

## April 25, 2023 Translation Working Group Call

Attendees: Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Alison Gerken, Jody Peters, Charlotte Malmborg

Regrets: Michael Gerst, Chris Brown

### Agenda

1. Follow-up to the priorities identified for translation needs on: Helping colleagues find collaborators across disciplines (i.e., matchmaking) as well as providing guidance on what makes a fruitful multi-disciplinary collaboration
  - a. Compilation of notes from the Social Science and Partners working group calls where matchmaking was discussed
  - b. Chris and Jody had a phone call where we discussed next steps for matchmaking which included
    - Database development - explore types of databases
    - Develop ways to promote collaboration and for individuals to give/get feedback about ideas/projects
    - How to interact with social scientists - what are the dos and don'ts (Jody thinks this connects with Michael's suggestion below)
    - Working together - finding users (Jody thinks this also connects with Michael's suggestion below)
  - c. Chris reached out to Jake Zwart (USGS and provides much input for the CI working group) to see if he had suggestions about types of relational databases that group use. The follow is a compilation of resources Jake sent as well as other resources Jody is putting here to start (perhaps a Google sheet may be a better way to organize these resources and details about them?).
    - You could think of it as a research based thing instead of person-based. Then maybe ICPSR is a good example <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/ICPSR/index.html> e.g. what are you studying, and then find the people studying that
    - civicrm (<https://civicrm.org/>) is a tool that manages people and membership kind of information and is generally a constituent relationship management system. Something like this or using keywords in a Google search for a solution could be useful
    - **KIRA WILL CHECK:** here's a useful example of what I think you're trying to do from natural hazards [SSEER - CONVERGE | Natural Hazards Center \(colorado.edu\)](https://www.sseer.org/)
    - **KIRA WILL CHECK:** There might be some inspiration from human dimensions <https://doi.sciencebase.gov/hd/> group too but no specific examples of that yet
    - We had previously started a similar initiative for matching scientists with appropriate skill sets within USGS Water Science Centers, as part of personnel budgeting reports. The system allowed individuals to create a profile by adding their active directory name and email to a table and

selecting from a list of skills that had been organized into higher level groups, sub-groups, and lists. However, there wasn't much buy-in and the initiative did not progress far due to changes in gov't policies and technology. Maybe not too helpful but nice to know others were thinking about this

- This might also be useful <https://github.com/vivo-project/VIVO>
  - NEON has adopted software for managing its communication with the community (e.g., one person would do outreach to one group and another would connect with another group, but there were issue with turnover)
    - Jody reached out to Christine. No response as of 4-24-23
  - **JODY HAS DETAILS FOR THIS:** [Donut app for Slack](#) - the app randomly pairs members in a Slack channel for one-on-one discussions every two weeks. Allows for “working out loud” where individuals share what they are working on and helps members find commonalities between their roles, projects, etc.
  - **JODY WILL LOOK INTO THIS:** [Kumu.io](#) - “Whether you are mapping people, systems, or concepts in general, if you are focused on relationships we’ve got you covered”
  - [Co-production and Actionable Science Panel](#) hosted on May 4, 2021 by the EFI Partners Working Group
- d. 3 ways to get access to the database
- Internal access for Translation working group, DEI working group, Steering Committee to view individuals and make connections
  - External access for anyone across EFI to see who else is in the network
  - Even more external - people outside the EFI community
- e. If you build it, they will come - don't always assume that will be true. Co-production is important for forecasting as well as science more broadly. Having product in hand when talking to potential collaborators. Could be people in EFI reaching out to project partners outside EFI
- f. Want to have systems in place in the database for different bureaucratic needs
- g. Would like list of funding opportunities that require co-production. Also great to have examples from proposals that were funded and what the process was to submit the proposal and to know the timeline
- Could start with Slack funding postings - keep it as a database instead of just Slack list
    - Could be a Google sheet - Kira will set it up.
    - Jody will keep track of funding as it comes in. Then as we get the list put together then can put it on the EFI website
- h. Charlotte's example of working with New York Conservation Department vs Tribal Organization for a proposal
- i. Alison's' experience from workshop - don't bring in social scientists on your project too late. Networking database will help you identify the social scientists who can help dig in early in the process

- j. Chicken and the egg issue of finding social scientists to connect with while having concrete funding opportunity that supports social scientists. First step could be start conversations with people in your department.
    - Want to avoid having a token social scientist invited to a fully developed project.
    - Want to find an interesting topic that is interesting to physical researchers and social scientists. From Kira - having those initial conversations and brainstorming ideas at the beginning.
    - The natural scientist would say “here are questions around natural science that I’m interested in - is there something in this space that is interesting to you? You don’t have to know what is interesting to the social scientist. They will let you know during the process.
  - k. Pitch meetings - Kira still really like this idea. Ask people to come with half baked ideas that are not fully formed. Don’t need big numbers for this, but need to have the right group to come together to discuss ideas.
    - Virtual event - so it doesn’t need to tie to any other event
    - Have it twice a year
    - Low activation. Come with your half baked ideas and listen to others half baked ideas
    - What is the newest thing people are thinking about
    - Perhaps have an example of where this has worked. Case studies of work they have done. Example of an effective interdisciplinary project that relates to ecoforecasting.
      - Cayelan water quality
      - Melissa/Michael - DAWN
      - Jake Zwart water quality
      - Ping Michael/Melisa and ask if she has some examples
    - Unconference is June 21-23 and ESA is coming up the second week of Aug (4/26-Charlotte adds: Mike confirmed there is an EFI oral session at ESA this year)
    - Want earlier career people to get ideas with funding opportunities - how do we link up so that people who have good ideas during the half baked discussion then get over the next hump
2. Follow-up to the priorities identified for translation needs on: How to understand stakeholder decision making processes?
- a. Continue conversation from the March call to brainstorm types of decision makers, stakeholders, end users
  - b. Suggestion from Michael: I suggest we focus our time on thinking through what a stakeholder decision-making process tutorial would look like, and perhaps not zoom in so quickly on fleshing out specific modules.
  - c. I propose a good starting point might be to link up with Chris' efforts on matchmaking. I can imagine one way to help that effort is a tutorial on what all

goes into understanding decision making. This can help matchmaking by providing a common set of terms and concepts, as well as a common understanding of how much effort is involved.

- d. Could record the tutorial and post on YouTube and then have people view that prior to the half baked discussion workshop
- e. Note from Kira that will be good to include in the tutorial: Why it is important to engage with decision making? Because it helps you understand the limits to making a decision. How good does your science need to be to make decisions and change the decision? How much effort needs to be put in? If you aren't changing the decision, then you don't need to put in extra effort to make something actionable

### 3. Next steps

- a. Database of individuals - do you want to talk to someone. Do you care who you talk to? Then give options for the type of people you would like to talk to (early career, older career, etc).
- b. Can have an opt-in with the information we have for people. And give people the option to opt-out. Here are the facts we have for you. These are the criteria we have for you. People can update their information and then can decide who to talk to.
- c. Kira's distributed leadership committee experience - gave intro to new person about EFI. Was a short conversation. There is no way to request a meeting. This would be good to set up a process for this. Add an option on the "Ways to Get Involved" section on the EFI website. Could have 3 items of info to request from the person. Are you in Academia, Non profit
- d. Explore Database - everyone to pick one. Pros and cons, costs, and do you think it will fit for EFI needs to find people in the community
- e. List of funding opportunities - populate it!