Career paths:
Your own research project

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Bonjour, I am Isabela

- Graduated EPFL in 2019 with a MSc. In Computer Science
  - Took the ADA course in 2017 and was a student assistant

- Worked for 1 year as an AI Resident at Microsoft Research Cambridge

- Currently in a sabbatical period
  - i.e. taking time to figure things out

Setting the scene

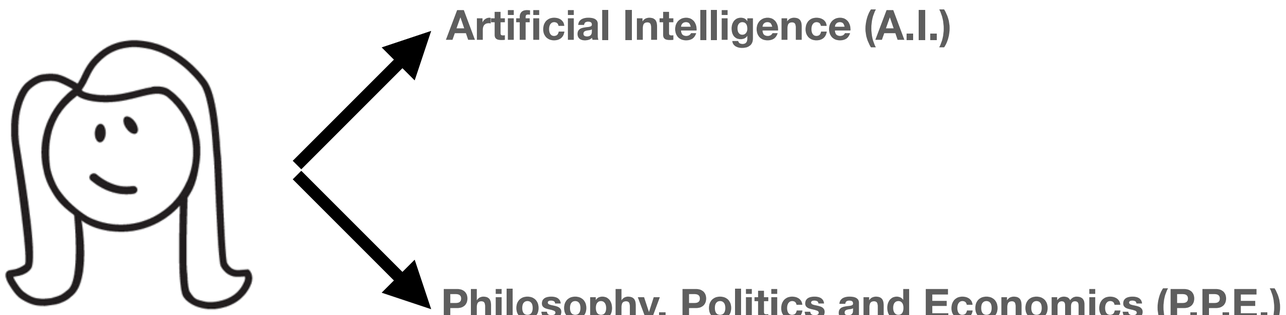
i.e. disclaimers

- This is an experiment
- My goal: trigger off questions !
  - If you have more questions by the end of this talk then when you joined the call -> I am happy
- I will (mostly) abstain from giving advice
  - That will (mostly) come in the form of links referenced at the end of the slides

