

Using Your Time as a PhD Student Effectively for Your Career

Catherine Reynolds

PhD and Research Staff Careers Consultant

c.reynolds1@lse.ac.uk

Amelia Sharman AFW

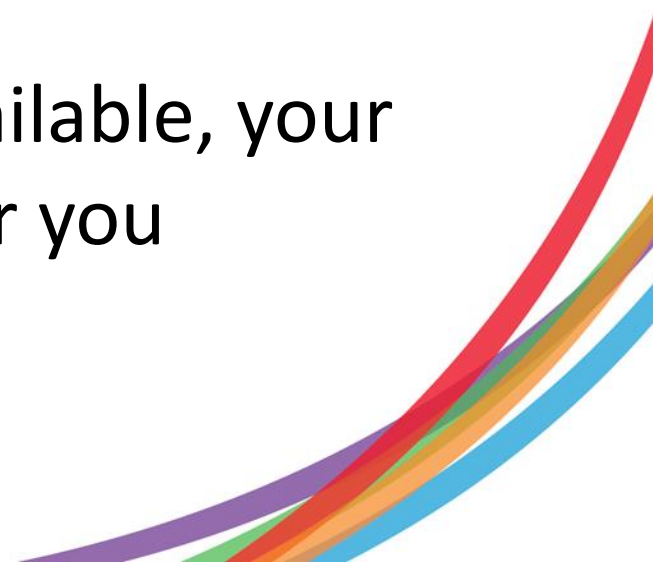
Simon Beard University of Oxford

9 March 2016



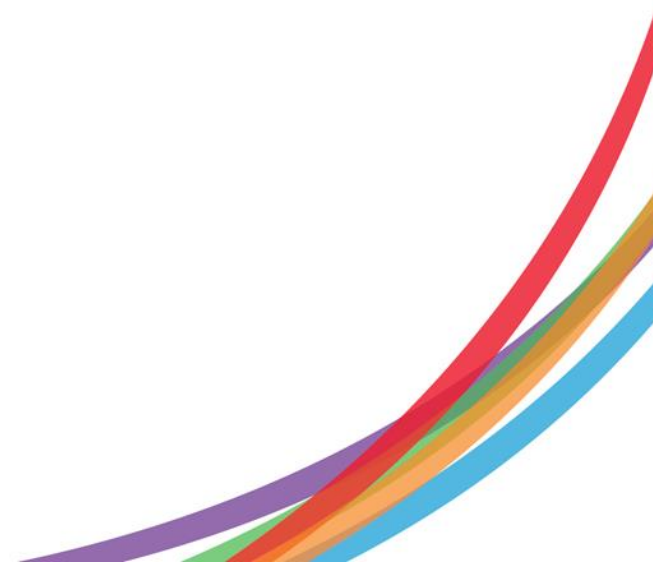
Aim of today's session

- Review activities of PhD students
- Think about connecting different activities to different career goals
- Consider the time you have available, your personal goals and priorities for you

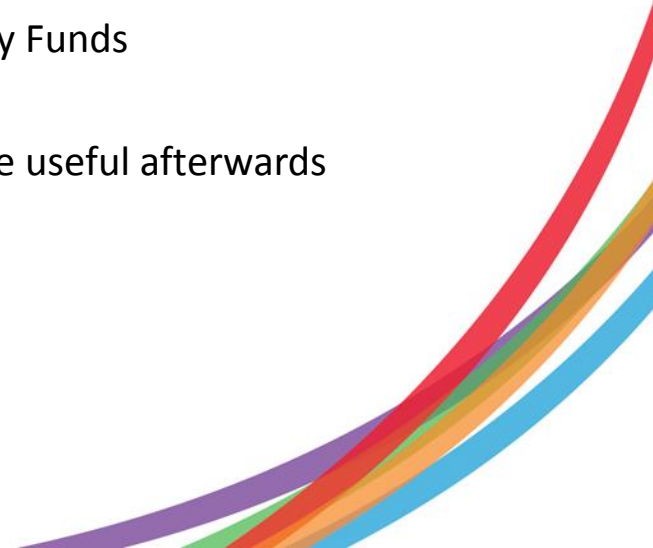


Today's Session

3pm	Introduction by Catherine Reynolds
3.30	Amelia Sharman and Simon Beard
4.30	Taking today forward
5pm	Finish



What do PhD students do with their time?

