

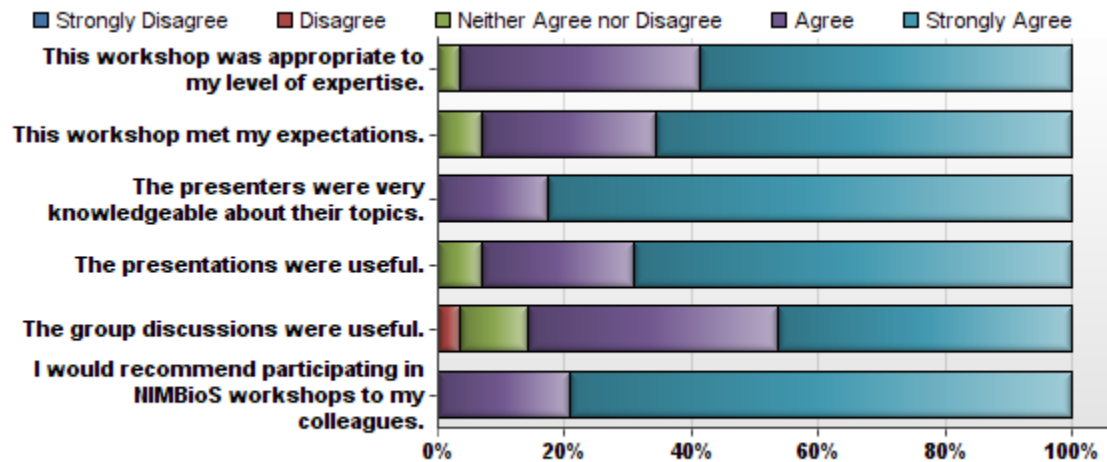


Evaluation Summary Report
Workshop: *Evolution and Warfare*

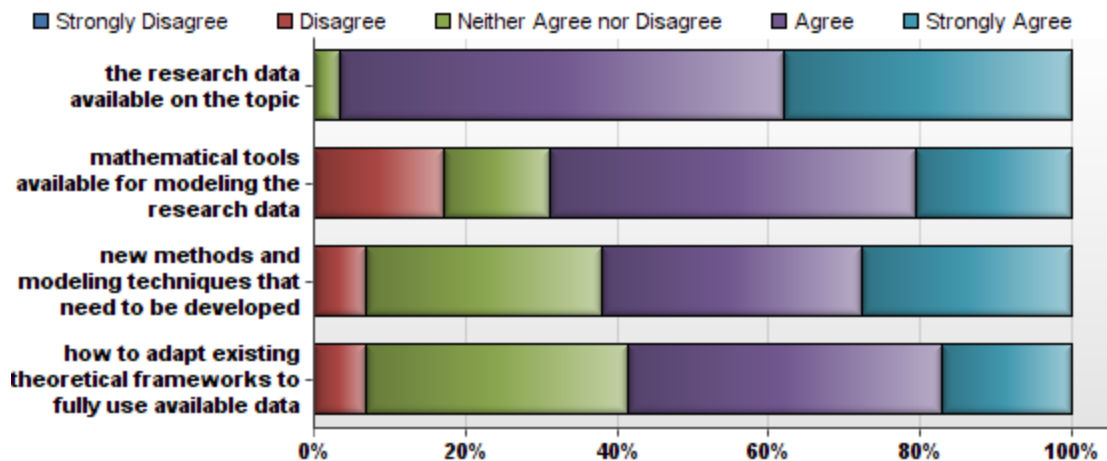
September 16-18, 2015

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Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this workshop:



As a result of participating in this workshop, I have a better understanding of:



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

The interdisciplinary language exchange! There are some really useful ways that certain behaviors are termed in fields outside of my own that really clarified my thinking within my field.

Fantastic talks, size and diversity of group, good length.

Talks by people from different disciplines

Interdisciplinarity.

Meeting people in real life, seeing which approaches are there, writing down references.

Face to face discussions

Being exposed to research from other fields, making contact with researchers working in other fields but on a similar topic than mine, getting feedback on my own work.

There was a nice balance of long and short presentations, and good opportunity for informal discussions. Honestly, it was all pretty fantastic

Meeting people whose work I knew, who could become potential collaborators

The wide variety of disciplines tackling one problem

Networking, learning about how people in other fields approach the same core problems.

Meeting new potential collaborators

I found people from distant disciplines who were studying similar questions (with very different approaches) - questions that were more similar than other researchers within my field. I think our different approaches will bleed over and expand our thinking, leading to new theory for humans and non-human primates alike.

