

# HOW CAN PHD SUPERVISORS DRAW ON THE INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY TO ENHANCE THEIR STUDENTS' PROGRESS?

Prof. Kirsi Pyhältö

Center for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, University of Helsinki

[Kirsi.pyhalto@helsinki.fi](mailto:Kirsi.pyhalto@helsinki.fi)

# WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE WORKSHOP

- I. Presentation: *Function of Supervisory and Researcher Community Support in Doctoral Journey: what is known based on research*
- II. Activity: researcher community network plot. Recommendations for promoting researcher community integration and networking

# RESEARCH DESIGN(S)

- Research on doctoral experience since 2006-  
<https://researchondoctoraleducation.wordpress.com>
  - Data from doctoral students, supervisors and researcher communities
  - Multimethod data: video, survey, interview
  - Multiple disciplines
- Multimethod cross-cultural comparison on ECR experience since 2013-
  - Data from doctoral students and post doctoral researchers
  - Multimethod: surveys, journey and network plot interviews
  - Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Switzerland, Spain, England, and South-Africa
    - Joint project: Finland, Spain, UK and Switzerland <http://www.fins-riess.com>
  - Multiple disciplines

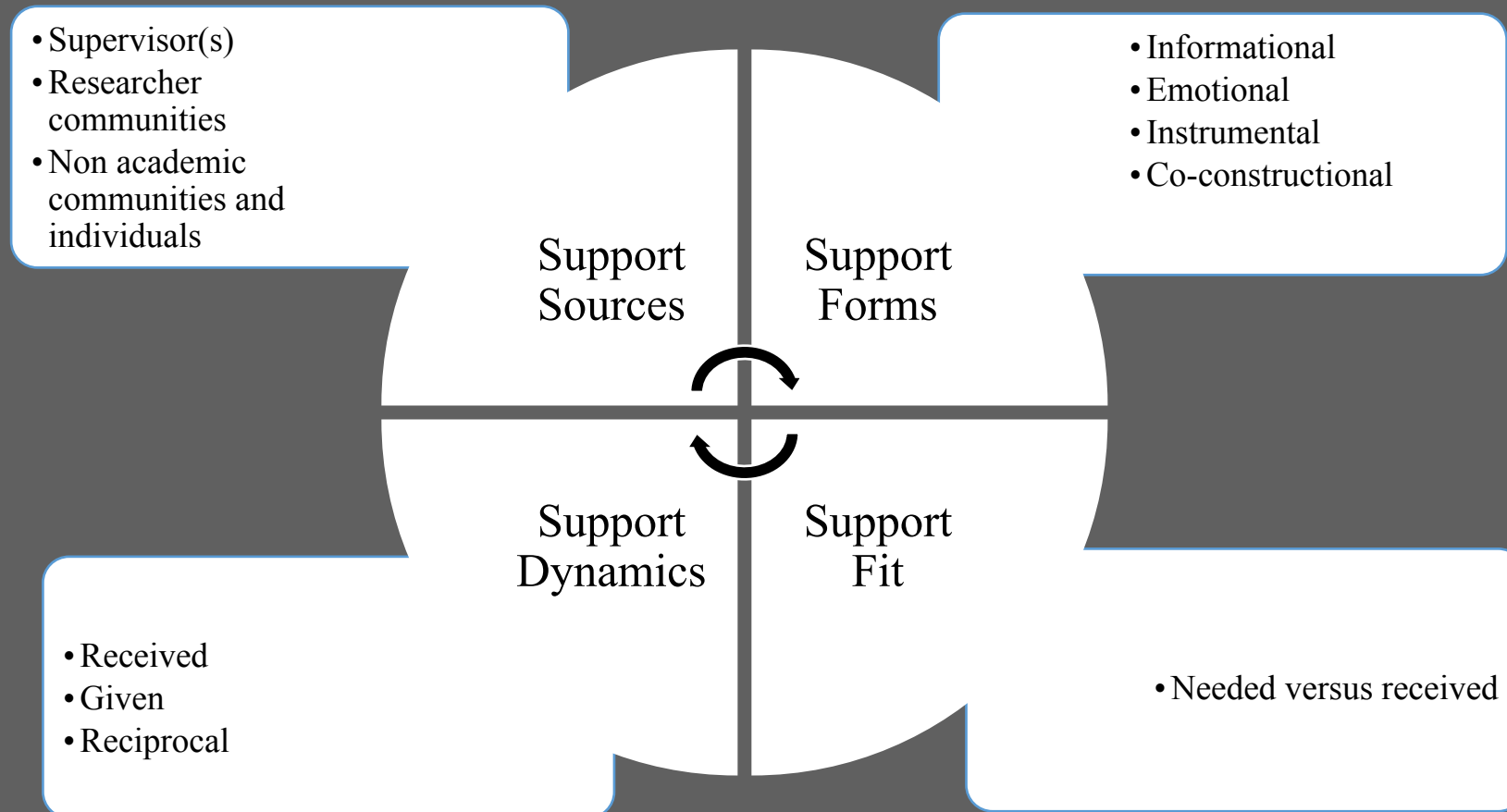
# SUPERVISION AND RESEARCHER COMMUNITY MATTER

- Supervision is shown to be one of the most powerful influence on doctoral experience. Both the quantity and the quality of supervision are shown to matter.
- Also RC plays central role in the doctoral journey and life after PhD

Neither S nor RC is are a single entities.

- Size
  - Coherence
  - Experiences
  - Function have shown to vary
