

Workshop Title

Soft Matter(s) – on establishment of trustful relations and constructive collaboration between research support and researchers

Workshop Overview

Fundraising for research grants is about hard skills: monitoring funding opportunities, developing useful tools, processes and time plans, and sharing best practices. BUT little is it all worth without trustful relations between research consultants and the researchers. If we rely exclusively on academic force and analytical thinking, it can be a challenge to get the attention of the researchers and our hard effort risks being wasted. The establishment of trustful relations makes researchers more susceptible to the services, advice and tools we offer. Likewise, the valuable relations and interactions are our channel to insights in research areas and researchers' visions and ambitions. It is the positive relations that open up for tailored information and assistance and the strategic, long term true collaboration with specific research groups and individual researchers. Built on our own experiences and with the inclusion of theory and practice related to social network analysis, and the integration of design thinking in organizational practices, we propose a highly interactive workshop.

During the workshop we will investigate where the hard skills fall short and soft matter of research support build bridges and create new paths allowing us to actually make use of all the state-of-the-art hard skills and knowledge we are equipped with. Social network and design thinking are our hard kicking soft tools that have proven successful in the numbers of grants taken home at our departments and in the numbers of research groups that are being formed and that see and seek opportunities they would have passed a few years ago. They are tools we will show and share during our workshop.

Workshop structure

The workshop will be a combination of shorter lectures leading up to group discussions and/or break-out groups – application of theory and cases presented in lecture - discussions and knowledge sharing, own experiences, challenges and best practice.

Experience level/ target audience

Primarily junior/senior pre-award research support at all organizational levels.

Learning objectives:

After the workshop attendees will have gained:

1. Knowledge of Social Network Analysis – Theory and practice - to be able to analyse own role in the light of personality, network position, organizational dynamics and work outcome.
2. a new and different perspective on how to develop and use own position and connections in a givensocial network strategically through concepts such as indegree centrality, and brokerage.
3. Concrete tools for establishing, maintaining and improving relationships with researchers in application processes.
4. Knowledge sharing of best practice across institutional, scientific and national cultures.

Workshop presenters

Jane Lykke Bøll has held research management roles at the University of Copenhagen (UCPH) since 2008. She profits from networking and communications strategies needed in the competitive research milieu. Jane holds a Master's degree in Danish filology and business communication, plus another Master's degree in Communication for Development.

Johanne Keiding has worked with research support & management since 1999 - from bioinformatics, systems biology and stem cell research over information technology to legal sciences. She has built up and developed research support functions in very different settings, and have become increasingly aware of the importance and benefits of establishing good relations and constructive collaboration across professional fields.