

# **Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium on “Psychology meets Technology”**

Human Centered Design of Socio-Digital Systems, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

Organized by Prof. Laura Kunold

27/01/2022

# **“Academia: should I stay or should I go?”**



**Filipa Correia**

**Postdoctoral Researcher**

**University of Lisbon, Portugal**

**INESC-ID / LARSYS-ITI**

**Take it with a grain of salt...**

# **Take it with a grain of salt...**

**Relevant traits about me:**

- Competitive (with myself)
- Workaholic
- Money-driven
- Extremely positive

# How did it all started?

BSc in Computer Science



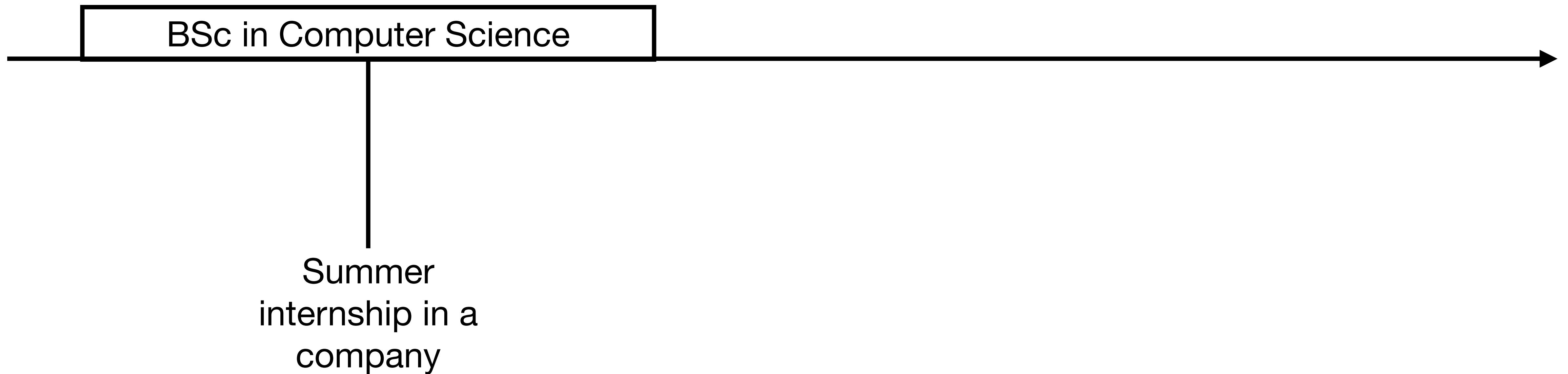
2012

# How did it all started?

“I need some money to  
pay my driving license!”

