

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

5 TRICKS TO AVOID ACCOUNTABILITY BUT STILL GET PUBLICATIONS
(ACCOUNTABILITY IS TEMPORARY, PUBLICATIONS ARE FOREVER)

BY J.-L. GUILLAUME, PH.D.

COLLABORATING?

PUBLICATIONS ARE THE CURRENCY OF ACADEMIA

BUT ACTUALLY DOING THE WORK?

THAT'S OPTIONAL... IF YOU COLLABORATE CORRECTLY

(OR IF YOU ARE A PH.D. ADVISOR)

EXPAND THE COLLABORATION



IF A PROJECT HAS 2 PEOPLE, SOMEONE IS RESPONSIBLE. IF IT HAS 12... IT'S UNCLEAR

- ADD COLLABORATORS EARLY AND INCLUDE PEOPLE “JUST IN CASE”
- CLEAR RESPONSIBILITIES LEAD TO WORK: NEVER DEFINE YOUR ROLE

THERE IS NO I IN TEAM

- ALWAYS ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE IS DOING IT
- IF ASKED DIRECTLY, SAY “I THOUGHT X WAS HANDLING THAT”

COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE **AMBIGUOUS** & **ASYNCHRONOUS**

CLARITY IS DANGEROUS

- USE VAGUE PHRASES LIKE “WE SHOULD LOOK INTO THIS”
- REPLY JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THE THREAD ALIVE BUT NEVER COMMIT
- DELAY ALL YOUR ANSWERS IN CASE SOMEONE WANTS TO DO THE JOB

ADVANCED MOVE: REPLY FAST WHEN YOUR ADVISOR IS CC'D

VISIBILITY > OUTPUT!

ENERGY IS GOOD. EFFORT IS OPTIONAL

- SAY “GREAT IDEA!!” TO EVERYTHING
- NEVER VOLUNTEER / DISAPPEAR WHEN ACTION IS REQUIRED

ALWAYS BE BUSY, BUT NEVER CLEARLY PRODUCTIVE

- “IT’S PROGRESSING” , “I’LL SHARE RESULTS SOON”

THE GOAL: BECOME A KEY CONTRIBUTOR... CONCEPTUALLY



MEETINGS REPLACE WORK

AT SOME POINT, MEETINGS **ARE** THE PROJECT

- USE MEETINGS TO DISCUSS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE
- USE THE NEXT MEETING TO REVISIT THAT DISCUSSION
- MAKE SURE TO IDENTIFY “INTERESTING POINTS”

PERFECT CLOSING LINE: “WE’VE BEEN VERY PRODUCTIVE... LET’S ALL THINK ABOUT IT... AND DISCUSS AGAIN NEXT WEEK”

THE AUTHOR LIST

BE IMPORTANT BUT NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE QUESTIONED

- FIRST AUTHOR = DOES THE WORK
- LAST AUTHOR = TAKES RESPONSIBILITY
- MIDDLE AUTHORS = VIBES

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

- AVOID EARLY-STAGE PROJECTS
- STAY VAGUE ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION
- REAPPEAR NEAR SUBMISSION: “HAPPY TO HELP FINALIZE”

LAST RESORT TRICK (*)

LET AI WRITE THE FIRST DRAFT (AND EVERYTHING AFTER THAT)

REPHRASE EVERYTHING UNTIL IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU DID SOMETHING IMPORTANT

- “WE DID X” < “A COMPREHENSIVE METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK WAS DEVELOPED...”

ALWAYS KEEP PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY

- “THIS IS JUST A DRAFT”
- “I ONLY USED AI TO ORGANIZE MY THOUGHTS”
- “I USED AI FOR STRUCTURE, NOT CONTENT”

IN THE END, AI IS JUST ANOTHER COLLABORATOR... PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO READS THE PAPER

(*) THIS PRESENTATION WAS OPTIMIZED THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH AI



THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS

NEXT TALK: WHY I HATE THIS SLIDE