

Multinational Research Collaboratives, Interaction Costs and Time to Productivity: An Empirical Model to Support Success

Betty A. Rambur, PhD, RN, FAAN

**Routhier Endowed Chair for Practice and Professor of Nursing
University of Rhode Island USA**

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What's Needed to Address Vexing Global Challenges?

- Complex Problems Need Equally Complex Research Teams
- "Collaboration" Intuitively Attractive, YET
 - Interplay of personal and scientific values, norms, expectations
 - These may foster or impede productivity

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Thus,

- This study was undertaken to understand promising practices in the most complicated collaboratives...those that span nations



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Purpose

- To illuminate practices that support collaborative research
 - Interprofessional
 - Multisite
 - International/Multinational

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Methods

- Design-Qualitative
- Sampling—Snowball sample, 15 cases, research-intensive institutions in four continents
- Data collection-Open-ended exploratory interviews → Narrative Data
- Analysis—Grounded theory, constant comparative

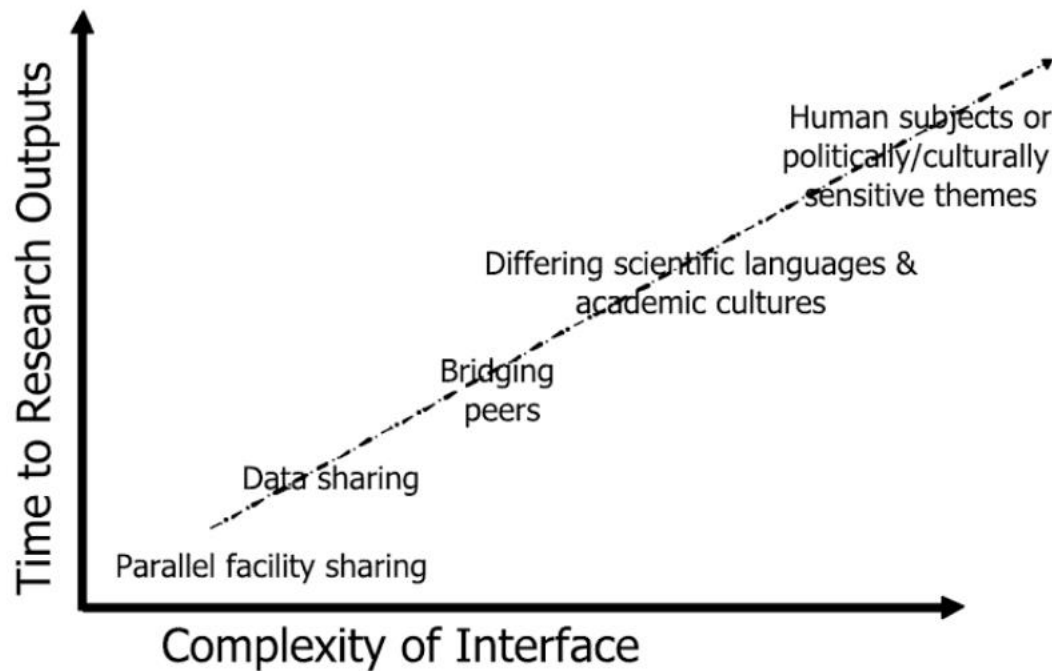
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Results

- Five Distinct Domains of Collaboratives
- Reflect Progressively Complex Interfaces
 - Parallel facility sharing
 - Data sharing
 - Bridging peers
 - Differing Scientific Languages/Academic Cultures
 - Human subjects or politically/culturally sensitive themes

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Conceptual Model of Research Collaboratives



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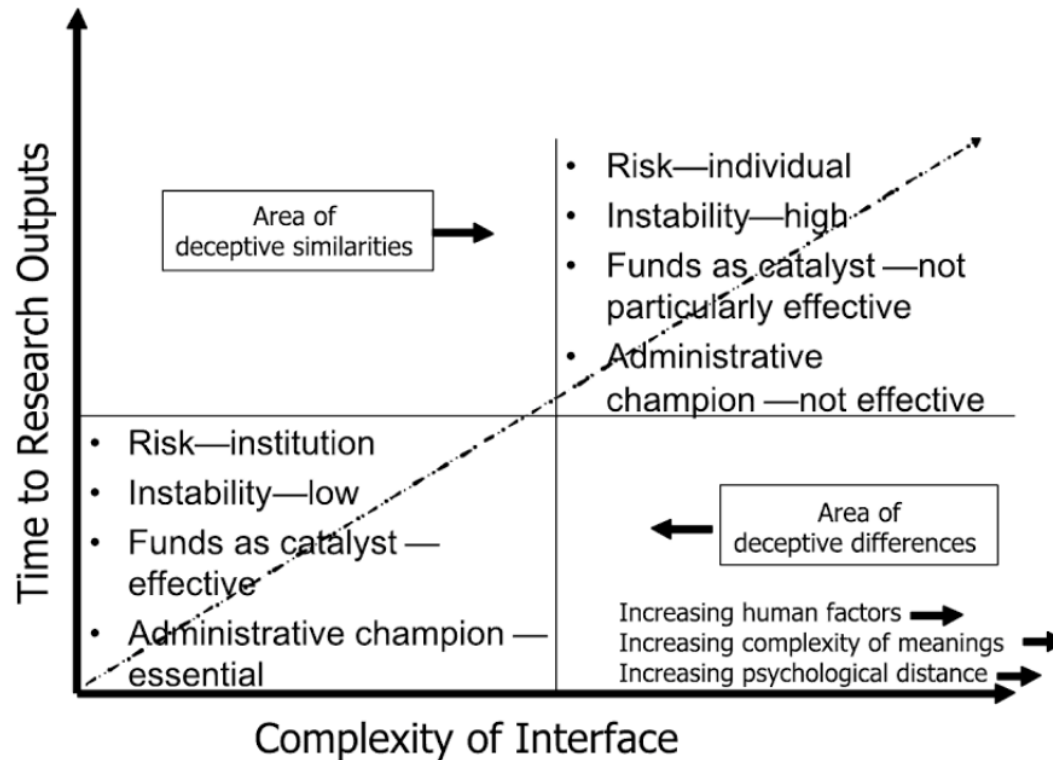
Interaction Costs

- Increased along the x axis
- Reflected not the complexity of the research per se, but the complexity among the interfaces
- Interfaces, as used here, includes expectations



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Deceptive Similarities/Deceptive Differences



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Implications—What's Needed For Success?

- A clear, concrete understanding of the goals of each partner, reassessed and reaffirmed at regular intervals not to exceed 3 months in new partnerships
- Criteria for
 - Success
 - Abandonment of the project

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Further Implications

- Clarification of expectations around intellectual property, including clear definitions of what it means to each partner
- The meaning and cost of research integrity/compliance of each partner
 - Personnel
 - Time
 - Finances

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Cost Implications—Financial and Time

- Funding to facilitate the above as well as the research
- These foundational efforts add time BEFORE the perceived beginning of a project

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Conclusion

- Researcher new to multinational collaboratives need mentors & evaluators who understand these costs
- Those on a short timeline for proven productivity may be disadvantaged when pursuing multinational research collaboratives

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Questions? Thoughts? Answers?

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