

# Thriving through Rejections

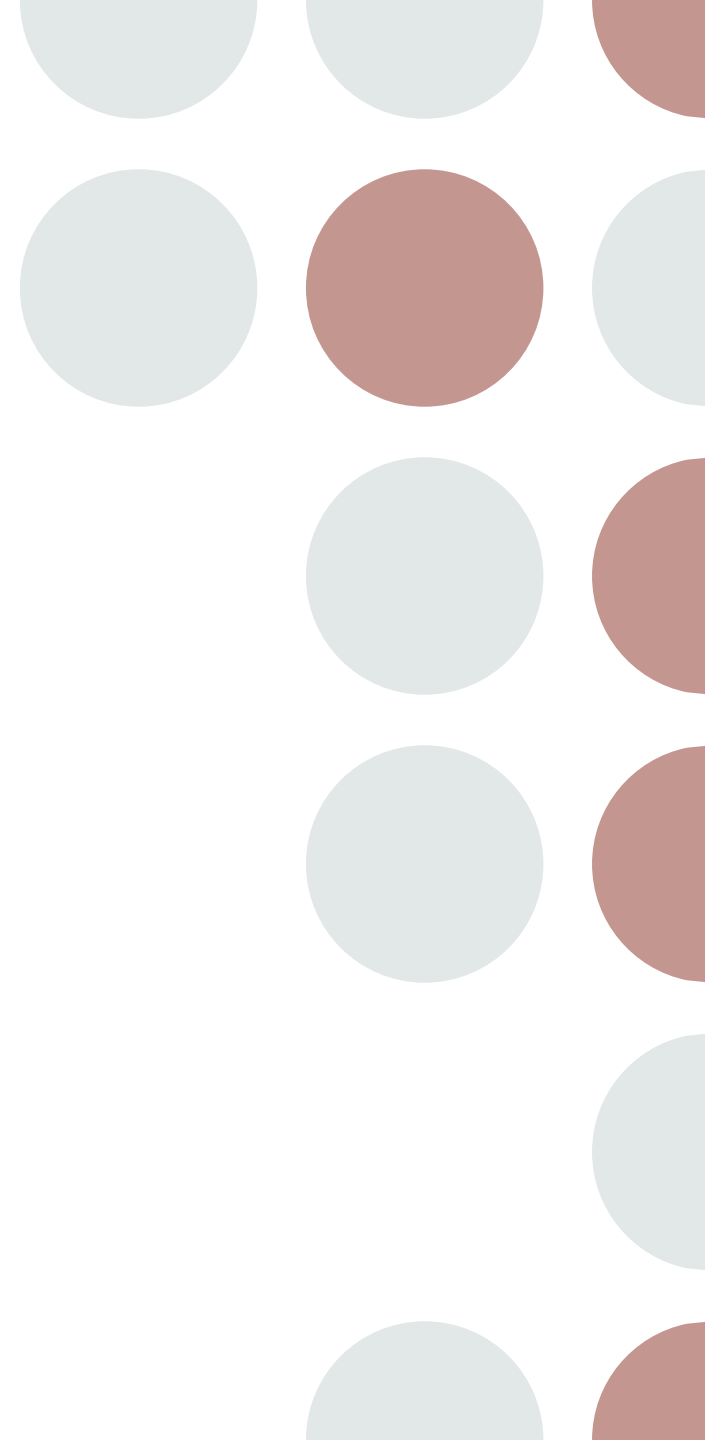
**UKC FIRE**  
**August 4, 2023**  
**@inyoungcheong**