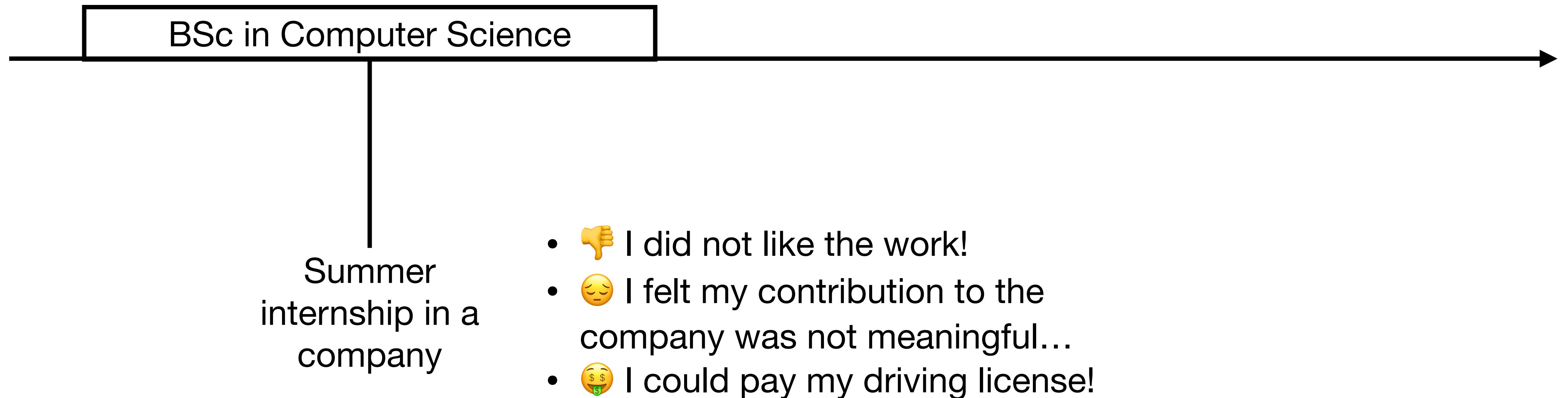
BSc in Computer Science

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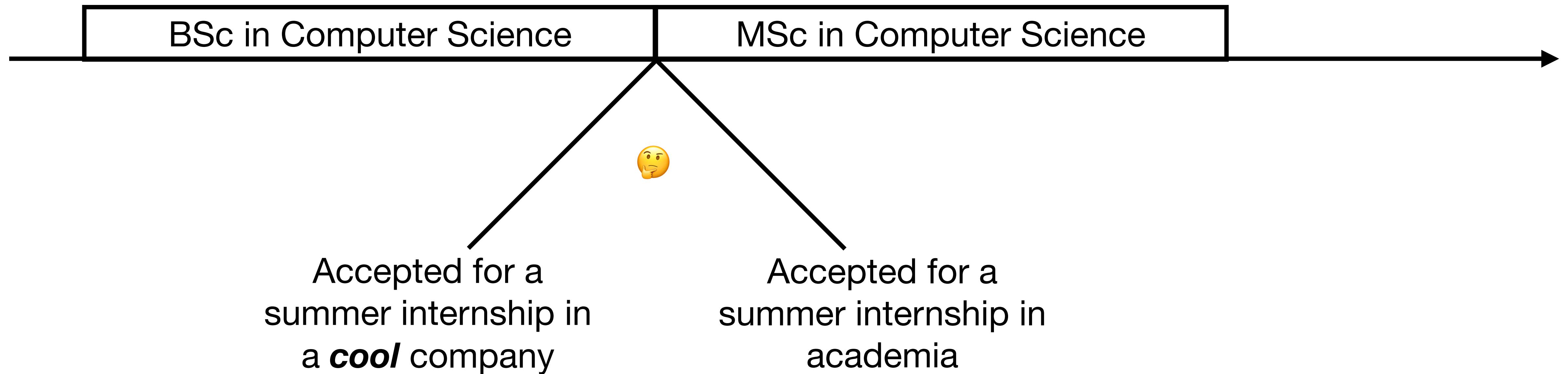
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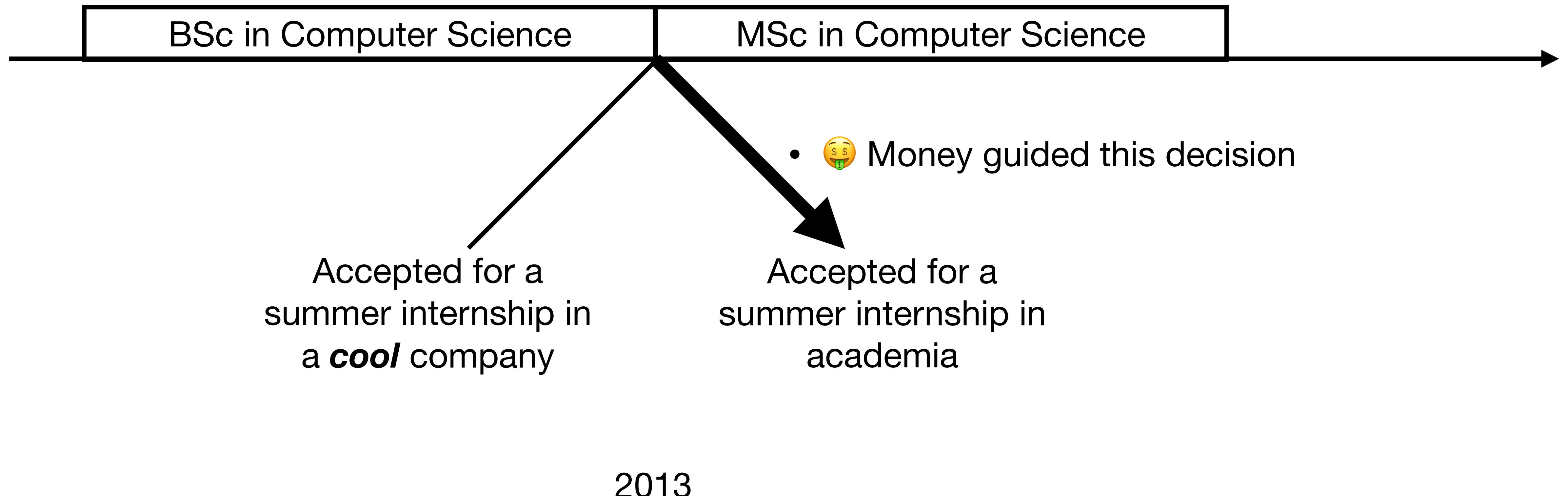
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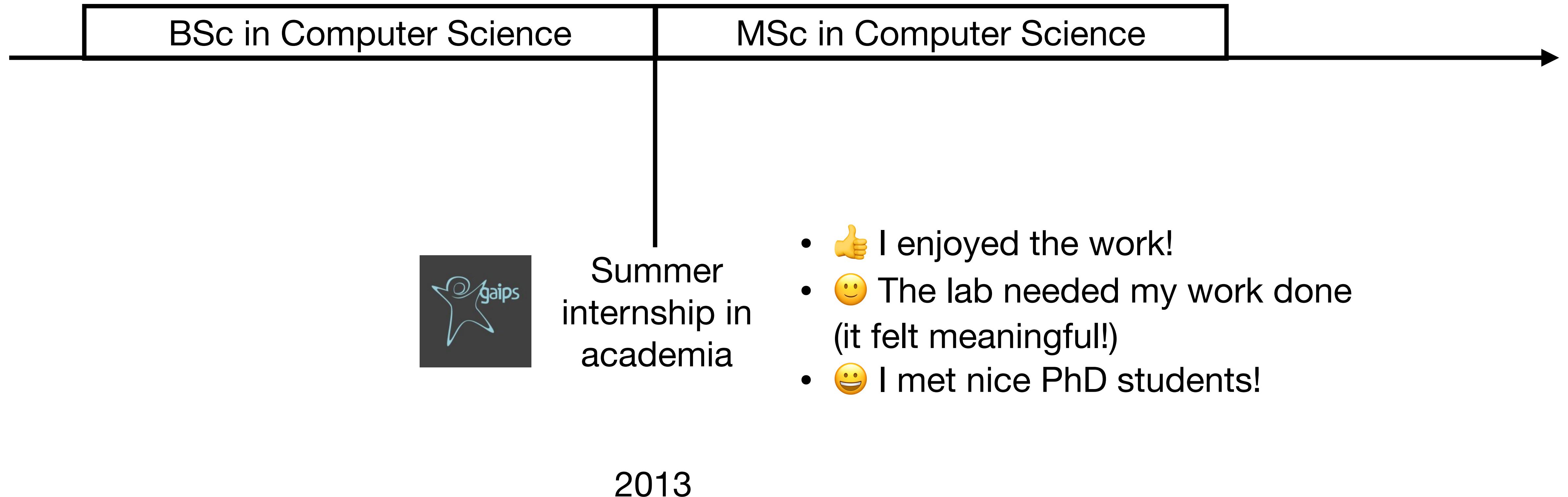


