

ESL Research Day 2023

“Two Sides of the Impact Coin”

On June 22nd 2023, we had the first ESL Research Day in a series of events to further build ESL research community. The discussed theme was “*two sides of the impact coin*”. Around 60 researchers from different positions as well as support staff took part in this event and contributed to the discussions.

Through personal stories and discussions in groups, we have unraveled the different meanings of impact and the many challenges associated with it. This event revealed that many of us are facing difficult dilemmas, with different common features. Sharing experiences and ways to handle those situations can clearly benefit us as a research community, as well as the individual researchers. Furthermore, this event also helped us to get to know each other, and each other's work better.

Some general take-outs from this event. First, strong support from the faculty and departments when facing different challenges is a key. In addition, it might be helpful to create a common space where the information on how to deal with integrity situations at all stages of research, and to whom to turn, can be helpful. Such mechanisms are already in place but might not be sufficiently visible. General ideas of creating culture where failures can be safely discussed (e.g., in intervision groups) were particularly supported. High quality and impactful research is not only the result of success stories, but is created through a path full of obstacles, failures and eventually, successes!

We would like to thank the organizers, the people who were willing to share their personal stories, and all the participants. This event clearly demonstrated the value of building and maintaining a research community, and we hope to see more people at the next events.