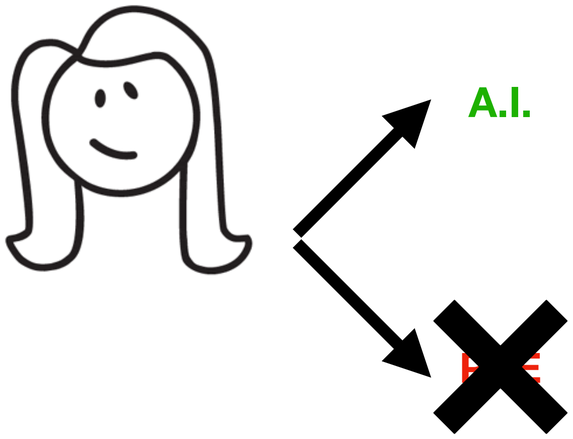
Let’s backtrack

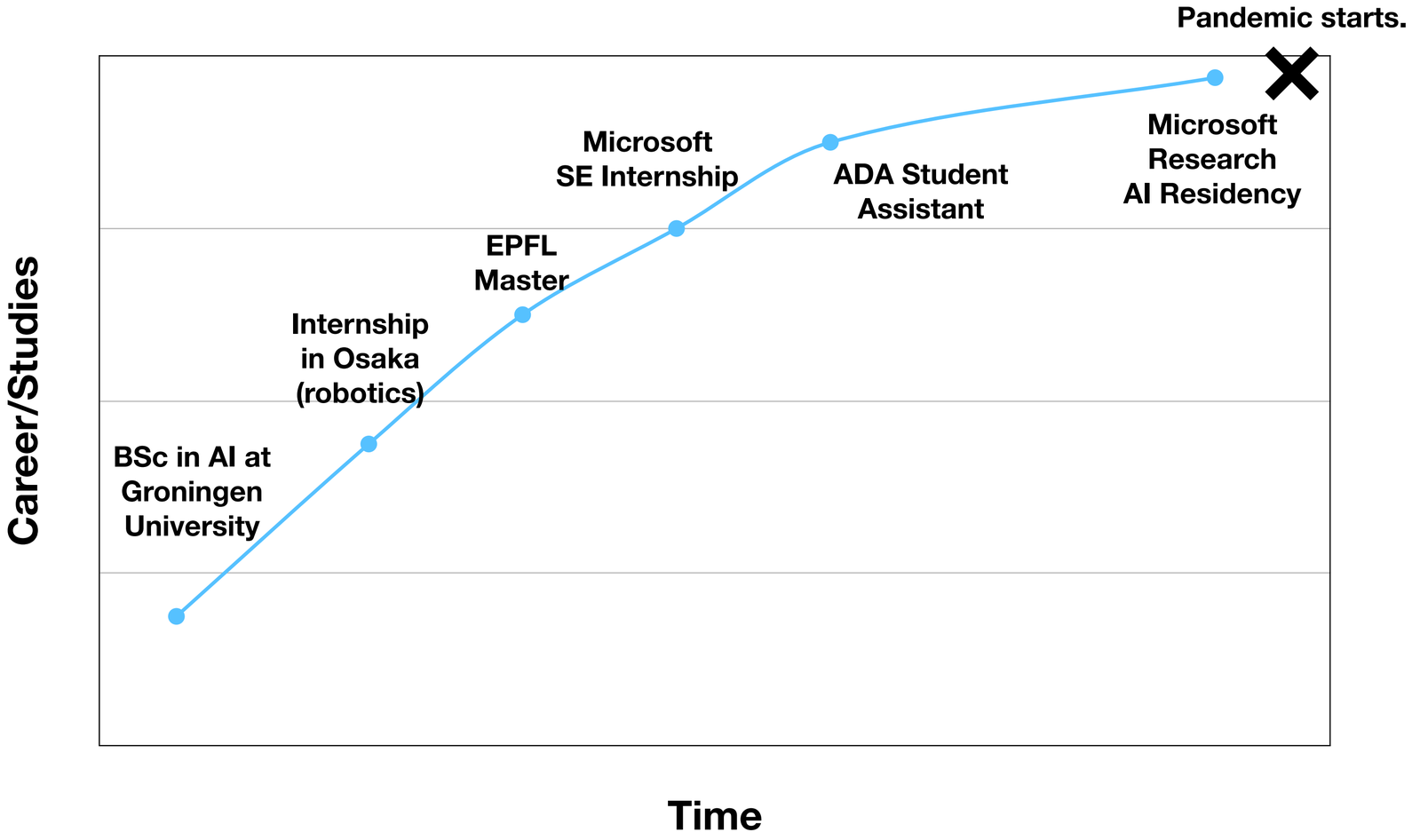
My (hi)story

Back in my last year of high school…



My CV in a graph

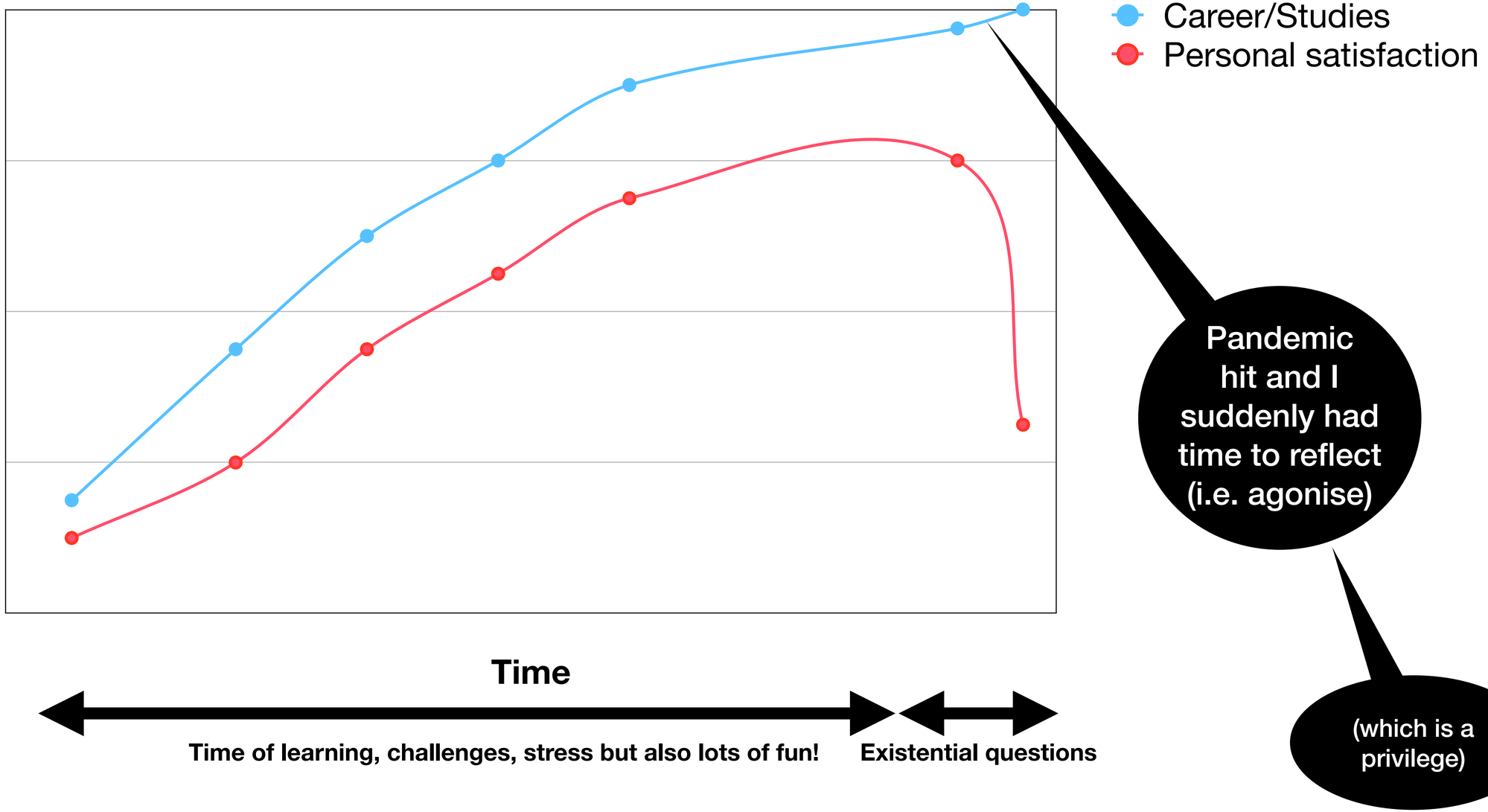




Intermezzo
Add for ADA

- Have you ever?
  - Experienced ambiguous problem statements or conflicting information ?
  - Had trouble with messy undocumented data ?
  - Not had enough computing power or enough memory ?
- **Be thankful for these !!**
  - They prepare you for the real world :)

Let’s get personal



Quiz: what does this reminds you of ?

Quiz: what does this reminds you of ?

Overfitting !

Quiz: what does this reminds you of ?

Overfitting !

The Stopping Criterion

My (active) break

What I did NOT do

- Actively thought about my next move
- Cracked the coding interview questions
- Seeked out jobs
- Binge-watched Netflix

What I did do

- Pursued passion projects
- Deferred potential job opportunities until a later time (privilege)
- Had a normal working job 9-7 discipline
- Experiments and theory

My (active) break

3 pillars

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Silent 10 day
meditation camp

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Anatomy and nutrition
Theory + diet

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Digital minimalism
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Talk with Chris Wiggins on Data Literacy

Silent 10 day meditation camp

Anatomy and nutrition
Theory + diet

Digital minimalism
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My (active) break

