

Driver's Seat – Industry-Sponsored Doctorates and Research Integrity

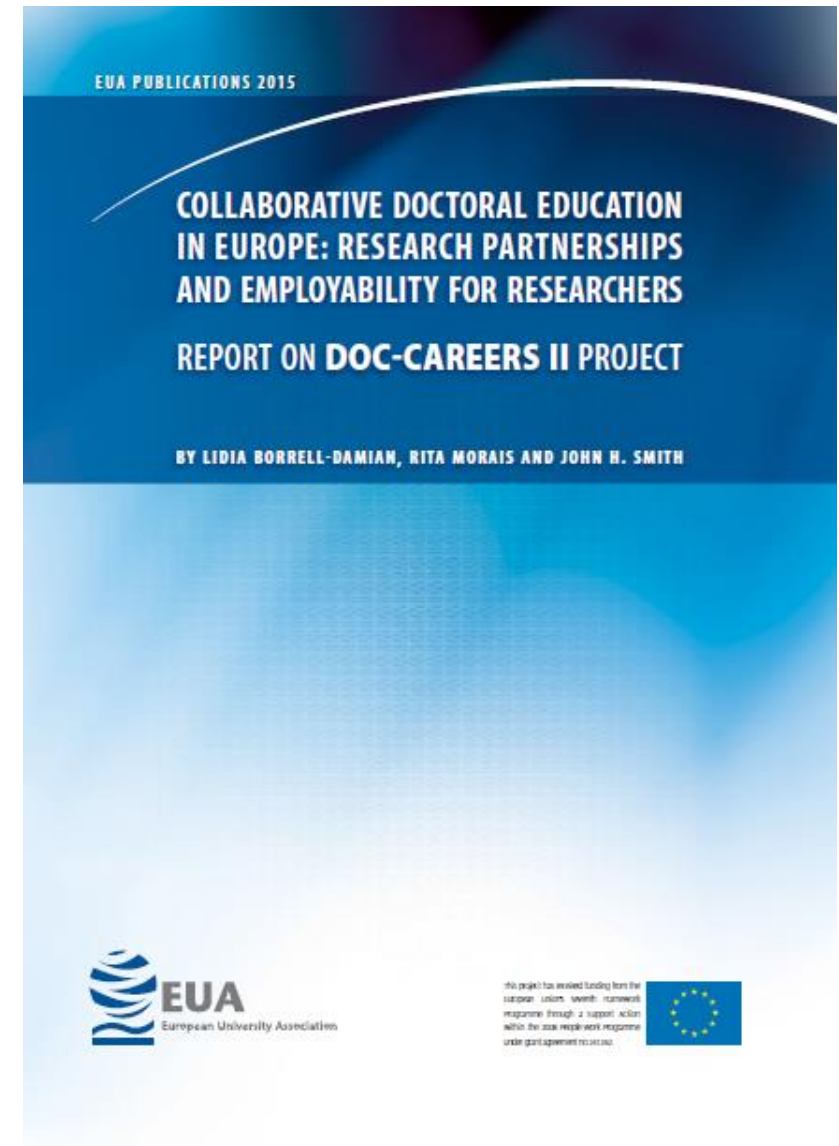
EUA PUBLICATIONS 2009

COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS FOR
ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

DOC-CAREERS PROJECT

By Lidia Borrell-Damian



Benefits

- » Various types of cooperation/industry sponsorship
- » Industrial doctorates in a narrower sense:
candidates employed in industry, doing research there
- » Mutual benefits; from university perspective:
funding and extramural relevance/application
- » Particular importance in STEM subjects

General Risks

- » Sometimes the impression is created that the major (only?) problem of university-industry cooperation is that there is not enough of it, or that employability is all that matters
- » Financial carrot and stick brought to bear to have academia accept determining role of industry

Transparency Issues

- » Culture of publication vs. business/trade secrets
- » Non-disclosure agreements and IPR restrictions regarding results and their further exploitation
 - Papers, Patents, Posters impeded
(in itself problematic for academic career of candidates)
- » Extravagant expectations of non-disclosure ...
- » ... even after patent registration or with none pending, with no expiry date or process

- » In extreme cases, even the supervisors themselves get no access to the complete research results

Open Access / Data / Science

- » Move towards Open Science welcome ...
- » ... but may be exacerbating conflicts of interest

Supervision and Career Issues

- » Derived from transparency
- » Three-party contact sometimes unsystematic
- » Changes in research agenda sometimes not communicated to university; no clear liaison and/or no scientifically qualified liaison with university supervisor
- » Cases of supervisor acting as paid consultant for firm simultaneously – confusion of roles
- » Competing demands in general

- » Resulting conflicts create risks for doctoral researchers

Agenda-setting

- » Agenda driven by industry, not university
- » Impression created of bilateral agreement between doctoral candidate and firm according to conditions set by firm
- » Recruitment completed by firm without consultation of university: topic is there, employee-candidate is there – the university can merely sign off
- » In short, university often merely an afterthought
- » One intervention characterizes such procedures as “cuckoo’s egg” PhDs

Complaints, appeals, admissions

- » German Association of University Professors and Lecturers (DHV), 2016
- » TU9 German Institutes of Technology, 2017
- » German Chemical Industry Association (VCI), 2017

- » Such texts demonstrate the nature and extent of the problems



DEUTSCHER
HOCHSCHUL
VERBAND



TU9
German Institutes of
Technology

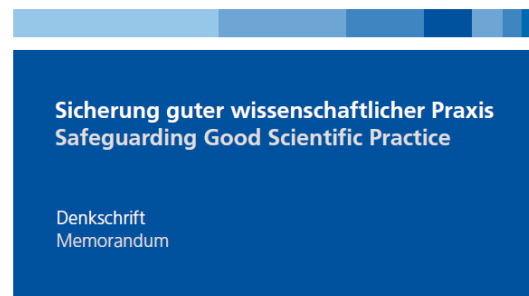


VERBAND DER
CHEMISCHEN INDUSTRIE e.V.
WIR GESTALTEN ZUKUNFT.

VCI

Interventions

- » University solutions
- » No specifics in good-practice guides
- » German Research Foundation (DFG)
- » All European Academies (ALLEA)



WILEY-VCH

DFG



The European
Code of Conduct for
Research Integrity
REVISED EDITION