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# INYOUNG CHEONG

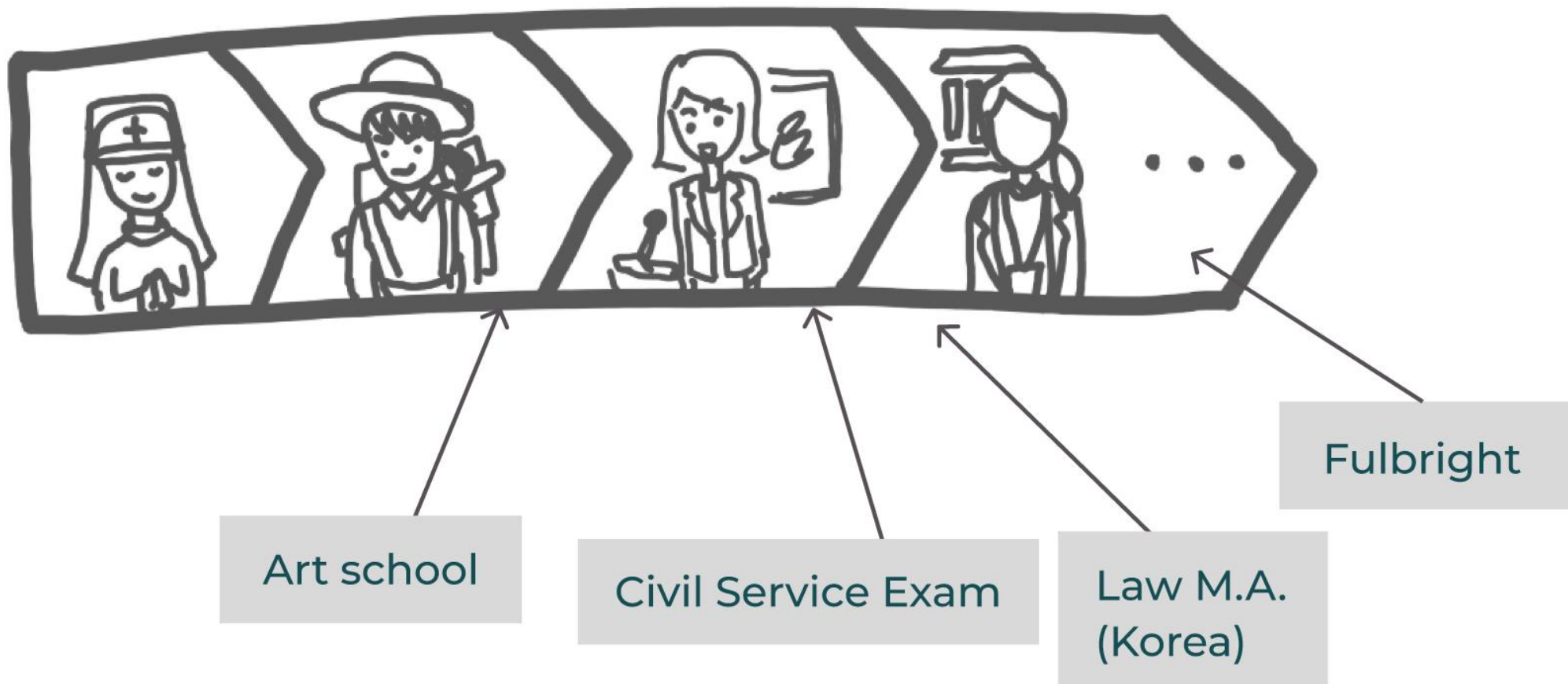
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## My Dream Job Trajectory





Law PhD  
(US)





### **Uncertainty**

“Will somebody ever  
want to hire me?”

### **Rejections**

“Your paper wasn’t a good fit.”  
“It was so competitive.”

### **Jealousy**

“Everybody else is doing  
much better than me.”

### **Insecurity**

“I’m not good/diligent  
/smart enough.”



"I believe in your **talent and resilience.**"

"Rejections are a natural part of the process; even **the best writers face them.**"

"Use this experience to **grow and improve**; it's an opportunity for learning and development."

"Remember, **every 'no' brings you closer to a 'yes.'** Keep pushing forward."

"I'm proud of you for putting your work out there; that takes courage and dedication."

"This rejection is **just a few editors' perspective.**"

Comforting..... but not helpful because

"I **don't** believe in your **talent and resilience**."

"Rejections are a natural part of the process, **which I will face forever**."

"Use this experience to **grow and improve**; but **I want to see more than self-growth**."

