

# **Fantastic collaborations and where to find them**

## ***A beginner's guide to conferences***

*Logic Mentoring Workshop 2024*

Karoliina lehtinen

CNRS, LIS, Aix-Marseille Univ.

✉ [lehtinen@lis-lab.fr](mailto:lehtinen@lis-lab.fr)

More fun doing better science

**At a conference**

# Making your own program

- Talks

# Making your own program

- Talks
- Permission not to go to all most of them

# Making your own program

- Talks
- Permission not to go to all most of them
- DIY secret blackboard sessions

# Making your own program

- Talks
- Permission not to go to all most of them
- DIY secret blackboard sessions
- Walks, chats, etc also count

# Making your own program

- Talks
- Permission not to go to all most of them
- DIY secret blackboard sessions
- Walks, chats, etc also count
- Naps also count



# Talking about your research: the official channels

- Talks – give as many talks as you can!
  - Practice
  - Visibility
  - Ice-breaker
  - **but** only one channel

# Talking about your research: the official channels

- Talks – give as many talks as you can!
  - Practice
  - Visibility
  - Ice-breaker
  - **but** only one channel
- Posters – underrated!

# Talking about your research: the official channels

- Talks – give as many talks as you can!
  - Practice
  - Visibility
  - Ice-breaker
  - **but** only one channel
- Posters – underrated!
- Conversations

# Talking about science

# Breaking the ice

- “Hi, I don’t think we’ve met, I’m...”

# Breaking the ice

- “Hi, I don’t think we’ve met, I’m...”
- “I enjoyed your talk; I wanted to ask...”

# Breaking the ice

- “Hi, I don’t think we’ve met, I’m...”
- “I enjoyed your talk; I wanted to ask...”
- “Have you two met? This is Lucie...”
- ...

# Having better conversations

Talking about maths is hard. But you can get better at it.

- “Wait, let me try to rephrase that... Did I get that right?”



# Having better conversations

Talking about maths is hard. But you can get better at it.

- “Wait, let me try to rephrase that... Did I get that right?”
- “I know about X... is this like that?”

# Having better conversations

Talking about maths is hard. But you can get better at it.

- “Wait, let me try to rephrase that... Did I get that right?”
- “I know about X... is this like that?”
- “Are you familiar with X? Ok, so...”

Prover  
vs.  
Spoiler

# Prover vs. Spoiler

Being a good Spoiler:

- No ego
- “Could you write the definition/lemma?”
- “Is this the same as saying...?”
- “Why is that true?”
- “Let me try an example”
- Challenge vs. encourage

# Prover vs. Spoiler

Being a good Prover:

- “Here’s the claim; is that unambiguous?”
- “Do we think this is true? Sanity check. ”
- “Let me try to show this bit”
- Psychological safety

In general:

- Be mindful of interrupting.
- Be mindful of other people interrupting.

# Challenges

Working with people who have:

- Different backgrounds
- Different visions
- Different rhythm
- Awkward moments (co-authorship, credits...)
- ...

# **Beyond Science**



# Opportunities

- Ideas
- Feedback
- Collaborators
- Job opportunities
- Mentors

# Opportunities

- Ideas – Take notes
- Feedback
- Collaborators
- Job opportunities
- Mentors

# Opportunities

- Ideas – Take notes
- Feedback – pay attention to it
- Collaborators
- Job opportunities
- Mentors

# Opportunities

- Ideas – Take notes
- Feedback – pay attention to it
- Collaborators – follow up, invite yourself
- Job opportunities
- Mentors

# Opportunities

- Ideas – Take notes
- Feedback – pay attention to it
- Collaborators – follow up, invite yourself
- Job opportunities – let people know you are looking
- Mentors

# Peer support and mentors

## ***Mentor***

A more senior person who is rooting for you. Concretely: advice, support, opportunities.

# Peer support and mentors

## ***Mentor***

A more senior person who is rooting for you. Concretely: advice, support, opportunities.

- Official or organic

# Peer support and mentors

## ***Mentor***

A more senior person who is rooting for you. Concretely: advice, support, opportunities.

- Official or organic
- Lifelong friendship or just a good conversation
  - “I want to apply for this funding. What was your experience like three years ago. Would you mind sharing your proposal?”
  - “What does the job-market look like in your country?”



# Peer support and mentors

## **Mentor**

A more senior person who is rooting for you. Concretely: advice, support, opportunities.

- Official or organic
- Lifelong friendship or just a good conversation
  - “I want to apply for this funding. What was your experience like three years ago. Would you mind sharing your proposal?”
  - “What does the job-market look like in your country?”
- Why would someone root for you? Competence and being a kind person

# Being part of a community

- Lots of awesome people
- Lots of diverse people
- What can the community do for you?
- What can you do for the community?

# Takeaways

Make your own program

Learn to have better scientific conversations

Connections: scientific, professional, personal

Have more fun doing better science

*“Don’t try to be smart. Everyone here is smart.  
Try to be kind.”*