

General framework for determining authorship

This is intended to be a starting point for guiding decision making. It might not fully encapsulate the specifics of every situation, and we should be open to considering alternatives if needed.

1. Anyone who contributed substantially to data collection, analysis, or writing should be an author.
2. The person who collected the data has the right of first refusal to analyze the data.
3. The person who analyzed the data has the right of first refusal to write the paper.
4. The person who wrote the paper should be the first author.
5. In cases where more than one person contributed to data collection or analysis, the right of first refusal goes to the person who did the majority of the work. If no single person did a majority of the work, a discussion is called for.
6. In cases where a person did the majority of data collection but does not want to run analysis, or did the analysis but does not want to take the lead in writing, a discussion called for.
7. As a way to balance shared credit, we will consider co-first-authorship or splitting a single project into multiple papers.
8. The best time to discuss authorship is before the project starts. The second-best time is now. Ideally, authorship discussions should happen before data collection begins – or, if this is an analysis of archival data, the discussion should happen before analysis begins.
9. Project contributors have the right to know what level of authorship they can expect for their contribution, so that they can set priorities and scale their time investments appropriately.
10. If contributions change as the project evolves, the authorship discussion should be revisited sooner rather than later.
11. When you are getting ready to leave the lab, you should make a plan with Erin for any first-author papers from your time here that you plan to complete after leaving. Generally speaking, this should be minimal. You will need to focus on your new responsibilities and priorities in your new position.
12. After you have left the lab, data that you collected or analyzed may be used in future projects, but you will still be included as an author and invited to participate in the writing process to the extent that you would like to.