

Convergence Workshop: Bridging Theory and Practice in Complex Research Centers

Pre-Workshop Notes Template

Day 1 – Full Day, October 7

8:30 – 9:00 | Stage-Setting Talk (Plenary)

9:00 – 9:30 | Opening Reflection (Plenary)

Case Study Section Breakouts

9:45 – 10:45 | Breakout by Case Study Sections #1

Objective: Generate shared insights from case studies around the four dimensions of convergence explored in case studies (Organizational/Structural Scaffolding, Convergence Practices, Tools and Resources, Trainee Experiences), surface critical factors in success and overcoming barriers, and highlight learnings and next steps to advance the examined aspect of supporting intentional convergence in large research teams.

Reading Guide Prompt: Before arriving, reflect on how your team described the selected section of the case study. What stood out to you, and what questions remain?

Notes:

- **Workshop Activity Prompts:**
 - What was the most impactful thing your team noticed about this aspect and its effect on convergence?
 - What was the biggest challenge or “wish we would have/could have” in this aspect?

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- How do you see the impacts of this aspect in the convergent fruits of your project/center?
- What have you learned here — one thing you would take back to your prior selves or apply in the future?

11:00 – 12:00 | Breakout by Case Study Sections #2

Objective: Second round of session above

Notes:

12:15 – 1:15 | Lunch

Cross-Cutting Themes

1:30 – 2:15 | Cross-Cutting Theme Panel 1: Shared Inquiry Across Boundaries

Objective: Explore how teams use dialogue and boundary objects to bridge disciplinary, institutional, and stakeholder boundaries.

Plenary Q&A Prompt: What kinds of boundary objects or dialogue practices could be adapted across contexts, and where are their limits?

Notes:

2:15 – 3:00 | Interactive Gallery Walk

3:15 – 4:00 | Cross-Cutting Theme Panel 2: Building Culture and Engagement Foundations

Objective: Surface and compare how teams intentionally build convergence culture and embed stakeholders as co-creators from the start.

Plenary Q&A Prompt: What are the most transferable practices for embedding stakeholder engagement into team culture?

Notes:

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4:00 – 4:30 | Day 1 Closing Reflection (Plenary)

5:30 – 6:30 | Pre-Dinner Social

6:30 – 8:30 | Dinner

Group meal and activity

Day 2 – Half Day, October 8

8:00 – 8:30 | Coffee, Gather

8:30 – 8:50 | Welcome Back (Plenary)

9:00 – 10:00 | Case Study Section Session (Choice)

Objective: Deepen cross-team exchange in areas of greatest curiosity, guided by questions from the gallery walk. The goal of this day is to dig into “what next” - what will we add to the case study compendium about what we’ve learned from each other in gathering all teams together to examine our assumptions, approaches, and gaps?

Reading Guide Prompt: Return to your case study section with peer feedback in mind. Which questions do you most want to explore?

Notes:

10:15 – 11:00 | Cross-Cutting Theme Panel 3: Sustaining Integration and Translating Impact

Objective: Identify strategies for sustaining convergence capacity and generating frameworks for evaluation and use-inspired outcomes.

Plenary Q&A Prompt: How do we know if convergence is truly happening, and how do we sustain it over time?

Notes:

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11:00 – 12:00 | Distilling Priorities for Next Steps (Plenary + Breakouts)

12:00 – 12:30 | Closing Remarks (Plenary)

12:30 – 1:00 | Boxed Lunch Assembly