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**Abstract**

This article explores the crucial moments of scientists' research activities when they decide to shift to a radical new domain or to perpetuate a project. We introduce what we have called the 'respiration model' which describes and analyses key cognitive components which occur in this complex process. Respiration either privileges epistemic expectations which are rooted in socio-cognitive metrics of 'concentration' or in a functionality-multiple horizon context which we refer to as 'extension'. The respiration model accords particular attention to the elements curiosity and synergy in science. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)