3 pillars

Talk with Chris Wiggins on Data Literacy

Interview for redbull about social implications of AI

Silent 10 day meditation camp

Anatomy and nutrition
Theory + diet

Digital minimalism
Theory + diet

The advice slide

There had to be one

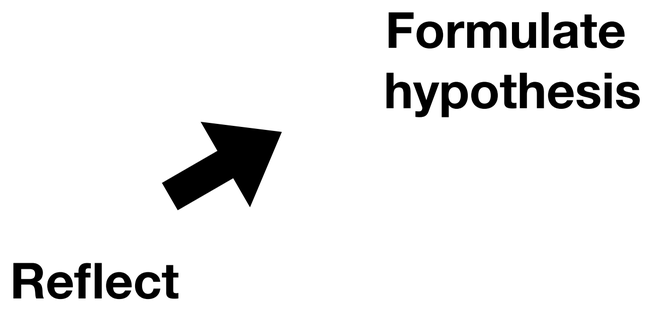
The advice slide

There had to be one

Reflect

The advice slide

There had to be one



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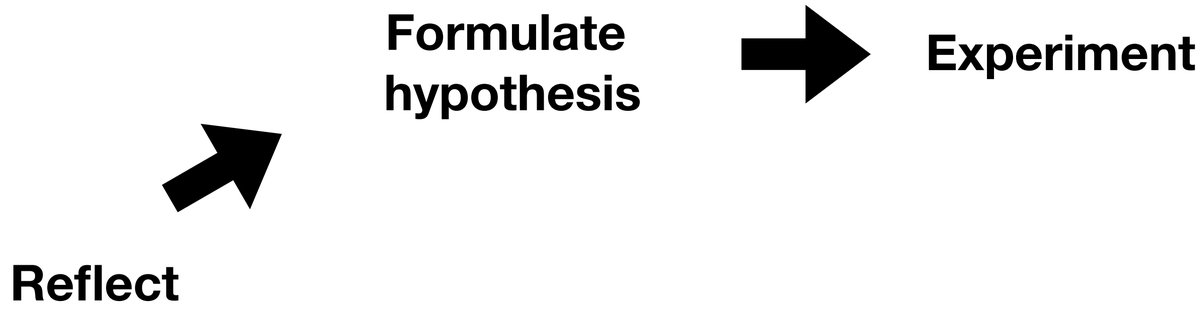

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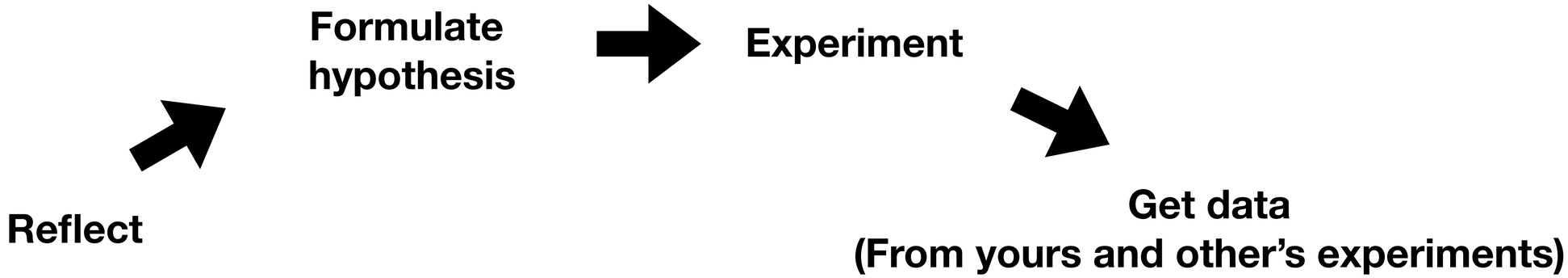

