

WHY PhD DAYS ARE IMPORTANT?

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Why PhD Days are important? AGENDA

- BROAD ANSWERS
- 3 APPROACHES, 2 CONCLUSIONS
- (AFTER JOAQUIN AZAGRA'S PRESENTATION) WHY **YOU** ARE IMPORTANT?

- (Very) Important for **Innovation Studies**
- Important for **Ingenio** (CSIC-UPV), Valencia, Spain.
- Important for **you**: as PhD days are an important part of the “**intellectual excitement**” which should be an important part of your life right now. “This is the best time of your life. This is when you can really read” (Michael Burawoy). Probably you will be thinking many years about what you are learning now...

- Some sociology of professions (DiMaggio and Powell, 1983; Lampel and Meyer, 2008)
- Some (a bit amateur) sociology of knowledge (Collins, 2005): the importance of “intellectual excitement”.
- Introspective Research (Talking About Me, 2014)

- Many concepts not foreign to Innovation Studies show that scientists need personal interaction... at least with other scientists:
 - Tacit knowledge
 - Epistemic communities/culture, communities of practice.
 - Networking, social capital.
- Learning at the individual and collective level seems to be intrinsically related with personal interactions among the scientific **community**.

- Recent “Field Configuring Events” (Lampel and Meyer, 2008; Garud, 2008) literature show that “temporary proximity” (Torre and Rallet, 1999) provided by meetings as conferences, trade fairs... are crucial to “transform a disparate set of individuals into a **community** of that partake of a common meaning system”(Lampel and Meyer, 2008), promoting “cognitive proximity” (Boschma, 2005)
- A proposal for a paper: PhD Days are “Field Reproducing/Nurturing Events”.
- I would say first Druid Conferences could be “Field Configuring Events” in the Innovation Studies field.

- However, it is more difficult to find in Innovation Studies concepts capable of grasping the emotional part of the “intellectual excitement” so characteristic of some scientific congresses and meetings...
- The ambitious work of Randall Collins, “The Sociology of Philosophies: A Global Theory of Intellectual Change” (1998) may help.
 - Approach to the scientific **community**: symbolic interactionism tradition (Goffman, 1959), which focusses on the role of personal interactions in building and difussing “cultural capital” (Bourdieu, 1984).
 - (And what about texts? Intellectuals are people who write and read alone... Collins: in the history of philosophies there is no such a thing as an isolated intellectual, “**to think is to make intellectual coalitions** ₇ **inside your brain**”).

- Why personal interactions are so important? Because the exchange of cultural capital is decisively mediated by the “Emotional Energy” (EE) of the interaction. Think about those moments after talking about with your supervisor..
 - **Good EE is the reason why people still think** about and develop their own cultural capital when they are reading, thinking and working **alone** (bad EE is a main cause of leaving the academic life).
 - **EE is finite and exhausted by time**: it has to be “charged” again with new personal exchanges of cultural capital.

INTELLECTUAL EXCITEMENT =
GOOD EMOTIONAL ENERGY
+
QUICK ACQUISITION OF CULTURAL CAPITAL

INTELLECTUAL EXCITEMENT = GOOD EE + QUICK ACQUISITION OF CULTURAL CAPITAL

Think with these lenses about the typical PhD experience in “normal” scientific congresses.

- Lots of “Quick Acquisition of Cultural Capital”
- Maybe not so good EE in the interactions and knowledge exchanges with more powerful actors with lots of accumulated Cultural Capital.

PHD DAYS ARE “FIELD NURTURING DEVICES”, DESIGNED “BY” SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES TO PROVIDE “INTELLECTUAL EXCITEMENT” TO NEW SCHOLARS!

- Lots of “Quick Acquisition of Cultural Capital”
- Good EE guaranteed:
 - Similar accumulation of Cultural Capital distributed through most actors.
 - Actors with bigger Cultural Capital are “forced” to be nice.

THIS IS ABOUT SHARING
IDEAS AND HAVING FUN

AND I CAN GUARANTEE
THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE
IS FULL OF GOOD “EE”!

