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Interdisciplinary collaboration as individual and institutional learning: results from an interdisciplinary qualitative study

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This report is based on a research project on interdisciplinary learning in the context of One Health. Interviews with researchers in human and veterinary medicine, ecology, biology and social sciences were conducted to better understand how interdisciplinary collaborations are initiated, structured, and maintained, and to what extent researchers perceive their interdisciplinary collaboration experiences as opportunities for professional development and learning. Main findings show that individual motivations and communication skills are key to successful collaboration in the context of insufficient institutional structures, processes, and regulations. On the one hand, the imbalance between individual-level and institutional-level enabling factors reifies disciplinary and gendered hierarchies in science. At the same time, interdisciplinary collaborations contributed significantly to learning about these inequalities in generating crucial One-Health-related knowledge, particularly relevant for wildlife surveillance and protection projects. The findings also provide insights for transdisciplinary collaborations.

Keywords

interdisciplinarity, human medicine, veterinary medicine, social sciences, wildlife surveillance, protection, bat health, human health

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Professor

Junior Scientist Status

No, I am not a Junior Scientist.

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