scientific communities

Tuesday 8th November 2016
ELIXIR-UK All Hands meeting

Aidan Budd
Senior Community and Business Development Manager
Korcsmaros Group, Earlham Institute, Norwich, UK

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This version of the presentation is edited to remove images that I took personally that I don’t want in the public domain – and other images that are not sharable e.g. logos of organisations

working with scientific communities

EMBL Bio-IT portal frontpage screenshot

Photo of training in EMBL ATC computer training lab with Bio-IT branded training material in foreground

EMBL Heidelberg bioinformaticians

ISMB ECCB 2013

BOSC 2015

BioRN Lounge

talks and (un)conference sessions

ELIXIR

ESOF2016

ESOF 2014

PLOS | COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

EDUCATION

A Quick Guide for Building a Successful Bioinformatics Community

Aidan Budd[1]*, Manuel Corpas[2]*, Michelle D. Brazas[3]*, Jonathan C. Fuller[4]*, Jeremy Goecks[5], Nicola J. Mulder[6], Magali Michaut[7], B. F. Francis Ouellette[3,8], Aleksandra Pawlik[9], Niklas Blomberg[10]

PLOS | COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

articles

EDITORIAL

Ten Simple Rules for Organizing an Unconference

Aidan Budd[1]*, Holger Dinkel[1], Manuel Corpas[2], Jonathan C. Fuller[3], Laura Rubinat[1,4], Damien P. Devos[5], Pierre H. Khoueiry[6]*, Konrad U. Förstner[7], Fotis Georgatos[8], Francis Rowland[9], Malvika Sharan[10], Janos X. Binder[1,11], Tom Grace[12], Karyn Traphagen[13], Adam Gristwood[14], Natasha T. Wood[15]

Trellis C4Sci discussion page screenshot

trellis @ AAAS

what does community look like?

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

show something at the heart of community

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

pleasure in being with people sharing interests and values

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

pleasure in feeling we belong in a group and trust them

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

that’s how I want to do my work!

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

probably we're all in pictures like this

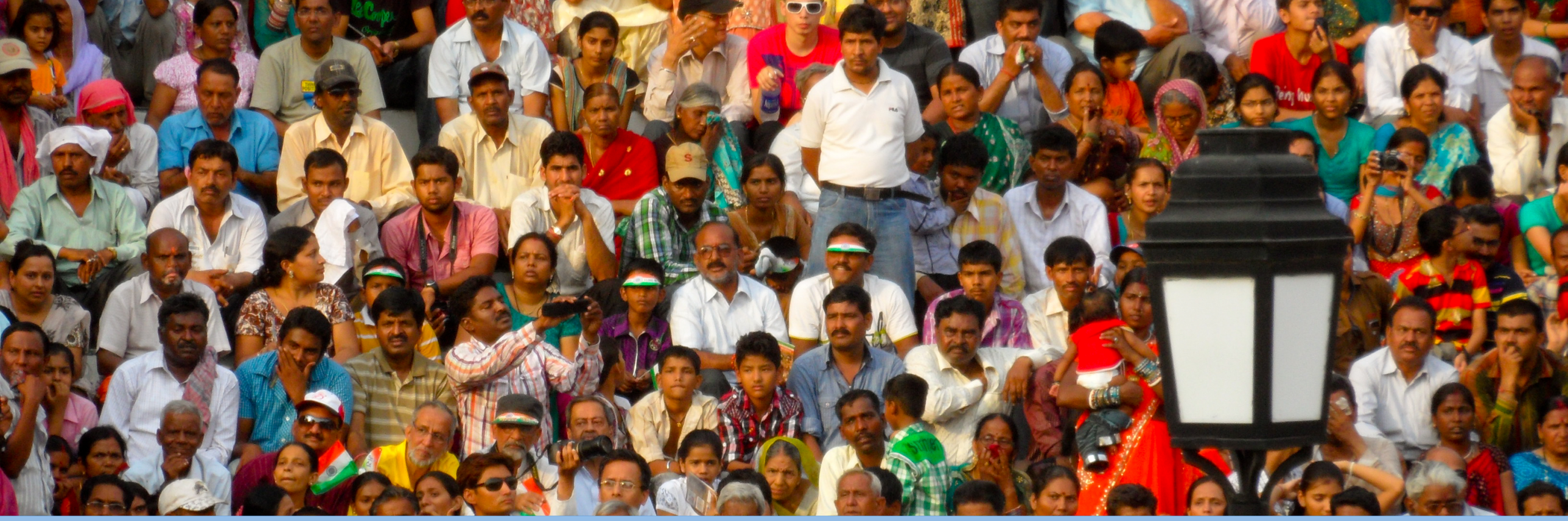
Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

community building is about making more of this feeling

http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php? comicid=1259
http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php? comicid=1488
(slide originally shown with comics you find at the above links included - I had permission to use the images in the presentation, but not to share under a CC-BY license)

