

NIMBioS

National Institute for Mathematical
and Biological Synthesis

NIMBioS/DySoC Investigative Workshop

Human Origins 2021

EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

15-16 FEBRUARY 2019

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Figure 1. Agreement with the following statements about this workshop:

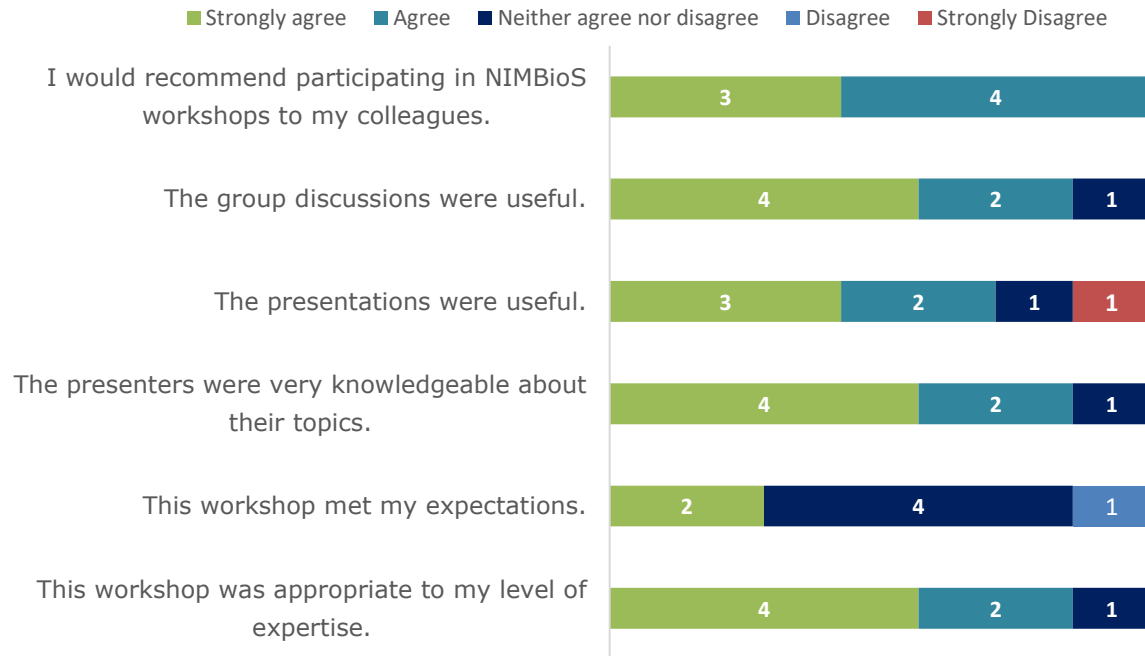


Figure 2. Agreement with “As a result of participating in this workshop, I have a better understanding of...”