2013

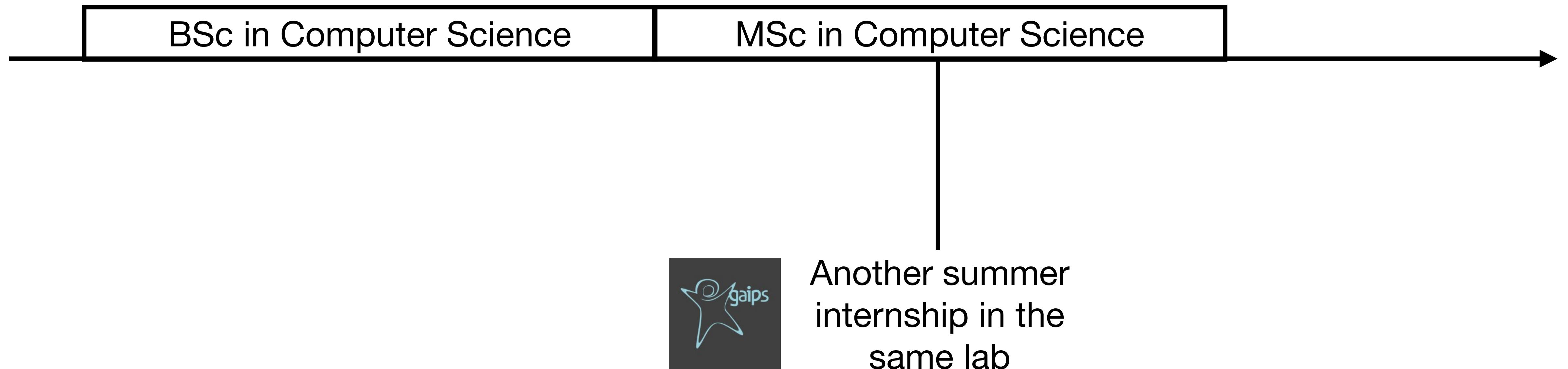
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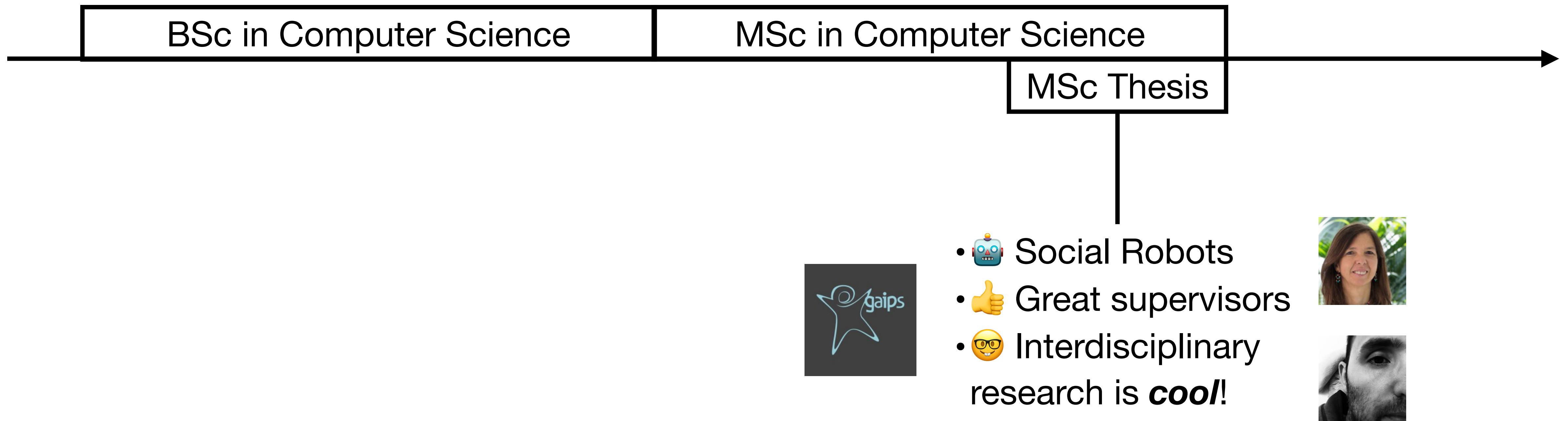


