School of Business and Economics, Lisbon

PDW proposal

**Breaking barriers: The drivers and consequences of collaborations across disciplines,
organizations and stakeholders**

Applicants: Marianna Marra (University of Sussex), Abhijit Sengupta (University of Surrey)

Arriving at workable, efficient and sustainable solutions to complex societal and scientific challenges often require collaborative problem-solving across multiple boundaries such as research disciplines, institutions (universities, public and private research organizations, consultants) and stakeholders (researchers, industry, policy makers). Such collaborations are usually difficult to initiate and maintain, often due to high barriers set as a result of epistemological and ontological differences, differences in the evaluation of what constitutes a relevant output of research and the relevant time frame within which to deliver it, as well as geographic and cultural differences between the stakeholders. Yet, it is increasingly being realised that diversity within research, researchers and stakeholders is not just desirable, but an absolute necessity for tackling a plethora of problems.

The PDW proposes to offer a rich overview of the most suitable theoretical perspectives to analyse the value of this diversity in research, both in terms of antecedents and its consequences. It would aim to explore, on one hand, how such diversity can be initiated and its impact on tangible research related outcomes. On the other hand, the PDW would also aim to highlight the complex interplay between the various factors that underlie this diversity. For instance, with regard to the former, the discussion can focus on how researchers from multiple disciplines can effectively collaborate, where the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of such collaborations lie, and what its impact could be on micro (researcher), meso (discipline) and macro (organization) levels. With regard to the latter, the PDW will explore themes such as interplay between inter-disciplinary and inter-organizational research, that is, how simultaneously reaching out across multiple boundaries can help or hinder impact and stakeholders.

The PDW is designed to provide new theoretical avenues and perspectives to study the rich interactions between disciplines, researchers, organizations and stakeholders. It aims to address the theoretical and methodological challenges confronted when studying drivers and consequences of diversity in research and research outcomes. The invited speakers and participants have very rich and unique knowledge of the innovation and research ecosystems, and embrace several fields such as innovation studies, technology management, business management, economics and strategy. The PDW will aim to provide the DRUID community a forum to exchange ideas and form new collaborations to understand the growing complexity within research ecosystems. As such, the speakers won't focus their contributions

on the presentation of specific papers, but rather on discussing their take on the most challenging aspects (theoretical and methodological) of building and managing collaborations across historical, disciplinary and organizational boundaries. The moderated panel and round table discussions will act as a springboard for new ideas around these topics, and look to trigger new projects and collaborations.

Tentative program and topics

- Introduction (5 minutes, Marianna and Abhijit)
- Setting the ground: Two keynote presentations (15+15 minutes) moderated by Marianna Marra
 - Martin Meyer: Collaborative networks in research
 - Isabel Bodas-Freitas: Spillovers in university-industry collaborations
- Panel Discussion on Breaking Barriers in Research (30 minutes) moderated by Abhijit Sengupta
 - Paul Nightingale
 - Magda Fontana
 - Isabel Bodas-Freitas
 - Martina Iori
 - Martin Meyer
- Q&A session (25 minutes)
- Round tables moderated by the experts (60 minutes)
- Wrap-up and concluding remarks (30 minutes)

Maximum number of participants

25-60 participants.

The PDW does not target a specific group, but it is open to scholars willing to share ideas and develop new research projects on innovation and collaborations. Speakers and participants must register for the DRUID23 conference.

List of Confirmed Speakers

- Isabel Maria Bodas-Freitas (Grenoble Ecole de Management)
- Paul Nightingale (University of Sussex)
- Martin Meyer (University of Vaasa)
- Magda Fontana (University of Turin)
- Martina Iori (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies)

Biographies

Applicants

Marianna Marra Ph.D. is a Reader (Associate Professor) in International Business and Innovation at the University of Sussex Business School, UK. She is active in the research fields of international business, technology innovation management, and social network analysis. Her current research mainly relates to multinational knowledge networks and innovation. She studies this, through the lens of IB studies and by using patent data and firm-level microdata. Her work has been presented at international conferences such as the DRUID Conference, Academy of Management, Strategic Management Society, Academy of International Business conference. Part of her work has been published in leading journals such as the *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *Work Employment, and Society*, *International Business Review*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *Annals of Operations Research*, and *International Journal of Production Research*. Her research received grants from the Leverhulme/British Academy, and the Society for Advancement of Management Studies (SAMS) among others.

She is the Chair of International Business/International Management (IB/IM) SIG British Academy of Management (BAM), the co-Chair of the BAM 2023 annual conference on "Towards Disruptive Sustainability: New Business Opportunities and Challenges", at the University of Sussex, and the co-organizer of the International Symposium in Business (ISBIZ23) "Coping with an Unpredictable World – Disciplinary Insights and Common Ground".

