Summer School Group Projects

One of the main elements of your time here is the group project.

1. A unique opportunity to:

- Explore
    - Learn something new.
    - Work on something different from your main research topic.
- Collaborate
    - Learn to work in interdisciplinary teams.
    - Make friends and meet new collaborators.
    - Teach someone a skill or share your knowledge with someone.
- Be creative
    - Challenge yourself and be risky! Don't be scared of "failing".

2. Deliverables

We ask for a few things in order for you to receive your certificate of completion:

- Wednesday July 5th: 1-page abstract with short description and figure.
- Wednesday July 5th and Thursday July 6th: short group presentations.
- After summer: short report to be included in the CSSS 2023 proceedings (deadline: November 1).

3. Timeline

- Week 1
    - *What to focus on: Attend our project start-up activities and talk to people about their ideas. Brainstorm and scheme over meals, in the evenings, while hiking or running, while having beverages, etc. Put project ideas and thoughts as post-its in the common area and in new discord channels.*
    - Tuesday 4:30pm-6pm: Introduction of project goals and timeline.
    - Thursday 2-4:30pm: All ideas are presented to the whole group.
    - Friday: work on projects, talk to SFI postdocs who work in related fields.
    - By the end of Week 1: give us a sense of which project(s) you are interested in.
- Week 2:
    - *What to focus on: As a team, work toward a vocabulary or conceptual frame for your project and learn about the strengths and goals.*
    - Group check-ins with the team (Santiago, Tamara, & Dave).
    - By the end of Week 2: we expect you to know what projects you will be working on.

- Week 3
  - *What to focus on: further refine the scope and framing. Work toward preliminary results, if possible.*
  - Group check-ins with the team (Santiago, Tamara, & Dave).
- Week 4:
  - *What to focus on: preparing your abstract and presentation (you can present about your process instead of results).*
  - Abstract due Wednesday.
  - Presentations on Wednesday and Thursday.

4. How to get the most out of it

- Aim for teams of 3-6 people.
- One, maybe two, projects per person (two is a firm upper bound).
- Choose something you will learn the most from or that you would not be able to do in your home institution.
- Be open-minded and flexible with which projects you want to join – things will keep changing in the first weeks.
- Focus on the process, not the outcome.
- Work on team organization and communication.
- It's okay to fail! Be bold! be weird!

5. What to do now

Focus on your intentions.

- Think about what you want to get out of the project.
  - Is there a method you would like to learn?
  - A skill you have that you would like to apply to a different field?
  - A research idea that you do not have the time or support to develop on your own?
  - A big, risky, fun project?
  - An interesting dataset that you don't know what to do with?
- Don't prepare too much and don't stress! Ideas and collaborations will emerge naturally during interactions with people around you during the first weeks.

6. Who is available to help

Santiago, Tamara, and Dave are all there to help you throughout the whole process; **find us on Discord** and contact us now if you are feeling worried or are not sure where to start.