# How did it all started?



2014

# How did it all started?



2015



# Interdisciplinary research is cool!

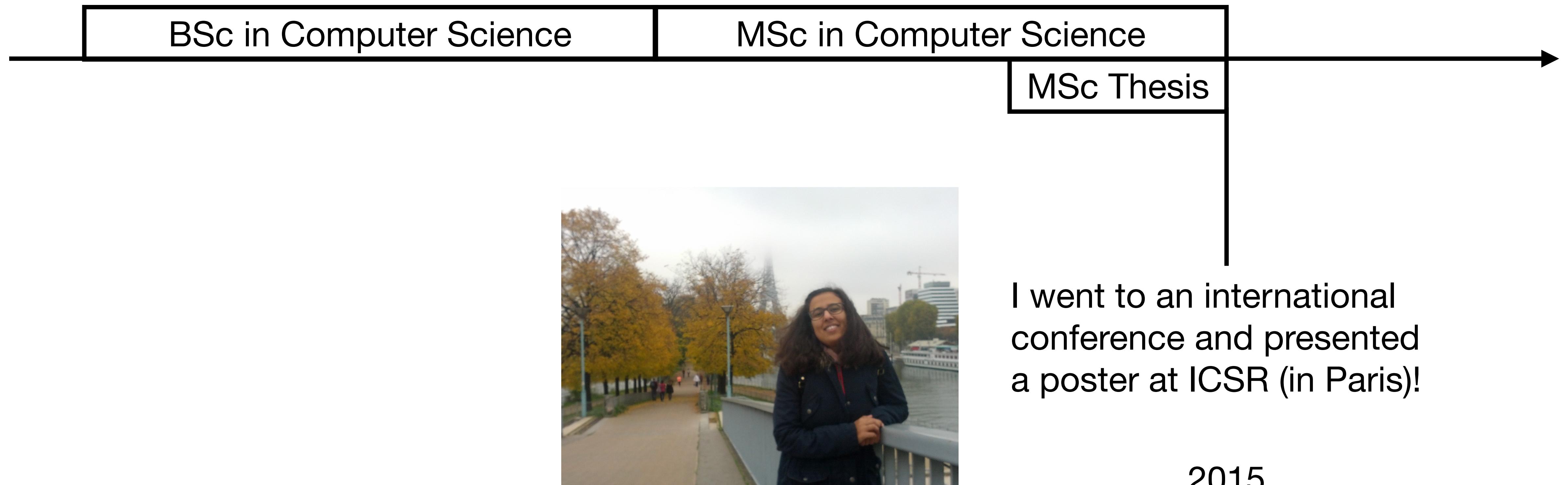
## Building a social robot as a game companion in a card game

Filipa Correia, Tiago Ribeiro, Patrícia Alves-Oliveira, Nuno Maia,  
Francisco Melo and Ana Paiva  
*INESC-ID & Instituto Superior Técnico  
Lisbon, Portugal*

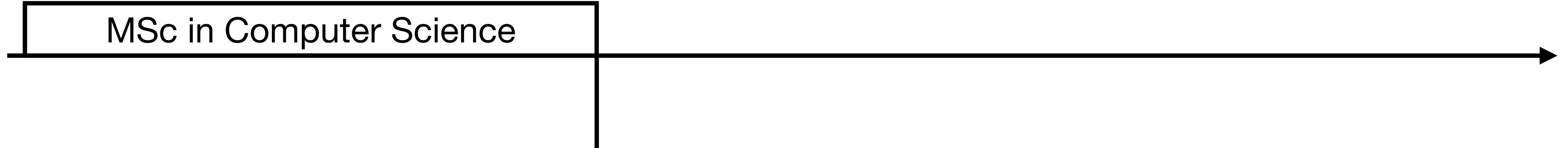
ACM/IEEE Human-Robot Interaction 2016 Videos  
March 7-10, 2016  
New Zealand