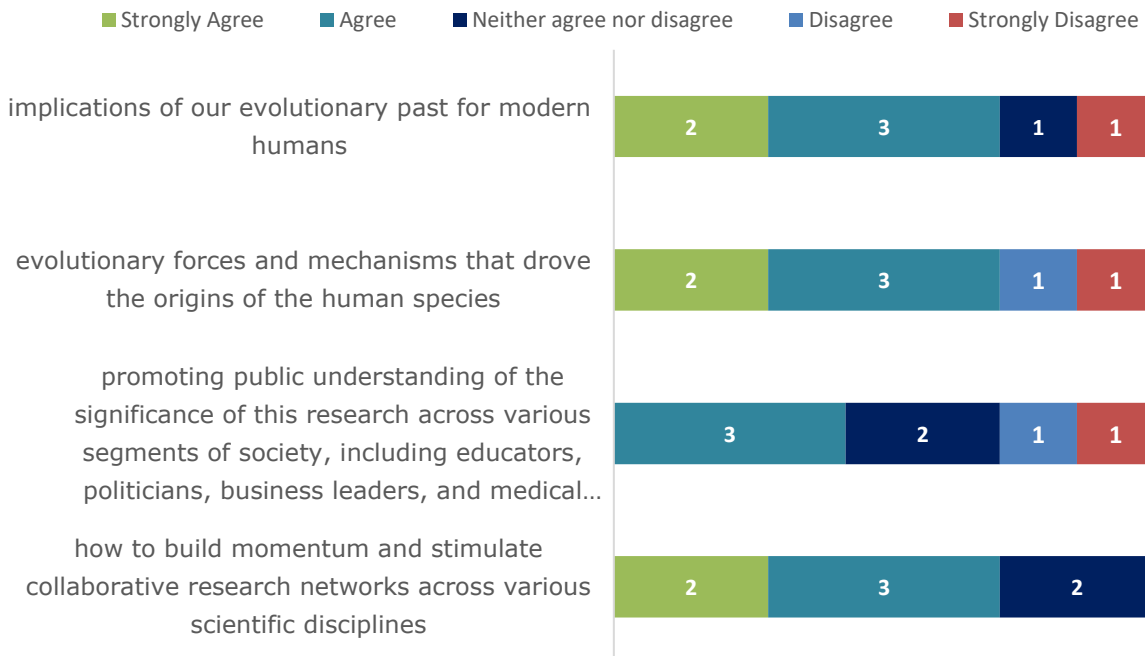


Figure 3. Level of satisfaction with the opportunities provided during workshop presentations and discussions to ask questions and/or make comments:



Please indicate any suggestions you have for facilitating communication among participants during the workshop:

No participant comments provided.

The workshop format would have been more effective if:

No participant comments provided.

6 out of 7

attendees felt this was a very effective format for achieving their goals.

Do you feel participating in the workshop helped you better understand the research going on in disciplines other than your own on the workshop's topic?

One of the best workshops I have been to for a while for the exchange of ideas across sub-disciplines. Too short for substantial progress on the goal of establishing a major new synthesis center.

Definitely; an intellectual cross-disciplinary feast.

I enjoyed the workshop but I felt that the information given to us in advance about the content of the workshop was rather sketchy. For example, I thought that participants would make presentations on their areas of expertise, and discovered only at the last minute that the time would be spent much more on preparing a funding pitch (a useful exercise certainly but not one I thought would be the sole purpose of the meeting).

6 out of 7

attendees felt the workshop helped them better understand the research going on in disciplines other than their own on the workshop's topic.

Do you feel the workshop made adequate progress toward finding a common language across disciplines for research on the workshop's topic?

Yes, but I think more progress might have been possible if participants had been asked in advance to prepare presentations addressing these issues. There could have been a better balance between thinking in advance and reacting in real time.

5 out of 7

attendees felt the workshop made adequate progress towards finding a common language across disciplines for research on the workshop's topic.

Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the workshop will influence your future research?

Definitely, I had many intellectually stimulating conversations that have already influenced my work.

5 out of 7

attendees felt the exchange of ideas that took place during the workshop will influence their future research.

Did you develop plans for collaborative research with other workshop participants with whom you had not previously collaborated?

No participant comments provided.

3 out of 7

attendees developed plans for collaborative research with other workshop participants with whom they had not previously collaborated.

What would you change about the workshop?

More preparation prior to the workshop for the goal of establishing a new synthesis center.

