



An international **VIRTUAL** graduate student conference

# COLLABORATION IN THE HUMAN SCIENCES



The following suggestions are a result of a session of the “Collaboration in the Human Sciences: Moving from Theory to Practice in Local and Global Contexts” Conference held May 31st and June 1st, 2018 at the University of Delaware in the U.S., the University of Tübingen in Germany, and the University of Patras in Greece. Most sessions of the conference were telecast from Delaware to the other universities, with students also participating virtually from other states and countries. This innovative conference was designed by graduate students for graduate students and aimed to give students practical knowledge of how to best collaborate through experiences shared by expert panelists and professional development sessions highlighting technology platforms that advance collaborations, as well as workshops that explored personal collaboration styles.

Conference participants in the U.S., Germany, and Greece first discussed barriers to collaboration at the university, departmental, and the professor/advisor/supervisor levels. Then, in small groups, participants brainstormed possible solutions to overcome those barriers. This list is designed to spark discussions on how to better foster graduate student collaboration with peers in their departments, across other departments, locally and internationally, as well as with others in academia and in outside sectors of the community.

- ⇒ Establish communication/collaboration networks (for professors, postdocs, PhD, postgrads, etc.)
- ⇒ More common meeting rooms/spaces for collaboration
- ⇒ Find appropriate people to establish new institutions
- ⇒ Make collaboration compulsory to some extent
- ⇒ Have clear aims and common schedule
- ⇒ Find common interests among professors and students
- ⇒ Develop formal mechanism or student groups to communicate between administration and students
- ⇒ Develop formal channels of collaboration between students and professors
- ⇒ Establish research labs (more formal ways for graduate students to gain collaborative research experience)
- ⇒ More collaboration between departments to see what other departments are doing well
- ⇒ Create annual checklists of student expectations for each year that outline “by the end of year one, student should...” and then offer proper support/ contact person/process to accomplish each goal
- ⇒ Increase project support from the department and staff
- ⇒ Create annual expectations for professors of how they should be offering support to grad students
- ⇒ Formalize the process of professors reaching out to students with opportunities to collaborate
- ⇒ Increase shared responsibility/initiative between the staff/administration and the students instead of all collaboration being based on student initiative