

NIMBioS

National Institute for Mathematical
and Biological Synthesis

NIMBioS/DySoC Investigative Workshop
**Social norms: emergence,
persistence, and effects**

EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
23-25 APRIL 2019

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Figure 1. Agreement with the following statements about this workshop:

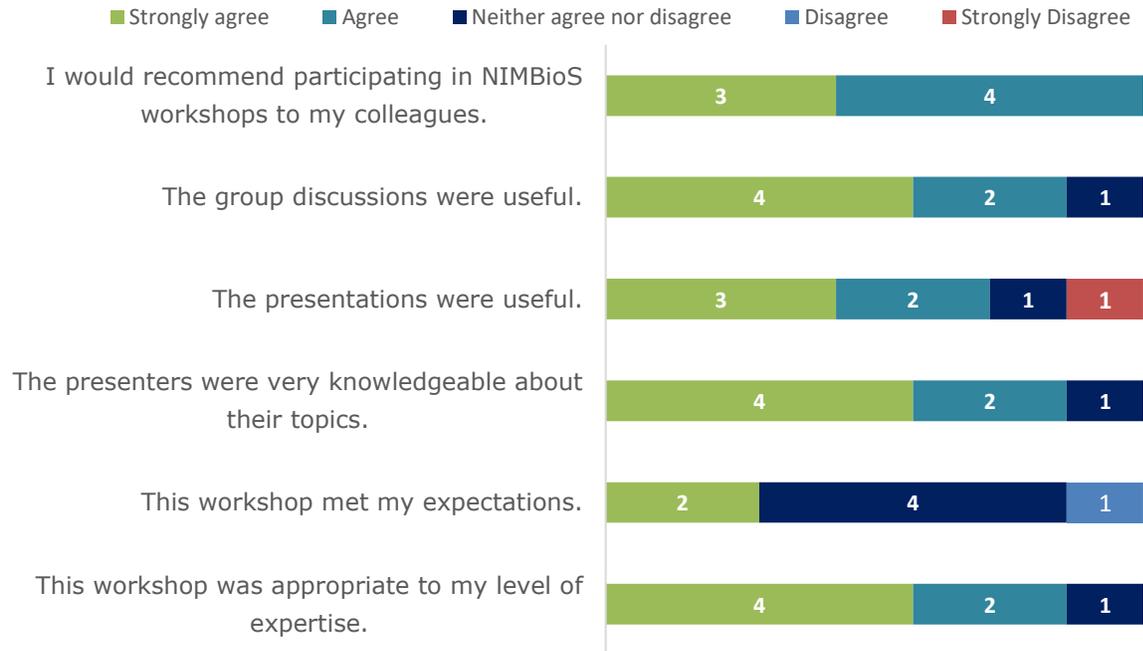


Figure 2. Agreement with “As a result of participating in this workshop, I have a better understanding of...”

