



ECR Hub
EDU Core Research



How to Develop and Sustain Partnerships for Advancing Your Research Agenda

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Meet the Presenters



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Agenda

1. Overview of the Workshop
2. Your Personal Network Analysis
3. Whole Group Discussion
4. Questions

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Overview of the Workshop

This presentation has been adapted from a workshop to be an asynchronous activity.



Guiding Questions

1

Who is currently in your professional network?

2

Who do you want to connect with and for what purpose?

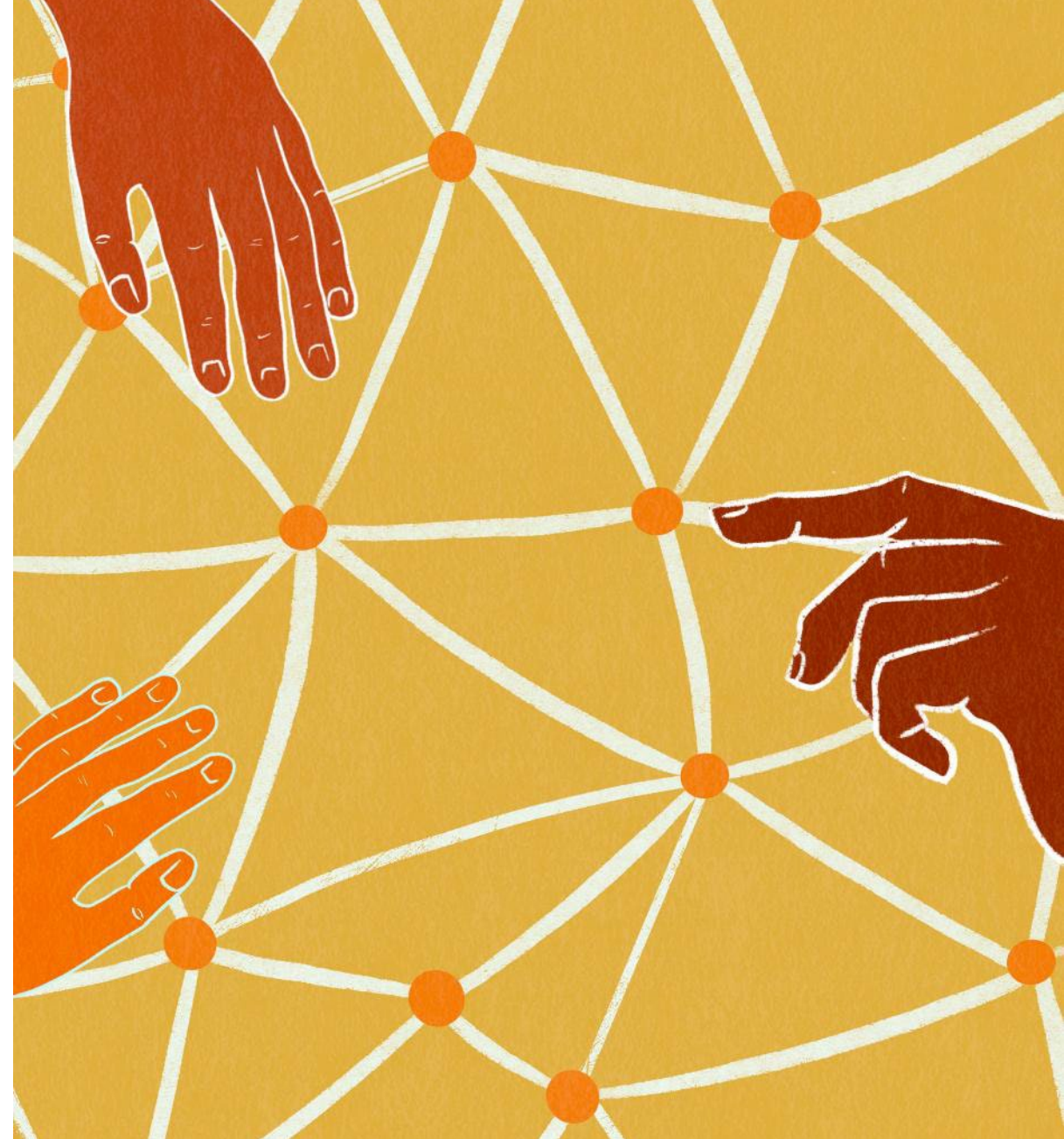
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How will you leverage your current professional network to build purposeful and sustainable partnerships for research?



What Is Networking?

- Networking refers to the process of establishing and nurturing relationships among individuals or groups to exchange information, resources, or support.





What Is Partnership Building?

- Partnership building, on the other hand, involves forming deeper, often more formalized relationships between organizations or individuals with a shared goal or purpose.



What Is the Difference Between Networking and Building Partnerships?

Key differences between networking and building partnerships:

- **Depth of Relationship:** Networking can be more superficial and wide-ranging, whereas partnerships are deeper and founded on shared goals and responsibilities.
- **Intent and Focus:** Networking is often focused on exchange and connection, while partnerships prioritize collaboration and mutual benefit.
- **Formality:** Networking may involve less formality and structure, while partnerships tend to have defined roles and agreements.
- **Longevity:** Networking relationships can be transient or situational, while partnerships are usually long-term commitments.

Understanding these differences can be crucial for individuals and organizations seeking to leverage connections or collaborate effectively in various contexts.



Frameworks for Building Partnerships

- Partnerships require more time to develop and tough conversations to sustain.
- There are many frameworks available that could be used to guide partnership development.
- **Network Analysis Framework:** This framework can illuminate the connections between various stakeholders and help researchers map out existing relationships and identify potential partners while considering the flow of information, resources, and influence within and between networks.

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Personal Network Analysis



Personal Network Analysis Activity

- A network analysis helps visualize the relationships and connections within one's professional sphere. It reveals the network's structure, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Mapping your current network:
 - **Nodes and Connections:** Each participant is a node in their network, and other nodes (contacts, colleagues, mentors, community members) connect to them.
 - **Types of Relationships:** Discuss different relationships (e.g., collaborators, mentors, funding agencies) and how they can influence research projects.
- Table facilitators will help walk you through this activity.



Individual Reflection: Who Is in Your Personal Network?



Time: 10 minutes

Instructions:

- On a large piece of paper, draw a circle in the center with their name inside it.
- From the center circle, branch out with lines representing key contacts (nodes) within their network.
- Write the names of individuals or organizations around the circle, labeling each with the relationship type and any specific contributions they offer (e.g., expertise, resources, funding).



From Networks to Partnerships



Individual Reflection: Identify Gaps in Your Professional Network

Time: 10 minutes

Instructions:

- Use the following questions to identify gaps in your network in the context of your next research project:
 - Who is missing from my network that could support my NSF ECR project?
 - Are there specific areas of expertise I do not have access to?
 - How diverse is my network?
- Mark gaps with sticky notes or a different colored marker. Circle individuals whose skills could be beneficial but are currently only weakly connected.



Individual Reflection: Who Would You Like to Partner With?

Time: 10 minutes

Instructions:

For each gap identified,

- Identify individuals you would like to partner with on future projects
- Brainstorm ways you will connect with them.