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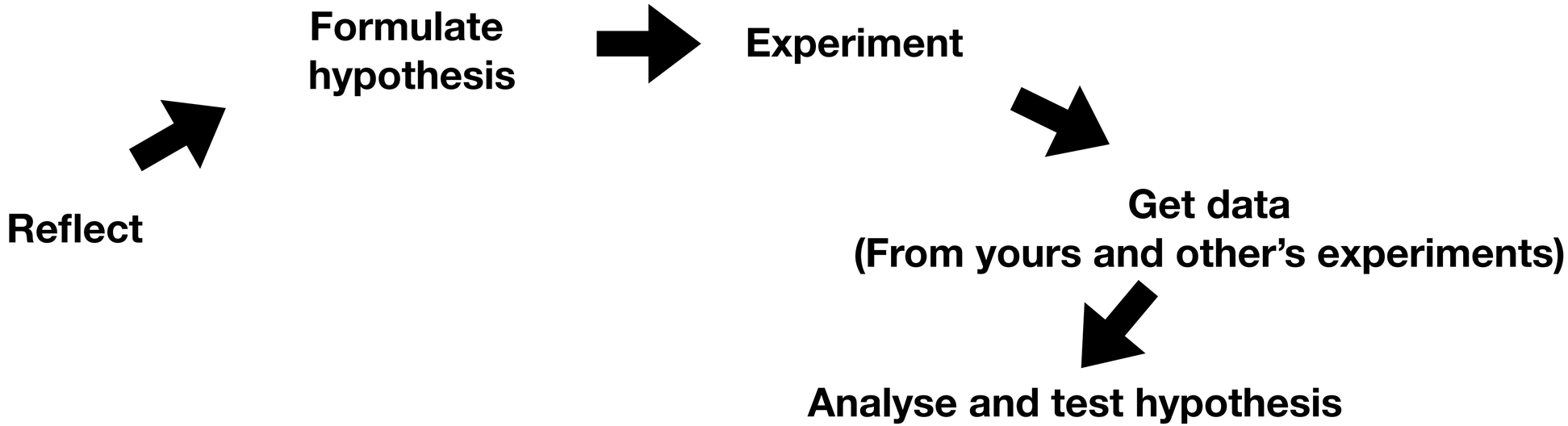

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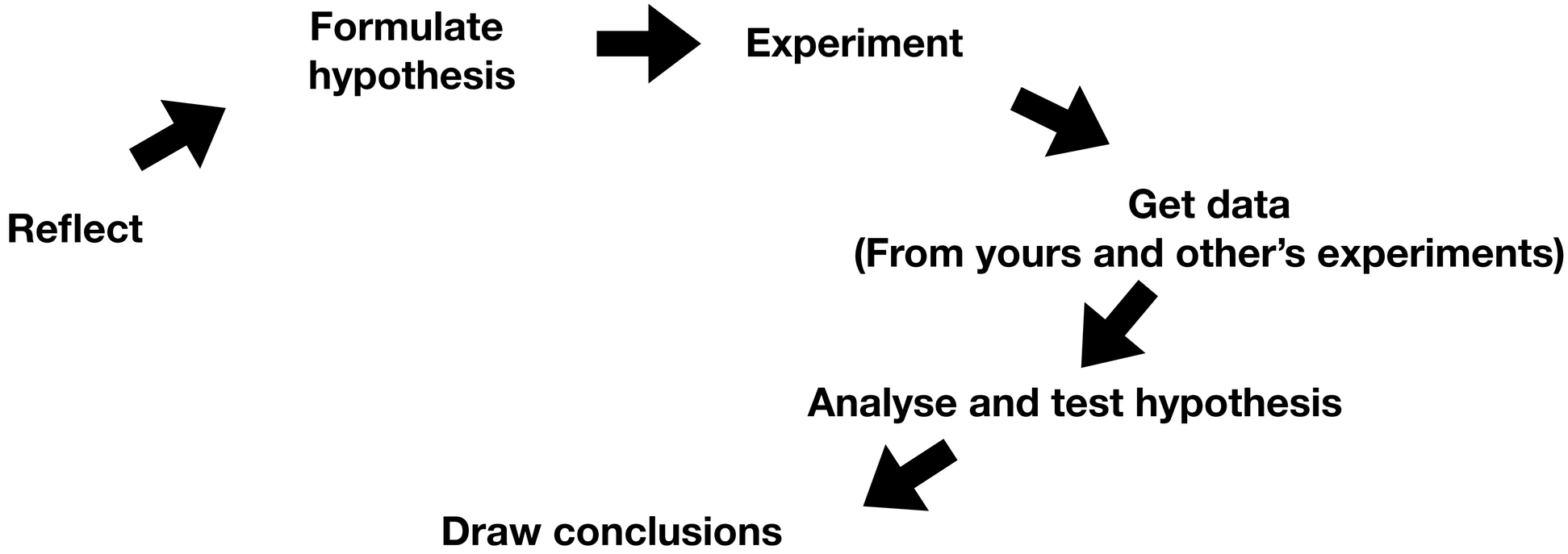

