



This workshop serves to forge closer connections between the members of Research Training Groups (across disciplines as well as cohorts). It is thus designed to uncover starting points for interdisciplinary exchanges of ideas and to create some of the conditions for the emergence of insightful conversations across fields.

To that effect, participants will, in a relaxed atmosphere, learn more about the scientific background of their colleagues and the different disciplinary perspectives assembled in their group. They will also examine their respective projects for (non-obvious) connections between each other and practice some effective tools for comprehensible scientific communication – the foundation for exchanging ideas with scientists from other fields.

To ensure an interactive and engaging experience online for each participant, the workshop employs collaborative exercises on suitable platforms (e.g. Zoom, Miro).

Testimonials of recent participants from Research Training Group 2458			
I particularly liked “the ability to engage with the new cohort and their research ideas. Due to Corona, that hadn’t really happened before”	“How well this workshop is adapted to be done digitally. I did not feel like the interaction or the group environment suffered as is often the case with online interaction”	“I think the current Covid circumstances make this type of workshop particularly helpful”	„Vielen Dank für den tollen Workshoptag heute! Man merkt wie viel Kreativität und Liebe in die Konzeption geflossen ist und es hat mir sehr viel Spaß gemacht, daran teilzunehmen.“

The workshop’s facilitator



Stefan Goetze holds a Ph.D. from *Oxford University* and a trainer certificate from the *German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK)*. He consults interdisciplinary research initiatives, incl. Research Training Groups, at the *Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT)*. As the founder of *EUREKA! Expertise for Discoveries* he uses his extensive knowledge of scientific creativity and collaborative research to help scientists gaining new insights about the world. Recent participants have described his workshops as “eye-opening”, suggested to make them “mandatory for all research students” and considered his presentations as “absolutely great”.



Workshop Schedule

Time ¹		Topic
Day 1	13:00 – 14:00	Workshop Opening: Goals, introduction of Participants, details of online collaboration during workshop
	14:00 – 15:00	The value and challenges of cross-disciplinary collaboration: We explore why it is worthwhile to seek input from other disciplines and what needs to be observed to do it successfully.
	15:00 – 17:00	Comprehensible communication in collaborative research: Differences in disciplinary technical languages can obstruct a productive exchange of ideas between researchers from different fields. We thus look at some simple tools and strategies for making your knowledge accessible for non-experts.

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Time		Topic
Day 2	9:00 – 11:00	Finding connections to your colleagues (I): To initiate collaborations, it is often helpful to know what you could learn from your colleagues and/or what knowledge they might need. To find out, you will present to each other your areas of expertise and what you would like (or need) to learn while being in your group.
	11:00 – 14:30	Examining different disciplinary perspectives: Research communities often have their distinct ways of studying a subject. To learn about the diverse approaches to subjects of common interest in your group, you will together create and examine interdisciplinary conceptual models.
	15:00 – 17:30	Finding connections to your colleagues (II): New (and unexpected) ideas for collaborations often follow from recognising similarities between phenomena across different fields. You will thus explore your research projects for parallels and think about ways for transferring insights from one field to another.
	16:30 – 17:00	Workshop wrap-up

¹ Sufficient breaks are included in the workshop's schedule but their timing is not specified in this plan.