# How did it all started?

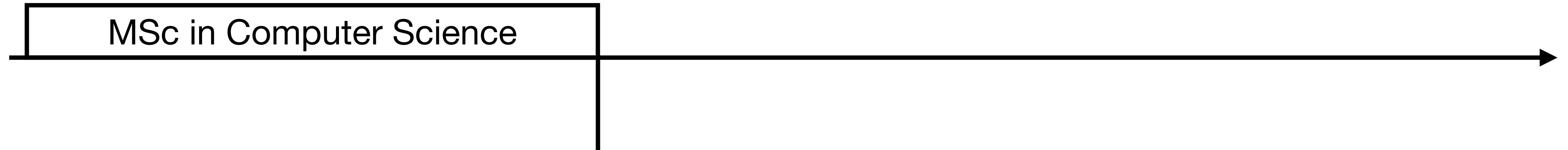


# How did it all started?



**“Should I stay  
or should I go?”**

# How did it all started?



**“Should I stay  
or should I go?”**

Industry

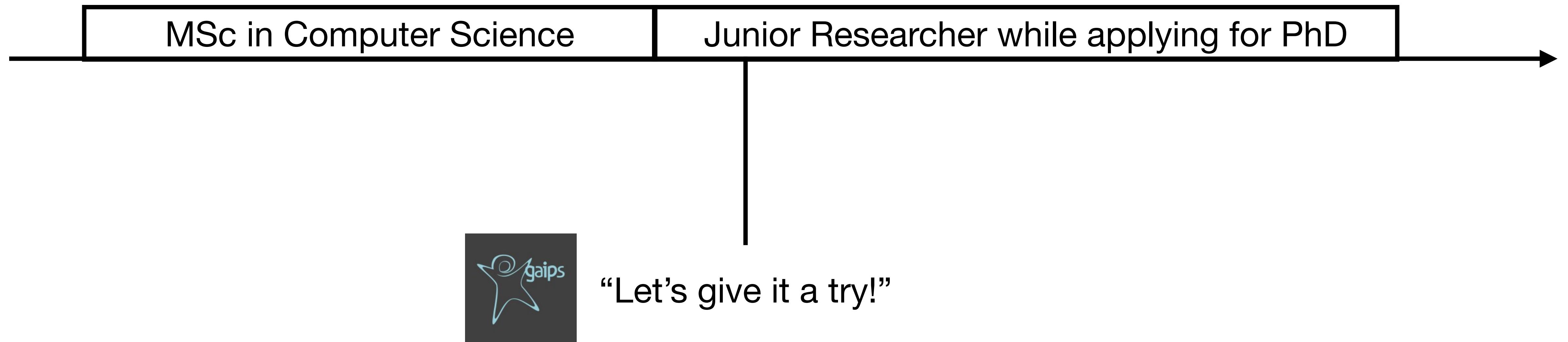
- 💰 More money
- 😞 Bad experience in the past

Academia

- ✈️ Conferences are exciting!
- 🤔 "Will I be a good PhD student?"
- 😞 Less money

2015

# How did it all started?



2016

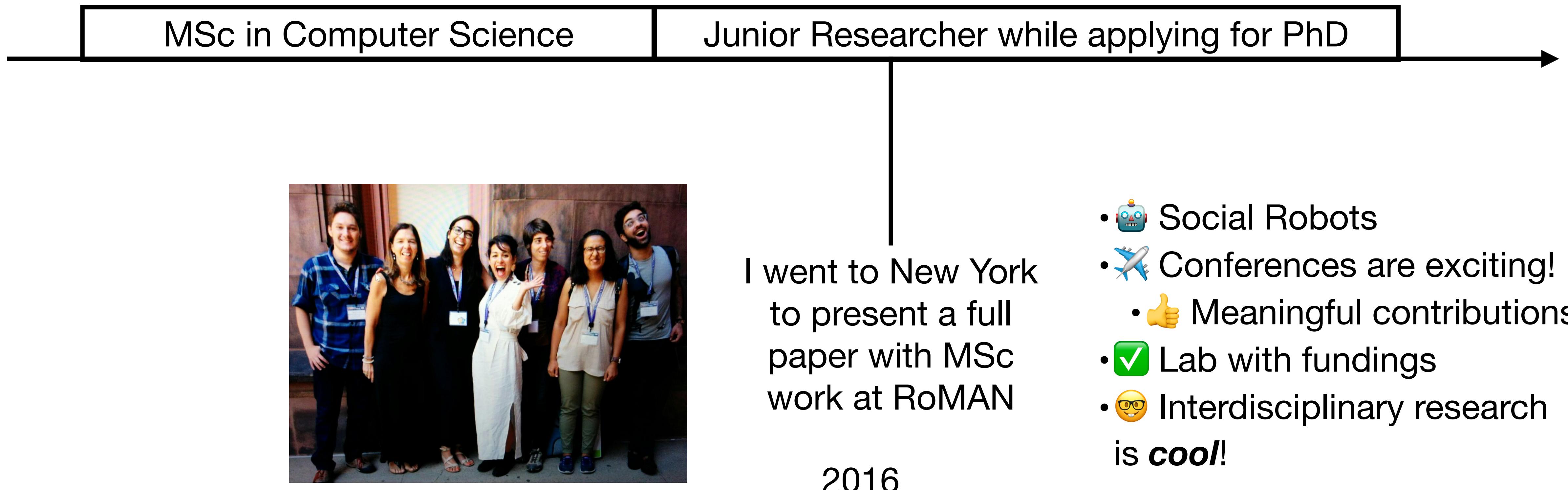
# How did it all started?