- Introspective Research (IR): “I love introspective research because is the most accessible to lazy people” (Richard Thaler).
- IR can also be “serious” (this presentation is not the case): the sociologist Pierre Bourdieu recognized his works about French peasants (1979) and French scholars (1984) as the more epistemologically illuminating research he had carried. There he coined the term “participant objectivation” for describing the insights provided by being himself the object of his (social) research.

Why PhD Days are important? TALKING ABOUT ME (II)

January 2005: A biomechanical engineer starts a PhD in Innovation Studies about the technological history of orthopedic implants.

LAS LESIONES Y ACCIDENTES DEL REY

1988 (noviembre)

El Rey se golpea con una rama en un ojo durante una cacería en Suecia. La lesión fue leve.

1992 (diciembre)

Accidente de esquí en la estación de Courchevel, en los Alpes franceses. Sufrió diversas fracturas y lesiones en la cota.

1998 (8 de mayo)

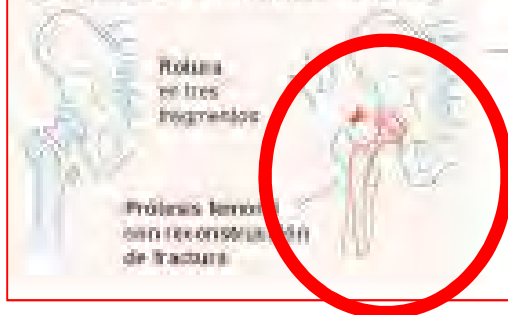
Don Juan Carlos se operó de un tumor benigno en el pulmón derecho. La lesión fue detectada en el momento de abrir tras una revisión rutinario. Los médicos insistieron en la benignidad del proceso y en su manejo y rápida recuperación.

1998 (7 de junio)

El Rey sufrió una caída al salir de un campamento de combate tras unas maniobras en Zaragoza. Herida leve en el codo derecho.

2012 (13 de abril)

Una caída durante un viaje de casa en Bobadilla le provocó una fractura en la cadera derecha. En la operación se le ha colocado una prótesis.



Don Juan Carlos I ha sido y seguirá siendo el Rey de España desde el 1975.

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
17.11.2004 Bulletin 2004/47

(51) Int Cl.7: A61L 27/04

(21) Application number: 03380114.3

(22) Date of filing: 12.05.2003

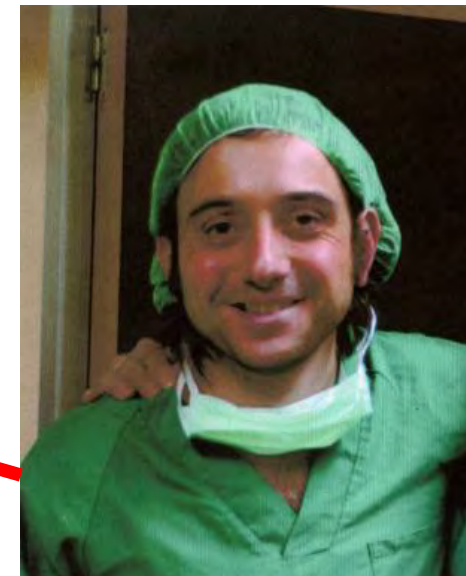
(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK

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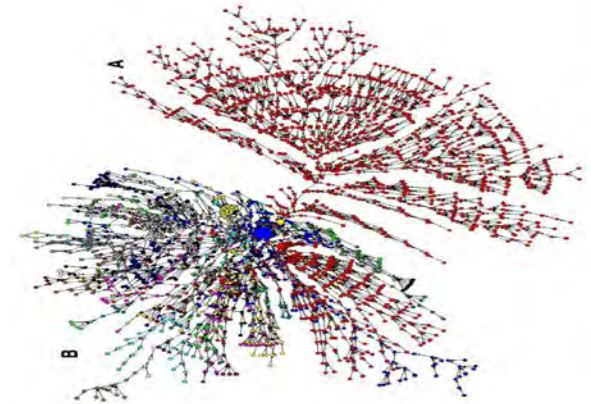
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Why PhD Days are important? TALKING ABOUT ME (III)

September 2005: My very first and more important PhD days experience: European Summer School On Industrial Dynamics. Cargese, Corsica.



