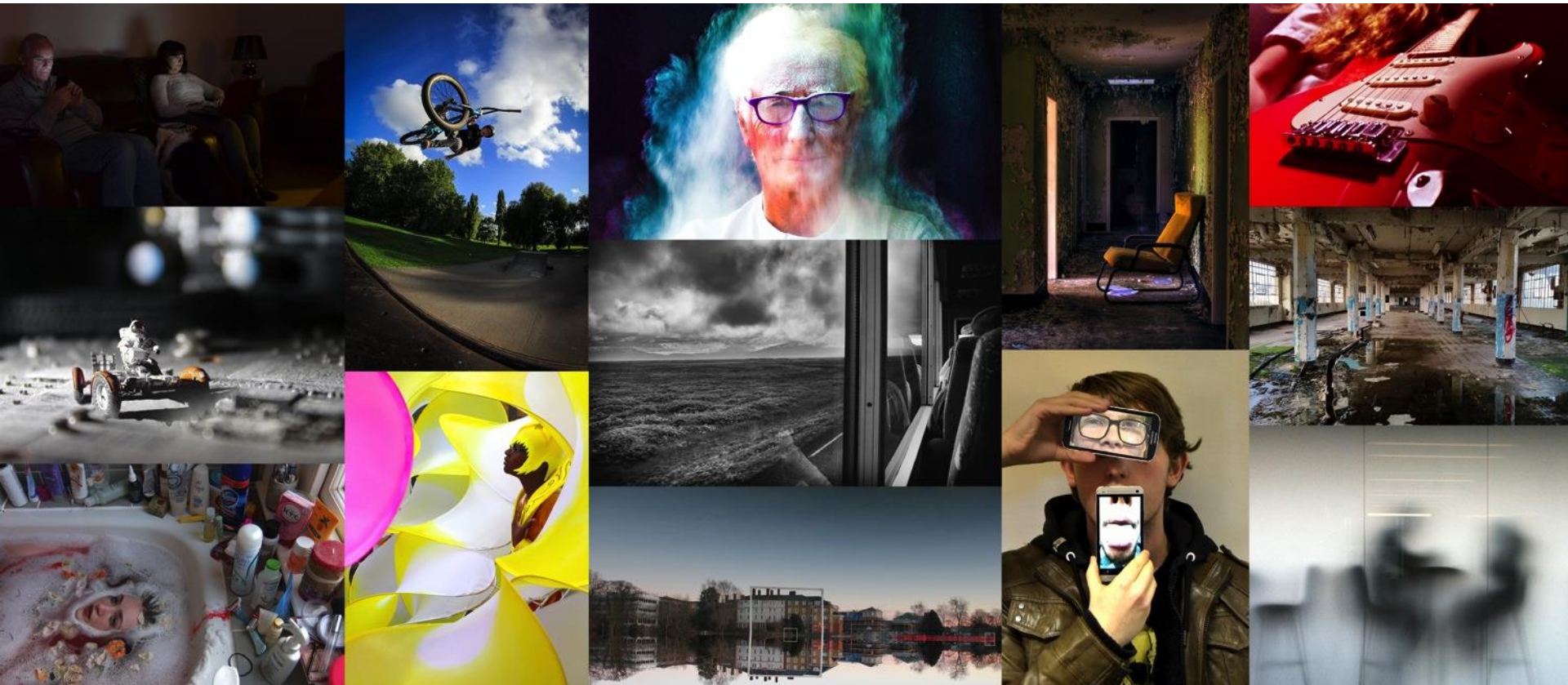


Frances Burstow

Head of Skills and Methods



ESRC and What We Do

- ▶ UK's major public sector funder of social science research and postgraduate training.
- ▶ Non Departmental Public Body, established in 1965.



Doctoral Impact and Career Tracking Study

Focus

- ▶ Medium term career paths and destinations of doctoral graduates – 7 to 9 years after graduation.
- ▶ Value of doctoral graduates to individual and employers.
- ▶ Contribution of doctoral graduates to innovation and their wider socio-economic impact.

