

Science:Disrupt aims at bringing people together, encouraging them to mix ideas and share their dreams by organising events and creating editorial content and podcasts spread on social media. By mixing people of various background, they aim to facilitate cross-fertilisation of ideas from different disciplines and geographies and stimulate collaborative co-creation in science. In this interview with Euroscientist, Science:Disrupt co-founder Gemma Milne, explains how she was inspired by the multidisciplinary emulation already taking place in the tech start-up industry.



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Gemma Milne interview: Fast-tracking research through cross-fertilisation



Science:Disrupt: the glue to make scientific multi-disciplinary concepts stick

Science's slow processes, its steep barriers to entry, and its poor external and internal communication is eroding trust people have in science. [Science:Disrupt](#) is an initiative, which aims to make science evolve faster by bringing together scientists from across disciplines and geographies.

“We are all about hosting discussions and showcasing the innovators iconoclasts and entrepreneurs that are attending in creating change in science,” says [Gemma Milne](#), who, in April 2016, co-founded Science:Disrupt.

Inspired by the fast tracking of ideas taking place in the start-up scene, Gemma and her co-founder, [Lawrence Yolland](#), wanted the same level of energy and creative stimulation to pervade the scientific process. She started asking questions: “Why is science so inefficient compared to tech?” With her background as a writer with experience in the advertising industry, Milne spent a lot of time going to events, conferences and meeting “people that are all about innovating”.

Yolland is familiar with tech circles as a computational biology PhD student at University College London, UK. Milne and Yolland felt that the way that tech industry advanced was through collaborations. She points out: “People don’t openly talk about how to really change science on the same way as it happens with techs, we wanted to create that sort of movement.”

Scaling up

Milne and her co-founder also used Slack, discussion on social media using [Slack](#), a social platform that allows people to create channels of discussions. “Anyone can get involved in a slack group,” she explains. “We’ve got one on science disruption, we have a channel on events, we have a channel about personalised health, we have a channel for people who are looking for people,” she says. Essentially, she has created a place for this whole community attending Science:Disrupt events and take part to discussions on how to advance science stimulated by articles and podcasts posted on the site.

She notes jokingly, sometimes “it’s the weirdest collaborations that end up being the most fruitful.” In a nutshell: “what we are trying to do [is] to get these sort of random-ish people in a room, who would never normally meet,” she says, and encourage them to “talk about what [they]’re doing, talk about the stuff that’s been on stage, talk about [their] hopes and dreams, talk about the start-up that [they] are trying to launch.”

Video editing and cover text Charline Pierre and Lena Kim.

Interview by Sabine Louët, EuroScientist Editor.

Photo credit: Gemma Milne.