- Teaching (and teaching course PG CertHE)
 - Website management
 - Research assistant positions – in and out of LSE
 - Working in finance industry/for political party
 - Getting involved with creating, editing or supporting a journal
 - Running student-led project
 - Volunteer work
 - Consulting e.g. for Freshminds, LSE Enterprise
 - Conference and seminar organisation – bidding for PhD Academy Funds
 - Internships
 - Doing courses at LSE unrelated to PhD research but that could be useful afterwards
 - Activism
 - Translation work
 - Blogging/media work
 - Student Union – Rep, Society, Events
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How do PhD Students Find These Opportunities?

1. Opportunities present themselves
2. Student proactively seek opportunities




From one PhD to another:

“One of the biggest challenges I’ve faced is learning to say ‘no’, or telling people they must wait.”



Take away points:

- Many interesting opportunities
 - Can't do everything
 - Think strategically for yourself, what experience would be beneficial
 - Combine proactively seeking out good opportunities with being able to graciously turn down opportunities if they aren't right for you
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PhD Alumni

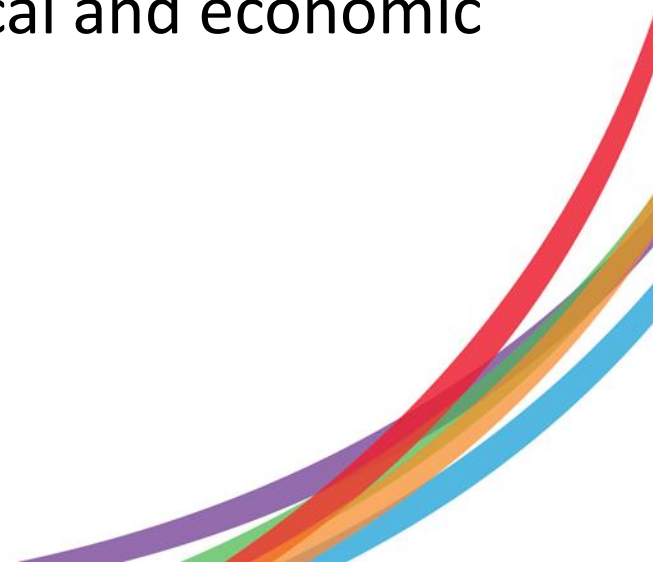
- **Simon Beard (PhD Philosophy, 2016)**

Post doc researcher at the University of Oxford working on population ethics in the Future of Humanity Institute

- **Amelia Sharman (PhD Geography, 2015)**

Principle Researcher at Amec Foster Wheeler (AFW) working in the Environmental Policy and Economics team, responsible for providing policy, technical and economic advice.

- Q & A

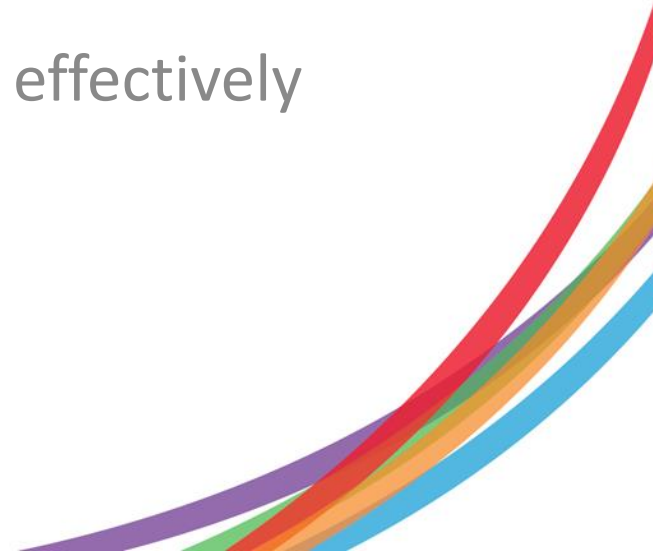


Using your time effectively as a PhD student

Work choices & social media

Amelia Sharman

Using your time as a PhD student effectively
for your career



Making wise work choices

- Keep your options open
- *Always* read your departmental emails
- Know when to say no
- Network
- Relax!



