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Strengthening Science in Society Strategies

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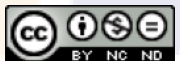
Incidents in the supervision of the doctoral thesis

CASE 3: Assymmetric co-supervision

The supervisor's perspective



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For a couple of years, I have been co-supervising a doctoral student, Marc, together with the PI of my research group. Normally, the student and I meet weekly to assess the progress of the thesis, and bimonthly the three of us meet and the student presents the latest results. That is, I am responsible for the day-to-day supervision. The problem is that for about six months, the thesis is not progressing. The student is blocked. Nothing we discuss in the meetings materializes in the analyses, and he is increasingly demotivated and negative. In the last two meetings with the co-supervisor, there have been several moments of tension as she also sees that the thesis does not progress and demands an explanation. In addition, I met her at a meeting and she said she was very unhappy with this student and I felt she was questioning my work as co-supervisor.

I don't know how to solve this situation. I'm responsible for the student's progress but I have little experience and I have never not faced similar cases. I know that some of my colleagues sometimes choose to do the analysis or write the articles for them... I really want the work to progress and, above all, to be published; it would help me apply for tenure track positions.



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