

## Collaborating with Doctoral Strangers Workshop: Journalism and Communication (Jschool)

August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

A Collaboration with Strangers Workshop, or CoLAB, was held on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, uniting University of Florida doctoral students from the College of Journalism and Communication. 17 participants responded to an 11 question post-workshop survey. Demographic information was obtained from profile signs completed by participants for use during the workshop. A demographic profile of the group and the results of the surveys are presented in this report.

### Participants

17 doctoral students participated in the workshop and generated profile signs were used to collect demographic data. All participants came from the College of Journalism and Communication. A detailed breakdown of participants listed by specialty area is presented in Table 1 below.

Specialty Area	Number of Participants
Advertising	1
Journalism and New Tech	2
Media Effects	1
Media Law	1
Political Journalism	1
Public Relations	5
Science Communication	1
Social Media Culture	1
Telecommunications	2

### Post-Workshop Survey

17 participants completed the post-workshop survey. The 11 question survey consisted of seven closed-ended items and four open-ended items. One multiple choices item, three dichotomous items, three Likert scale items and four free-response item were included.

#### Survey Item 1: Multiple Choice

##### **1. My overall CoLAB evaluation**

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
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13 76.47%	3 17.65%	1 5.88%	
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Survey Items 2-4: Dichotomous

For items 2-4, respondents were asked to respond either Yes or No to a series of statements. The responses to all three items are summarized in Table 5 below.

Table 3		
	Yes	No
<b>2. I would attend a workshop like this again</b>	16 94.12%	1 5.88%
<b>3. I would recommend this collaboration process to other students/ faculty.</b>	17 100%	
<b>4. Has this experience helped you realize the value of speaking to people you do not know about their assets, skills and passions?</b>	16 100%	

Survey Items 5-7: Likert Scale

5. I feel more confident in my ability to approach people I don't know.

Table 4a				
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4 23.53%	7 41.18%	6 35.29%	0 0%	0 0%

6. I am more comfortable talking to strangers in different disciplines.

Table 4b				
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4 23.53%	6 35.29%	7 41.18%	0 0%	0 0%

7. (If applicable) I am more comfortable talking to “strangers” in different positions in their academic or professional careers (e.g., student to faculty)

Table 4c				
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4 30.77%	5 38.46%	4 30.77%	0 0%	0 0%

Survey Items 8-11: Free Response

8. Did the CoLAB facilitation process help you access new resources, knowledge and/or grantseeking information? If so, please describe.

For item number 8, participants were given three lines to fill in their own response. 16 out of 17 participants responded to the item (96%). 14 recorded responses are provided below verbatim.

- *It helped to start a formal/informal exchange within the cohort.*
- *No really. If the conversations had lasted a bit longer, that would have probably been possible.*
- *Yes; new resources for my research.*
- *Met individuals who I will utilize in my teaching career*
- *Yes, ability to speak freely, knowing there is a deadline in the timing, and not having to provide canned answers made this an enjoyable icebreaker.*
- *Lot's of funding will be available for health communication.*
- *Yes. It's very helpful to know not only what I can access but that they are open to being accessed*
- *Yes, I have learned that people around you can have great skills and there are a lot of opportunities for collaboration*
- *Each person I met is a potential resource; yes*
- *Not really*
- *Yes, help me to learn more about other PhD students.*
- *Yes, it allowed me to have a greater understanding of each others strengths + areas of interest*
- *I think it let me know more about people I am going to be working with, making it easier to know what could be possible with them in the future*
- *I am. I was confident before the exercise. Though the exercise was great!*

9. What was the most useful part of the workshop and why?

For item number 9, participants were given three lines to fill in their own response. 17 out of 17 participants responded to the item. 14 recorded responses are provided below verbatim.

- *Speed meeting. It gave me the opportunity to connect my interests with the rest.*
- *Having the opportunity to get to know people a bit better and learn about their research interests.*
- *Getting to know members of my cohort; hadn't had this opportunity to talk as much until now*
- *Forced interaction*
- *Completing the form in advance, to help organize my thoughts as well as to learn independently about others.*
- *Ability to humanize the "academic condition" and remember we are all people working toward a goal.*
- *Getting to know people I didn't know that were always nearby*
- *Finding somebody with similar research interests*
- *Getting to meet my colleagues*
- *Learning other research interests. Learn who I can work with*
- *Visual learning was helpful. I'm not sure this was much more effective than a dinner party.*
- *The ability to interact with a large number of people in a short amount of time.*
- *All of it was quite interesting*
- *I learned a lot about everyone's background*

10. What surprised you the most about the speed meeting process?

For item number 10, participants were given two lines to fill in their own response. 17 out of 17 participants responded to the item. 15 recorded responses are provided below verbatim.

- *That 3 minutes are enough to exchange ideas and start a process.*
- *Time passes very quickly.*
- *How broad research interests can be in just one department.*
- *Time moved quickly!*
- *The elapsed time of each meeting being so short, and learning a lot about a number of others in a short amount of time.*
- *You can actually share a lot of info in 3 minutes*
- *How much there is to talk about*
- *How easy it turned out to be*
- *How comfortable I was by the end of it*
- *How friendly people were*
- *In 3 minutes I can learn many things about someone*
- *Jumping into interesting facts more quickly*
- *How much time it takes to begin to go in-depth about learning from new people*

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- *It was surprising how much you can learn about a person when you know you have limited time*
- *Three minutes goes fast*

11. During the presentation, what information was most useful and/or interesting?

For item number 11, participants were given two lines to fill in their own response. 12 out of 17 participants (70.59%) responded to the item and gave a valid response. 11 recorded responses are provided below verbatim.

- *Having the resources to learn about other people and their interests.*
- *Relevant info on the CoLAB process*
- *Hometown*
- *Knowing that the written information provided did not need to be shared verbally.*
- *People's personal stories that got them to this point.*
- *Yes, although I wish more time was given. Derailments are fun but...*
- *Overlap in interests*
- *Going alone gets you fast, going together gets you far away.*
- *Ways people connect*
- *The rationale of this process and the number of people that have tried it*
- *Learning everyone's research areas.*

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### Numbers at a Glance

- 94% percent of participants rated the workshop good or excellent.
- When asked if they would attend a workshop like this again, 94% responded positively.
- 65% percent of participants reported they "felt more confident approaching people they do not know."
- 100% percent of participants responded that they would recommend the workshop to other students/faculty.