The mix of people with very different approaches to the topic of the workshop was excellent. The talks identified many questions that will be important to take into consideration in my own future studies, so I think the workshop will have a lasting positive impact on my research at least.

Talks were really great. Discussion forums, much less, because essentially everybody presented a question they were interested in and nobody presented an answer. I feel like that dividing people in smaller discussion groups would have produced more concrete results.

The diverse perspectives.

The ability to learn about research in other areas unfamiliar to my own, while learning that we share a common goal for a need of interdisciplinary study.

The Lectures

Cross-disciplinarity.

Bringing together so many excellent researchers who work on a common topic.

Broad range of disciplines coming together to tackle similar research questions

I felt that getting a greater exposure to research being conducted on the general area of warfare will likely prove to be useful in my own work moving forward. I'm glad I came.

Meeting people from other disciplines interested in some of the same problems and questions as I am, but with different perspectives and methods

Learning how to speak in a way that can be understood by a wide variety of people from many different disciplines.

Interdisciplinary conversations

The talks

What would you change about the workshop?

Nothing, it was great!

I would book restaurants and / or on-site receptions with drinks and whiteboards, so that there were more opportunities for extended comingling and discussions over hours. The dinners I had were quite good, and it's not that I mind paying, but it would be better if we could have run around and found other people and dragged them in to conversations. The reception with no wine and a low ceiling in the basement did not work very well. Maybe even to have the same thing upstairs with whiteboards, carpeting and more space would have been more productive and easier to understand (especially for the non-native speakers.)

Nothing

End with concrete steps for a follow-up rather than mentioning how desirable it would be.

More protein for breakfast. The selection was all carbohydrate and some of us don't eat that diet. The first day was good (bacon and eggs)

I would try to find time for slightly longer question and answer periods after each paper. I would, perhaps, have fewer graduate students or a smaller number of participants so that it felt more intimate. I might organize dinners or a more welcoming reception after each day so that people could socialize and network more.

I could create smaller theme-based work groups rather than (or in addition to) full-group discussions

Fewer talks, all chosen to address a relatively specific issue. Focus groups grappling with specific problems, followed by results from focus groups being assembled in the final sessions.

Bit more guidance up front for presenters; make the conversations quicker and smoother

I can't interact with humanity before breakfast. It's a small thing, but letting people have breakfast in the hotel and then go to the panels would be more humane.

Probably nothing, the balance was just about right

The discussions did not achieve a common language and over-arching organizational structure, which would have been very useful for all involved.

There could perhaps have been more organized discussion sessions in smaller groups to make more concrete progress together. However, that would have required perhaps another day of workshop (which I would have welcomed personally at least)!

I'd make it one or two days longer, with more discussion forums in smaller groups to reach more concrete outputs.

Having a panel on different methodical approaches used by the participants with pros and cons of these methods

I would have "break out" sessions where individuals form small groups based on a specific topic, then reported the results of the breakout session to the entire group.

Nothing.

Nothing actually. It was one of the best meetings I've ever been to.

Make it a yearly event!

I would encourage even greater degrees of active collaboration across disciplines. This would include having the NIMBioS staff inviting scholars who would clearer be able to form scientific collaboration.

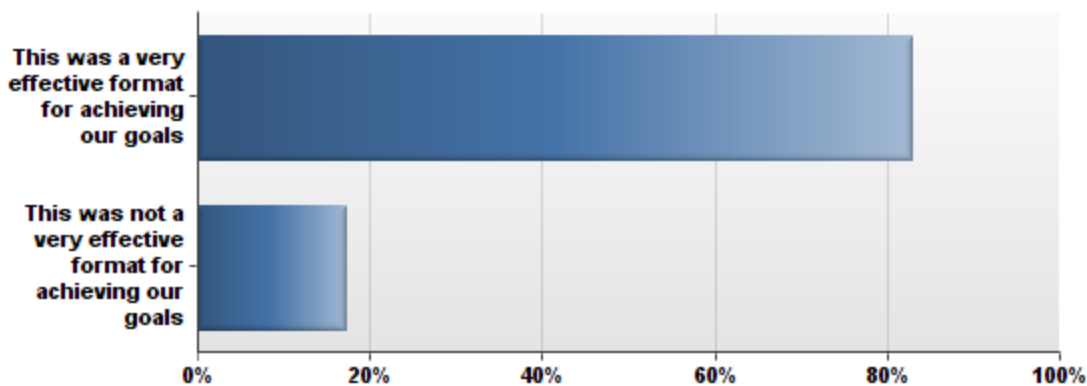
1 session with smaller working groups to focus on a narrower question. I wouldn't necessarily expect the group to reach an answer on the question of interest - rather to discuss how we might collaborate on it. Perhaps a 30-45 minute session on the last day.