I went to New York  
to present a full  
paper with MSc  
work at RoMAN

2016

# How did it all started?





# Interdisciplinary research is cool!

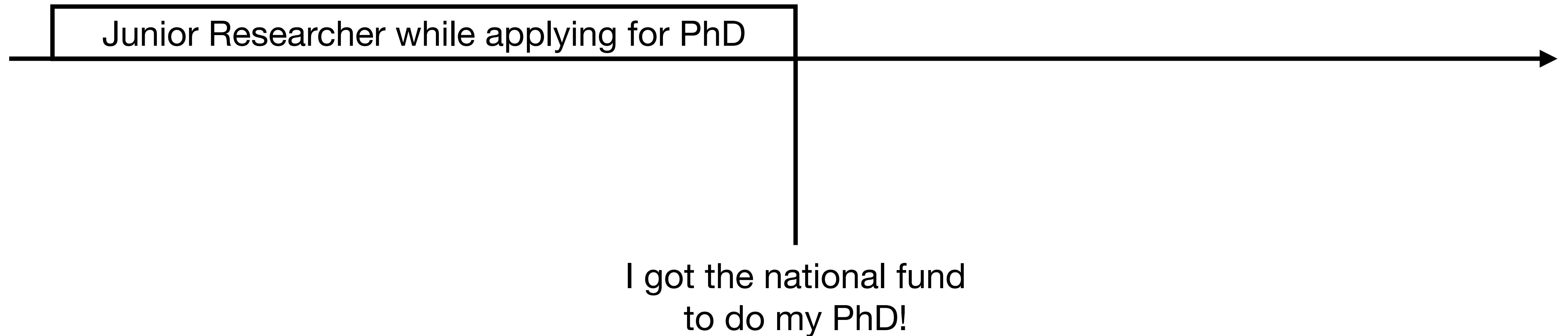




# Interdisciplinary research is cool!

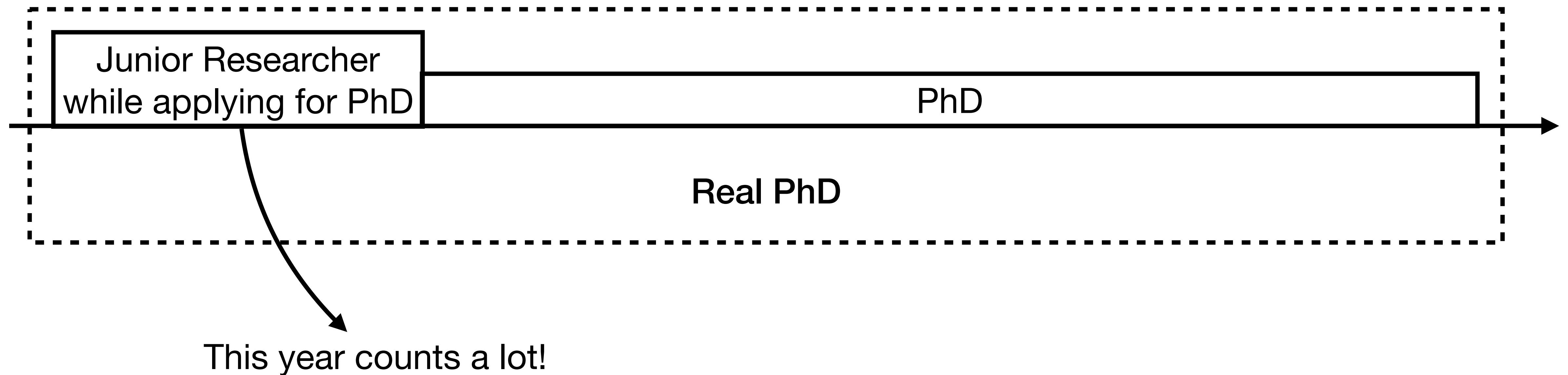
- I was working with other PhD students from Psychology
  - I learned a lot with them!
  - I also learned a lot when reading papers from Psychology!
  - Computer Science <- Psychology
  - **Psychology <- Computer Science**
    - This still fascinates me today!