"Ready, set..." - originally published 12/2/2009 ; ”The Daily Routine" - originally published 4/20/2012 Piled Higher and Deeper by Jorge Cham www.phdcomics.com

what is community?



a social container

i.e. a group of people
who interact
and have something in common

CC-BY-SA 3.0 Daniel Hauptstein https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Audience_at_the_Wagah_Border.jpg

Linux penguin image

“the Linux user community”

http://www.unix.or.tz/index.php/component/content/article/38-linux-around-the-world-.html

but also

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting

a characteristic of the interaction within such a group

Hatter and Hare dunking Dormouse, Sir John Tenniel, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

more specifically…

a shared sense of belonging and trust

Caron, B (2015) Getting a Handle on Community, retrieved 25.10.2015
http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1439803

group has a **weak** sense of shared belonging and trust?

a weak community

group has a **strong** sense of shared belonging and trust?

a strong community

“community building”

helping make weak communities stronger

features of strong communities?

members of strong communities typically have strongly overlapping…

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting as a banner

members of strong communities typically have strongly overlapping…

interests

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting as a banner

members of strong communities typically have strongly overlapping…

values

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting as a banner

members of strong communities typically have strongly overlapping…

goals

Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting as a banner

members of strong communities typically

share a strong collaborative spirit

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Group picture of happy scientists at a conference/meeting as a banner

why invest in building community?
i.e. what might you get for your investment?

members of strong communities typically

volunteer to work together

members of strong communities typically

interact frequently and effectively

members of strong communities typically

enjoy working together - making their work more productive

members of strong communities typically

engage in knowledge-sharing

members of strong communities typically

are strong advocates for their community

members of strong communities typically

identify and address inefficiencies

members of strong communities typically

volunteer feedback

members of strong communities typically

are innovative

how can we build community?

1. facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships, of a sense of belonging

2. give the group the power to make happen what they want to happen

3. trust the community - trust them to want to make good things (for you and them) to happen

1.
facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

provide contexts for people to meet (in person and/or virtually) and find their common interests, goals, and values

1.
facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

commit to clear transparent respectful effective open communication

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facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

commit to clear transparent respectful effective open communication

publicise a clear concise description of the goals, vision, and mission of the community

1.
facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

commit to clear transparent respectful effective open communication

publicise a clear concise description of the organisational structure of the group

1.
facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication

ensure contributions are acknowledged and publicised

1.
facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication

support and encourage the use of a range of communication channels - although need to strike a balance of not providing too many

1.
facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication

make an extra effort to welcome and engage
with any (potential) new members of the group

1.
facilitate development of trusting, high-quality relationships

commit to clear transparent respectful
effective open communication

make it easy for people who might want to join
the group to find out about it and start joining in

2.

give the group the power to make happen what they want to happen

resources

2.
give the group the power to make happen what they want to happen

decision-making powers

3.

trust the community - trust them to want to make good things (for you and them) to happen

if they are your users - then who knows better what they need your product to do for them? If they really want to make this work for themselves, then trust them and their opinions

challenges for community building?

building high-quality relationships
takes time and resources

enabling growth of a strong community cedes control from other sources of power

want to read more?

The Art of Community

Building the New Age of Participation

Second Edition

O'REILLY

Jono Bacon

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Social in silico

Spinning together the threads of the social web

Lou Woodley's blog
https://socialinsilico.wordpress.com/

Virtual Democracy

We all want more say in our online lives

Bruce Caron's blog
http://cybersocialstructure.org/

THE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

Association of community professionals
http://www.communityroundtable.com/

OPEN ACCESS

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some blogs about my work

https://news.embl.de/alumni/1608-aidan-budd/

https://blog.trelliscience.com/meet-a-scientific-community-manager-aidan-budd/

http://www.earlham.ac.uk/stronger-together-building-scientific-communities

https://news.embl.de/science/1502_how-to-crowdsource-a-paper/

thanks

thanks

to Tamas Korcsmaros and Toby Gibson (current and past boss)

thanks

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thanks

to you for listening