

BAV Partnership & Collaboration ft Milena Wuerth

Summary

- **Partnership and collaboration in mental health research. [0:00](#)**
 - Milena emphasizes authentic connections in collaborative partnerships.
- **Collaborative research and navigating pushback. [1:08](#)**
 - Collaboration in research projects involves establishing a comfortable dynamic and relationship with collaborators, who should feel valued and able to make demands.
 - Collaborators' pushback is acknowledged and accommodated in participatory research projects with flexible and open approach to project management.
- **Managing tensions in collaborative research projects. [5:25](#)**
 - Important to value collaborators' expertise and establish clear agreements on compensation and authorship.
 - Collaborative open discussion from the beginning can prevent power dynamics from causing breakdown in relationships.
- **Navigating academic collaborations as an early career researcher. [9:14](#)**
 - Researcher prioritizes kindness and respect in project leadership, fostering authentic relationships and trust.
 - Milena: Collaboration starts with informal meetings, throwing ideas without fully thinking them out, and valuing each other's ideas.
 - Anna: Early career researchers navigate power imbalances by being human, meeting informally, and finding common ground to create mutual respect.
 - Anna discusses the challenge of balancing professionalism and authenticity in academic relationships, particularly when taking breaks due to health reasons.
 - Working with people longer term and showing vulnerability can help build trust and create more human relationships in academia.
- **Vulnerability and trust in academic collaborations. [16:57](#)**
 - Early career researchers face vulnerability and risk in collaboration due to systemic barriers and fear of setbacks.
 - They reflect on feeling like an outsider in academic spaces despite PhD status, and finds connection by recognizing organization as a collection of people.
- **Identifying and collaborating with organizations for academic projects. [20:46](#)**
 - Anna-Theresa Jieman highlights the importance of internal partnerships in public engagement efforts.
 - Milena suggests identifying organizations to work with through social media, word of mouth, and old-fashioned networking.
 - Milena suggests exploring public forums and events to find collaborators with similar interests
 - Milena advises being honest about project visions and alignments with potential collaborators, and parting ways if they don't align
- **Collaborating with small organizations in research projects. [27:29](#)**
 - Anna shares experiences with organizations, emphasizing importance of vetting and authenticity in collaboration.
 - Milena: Building capacity in smaller organizations requires honest conversations and long-term commitment.

- Milena: Individuals within organizations can become embedded in research activities, but it takes assertive individuals and a shared vision for collaboration to work.
- **Building long-term relationships with community organizations. [33:02](#)**
 - Anna highlights the importance of capacity building in underground organizations, but warns against exploitation by larger organizations.
 - Milena agrees, emphasizing that these organizations already possess the capacity needed for collaboration, and that researchers must recognize and respect their autonomy.
 - Milena: Long-term relationships with collaborators ideal, but funding can't last forever.
 - Anna: Authentic conversations early on help avoid tensions later, and leave organizations feeling valued.
 - Difficulty maintaining relationships with collaborators after a research project ended, due to unstable contracts and institutional barriers.
 - Advocating for institutional changes to fund ongoing communication and collaboration beyond project end dates, and recognizing the importance of long-term relationships in research collaborations.
- **Collaboration and partnership in academic research. [42:03](#)**
 - Anna highlights the importance of clear communication in research projects, particularly when working with early career researchers who may be busy navigating their careers.
 - Participants in the project expressed a desire for more frequent updates on the analysis process and the project's progress, rather than just being told the final results.
 - Collaborators prioritize trust, mutual benefit, and authentic connections to navigate power dynamics and ensure a successful partnership.