# And so I started my PhD!



2017

# My PhD



2016

2021

# My PhD

- Human-Robot Collaboration
- Human-Robot Teamwork
- Multiparty Interactions
- Cohesion in Human-Robot Teams



# My PhD

- Human-Robot Collaboration
- Human-Robot Teamwork
- Multiparty Interactions
- Cohesion in Human-Robot Teams
- It took me 4 years to “solve the puzzle”!



# PhD - My personal journey

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- Participated many different events

# PhD - My personal journey

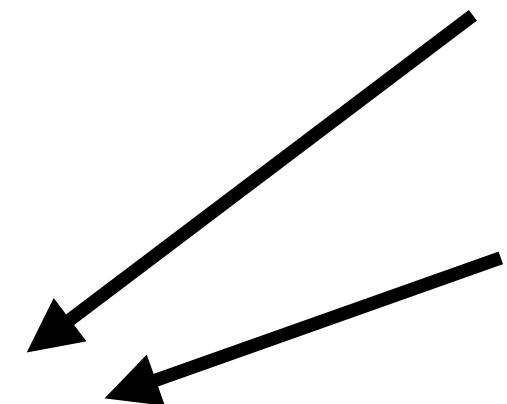
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**Remember my traits?**

- Competitive
- Extremely positive



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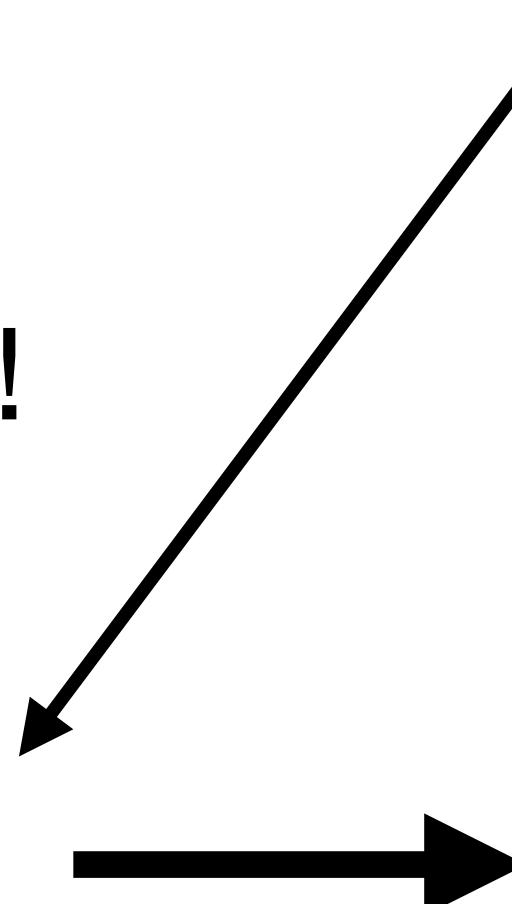
- Published many papers
- Participated many different events
- Met a lot of people
- Rejections turn into a challenge to me!
- Improved writing & arguing skills
- But sometimes I had **too much** work

**Remember my traits?**

- Workaholic

**My biggest challenge:**

- Find a right balance between personal life and the PhD



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In the end, I understood doing a PhD was about two things:

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In the end, I understood doing a PhD was about two things:

- Evolving as a researcher (i.e. think, reason, methods, criticise, analyse...)
- Deal with personal issues

# PhD - My personal journey

Pros:

- Freedom
- Meaningful work
  - Research community
  - Cite other people
  - Being cited
- Traveling (except during COVID 😭)

# PhD - My personal journey

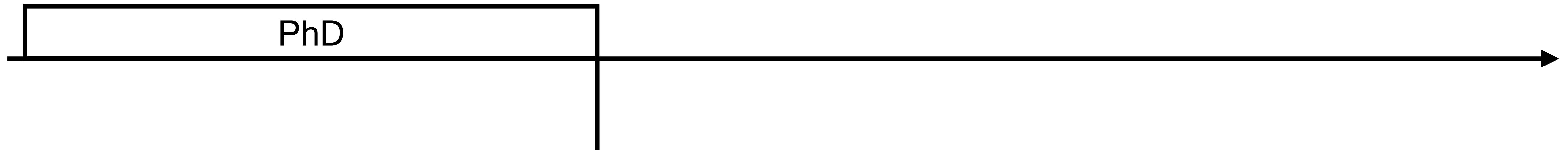
## Pros:

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## Cons:

- Money
- Stress
- Self-motivation
- Responsibility - it was hard to turn off from work when I got home

