Team Science and Agritourism Networks

Clemson Team
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Inspiration:

2018 First International Agritourism Conference in Bolzano, Italy.

The COVID-19 pandemic-exposed weakness in international collaboration.

Research to better understand the benefits and challenges of participating in online versus in-person forums, and the resulting impacts on research collaborations and scholarly productivity.

Key Objectives

1

Strengthen the emerging, international agritourism research collaboration by implementing a series of scholarly activities.

2

Evaluate the effectiveness of different modalities of team engagement.

3

Develop interdisciplinary scholarship around agritourism.

4

Assess the transferability of the results to other fields to support the development of multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations

Team Science and Social Networks

The Science of Team Science is an emerging "interdisciplinary field that empirically examines the processes by which large and small scientific teams, research centers, and institutes organize, communicate, and conduct research (https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/the-science-of-team-science)."

- A key part is to understand how teams collaborate and develop relationships to improve and enhance science.

- Social Network Analysis (SNA) focuses on team collaboration and relationships among people.

- Focuses on the structure, patterns, and implications of the relationships that join people.
    - Who is included, who is not, how are people included etc.?
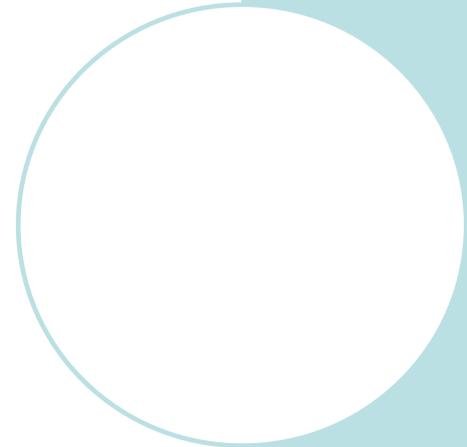
Table 1. Breakdown of Key Descriptive Variables for 2018 Conference

Variable	N
Presentations	65
Authors	95
Authors in Academia (in Practice)	71 (24)
Countries Represented	68
Organizations Represents	34

2018 WAC Authorship
Collaboration by Institution
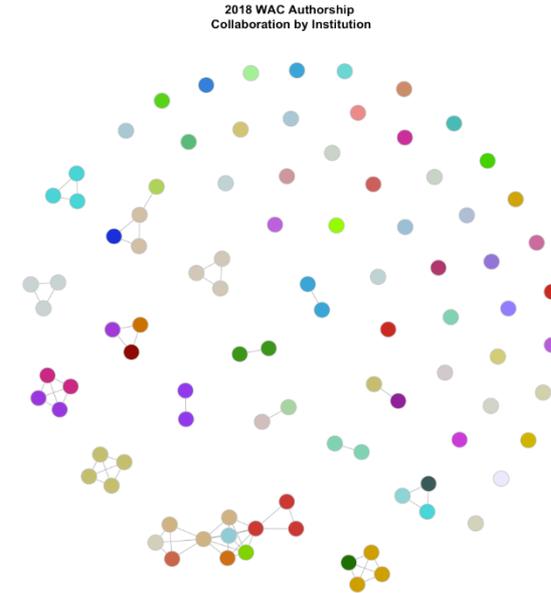
Understanding collaborations across Agritourism: An in-depth look into the industry's first international conference .
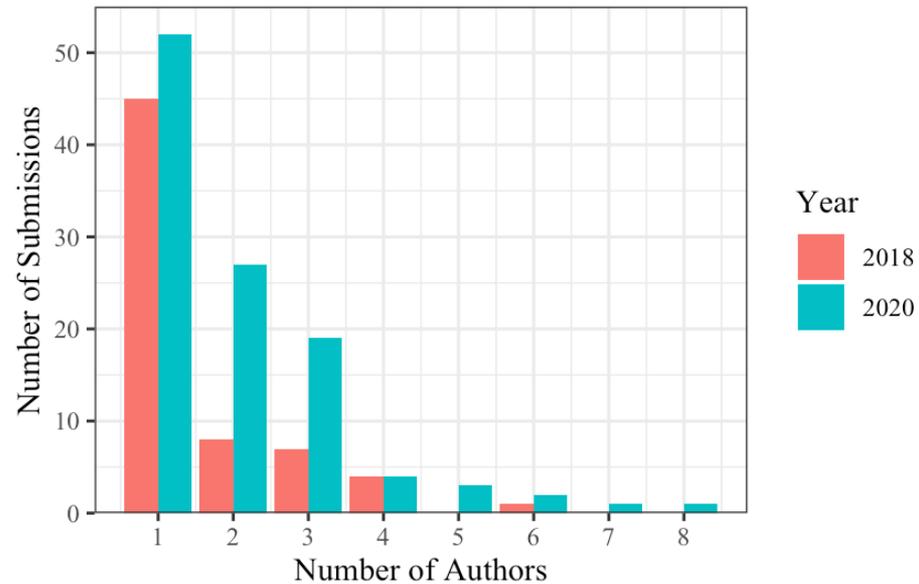
Collaborative Potential

Descriptive analyses suggest some growth in collaboration since 2018.

In 2020 there were still many solo-authored papers but an increase in multi-authored submissions. There is more clustering of research related to the function of the work – i.e., research, extension, practitioner etc.

The 2022 conference was multi-modally delivered and saw participation and collaboration from all over the world.

Evaluation is ongoing but there is evidence of an increase in collaboration and engagement in the 2022 results

Growing your network

Workshop to enhance networking skills during the 2022 Agritourism Conference.

The workshop was a hybrid structure, accommodating both in-person and virtual attendees.

Attendance was capped at 30 - 20 in-person and 10 virtual.

All interested parties completed a simple application

100 individuals expressed interest- 87 in-person, 13 virtual.
General structure was:
- Pre-conference session (TBD) - *required*
- Day 1: Tuesday, August 30, 8:00am - 8:55am - *required*
- Day 2: Wednesday, August 31, 8:00am - 8:55am - *required*
- Day 3: Thursday, Sept 1, 8:00am - 8:55am - *optional*

Nuts and Bolts

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

- Mini needs-assessment (gauging interest/needs)
- Barrier, Challenges and Opportunities of Networking
- Resources / Crash course in conference prepping
  - Time commitment (building and sustaining connections)
  - Feeling intimidated to branch out to new people
  - Starting a conversation with someone I don't know
  - Lack of conference experience
  - How to manage uncomfortable conversations and people
- Conference buddies

CONFERENCE SESSION

Day 1- Reviewing goals set, conference planning and conference buddy meeting

Day 2: What went well? What didn't?, Reflection of the conference and connections.

Day 3: Reflection, What did you take away?, How can you maintain connections?

Summary Results

The Networking session was well-received with many lessons learned about this type of collaborative networking.

The 2018 conference appeared to serve as a spark to build connections.

The 2022 conference fueled this spark and solidified the network structure.

Further development and growth is needed to realize transdisciplinary claims representing a wide variety of institutions and individuals.