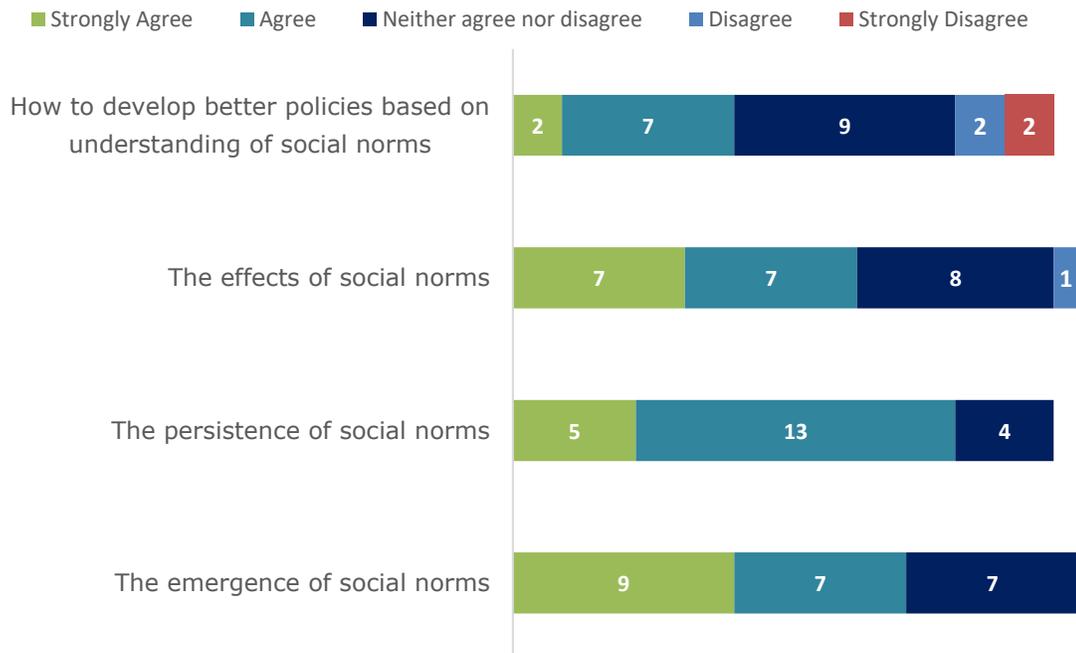


Figure 3. Level of satisfaction with the opportunities provided during workshop presentations and discussions to ask questions and/or make comments:



Please indicate any suggestions you have for facilitating communication among participants during the workshop:

As a more senior scientist, I feel I should have been more active in engaging in communication with junior people outside my own area.

A better format would be longer sessions with one 45min talk and 45min for discussion. The talk provides a framework that sharpens discussion.

As I mentioned before, to allow more time for questions at the end of each talk (or to shorten the talks, or both).

Longer Q&A time, esp. for keynote speakers will be very helpful!

The workshop format would have been more effective if:

Sharper questions for discussion

I liked the structure in many ways, but I did think that it could've done more to foster collaboration. People were admittedly working in quite different disciplines, so maybe the workshop initiated relationships that might develop later. (I at least connected with researchers that I would've never had the chance to share work with.)

Had been structured differently.

If the goal was to inspire future collaborations, I think there needed to be more structured time for discussion.

As I mentioned, there are too many presentations and short Q&A time. You can try some alternative formats (I mentioned in a previous comment) to make it more effective.

17 out of 23

attendees felt this was a very effective format for achieving their goals.

Do you feel participating in the workshop helped you better understand the research going on in disciplines other than your own on the workshop's topic?

Very nice interdisciplinary talks, only very few that were rather uninteresting for me.

This was the most helpful part of the conference for me - to be able to see the work from people in other disciplines.

I'm an anthropologist. It was great to see the perspectives of economists, psychologists, and sociologists with respect to social norms.

It's a valuable eye-opening experience for me to get to know the status quo of research in other fields regarding the same issue, social norm.

I really appreciated learning about the new field of experimental sociology.

23 out of 23 attendees felt the workshop helped them better understand the research going on in disciplines other than their own on the workshop's topic.

Do you feel the workshop made adequate progress toward finding a common language across disciplines for research on the workshop's topic?

It did in the fact that it allowed for interdisciplinary talks (and participants), yet the process of finding common grounds requires much more background work and reading from all participants.

I was in a discussion group relating to defining social norms on the second day of the workshop. I think we made progress in our group in terms of finding common definitions across fields, but I would have liked to discuss our ideas with the rest of the participants as well. Unfortunately I could not attend the 3rd day of the workshop. Perhaps such a discussion occurred then.

There was progress, yet finding a common language in the field of social norms is (still) extremely challenging.

I would say "yes and no" or "neutral" if there's an option. It's not an easy task for everybody to agree on even the most basic things such as conceptualization of social norms. It takes time and interactive efforts. But I do believe interdisciplinary workshops like this one is helping everybody to get there.

18 out of 23

attendees felt the workshop made adequate progress towards finding a common language across disciplines for research on the workshop's topic.

Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the workshop will influence your future research?

Hopefully I will be able to create some future collaborations with several participants pursuing research goals relevant to my own work (already started).

I now feel better able to define social norms in a way understandable across disciplines, and will use these definitions in future work.

For now, I'm not sure how to build in some of the ideas I've learned during the workshop into my future research, but there are definitely possibilities.

