



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?