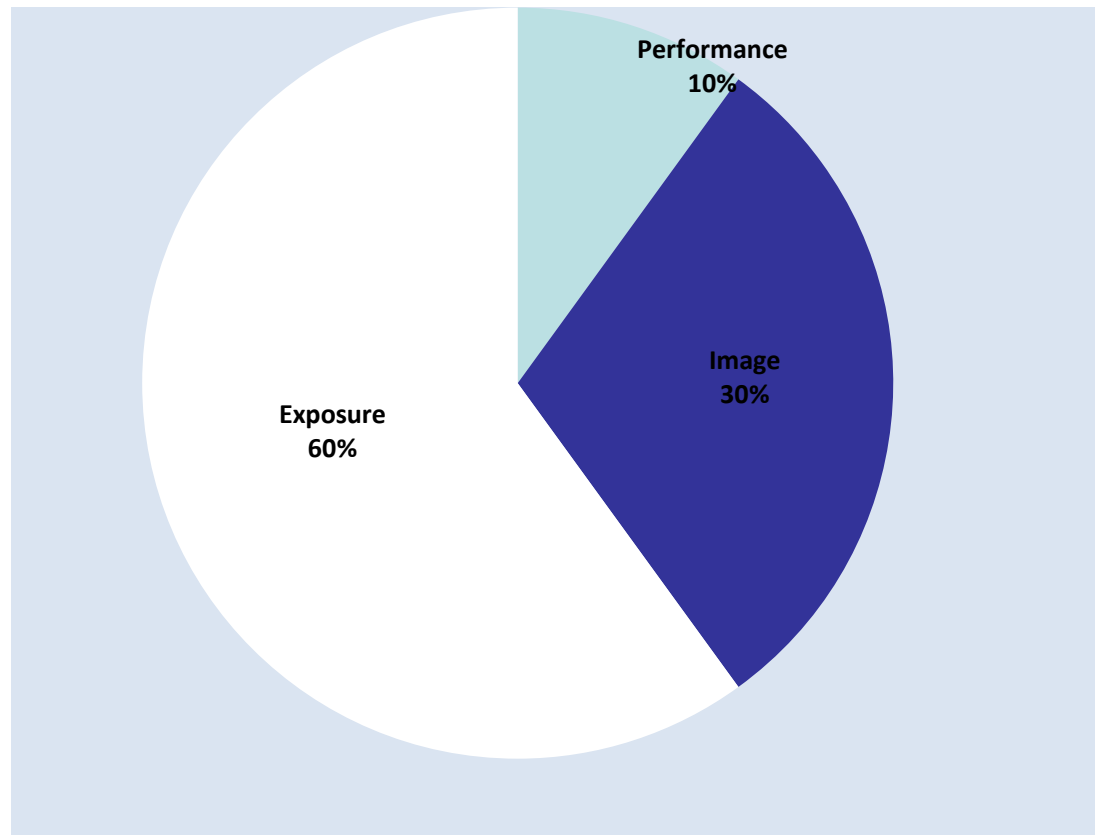
Social media

PIE model as an indicator of career success

Performance

Image

Exposure



Social media

- You are practically invisible to anyone outside your department if you're not online/on social media [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)
- Have a consistent, cultivated presence [LSE profile](#), [GRI profile](#), [personal page](#)
- Establish channels you can take with you
- Use LSE's opportunities



Two other tips

- Make friends with the Teaching & Learning Centre
 - Amazing leadership & other opportunities ([Leadership in Action](#), [LSE Shout!](#) etc.)
- Take advantage of LSE's "status"
 - [Academic Partnerships](#)



Motivations for Activities

1. Funding way through PhD
2. Testing out career directions
3. Preparing for an academic career
4. Preparing for a career outside academia

Which of the above apply to you?



Experience helpful for:

Academic Career

- Strong research output - publications
- Teaching (range, qualification)
- Academic networking
- Prizes, awards, funding
- Organise a conference
- Understand the sector

Outside Academia

- Relevant work experience – part-time, internships, volunteering
- Networking in other settings
- Repertoire of skills
- Communication to non-specialists
- Team work
- Completing to deadlines

Not mutually exclusive, find overlaps and quick wins



An applicant's preferred
way of getting hired

Internal
candidate

Someone they
know

Recommended
by someone
they trust

Response to
a job ad

An organisation's preferred
way of hiring



Managing Your Time Effectively

- Know why you are doing each activity and make sure it fits with your long term goals
- Be realistic about how much time you have available
- Help available from LSE Careers, TLC and the Counselling Service