"Remember, **every 'no' brings you closer to a 'yes.'** **But I will never reach there**."

"I'm proud of you for putting your work out there; **but putting out there is not good enough**."

"This rejection is **a few editors' perspective**. **Everybody else might feel the same way**."

Comforting..... but not helpful because **my brain tells me the opposite**.



**But these three phrases helped me piece myself back together.**

1

**You are feeling hurt  
because you really want it.**



2

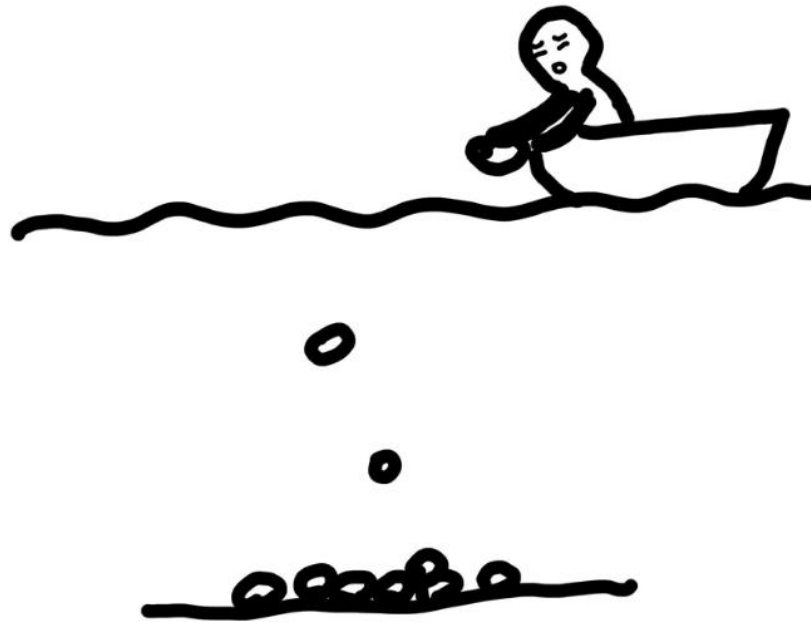


**The sky is big enough  
to accommodate all of us.**

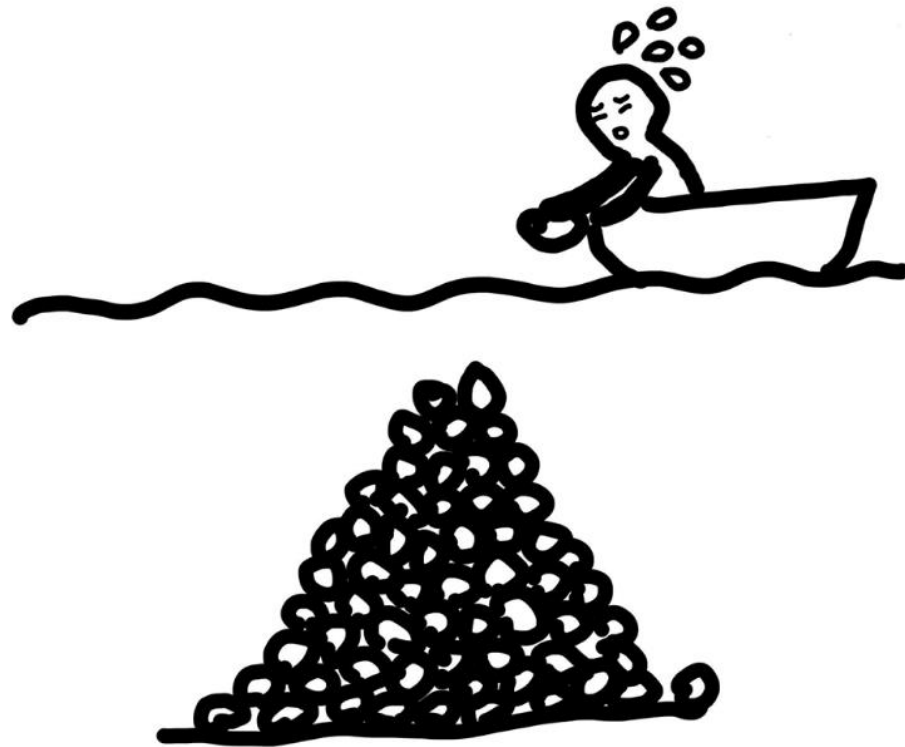
3

**Interdisciplinary work is challenging because it is like throwing the ball deep into the water.**

People may not realize the values of your work.



