Reflection on interdisciplinary training in doctoral education

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My expertise is in Human-Computer Interaction and my teaching has been shaped by an ongoing reflective and innovative approach to my practice [2],[5],[7],[8],[9]. In this paper I reflect on my experience of developing large interdisciplinary doctoral training through innovative training networks funded by EC under Marie-Curie programme. In particular, I will highlight the choice for the scope of interdisciplinarity, or the epistemological distance among the selected disciplines, the level of disciplinary research reflected in the envisaged integration of these disciplines, and the targeted goals of interdisciplinarity [1]. I will showcase my work with a case study on the AffecTech Innovative Training Network focused on technologies for mental health [4],[3],[6]. In particular, I will highlight the importance of considering these key interdisciplinary aspects at the early stage of programme development so that they can be purposefully shaped. I will also reflect on the impact of these choices on the overall research practices and the outcomes that the AffecTech doctoral training programme has enabled. The implications of this work for large doctoral training initiatives, such as the Centres for Doctoral Training, increasingly funded by the UKRI, are also discussed.

Acknowledgment

This work has been supported by AffecTech: Personal Technologies for Affective Health, Innovative Training Network funded by the H2020 People Programme under Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement No 722022.

References