Method in brief

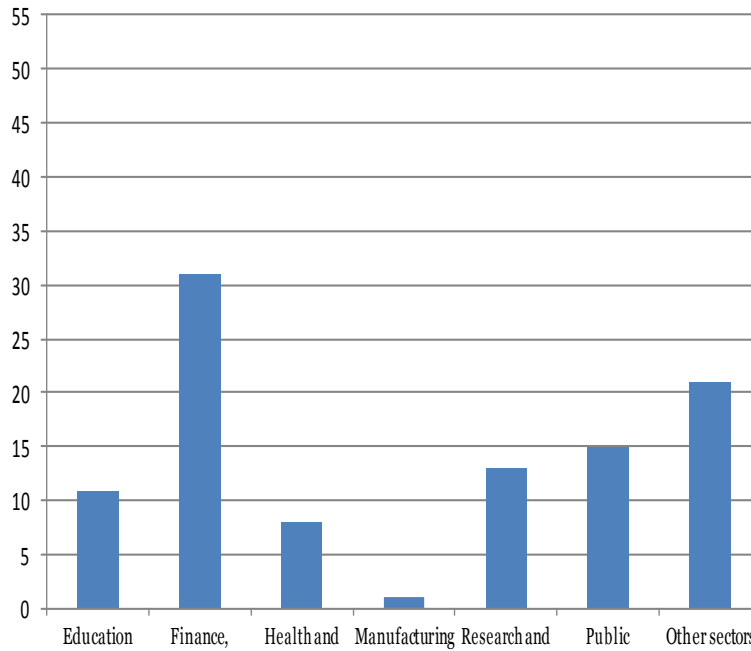
- ▶ 1839 people who graduated with a doctorate at a UK institution between 2003-04 and 2005-06.
- ▶ Surveyed during April to June 2013.
- ▶ 4% of the total graduate population for these years.
- ▶ Not just Research Council funded.
- ▶ Interviewed 268 graduates and 96 employers.
- ▶ 233 Social Science=15% sample.

Destinations of Doctoral Graduates

- ▶ 89% in employment, 3% unemployed.
- ▶ 50% in higher education (65% in the social sciences).
- ▶ Proportion working as researchers in HE has declined over time.
- ▶ 79% employed on a permanent or open ended contract. However, amongst HE research 26%.
- ▶ Generally doctoral graduates are satisfied or very satisfied with their current role especially the intellectual challenge.

Occupations

Social Sciences [70]



Benefits to the individual

- ▶ Salaries of doctoral graduates ranged from £15,017 to £300,000 with a median of £40,700 (social sciences £46,000).
- ▶ Machin et al 2010: those with a PhD earn 23% more on average over the course of their life than those with a first degree.
- ▶ 87% believe their PhD has helped them progress towards their long term career ambitions.
- ▶ Three quarters satisfied or very satisfied with their current role.

