

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

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# SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

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- Research in universities is gendered – predicated on a male model of behaviour
- Women are already not the “Norm” but are expected to fit in to structures devised originally by and for men
- In my experience In only one instance did a woman with young children travel out of the UK on any research related trips
- Informally, decisions about who gets to be involved can be discriminatory

# BUT .....

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- Learning to work collaboratively is part of becoming an academic – we are not alone!
- It is important to establish your career and develop your thinking
- There are challenges in international work but most of the same issues occur when you are working with your own colleagues or within your own environment
- It is worth reflecting on working together because we spend so much time as lone operators
- You learn so much from working with peers

# KINDS OF COLLABORATIVE WORK

RESEARCH

Staff &  
Student  
Exchanges

FUNDED

Not Funded

Individual or  
group

Compulsory  
or voluntary

# COLLABORATIONS BASED ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

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WITH FUNDERS

WITH INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES

WITH LOCAL COLLEAGUES

WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY

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## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES

Issues around writing and accreditation

Problems of communication – time, method, frequency

Time allocated to the work – differing amounts available because of differing work loads

Attitudes to seniority

Differing attitudes to gender

# SOMETHINGS TO CONSIDER

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Be fully aware of cultural, institutional, professional and political differences

Know what you want from the project

Find out what the other parties want

Writing credits – establish ground rules

Establish methods of communication – what works best for all the different parties

Keep very good relationships with the project administrators

# SOME MORE PRACTICAL TIPS

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- Build in to any grant application time for meetings, particularly face to face and travel where possible
- Let people know in advance if you can't make meetings or will be too busy to do anything at particular times
- Be aware of deadlines – there is always someone who is good at this and others who might not be so time aware so find out who that is (if it is not you!)
- Use your networks for support and for establishing collaborations
- Reporting on funded projects is a skill that can be learned but it is extremely important to read the guidelines and learn the language of the funder

# LET'S DISCUSS!

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- These slides are just some immediate ideas from my own experience
- I hope they will resonate but I am sure you will have other issues so let's discuss!