INTELLECTUAL EXCITEMENT =
GOOD EE + QUICK ACQUISITION OF CULTURAL CAPITAL

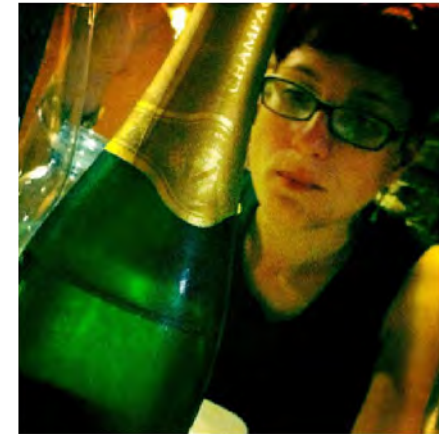
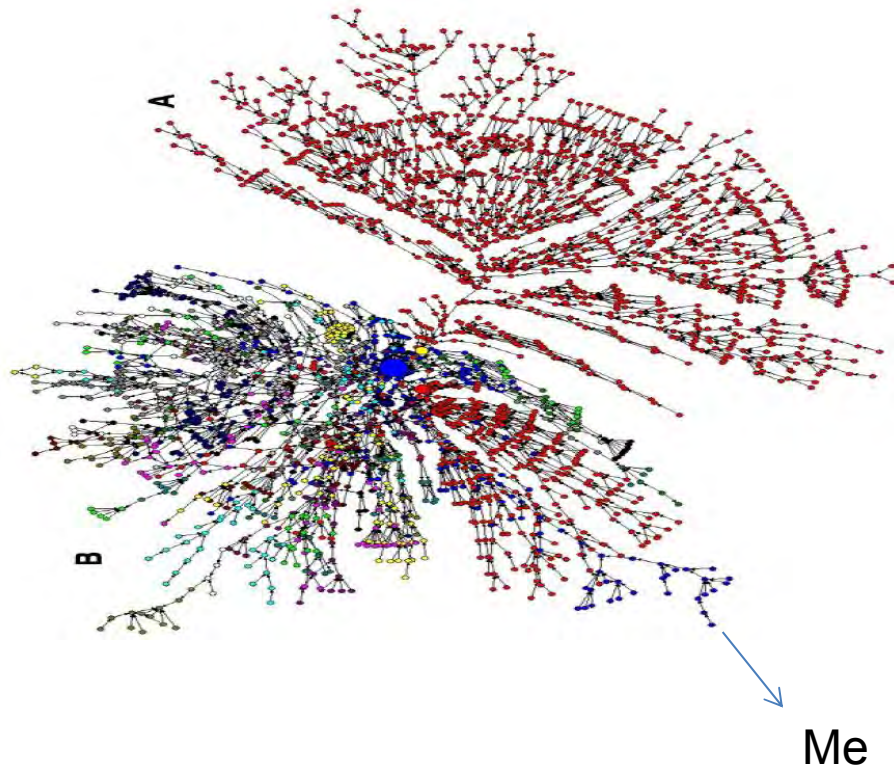
- Lots of good EE. Even when I gave a poor presentation about the technological history of an orthopedic implant... To be honest, that reduced a bit the emotional energy levels.
- Lots of Quick Acquisition of CC: fantastic presentation by Bart Verspagen of connectivity analysis of patent citations.



Why PhD Days are important? TALKING ABOUT ME (IV)

2006-2008: Still trying to find a suitable methodology to tell my PhD dissertation story... and still thinking about that fantastic Verspagen presentation

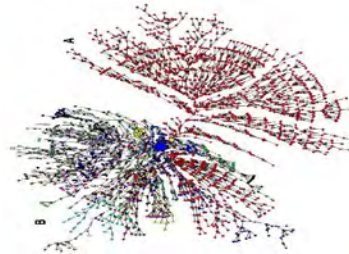
AND THEN A PhD FRIEND I KNEW IN ESSID DAYS COMES TO THE RESCUE!!!!



Why PhD Days are important? TALKING ABOUT ME (V)

2014: APPARENTLY IT WORKED!!!!

2005



2014



European Summer School On Industrial Dynamics



PhD DAYS DO THEIR JOB

**NOW WE KNOW PhD Days ARE IMPORTANT....
AND PhD DAYS DO NEED YOU!**

After Joaquin Azagra's presentation please tell us:
WHY ARE YOU SO IMPORTANT?