14 out of 23

attendees felt the exchange of ideas that took place during the workshop will influence their future research.

Did you develop plans for collaborative research with other workshop participants with whom you had not previously collaborated?

I realized that several people are interested in my previous work on related topics and I hope to interact with them in the future.

I actually did reach out to two potential collaborators, hopefully it will mature to a paper/review.

No, however, I had interesting discussions with other participants.

Not for now. But since we've built up some initial contact, it will be easier to reach out to each other in the future.

5 out of 23

attendees developed plans for collaborative research with other workshop participants with whom they had not previously collaborated.

What would you change about the workshop?

I wouldn't change much about the workshop. The only thing I would encourage to do is collective sessions with all the workshop participants, where you have the opportunity to discuss some of the topics from the talks. I am aware that it's possible to interact with the speaker, but a discussion as a group I think would be more fruitful.

Have the joint dinner in the institute after a discussion session and not on the first day! (as you can see, this is complaining on a very high level!)

More structure in the discussions.

The group discussions should perhaps be somewhat more focused with a leader that prepares them in advance.

I don't know how this could be achieved, but I would try to do more to foster collaboration. Another workshop that had I recently attended had fewer talks but much more time for group discussions. The organizers had also already talked with an editor at Phil Trans and seemed confident that a set of publications could come out of the workshop. The participants were thus motivated to use their time together to plan out reviews on foundational issues. Now, I admittedly liked all of the talks because it exposed me to many other approaches, but I think that structure did less to foster collaboration.

More structured group work

The structure.

Might be useful to have more time for shorter presentations with more of a focus on discussion of each presentation. The breakout sessions should be structured differently and perhaps be attached to the presentations more clearly. "

I think that some additional time at the end of each talk would have made the discussions far more elaborated and contribute both to the audience and to the presenter. To allow for 10 minutes of

Q&A at the end of 20 minutes talks and 15 minutes at the end of 25 minutes talks would have made the whole session feel much more relaxed.

I would move the dinner to night 2 after participants have had the opportunity to see more of the talks and seep themselves in the topic.

I would suggest more time for discussion. One way might be to make everyone give a 3-slide, 5min quick introduction to their research. Perhaps invite 2 or 3 longer in-depth talks particularly relevant to the topics for discussion in the workshop. Limit discussion groups to 5 or 6 people (Multiple groups can discuss the same topic). Each group then presents their advances to everyone, and more discussion ensues.

Maybe a little less intense presentations and more time to talk on the side.

A unique working group instead of many...

Maybe longer talks, but this of course comes at the expense of smaller number of presentations... I felt a bit that since people were from really different fields it was hard for me and for others to understand the details that are taken for granted in each given field, so longer talks with more elementary explanations for people who do not know the field well would be very helpful.

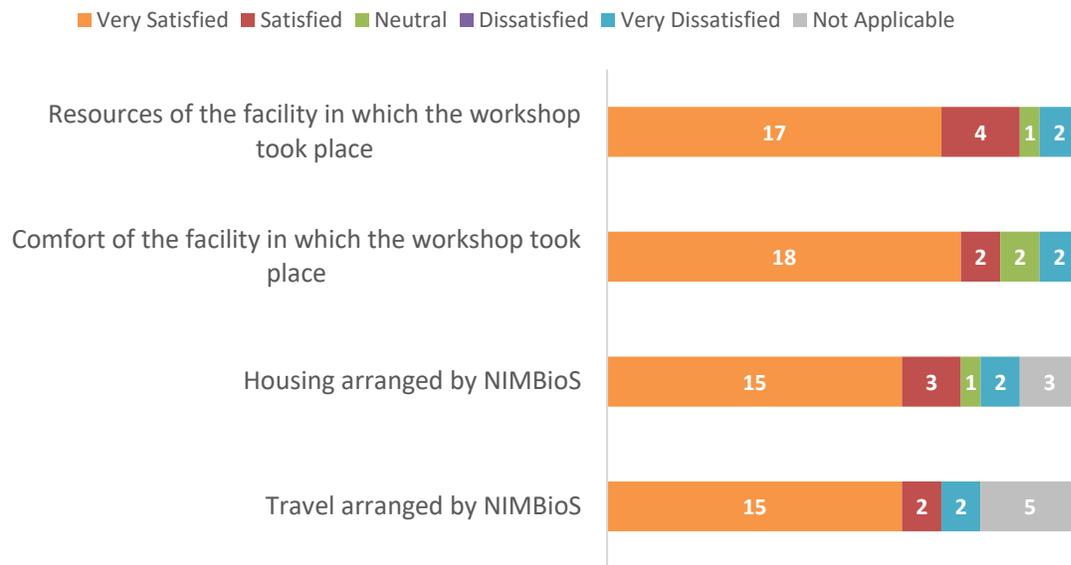
Perhaps the discussion format could be different. The discussions were interesting but maybe too vague and wide. One idea for the future is to call for interested people to organize discussion sessions in a topic they are experts in. Starting from a very specific question would be interesting. For example, a topic proposed by someone that needs feedback, that has data do analyze or a novel idea that would benefit from a future collaboration