  - Less or more informal RCs
- 
- Practices of S and RCs, and DS's ways to participate in the practices vary

# SUPERVISORY AND RESEARCHER COMMUNITY SUPPORT



**Figure 1.** Anatomy of Researcher Community and Supervisory Support model (Pyhältö, 2018)

# SUPERVISION: UP-SIDE

Frequent supervision

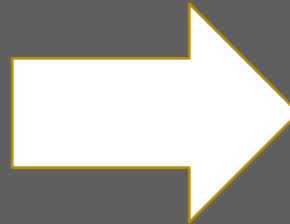
Several supervisors

Shared expectations

Constructive feedback and support

Similar understanding about the challenges and resources

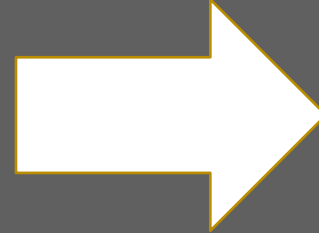
Co-authoring/providing writing support



- Lower attrition risk
- Timely completion
- Satisfaction with studies
- Satisfaction with supervision
- Research engagement
- Reduced burnout
- Research productivity

# SUPERVISION: DOWN-SIDE

- Minimal/lack of supervision
- Problems in supervisory relationship
- Opacity or changing expectations
- Lack of useful feedback
- Supervisor assigned
- Lack of support in academic writing
- Lack of career development support



- Attrition
- Prolonged studies
- Reduced satisfaction with doctoral studies
- Reduced interest in research
- Increased risk of burnout
- Reduced productivity
- Reduced research engagement

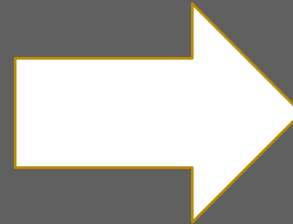
# RESEARCHER COMMUNITIES: UP-SIDE

Integration into the researcher groups/communities

Sense of belonging

Having extensive networks

Social support from researcher community



- International experience
- Immediate employment
- Research engagement
- Timely completion
- Reduced risk of burnout and attrition
- Research productivity
- More frequent supervision
- Satisfaction with doctoral experience
- Ethical code of conduct



# RESEARCHER COMMUNITIES: DOWN-SIDE

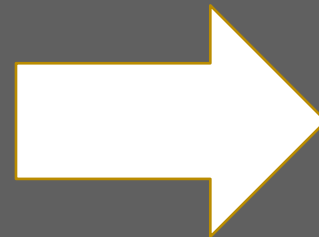
Being outsider (International at risk)