The Value of Doctoral Graduates to Employers

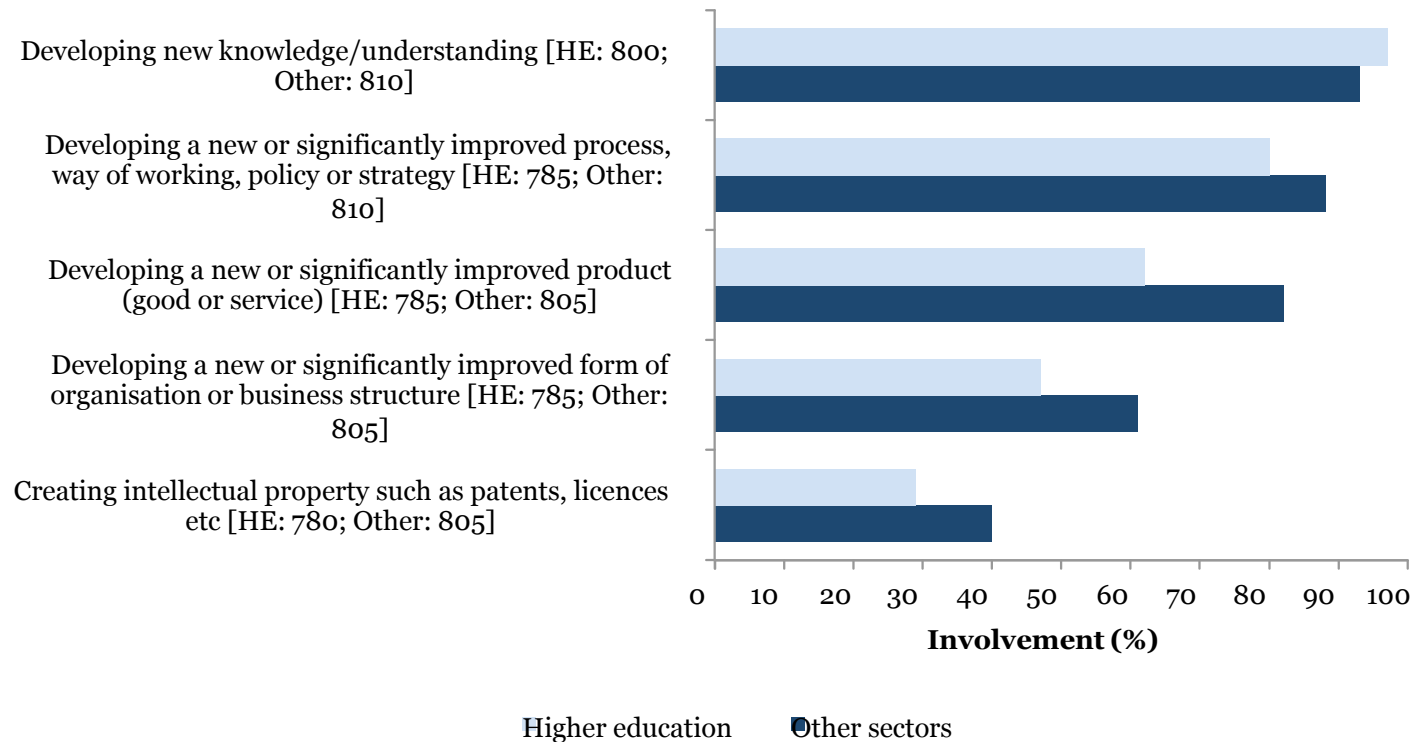
- ▶ Skills of doctoral graduates are increasingly attractive to the wider employer base.
- ▶ Employers value both the subject knowledge and also more commonly the transferrable and analytical/problem solving skills
- ▶ Relevant work experience is important.

Contribution to Innovation

- ▶ Almost all employers interviewed felt the doctoral graduates they employ contribute to innovation.
- ▶ 93% said they had been involved in developing new knowledge and understanding and 92% said their doctorate was vital or important to their contribution
- ▶ 71% they were involved in developing new or improved products (good and services) and 82% new and improved processes and ways of working.

