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The "In-Between":
How to Facilitate Interdepartmental Collaboration from the Institutional Middle

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What is the "In-Between"?

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Chatham House Rule

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The In-Betweeners

- **Amanda Dearolph**, Database Administrator, LACMA

- **Carissa Dougherty**, Head of Knowledge Management, Morton Arboretum

- **Ellice Engdahl**, Manager of Digital Collections & Content, The Henry Ford

- **Mark McKay,** Director of Digital, Art Gallery of Ontario

- **Victoria Portway**, Head of Digital Experience, Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum

- **Lisel Record**, Associate Director, Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center (Indiana University)

Breakout Sessions

- CHATHAM HOUSE RULE IN EFFECT -

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Cart Before the Horse

You're part of a team working on streamlining a complicated, cross-departmental process. One person immediately suggests a solution which is endorsed by another. You know that this will cause more problems than solutions.

What can you do to make sure the team considers all possible options?

Unhappy Campers

Meetings for a project you're working on seem like a minefield. Some group members sit silently through meetings, registering their disagreement or disengagement via body language, while other take a more combative approach.

What can you do to get the group to work with each other in a more productive (and professional) way?

Managing Up, Down, All Around

You are a leading a project and a key deadline has passed... and someone to whom you do not have a reporting relationship was responsible.

How do you proceed?

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Leading the Horses to Water

Your team has launched a new internal tool. It's not getting as much use as you'd anticipated (especially since your collaborators in other departments have said they'd use it), and some people are steadfastly sticking with the old way of doing things.

How can you deal with this resistance to change and lack of buy-in?

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Not Your Circus

A trusted colleague comes to you with a challenge that they are facing, and asks for your help. The challenge is one that you've wanted to address for some time, but it's not technically your responsibility.

What do you do / say to your colleague?

Lost in Translation

Every time you approach the IT director with an idea about how to [improve a workflow, save money, fix a software issue], s/he says, "No, we can't do that," followed by a lengthy technical explanation of which you can only understand every third word.

How can you improve your ability to collaborate with her / him?

Thank you!

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