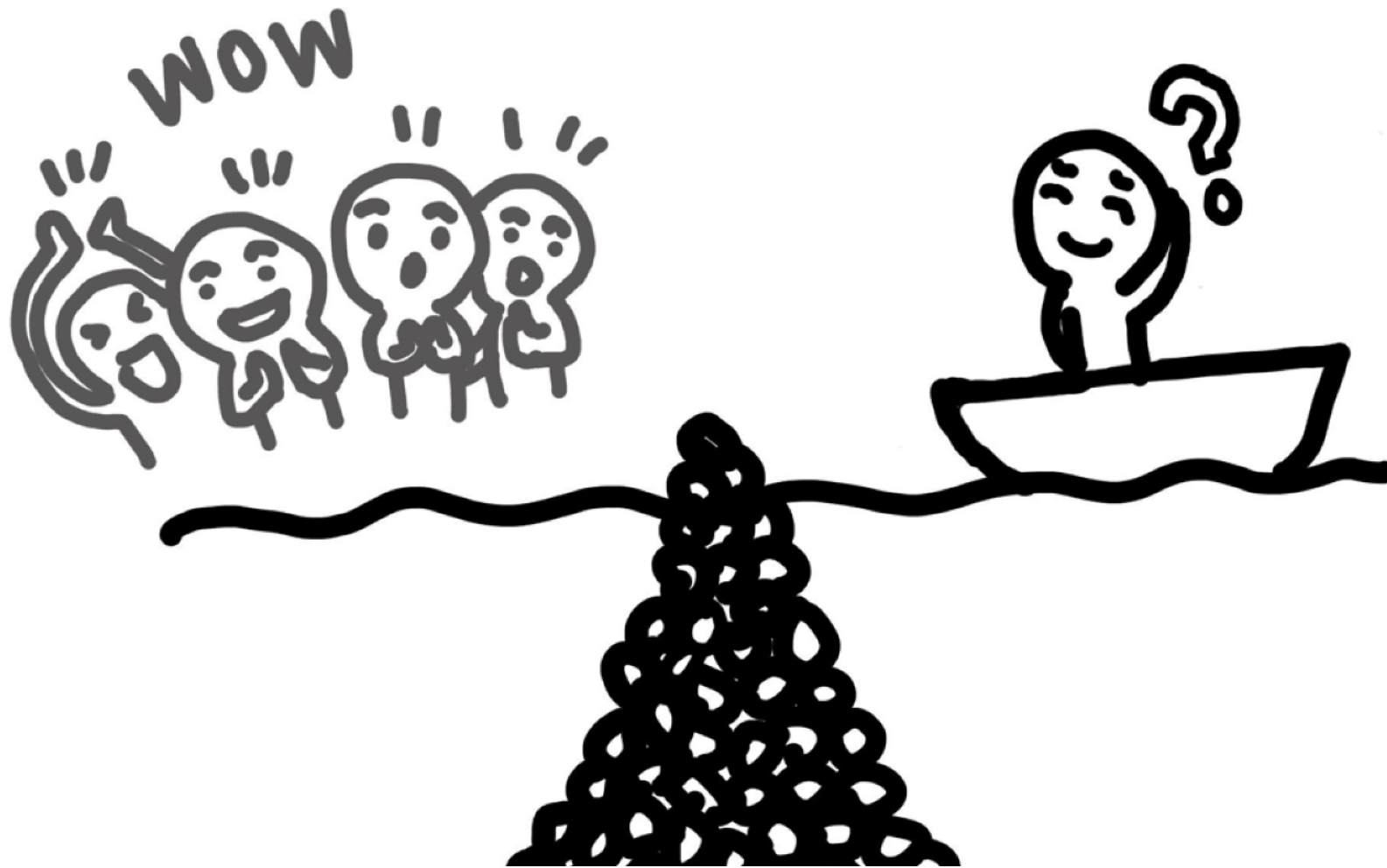
It might take a while. If not lucky, quite a long time.



