Project Proposal – Research Tinder

A new kind of tool to *find, befriend and connect* with other researchers. Not with a romantic intent, but to start with friendship and shared academic interests.

Image: Let's start with friends and academic interests. If we succeed, the romantic side might get a chance.

1. Introduction / Why

Connecting with people and strengthening our social networks can be challenging. Research Tinder (project name) aim is to accelerate connection and networking for researcher by offering matching solutions where you can easily check mutual research interest and more.

Focus and business case

Research Tinder focus on *people who are starting their research career* or *arriving in an Aalto University* as an visitor researchers. Starting a research career or arriving in a new University could be challenging. Even professors with plenty of experience in terms of living abroad as a visitor professor can feel quite lost for a while.

In *financial perspective* many prestigious research grants such as large Horizon Europe calls, you need to have a strong, complementary, and often large consortium to address all the ambitious objectives. For some calls (e.g., IHIs, Marie Curie Doctoral Networks, Horizon Europe RIAs), you need to have a consortium of about *20 (!) researchers and partners*. Finding and getting the right people on board is crucial to increase your chances of having a winning proposal, as well as a successful project. Small acts of connection that Research Tinder can offer could lay the groundwork for building

supportive, valued, inclusive, and meaningful connection to build your winning consortium.

Research Tinder can accelerate to find researchers on your field or topic. It can help to find special expertise, roles and skills to your consortium or research network. It can help to find interdisciplinary researchers and even balance geographical spread and gender.

2. Project goals

Research Tinder project aims to design and create a prototype tool for two kind of activities: *making friends* and *connecting with academic partners*.

In this project we should benefit the best of these kind of tools and services.

🔥tinder	🛡️ Aalto **Social**	◎ Fingerprint
Glogal dating app	*Aalto's internal social media*	*ACRIS - Aalto Research Information → Fingerprint*

We aim to build a concept and tool, but the scope may be discussed in many ways, please see attachment 2: Project scope.

Research Tinder consists preliminary of two parts:
Friend Maker and Research Matches

a) **Friend Maker**

This new tool makes it simpler to meet new people. Our example below is about tool to organize and participate in casual gatherings. With new friends, whether it's with a partner, a few friends, or a larger group. Friend Maker (the tool's project name) features a list of various events, and anyone can create their own get-together event by choosing from these options. By creating a Get-Together Event in Friend Maker, anyone can express their interest or simply join an event.

1. Create event	2. Join event	3. Get to know

1. Create event

Upcoming events are the perfect place to make new friends. Start by choosing an event.

○ Yoga session, Apr 22
○ Paddleboarding, Apr 29
○ Hockey game, Apr 24
○ **Movie marathon, May 4th**   [Start]
○ Dance class, May 25

Or create your own event.
[Create]

2. Join event

Join us! Two (2) persons are now in.

Movie marathon, May 4th
Date: 4.5.2024
Place: Library X, Street 1, City

🎭 *Popular culture*

€ *Low budget*

📍 *Public event*

👫 *Ronnie BIZ,*
Rhonda ENG

[Interested]   [Join (1)]

3. Get to know

There (4) persons already met in
Movie Marathon May 4th. **How about suggesting them something similar?**

Ronnie Reseacher, BIZ

Tiina Tutkija, SCI

Rhonda Research Assistant, ENG

Teppo Tutkija, ENG

[Join]

Image: an example of how making connections could be done easier. This is just an example, but we should be clever and make the friend-making easier.

Aalto.fi > Events (RSS)
Aalto Social > Events (RSS)
Helsinki > Events (RSS)
Espoo > Events RSS
Events created by you

One feed of events, excuses, to meet other researchers

Image: the feed of activities could be based on external RSS, if the Friend Maker would be based on inviting people to hang-out with you.
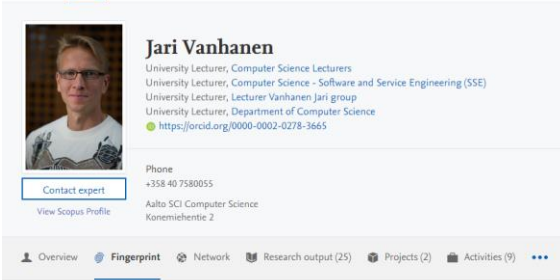
b) Academic Matches

Academic matches, the future tool, would be basically **80%** of automated feed and perhaps only **20%** of users' reactions to the feeds. The social media look-a-like **feed** is created on data from ACRIS API.
https://www.aalto.fi/en/services/acris-importing-and-exporting-data

Single person has lots of interesting data in ACRIS. That data should be turn into interesting non-romantic but academic match-making feed.

Aalto Current Research Information System (**ACRIS**) is Aalto University's research information management system. ACRIS contains information about the university's research staff, doctoral students, projects, publications, artistic outputs, research data, and collaborations.