I would like to highlight some keynote speakers - giving them a relatively longer time to present (20-25 mins) and leave a longer time for Q&A; some other presentations should be limited to a shorter time (such as 10-10mins) so that we can still get to know the research they've been doing and talk to them afterward. In general, I feel the Q&A time was too short this time.

I would like to have slightly longer periods for each presentation and discussion. I would not include presentations that are based only on surveys without a clear link to a broader literature.

It was pretty long, and perhaps some of the discussions were a bit too unstructured.

Figure 4. Level of satisfaction with the workshop accommodations:



Comments about accommodations:

Very nice hotel in a very convenient location - people should walk more!

Excellent.

Thank you for the wonderful accommodations! Every staff member at NIMBioS was super helpful and friendly! :)

What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the workshop?

The talking sessions were really useful. They make you discuss ideas that you might not be able to ask during a talk, and you can get feedback from people that has a real understanding of the topic. I really liked the format (in the afternoons, after the talks), but they might have been longer than expected. I'd suggest to "enforce" the break in the middle of the session. I'd strongly suggest having a discussion session with all the participants in the workshop, maybe after one of the morning talks, before having lunch.

Overall, a really good experience.

Thanks to the organizers (and the participants too)!"

Interdisciplinary interaction and meeting really famous people who were much more open than I thought!

Hearing about research in psychology

The fact that it was a small group and breakfast and lunch were provided to increase the time of interaction beyond pure listening to talks

Interacting with and learning from people in other disciplines.

Interactivity and friendliness

Getting to know the participants, learning about new ways of thinking about norms

The opportunity to meet and discuss with scholars whom up until that time were only bibliographic sources, to engage in a conversation and raise relevant questions regarding their research from my own perspective. Also, the lunches and dinners offered great opportunities to interact with multiple researchers from different academic/career stages and get some tips and advice (for those of us who are at early career stages).

I enjoyed both the talks and the break-out sessions but I think longer talks or more time per person for discussion / questions or a discussion following (and linking, synthesizing, bridging) 3 or so talks would have been good.

Seeing the perspectives of other disciplines on the topic of social norms.

Discussion and presentation

Interdisciplinary nature of topics

The breakout discussions were particularly interesting.

The interaction between different fields that study social norms

Meeting new researchers in the area and getting to know very interesting recent works

Some presentations, and the networking experience with scholars from different fields.

Exposure to individuals in different fields who work on norms

The workshop was really interesting, but I'm less clear on whether it was useful in a direct sense. It is always useful to see how different disciplines treat the same topic, since it shapes our own thinking in subtle ways.

Please use this space for any additional comments:

THANKS!

Great job and look forward to see this evolving.

Overall, I consider the workshop to be very successful, both socially and academically. As a PhD student, I benefited considerably from the opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversations regarding ideas I currently pursue. As a future step, I think that creating a follow-up online group (google group or the such) for workshop participants to share papers, ideas and receive reviews and comments on their work can provide prolific ground for forming future collaborations and create a community of interdisciplinary researchers interested in social norms.

Overall, I felt this was a worthwhile experience. Thank you for accepting my application to participate.

Thank you for this excellent opportunity!