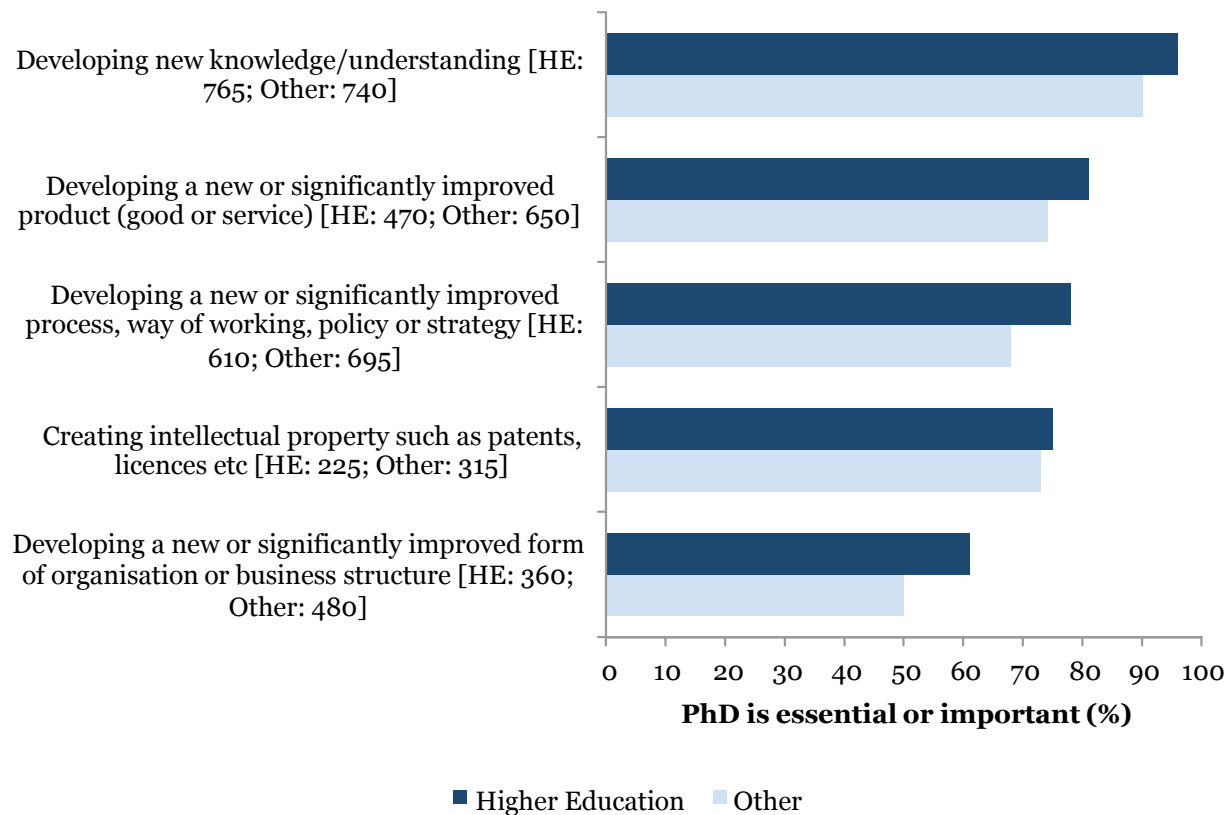
Involvement in Innovative Activity

Figure 22: Doctoral graduate involvement in different types of innovative activity.



Importance of PhD in Innovative Activity

Figure 23: The importance of the doctorate in different types of innovative activity.



Impact

- ▶ Employers interviewed reported doctoral graduates contribute to:
 - acquiring new clients, markets and income streams.
 - Increased productivity and, efficiency gains and savings which enhance competitiveness.
 - Enhanced profile and credibility of the organisation.
 - Spill-over of doctoral training benefit to others – helping others problem solve and think more creatively.



http://www.esrc.ac.uk/_images/Strategic_Plan_2015_tcm8-33418.pdf

Building Capability

We will:

- ▶ Support the development of highly capable and innovative researchers for a wide range of careers
- ▶ Expand support for early career researchers through existing funding routes
- ▶ Develop capability for social science leadership
- ▶ Support the development of analytical capabilities required to forge links and networks internationally
- ▶ Enable postgraduate students and early career researchers to forge links and networks internationally

Future Research Leaders Scheme

Aims

- ▶ To enable early career social scientists to acquire the skill set to become future world leaders in their field.
- ▶ Fund excellent social science research projects and giving early career people their first experience of leading and managing a grant.

Characteristics

- ▶ Strong partnership with the host RO.
- ▶ A well defined research project.
- ▶ A programme of research skills development.
- ▶ A programme of activities to develop KE skills.

Call due to be issued July 2015