More structure during the discussion portions.

Have more structured group discussions and maybe giving researches an opportunity to form groups

An evening event all together, and a half day trip to the Smokies

How do you feel about the format of the workshop?



The workshop format would have been more effective if:

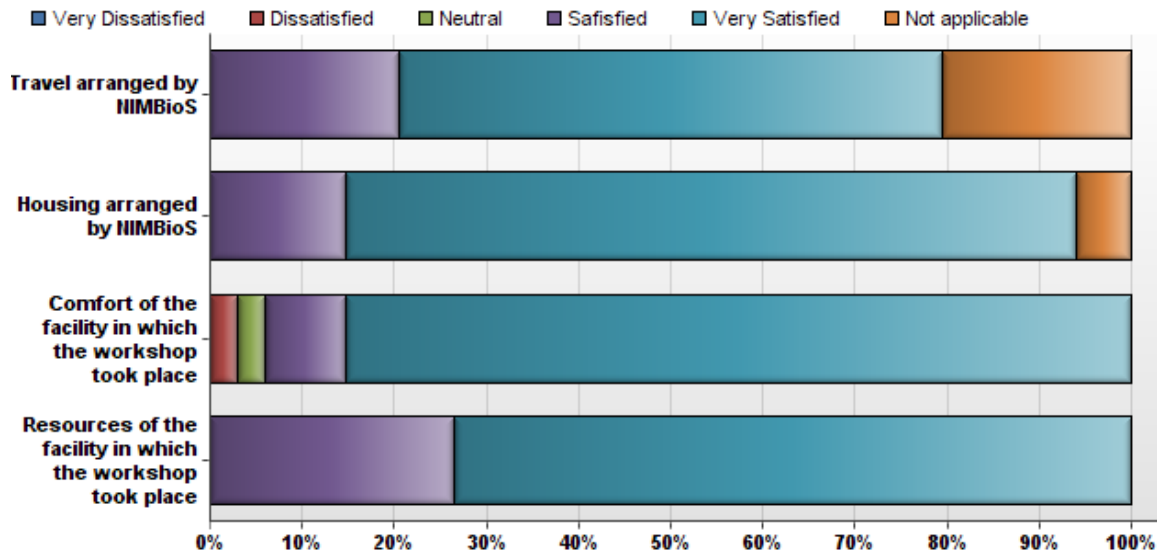
I would have lasted a day longer, and there would have been smaller working groups on some specific questions/topics.

It was longer and with more and smaller discussion groups.

There was a greater attempt at synthesis across disciplines

Smaller working groups were formed among scholars whose work has a high probability of being "intergrateable".

Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the workshop accommodations:



Comments about accommodations:

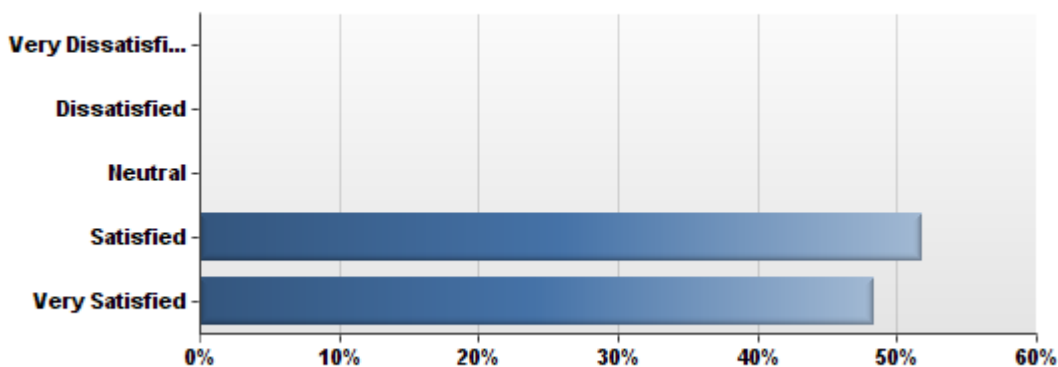
It would have been nice if there could have been more flexibility in booking the tickets so I hadn't been forced to go out of pocket and fill in claims.

My compliments to Jennifer Spar and the rest of the NIMBioS team for making this a very seamless trip!

Excellent facilities

It would be helpful for organizers to get a quick tour or something. For instance, if you have any last minute print jobs, or need markers for the boards, etc. here is where you can find them, this is who you can ask. But overall, i am very satisfied.

How satisfied were you 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:

There's never enough time for everything; I think it was pretty well balanced -- credit to the organizers and chairs.