The idea in this tool-to-be-created, is to enable at least **two** of the following things

Outline what the current ACRIS is missing, from academic match-making point of view. Not looking any romantic side but the ways how to make researchers find each other. And then…

Difficulty level 1, easy: Actions like in any social media
Read the feed of ACRIS > Like the feed items **>** Comment the feed items > Follow a profile in ACRIS

Difficulty level 2: Low-barrier call-to-actions, based on the feed
a) "Join a 30 minutes info sharing session with me"
            Button > invitation > meeting
b) "how about a cup of coffee to share some info?"
c) "Create a community in Aalto Social, around this topic/research"

Difficulty level 3: Match-making by AI
AI would create automated items to the feed
-    "'Here are some research projects related to **#Simulation (45)**"
-    "Your research is about **#Customer perspective** (BIZ), how about getting to know these research projects related to **#Customer perspective** in **#Software engineering** (SCI)"
-    "You are both fresh researchers, in <field>, how about meeting

3. Technologies

- Aalto ITS, with small help from IT partners, could create these 2 tools with Microsoft Power Platform and Azure and Azure OpenAI (API), but student team can select and suggest the technology themselves - as long it is align with the Aalto University IT guidelines.

Possible implementation for
- ACRIS, fingerprints: Dive into the research topics: https://research.aalto.fi/en/persons/jari-vanhanen/fingerprints/
- Aalto Social

...and perhaps for
- ResearchGate: European commercial social networking site for scientists and researchers to share papers, ask and answer questions, and find collaborators. https://www.researchgate.net/
- CORE: Global network of open access repositories and journals https://core.ac.uk/

4. Requirements for the students

Knowledge of
- API integrations (IT Services can support)
- Business case evaluation / Marketing research
- Prototyping
- Coding
- Interface design

We appreciate understanding or
- Elsevier Fingerprint Engine
- Azure

5. Legal Issues

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):

- B. The IPRs of the Results shall be governed according to the principles stated in an open source software license (GitHub)

Confidentiality:

- B. The client will not share any confidential information with the students.

6. Client

Client organization: Aalto University IT Services
Representatives: Kristian Hentula, Juha Juvonen
How much time: 10 h/month, Juha 4h / Month (enough?)

Offered resource: Working facilities in Aalto IT Services, cloud or on-premises server(s), Aalto laptops/computers (depending), Aalto Software's.

Client representative(s)

- Digital Workplace Lead,
  Solution owner: Collaboration technologies + Productized AI
- Kristian Hentula
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- +358 40 565 6644
- Otakaari 1. 02150 ESPOO

- Head of IT Solutions for Research & Innovation
- Juha Juvonen
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7. Additional information

Safety and Moderation: Ensuring user safety and moderating content to prevent harassment and inappropriate behavior is crucial to maintaining a positive user experience and the app's reputation.

Benchmarking current tools

❤ tinder

Glogal dating app

- **Good for**
  - Browsing dating candidates
  - Finding matches
  - Private chatting
  - Making handy sex dates
- **Poor in**
  - Enabling dates, in some cases
- **Missing from our point of view**
  - Academic framework
  - Humanity, pretty often?
- **What to steal from this tool?**
  - Match-making by algorithms
  - Swiping/liking
  - Browse → like → chat → act
- **What not to copy from this tool**
  - The pure appearance-based dating
- **How to cooperate?**
  - Now way to cooperate with

◑ Aalto **Social**

Aalto's internal social media

- **Good for**
  - Creating communities
  - Ready-made technology (Azure+ Yammer)
  - Official tool, boosted by Aalto comms
  - Published in 2023
- **Poor in**
  - Tailoring the actual UI or structure
  - Romantic match-making or detailed academic browsing
- **Missing from our point of view**
  - Things above.
- **What to steal**
  - Using AD on the background?
- **What not to copy?**
  - ?
- **How to cooperate?**
  - We can pull and push content from and to Aalto Social and the future App

◎ Fingerprint

ACRIS - Aalto Research Information → Fingerprint

- **Good for**
  - Browsing academic outcomes, profiles
  - Finding peers
- **Poor in**
  - Let's find out?
  - Making things interesting?
  - Automatic match-making?
- **Missing from our point of view**
  - Lively action?
- **What to steal**
  - The terminology, metadata structure
- **What not to copy?**
  - ?
- **How to cooperate?**
  - Reading this service via API ?
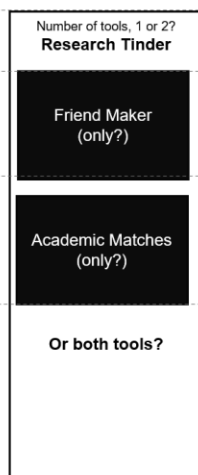
Attachment 1: benchmarking

The project scope may be discussed

	Scenario 1 = Proof-of-concept or proto	Scenario 2 = Service design before the proto
	The concept is now good enough, let's go the technical details and	*We would briefly do also the first steps 1-5, really really briefly*

Number of tools, 1 or 2?
Research Tinder

Friend Maker (only?)

Academic Matches (only?)

Or both tools?

Steps	Steps
1. Concept Refinement	1. **Define Goals**
2. Market Research	2. **User Need Interviews**
3. Technical Setup	3. **User Persona Development**
4. App Design	4. **Service Blueprint**
5. Development	5. **Design Thinking Workshops**
6. Testing	6. Prototyping
7. Privacy and Safety	7. Information Architecture
	8. Technical Infrastructure and APIs
	9. Development
	10. Usability Testing
	11. Privacy and Safety

Attachment 2: Scope of the project