

We need to talk.



Why improving inter-actor communication may be crucial to advance research assessments

Noémie Aubert Bonn, PhD student in Hasselt University (Belgium)

Presentation for the 2019 EUA Workshop on Research Assessment in the Transition to Open Science, Brussels 14 May 2019







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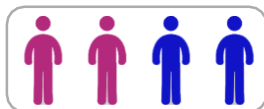
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Interviews and focus groups

53 actors from Flemish research scene

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what leads researchers to

success

what threatens

integrity



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We need **changes** in research assessment!



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who is

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for changes that foster integrity



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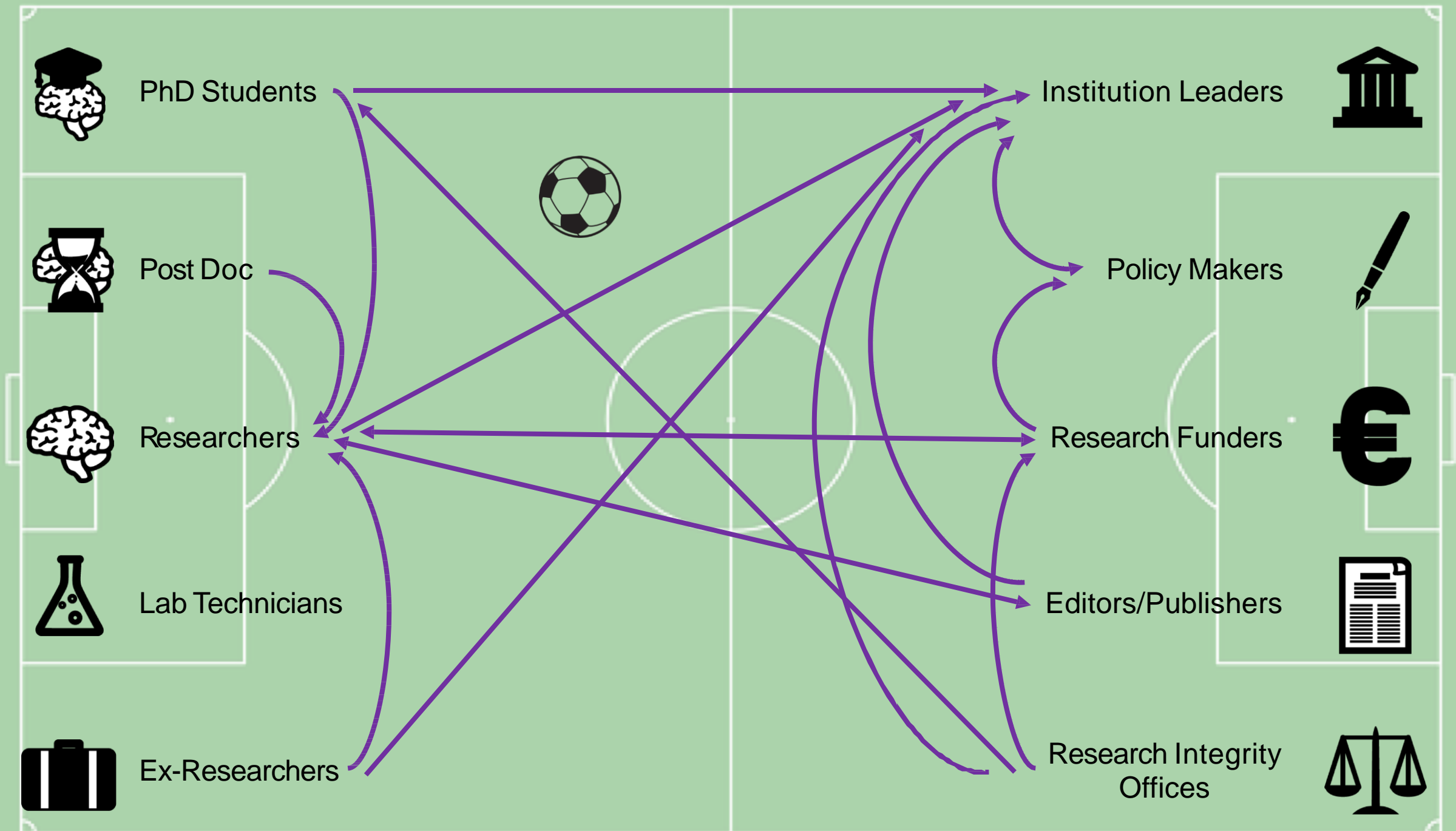