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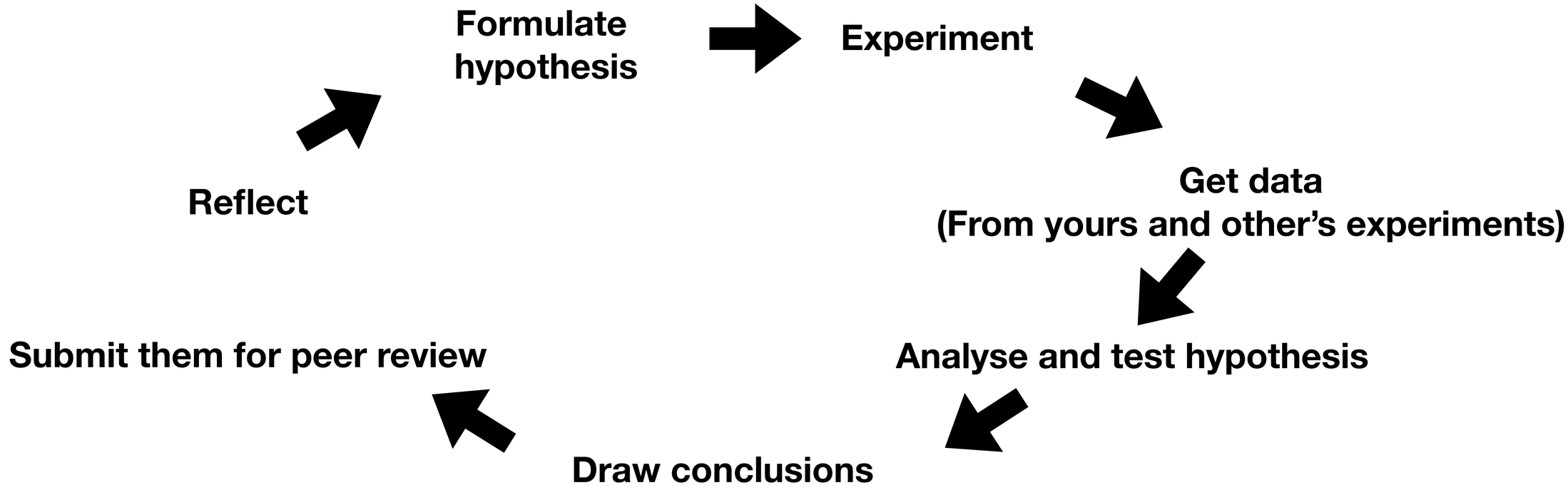

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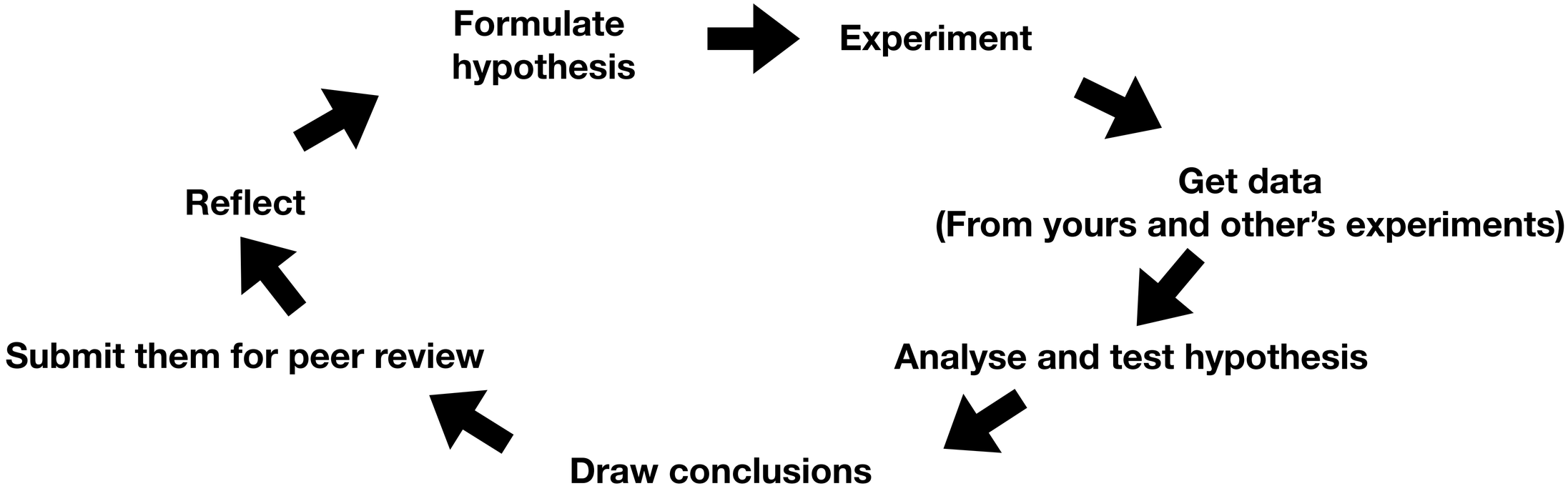