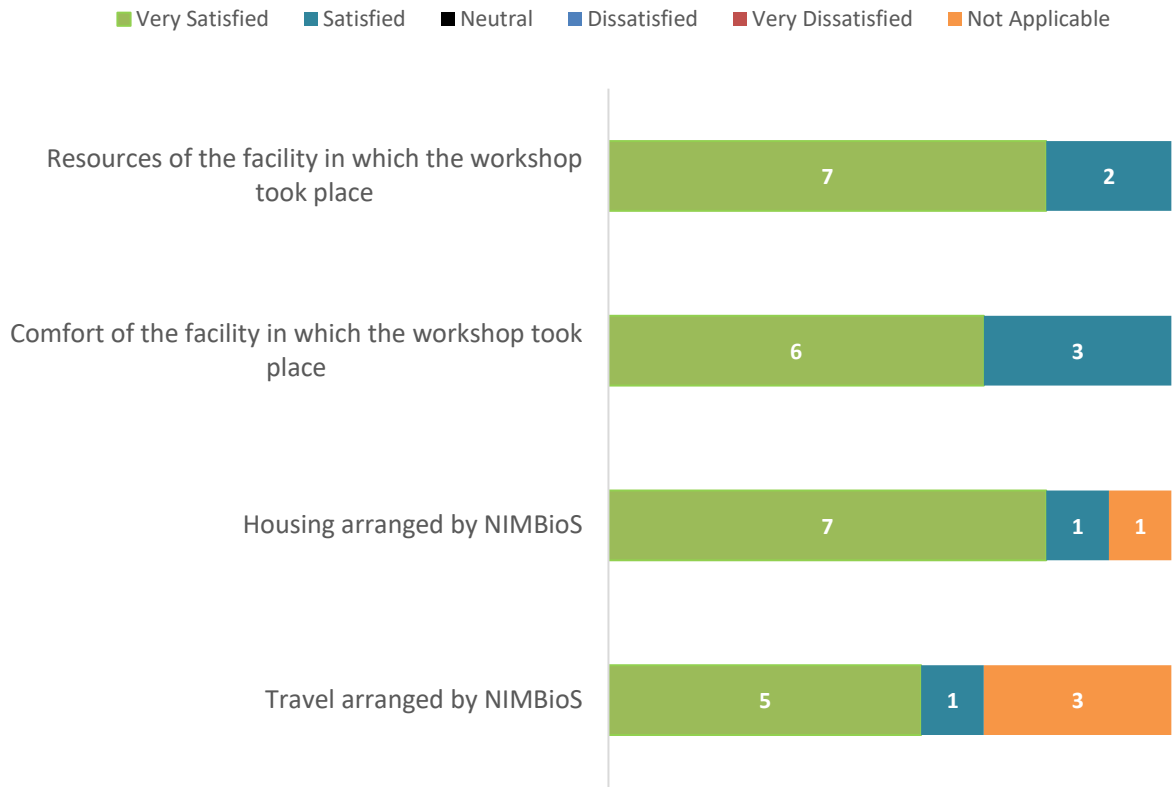
Perhaps having each person going around at the end and indicating their ideas for future progress or work. Sometimes, one does not hear from the more introverted members of the group, and going around would make sure everyone's ideas got out there.

More preparation in advance by the attendees.

I would establish goals in advance, and seek advice from participants more about how to reach those goals than what the goals should be.

I get that this was a workshop to plan a center that could make future workshops happen, but it did have a theme, and as such, we should have had an opportunity for each participant to make a short presentation on what we thought were the most important recent findings and future challenges. That would have allowed much better use of our time together.

Figure 4. Level of satisfaction with the workshop accommodations:



Comments about accommodations:

Accommodation was in Four Points Sheraton.

Please provide proper food!

What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the workshop?

Exchange of information from different sub-disciplines on understanding human origins.

Learning from those outside my own field. Hearing about new cutting edge ideas and information discussions during the breaks and over meals with individuals. These sparked genuinely new lines of inquiry.

Meeting a number of individuals whom I had not previously met.

Meeting new people

Having specialists in different fields in the same room with time to exchange ideas.

Please use this space for any additional comments:

The above questions about effectiveness of reaching goals was not relevant for this workshop. I answered yes but could have answered yes or no because the goals were far too great for the preparation and time allotted.

Sergey did a great job, and the combination of Sergey, Frans, and Peter was a great combination.