

Resilience through academic Collaborative Innovation Networks: the case of Canada Research Chairs

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Academic research collaboration is increasing in scope and across international borders. There is general agreement that collaborative work, critical to gain resources, results in co-authored scholarly output that is more highly cited. However, several collaborations fail to produce the desired outcomes and are short lived. Successful collaborators excel at building resilient long-term Collaborative Innovation Networks (COINs) that survive the test of time with collaborators near and far afield.

In an educational setting such as COINs of academic researchers, innovation and creativity are important characteristics to achieve sizeable results such as publications in highly ranked journal and obtaining recognition through research funding mechanisms. Within this educational setting, we explore the resilience through COINs of faculty in the context of recipients of the Canadian Research Chairs (CRC), a long standing program involving 76 universities, over 1,600 research chairs and an annual budget of \$265 million. There are two Tiers within the CRC: Tier 1 awarded to senior researchers and Tier 2 to rising stars. We conducted an analysis of 10 CRC chairs (5 Tier 1 and 5 Tier 2), using available Google Scholar Profiles of CRC chairs in the area of management. We found that these successful researchers (High h and i-10 index) identified and selected by their respective universities and the CRC program are more likely to build resilient collaborative relationships with their co-authors. Collaboration when leveraged well can extend critical inputs and specialized resources to projects. Segmenting the data for more effective collaborative outcomes (more than 5 publications) and comparing the profiles of tier 1 and tier 2 CRC chairs, we find that tier 1 scholars have a significantly higher percentage of research collaborations which lead to more than 5 co-authored publications and longer term projects. Among the tier 2 chairs, those who have built stronger collaborations in terms of number of outcomes show relatively higher h and i-10 indexes. The eco-system provided by larger and more resource intensive universities, and universities located in a major metropolitan city in Canada also has a plausible effect on CRCs ability in building more resilient COINs. These preliminary results provide valuable insights for our next phase of research, which involves increasing sample size, academic disciplines and incorporating advanced comparative and categorical data analysis techniques to identify challenges in building resilient collaborative networks.