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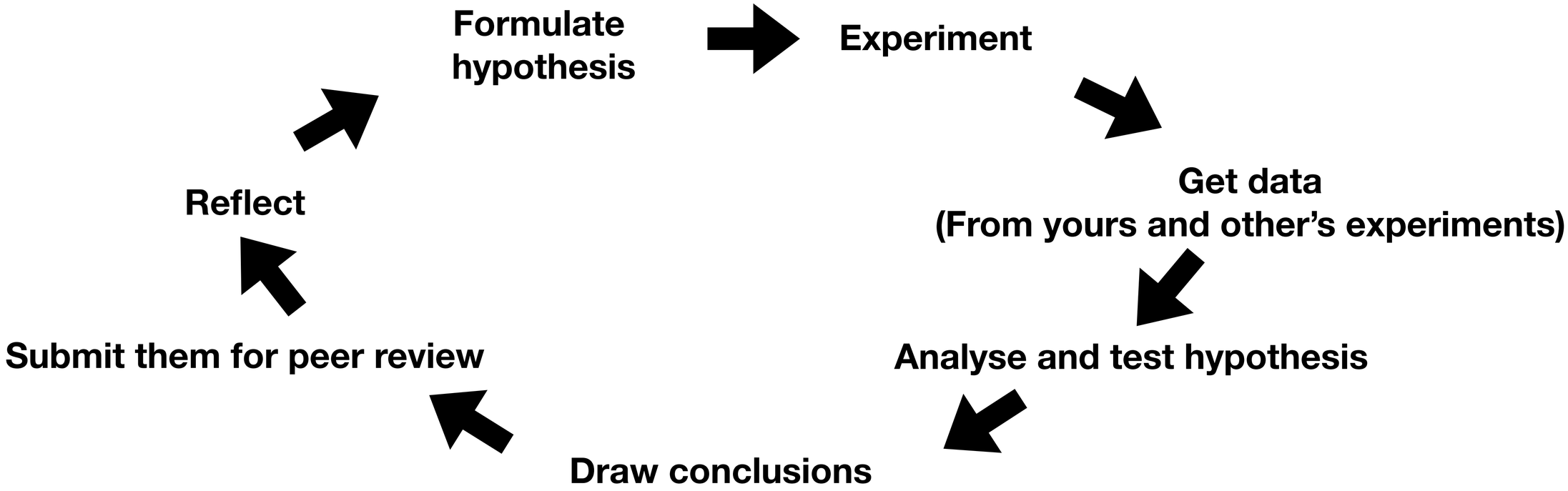

- Do not outsource the entire process of career decision making to a standard professional recipe
- Treat your career as a long term research project instead

Conclusions

- You (probably) made the right choices if you are here
- Going forwards you will (probably) have quite a lot of career options
- Do take time to reflect before computing argmax (prestige/salary etc)

Say hi

- Socials
  - Linkedin
  - Twitter: @meta_for_loops
- Blog soon!

- * Not very present on social media

Suggestions

- How to pick a career (That actually fits you)
  - Wait But Why blog post
- How to live before you die
  - Stanford University Commencement Speech by Steve Jobs
- More lessons from Steve Jobs, Leonardo da Vinci, Benjamin Franklin by Walter Isaacson
  - A podcast episode for the baking season

Merci beaucoup

And happy holidays!