

Towards a CERN-inspired Collaboration Infrastructure for Contemplative Studies

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Problem In scientific research, individuals often face impediments such as highly competitive environments limited by the apparent scarcity of resources, visibility, expertise, and manpower. As a consequence, much time and energy is being invested on the systemic overhead; under publication pressure this can result in limited statistics, reduced significance of results, publication biases, and replicability issues.	Objective The given limitations can be overcome within a well-coordinated, inclusive, collaborative environment that maximises efficient use of resources through a shared infrastructure. In the case of Contemplative Studies (CS), such a culture of collaboration can be worked towards by scientists, educators, clinicians and other groups of professionals, as well as contemplative practitioners themselves.
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Conclusions A highly successful implementation of the proposed collaborative framework has been demonstrated over recent decades by research communities [1] around the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Several of the listed key factors are implemented in the CERN model of collaboration, including consensual languages, shared data and expertise, <i>slow science</i> and detailed internal peer-review processes, which are necessitated by the complex experimental conditions to enable precision studies.	The highly interdisciplinary domain of CS faces challenges beyond those found in physics, but also allows to include additional resources rooted in contemplative practice itself. We are beginning to explore the feasibility of establishing a more inclusive collaborative framework for CS over the coming decades, starting with dialogues among CS, physics and other communities. These explorations might also inspire other fields of inquiry, while helping gradually transform the prevailing cultural and societal narratives from separation/scarcity to interbeing/compassion.
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