

Academic Careers: What's next after your PhD: Careers and Skills

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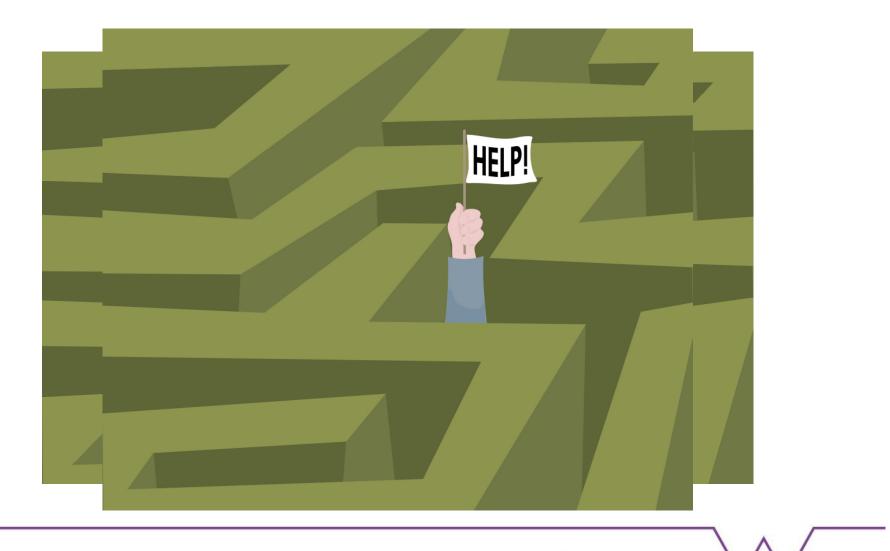
My background: the CV Version

ESRC 1+ 3 Award (Sociology) (PhD awarded Jan 2010)

Mildred Blaxter Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2011-2012

> ESRC Future Research Leaders Award 2012-present

My background: As I experienced it...



The act of becoming: doing your doctoral research

- Time spent 1+3 award is a gift- three years focused on your own research interests.
- Also a time for carving out professional (and personal) identity: where does my research fit in? What do I add? Where is this going? Who am

I? Do I *really* want an academic career?



Flying the (doctoral) nest



- Academic careers are not as 'prescribed' as other careers
- Research funding and academic posts are hard to come by and highly sought after.
- Fixed term 'contract hopping' is quite usual
- This climate can leave you feeling insecure and uncertain about the future.

From Student to Staff: Preparing to Transition

- Deciding on an academic career means assessing what you value most in life (academia is not a standard 9-5 job)
- Learning to live with uncertainty has been one of the biggest challenges facing me in my career.
- The transition from student to staff member is a big jump in many areas.
- For me, the trade off was worth it!

What was the most use to me in establishing my career

- Excellent mentorship
- Pursuing opportunities to research and teach during my doctoral studies
- Publishing
- Pursuing fellowships (developing my own research agenda)
- Perseverance!

Questions?