The combination of question time and breaks provided good opportunity to discuss topics and ask questions. Also, a list of participants with emails was provided so follow-ups can always be done.

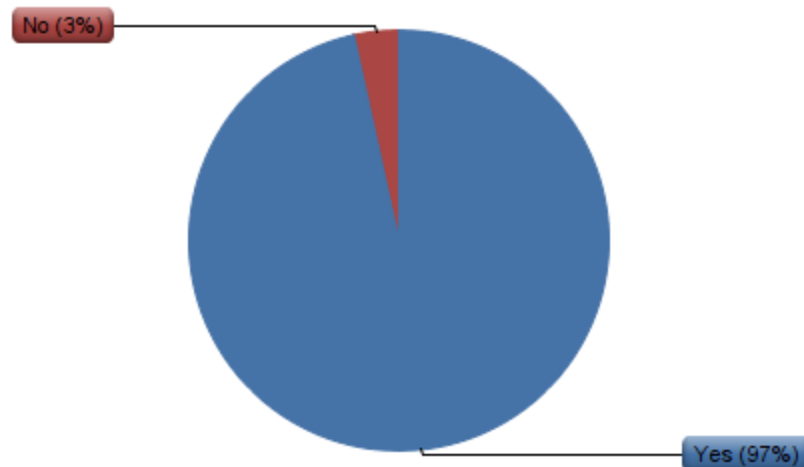
Put microphones on the tables where participants sit, instead of having to pass a microphone around

I really appreciate the long break times. That was a great way to facilitate one on one conversations, and also give us a little time to catch up on work related emails and phone calls. Some breakout sessions might also be a way to facilitate more meaningful discussions, as I'm sure many people were a little intimidated at the thought of speaking in front of such a large group.

Greater effort should be made to identify those scholars whose work seems compatible and to encourage those scholars to interact with one another.

Good long discussion sessions; sometimes they were a bit dominated by someone

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?



Comments about understanding research in other discipline areas:

Many interesting presentations that were related to my own research and interests and gave a broader understanding. Esp. the many angles were good and enriching.

The organizers did a particularly great job of pulling together experts across various fields

Talks were very variable in degree of preparation and appropriateness but the good ones were helpful.

I really enjoyed the workshop. It was a very nice mix of professionals from different fields.

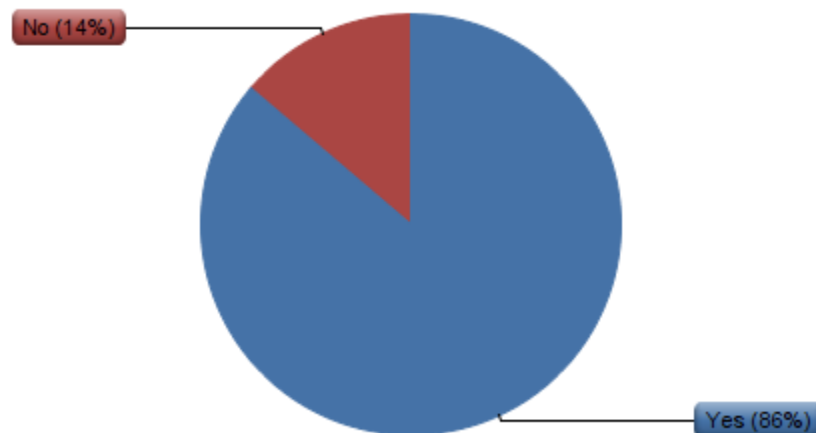
The interdisciplinary approaches presented at this workshop were incredibly eye-opening.

The width of the research presented in the workshop, from anthropological studies to political science, to analysis of big data, to laboratory experiments and to mathematical models was just excellent!

Especially the work in experimental social psychology

The disciplines could have been even broader, and perhaps more evenly represented?

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



Comments about finding a common language:

There was in fact too much effort but not enough success in the area. The group was very broad, and it was not going to be concluded at the whiteboard with all of us. Perhaps we should have had more opportunities to work at whiteboards during breaks and then feed suggestions back into the main group, or perhaps it was important that we discussed and understood the presentations, and the language will emerge as we move to publish afterwards.

More work needs to be done, and a more concrete action plan at the end would have been helpful. But problems were at least lined out and finding a common language was one of the topics, so yes, and a step in the direction.

I don't think this was accomplished, but I would not say this was a fault of the workshop. There is an ages-old debate on language in this area, but I do feel we had some good discussions on these questions and we are all better for it.

There was little attention paid to this question

Some of the areas covered were very disparate. But I think in the individual conversations people were able to find common ground.

