

Cross-Disciplinary Research and Industrial Collaboration: A Two-Edged Sword

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Abstract

In my presentation, I will play the role of devil's advocate. To this end, I will not only extol the virtues of cross-disciplinary research and industrial collaboration but also raise a number of issues which may be problematic — particularly for junior faculty. The list of topics which I intend to address includes: differing time scales and expectations for industry versus university, curiosity-based research versus research with deliverables, proprietary research and nondisclosure agreements, possible effects of team research on promotion to tenure. My talk will be based on my perspective as both a faculty member and former department chair.