# I have finished the PhD, so now what?!

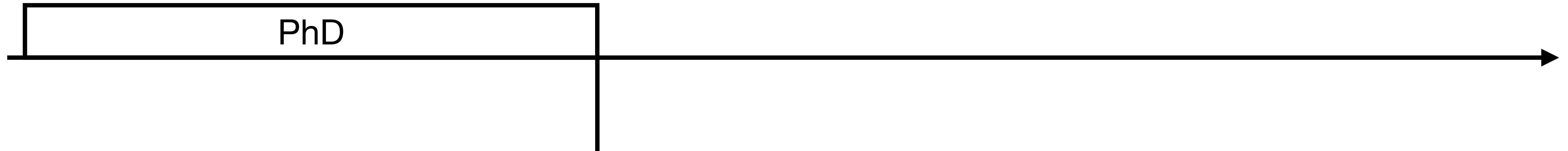


**“Should I stay  
or should I go?”**

Industry

Academia

# I have finished the PhD, so now what?!



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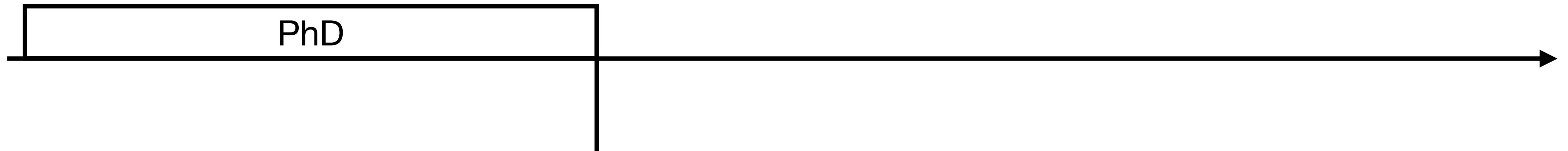
Industry

- 💰 More money
- 😞 Less freedom/creative work
- 😞 Less meaningful

Academia

- 😊 Freedom + Traveling + Creativity + Meaningful work
- 🤔 "Will I be a good Postdoc?"
- 😞 Tenure-track research career is hard

# I have finished the PhD, so now what?!



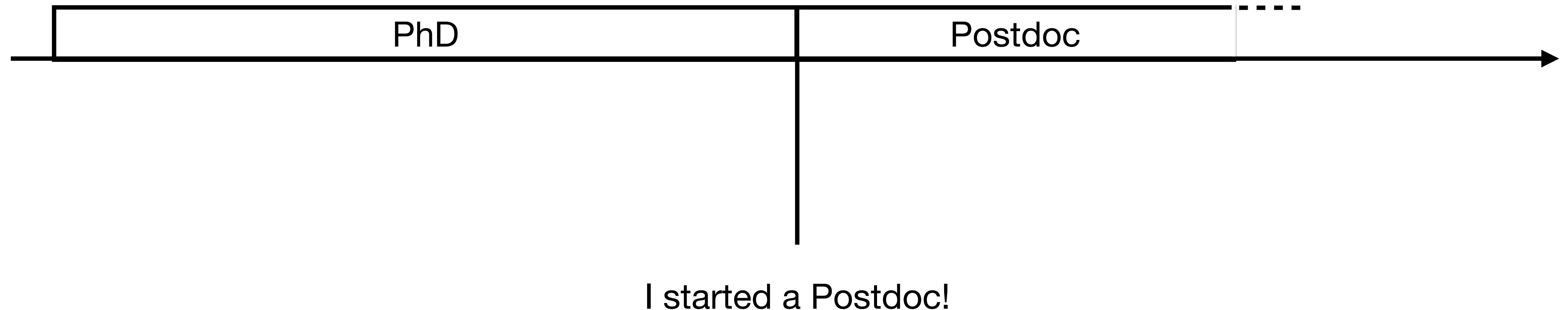
**“Should I stay  
or should I go?”**

Industry

Academia



# And so I started my postdoc!



2021

# Postdoc - The New Challenges

- Having a (broader) vision/mission/path for my research
- Supervising students
- Getting funding for my ideas
  - Are my ideas that good?!
  - Will I be able to write good funding proposals?!

# Postdoc - My personal journey

- I learned I am not as “money-driven” as I thought!

# Postdoc - My personal journey

- I learned I am not as “money-driven” as I thought!
- I will try to use the postdoc in a similar way to the “junior researcher” position I had before my PhD!
  - While trying to get into the tenure-track research career...
  - Embrace the new challenges
  - Improve my skills as a researchers

# Other Practical Advice

- Not everyone believes “interdisciplinary research is cool”
  - Some “hardcore” Computer Scientists might be tough...

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# Other Practical Advice

- Not everyone believes “interdisciplinary research is cool”
  - Some “hardcore” Computer Scientists might be tough...
  - But leveraging interdisciplinary is ALWAYS A PLUS!
- Relationship between you and your supervisors is crucial!
  - How proactive are you?
  - Do they prefer high-level vs low-level feedback?

**I would love to hear your  
thoughts & questions now!**

**We may also get in touch later:**

 **filipacorreia@tecnico.ulisboa.pt**

 **@PipzCorreiaz**