Abhijit Sengupta Ph.D. is a Reader (Associate Professor) in Business Analytics at Surrey Business School, UK. His research spans across innovation and technology management, global strategy, and behaviour within complex systems. In particular, he is actively involved in examining issues within topics spanning university knowledge exchange, innovation processes in emerging markets, knowledge-based ecosystems and strategy. He has published widely in leading journals such *Research Policy*, *British Journal of Management*, *Journal of World Business*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Technovation*, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, among others. His work has been presented in leading conferences and has been involved with consulting projects with organizations such as the WIPO and KAPSARC. His work has been sponsored through grants from the British Academy/Leverhulme Trust, Society for Research in Higher Education, ESRC among others. His research primarily uses advanced quantitative and computational methods on a wide variety of datasets. In the past, he has been active in and led interdisciplinary research projects with academic and non-academic stakeholders.

Speakers

1. **Isabel Maria Bodas-Freitas**: Isabel M. Bodas-Freitas is a Professor at the Department of Management, Technology and Strategy, Grenoble Ecole de Management. She received her PhD in Science and Technology Policy from SPRU, University of Sussex, UK. Her main research interests include the management and

economics of innovation, with particular emphasis on the process of knowledge development and diffusion in different organizational and industry contexts. Her research also explores university-industry links, open innovation, entrepreneurship and innovation policy.

2. **Paul Nightingale:** Paul Nightingale is Associate Dean for Research at the University of Sussex Business School where he is Professor of Strategy within SPRU, the Science Policy Research Unit. He is a UK Editor of Research Policy, and was formerly the Director of Strategy at the ESRC within UKRI – the main funder of research within the UK – where he was closely involved in the UK Covid response and sat on the main science policy strategy committee. He leads a team of researchers working on interdisciplinary research (IDR) at SPRU, where they are working on the impact of IDR research, how it can be effectively supported, and the managerial and organisational features that enable IDR success. He has extensive experience working in industry and formerly ran an R&D lab for a blue chip UK firm. Some of his recent work has looked at how science governance practices such as rankings and excellence reviews create substantial biases against IDR, internal and external definitions of interdisciplinarity and methodological problems in assessing its impact.
3. **Martin Meyer:** Martin Meyer is vice-rector for international affairs and director of InnoLab at University of Vaasa. He is also a professor in the Networked Value Systems (NeVS) group within the School of Technology and Innovations. Martin is known for his work on science, technology and innovation as well as the Triple Helix of university-industry-government relations. Martin's research focuses on knowledge exchange, academic patenting and emerging science-based technologies. Martin's most recent work focuses on innovation intermediaries, interdisciplinary research and research performance as well as innovation opportunity spaces. He is also interested in the bibliometric analysis of science and technology and their interrelationships. Martin has more than 150 publications to his name, which have been cited more than 7,500 times. He has published more than 50 articles in international, peer-reviewed journals, such as Research Policy, International Journal of Operations and Production Management, Technological Forecasting & Social Change, R&D Management, Journal of Business Research, International Business Review, and Scientometrics. Martin is also one of the editors of Prometheus: Critical Studies in Innovation and a member of the editorial advisory boards of the Journal of Informetrics, Scientometrics, and World Patent Information.
4. **Magda Fontana:** Magda Fontana is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics and Statistics of the University of Turin. She has a PhD in European Economic Studies from the University of Turin and Polytechnic of Turin and a Master in Political Economy from the University of East Anglia. Magda has directed a Master in Complexity Economics and Master in Data Science for Complex Economic Systems offered by the Collegio Carlo Alberto. She is Research Area Coordinator for Complexity Economics at the European Association for Evolutionary Political

Economy. She works in the Economics of Science, exploring --from a theoretical and empirical perspective -- the origin and the effect of interdisciplinarity and novelty on the circulation of knowledge and the career of scholars.

5. **Martina Iori:** Martina Iori is an assistant professor in economics at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, Italy. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto. Before that, she received a master's degree in theoretical physics and a master of arts in economics and complexity. During the PhD, she was visiting scholar at the Department of Network and Data Science of the Central European University in Budapest. Martina's research exploits advanced statistical and computational tools to improve our understanding of the processes that lead to innovations and scientific discoveries. It involves the analysis of large datasets of patents and scientific articles and is characterized by an intrinsically interdisciplinary approach. Her work on interdisciplinarity and novelty in science has been published in *Research Policy* and received a Seal of Excellence by the European Commission. In 2022, she was awarded the DRUID best paper award.