The language issue was brought up - not entirely resolved but we became aware of the similarities and differences in our approaches, questions, and study systems.

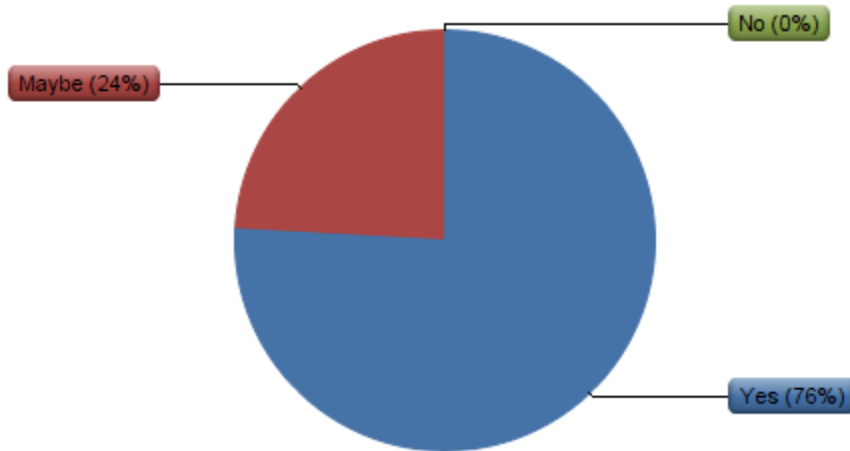
I believe the common perception was that the workshop was very useful in highlighting the different data and approaches there are to the study of warfare and intergroup aggression, and people expressed that their view on the topic was significantly wider now than before the workshop.

Maybe the correct answer would be "partly".

It would have been useful to summarize what each discipline contributes to the study of warfare, identify gaps in knowledge and how a synthetic approach might move forward

*Common language, yes. Agreement on the important questions for research, not really.
This was not much discussed, but it was not a big problem*

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

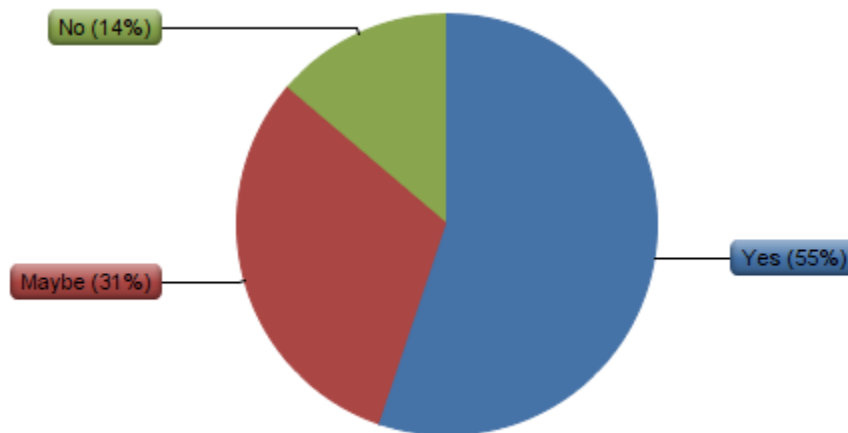


Comments about influence on future research:

Absolutely, and my life!

Undoubtedly

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



Comments about plans for collaborative research:

No, although there was a general plan to do a special issue of a journal on this workshop, which implies somewhat of a collaboration. I notified one of the participants on the data I'm having.

Plans for at least two papers and likely follow ups from those projects as well. Broadened network

... But I might because I am staying in touch with some of the participants

Tentative plans, but definitely left with a great sense of possibilities.

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Thanks for another great workshop!

Thank you again.

Feeling that the lightning talks were a tad too lightning.

Fantastic workshop!! Thanks for having me.

I greatly appreciated the flexibility and thoughtfulness of the organizers, and the professional effectiveness of the administration. This was an important topic I enjoyed the workshop very much but nevertheless felt that it could have been more productive if it had been less of an open conference and more of a focused attempt to solve a limited number of problems.

Overall it was a really positive experience.

Great workshop, thank you for organizing it! I anticipate a couple of new collaborations that would never have happened otherwise.

It was a fantastic experience - I enjoyed and benefited from it.

Thank you very much, this was a very educating meeting!

Had a wonderful time! Truly the best workshop I've attended.

Many thanks to the organizers. Great job!

Great workshop - very enjoyable and well-run!

Although all talks were interesting, topics were too a bit too diverse and sub-fileds to many to make for a coherent workshop. However, something might continue out of the sub-groups. More focus and shared topics would have been helpful

Great job -- best conference/workshop facilitation I've seen in the US.

Overall, fantastic, thank you