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Collaborative Learning Spaces and the Future of Interdisciplinary Research

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Abstract: *In the rapidly evolving landscape of higher education and knowledge creation, collaborative learning spaces (CLSs) are emerging as critical catalysts for interdisciplinary research and innovation. These environments transcend traditional classroom and laboratory boundaries, fostering dynamic interactions among diverse academic disciplines. This paper examines the role of CLSs in shaping the future of interdisciplinary research by analyzing their pedagogical, spatial, and technological dimensions. It explores the theoretical underpinnings of collaborative learning, identifies the characteristics of effective CLSs, and discusses how spatial design, technology, and organizational culture support cross-disciplinary collaboration. Drawing upon recent literature and case studies from global universities, this study argues that collaborative learning spaces not only facilitate intellectual synergy but also redefine how institutions generate knowledge. The paper concludes with a framework for designing and implementing such spaces to promote inclusivity, creativity, and knowledge integration across academic domains. Ultimately, CLSs are positioned as vital infrastructures for nurturing the next generation of researchers equipped to address complex global challenges through collective inquiry and innovation.*

Keywords: Collaborative learning spaces; Interdisciplinary research; Spatial pedagogy; Innovation; Knowledge integration

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