Lack of networks and social support

Not understanding value of networks or developing them

Frictions in research community

Values and ethical discrepancy

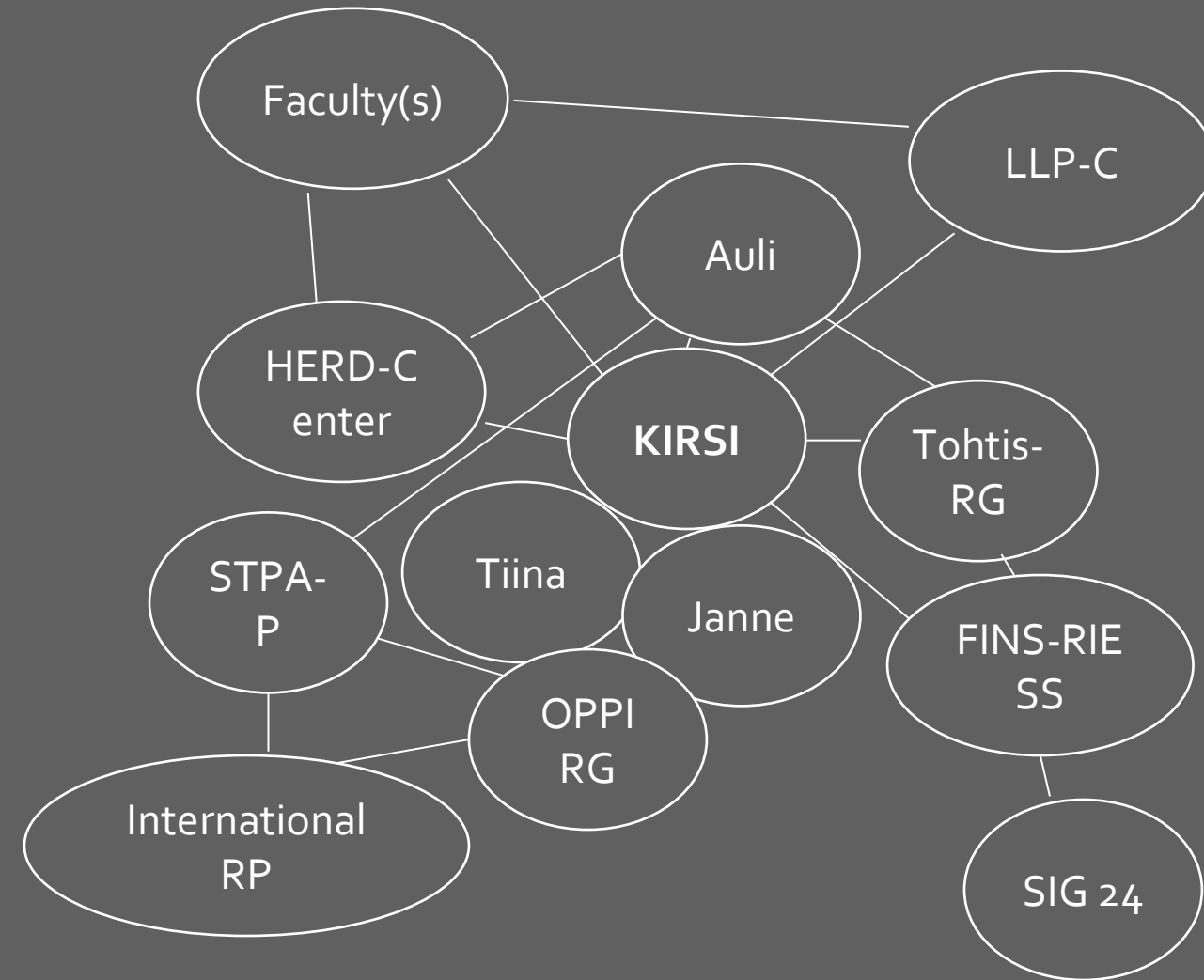


- Increased risk of burnout
- Reduced satisfaction and engagement
- Attrition
- Prolonged studies
- Reduced research productivity
- Lack of interest
- Ethical misconduct

# RESEARCHER COMMUNITY NETWORK PLOT: TIME 5 MIN

Draw your own researcher network plot 5min

- First, write your name at the middle of the paper
- After this, write the names of the individuals or groups (on each circle) that are important in your research experience and the connections between them.
- Set the most important/influential individuals/groups close to yourself
- You can use as many as circles you need to organize your network



# GROUP WORK:RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTING INTEGRATION AND NETWORKING: TIME 20 MIN

- **Start with introducing** : your network to your group members: What do the groups/ individuals mean to you? How they contribute to your research experience?
- After this discuss in your group:
  - How to promote DS' researcher community integration and networking?
  - How can you utilize your own networks to promote DS's networking?
- Based on your discussion, prepare to make 3-5 action items. Each group will report their action items/recommendations (please choose a reporter)

# SUMMARY: RECOMMENDATIONS