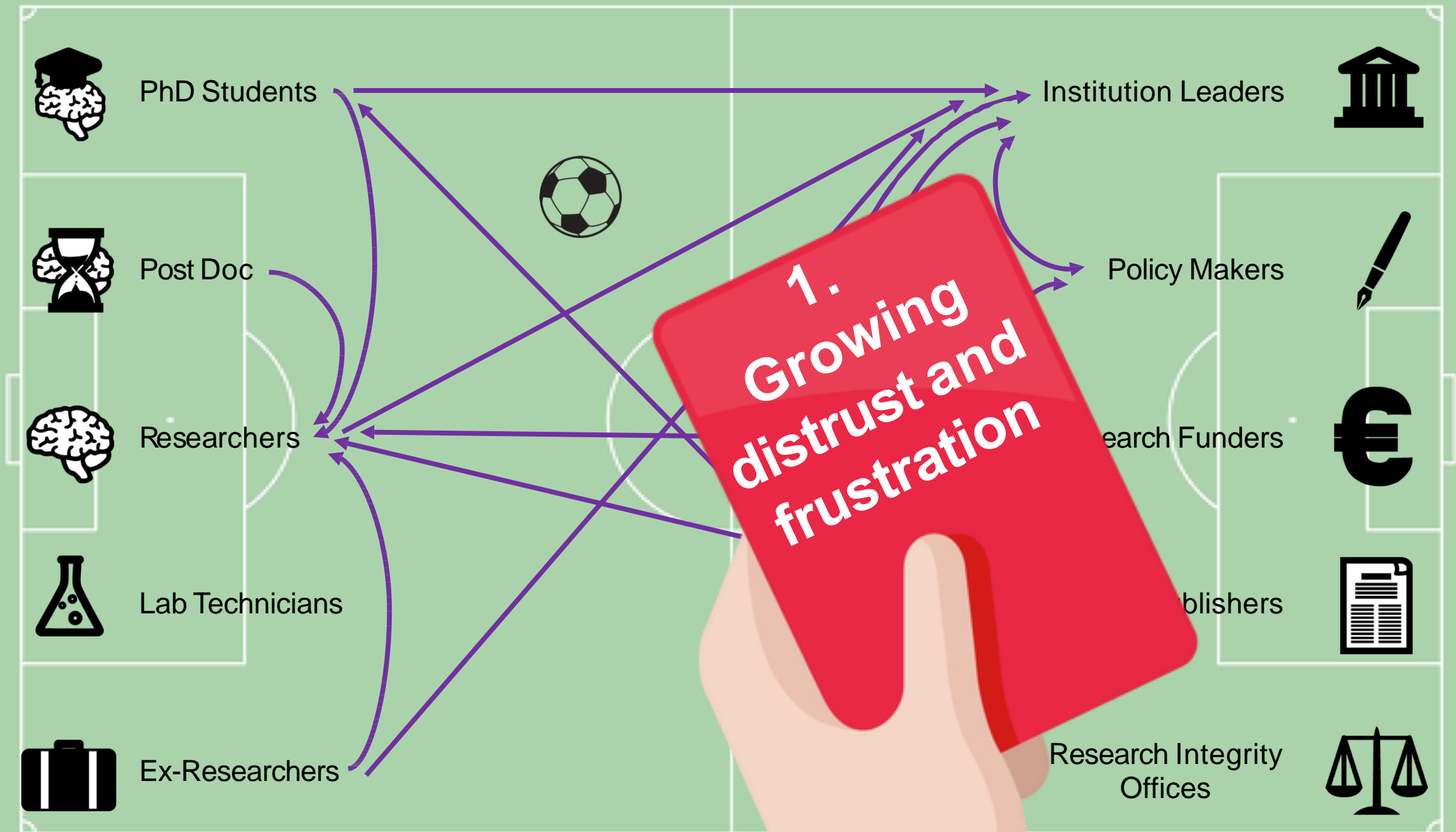
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Different actors
prioritize
different things





Open access!



More stability!



Less pressure!



Reward failure!

Appreciation!



Fair structural funding!



Societal change!



Collaboration!



Transparency!



Personal support!



Different actors
prioritize
different things



Open access!



More stability!



Less pressure!



Reward failure!

Appreciation!



Fair structural funding!



Societal change!



Collaboration!



Agency!



Support!



Different
priorities
different

2.
Unclear
agenda
for change



Individual actors
feel unable to act
on their own





*“One institution **cannot change** that.”*



Individual actors
feel unable to act
on their own



*“...the system **is like it is...**”*



There isn't anything that we can do...



“One institution cannot change that.”



Individual actors
feel unable to
act on the

3.
**Generalized
inaction**

“...the system is like a

The

do...



What if we spoke about it?

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“It took a long time for the policy plan to be developed, but the interesting part was that at the beginning it was going all directions. ‘What is Research Integrity?’ ‘What should we do with it?’ Everybody had a different opinion and had different mindsets and different focuses.

But you see that after [...] you see that you kind of **gather these views and that people are starting to think in the same direction.** So it's a very intensive way of working, but it has the advantage that by the end, when you go to the final policy document, you have a **very tight community that is really fixed to that goal**, and <those are> really ambassadors, up until today.”

In summary...

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Our findings suggest that research currently suffers from:

1. Growing distrust and frustration

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3. Generalized inaction

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Better inter-actor communication



- Inter-actor workshops?
- Meet-the-expert events?
- Co-design of policies?
- Shared exchange platforms (git?)
- ...

In summary...

Our findings suggest that research currently suffers from:

1. Growing distrust and frustration
2. Unclear agenda for change
3. Generalized inaction

Better inter-actor communication may help to:

1. Renew mutual trust



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Our findings suggest that research currently suffers from:

1. Growing distrust and frustration
2. Unclear agenda for change
3. Generalized inaction

Better inter-actor communication may help to:

1. Renew mutual trust
2. Build a shared agenda for change
3. Get to action!



- Inter-actor workshops?
- Meet-the-expert events?
- Co-design of policies?
- Shared exchange platforms (git?)
- ...



“Researchers, universities and other research performing organisations, research funders and policymakers will have to work together to develop and implement more accurate, transparent and responsible approaches to research evaluations”



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If we want change to happen
we need to talk!

Special thanks to
my supervisor
Wim Pinxten

Thank you!



re-sinc 

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