But if you keep throwing the ball,  
people will eventually see the peak of the mountain.



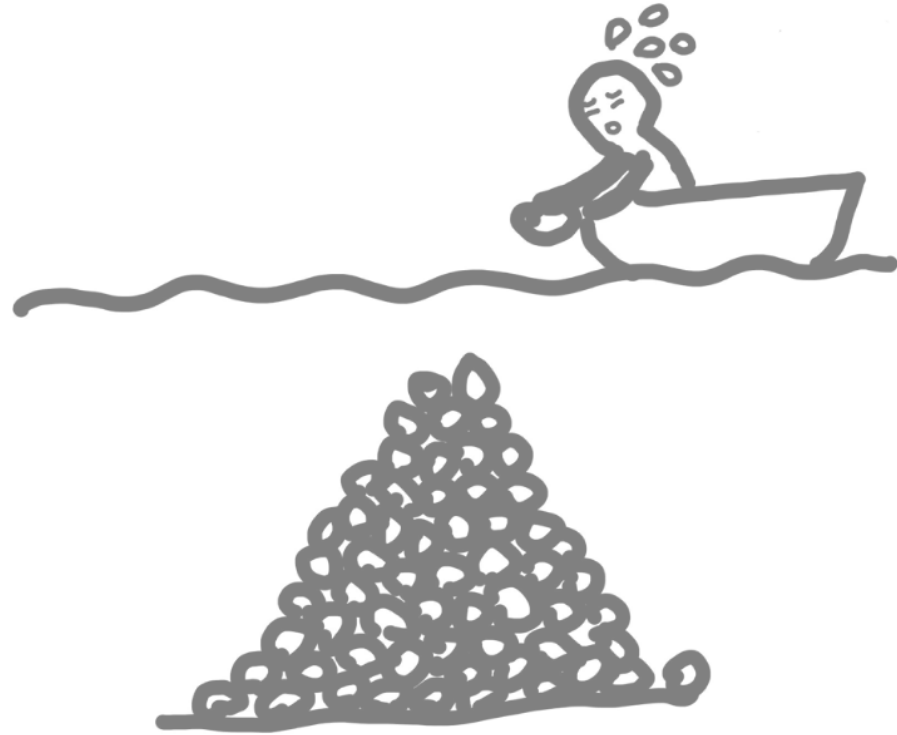
In that moment, you will be surprised by their enthusiasm toward your work.





**I know it's hard.**

**But today is just one of those days you threw the ball to build the mountain.**



# Occasionally, I am seeing ‘yes.’



Fully-funded RA-ship (2022-)



Congratulations! We are writing to let you know that your application for the [Democratic Inputs to AI](#) grant has been selected as a finalist, and apologies for the slight delay due to some internal coordination steps. We were truly impressed by the thoughtfulness, depth, and innovation of your submission. Your vision aligns with ours - to establish democratic processes for overseeing AGI, and eventually, superintelligence. **After receiving final approvals from the OpenAI nonprofit, your team should receive a**

My very first  
law review article (2023)

University of Cincinnati Law Review

Volume 91 | Issue 3

Article 2

March 2023

**Freedom of Algorithmic Expression**

Inyoung Cheong



Best Poster Award (2023)



Generative AI + Law (GenLaw) '23

**Envisioning Legal Mitigations for Intentional and Unintentional Harms  
Associated with Large Language Models**

*Inyoung Cheong*  
*University of Washington*

*Aylin Caliskan*  
*University of Washington*

*Tadayoshi Kohno*  
*University of Washington*

I don't really know where I am going to land...



**But I know I am doing what I really want to do.**



Although sometimes I fall.



“Life is like riding a bicycle.  
To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”

Albert Einstein  
(1930)