Managing Your Time



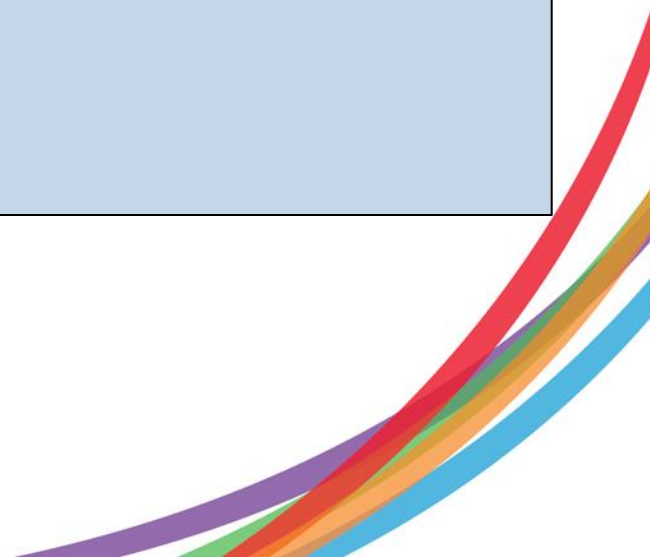
Map in your PhD timescales – include dates, periods of field work, archival work etc

Urgent

Not Urgent

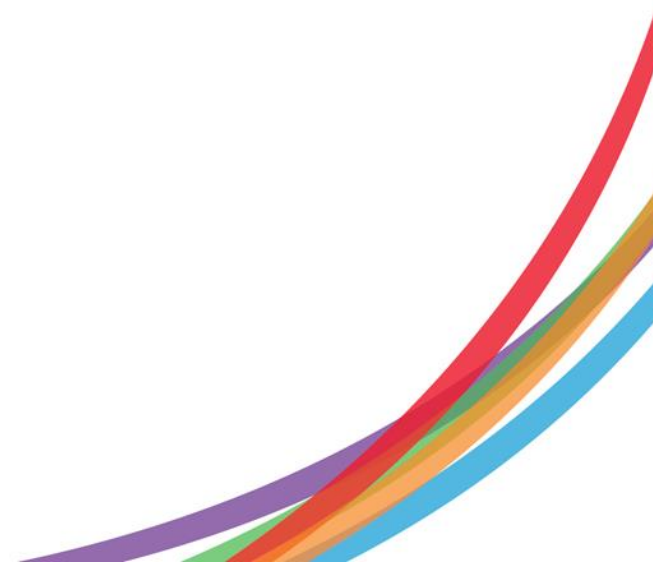
Important

Not
Important



From one PhD to another:

“..enjoy the process. The PhD process is a life-changing experience, and it will be with you for the rest of your life.”



Career exploration

Gathering relevant information

LSE Careers

- Events
- PhD Seminars
- 1:1 Consultations

Other Sources

- Alumni
- Professional bodies



- **Friday breakfast: Careers in research** Breakfast networking session, employers including [ECORYs](#) - leading European Research and Consultancy, [TNS BMRB](#) - Social Research and [IPSOS Mori](#) one of the largest and best known research organisations. *6th Floor, Saw Swee Hock Student Centre, on Friday 11 March 2016 from 8:00 - 10:00am.*
 - **McKinsey & Company Careers Cafe: MPhil, PhDs and Post-docs** Amy Challen (LSE PhD 2013) Manager for McKinsey & Co in their London office. She invites you to have coffee with her and to learn more about management consulting and/or why she chose McKinsey after completing her PhD. *6th Floor, Saw Swee Hock Student Centre, on Friday 11 March 2016 from 10:00 - 2:00pm.*
 - **Finding and applying for research fellowships** Develop your understanding of finding and applying for research fellowships in academia. Dr Joseph Downing (LSE PhD 2014) will recount his experience of successfully applying. *Monday 14 March 1-2pm in the PhD Academy.*
 - **Experienced Hire Fair** For students with two or more years of full-time professional work experience to network with corporate employers and learn more about their organisations and the experienced hire roles they are offering. *Wednesday 6 April 6- 8pm*
 - **USA academic job market masterclass** Are you interested in academic roles in the USA? Need help understanding the US academic job market? Still learning how to present yourself effectively? Dr Karen Kelsky explains all. *Wednesday 4 May in the PhD Academy.*
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