Summaries with Coded Segments - phd-story-annotations-semtiments-\_all.mx22

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| **Code** | **Coded segments** | **Summary** |
| mixed | And I studied engineering because people told me I was smart and I went to this engineering school and that was the thing that you would do if you were smart.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  We just kind of solved a lot of problems, it was a very good problem solving program.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  But I mostly did that just because I was worried about supporting myself and people said if you're an engineer you can get a job in different places  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  So I did the thing that I wanted for fun, the filmmaking, and I did the kind of thing backing up and making sure that I'd be able to survive or whatever, for getting the engineering degree  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  I'm like oh God I should just been a field biologists, this would have been amazing!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 9 - 9 (0)  I had this really great adviser George Attack on for my masters and he wanted me to be a PhD student and I was like ”no way I'm not doing this!“.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 11 - 11 (0)  So for instance I was like - I'm sick of being behind a computer so an important part of my whole process should be in finding ways that I'm not just stuck behind a screen the whole time.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 12 - 12 (0)  A lot of these scientists feel this way too but they have to have this kind of excuse - this is how this research connects - it improves our manufacturing processes.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 15 - 15 (0)  That can be cool, or great or whatever.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 15 - 15 (0)  Not how do we make humans better but rather how do we learn more about the world.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  They have to stand up against a lot of unexpected abuse and environmental hazards and create stimuli and new interesting kind of less verbal ways of communication.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 18 - 18 (0)  It was all right, a lot of these producers did a lot of really shady things, I tried to use my role in this TV show to fight against this shadiness and make things more inclusive, especially for the women, in this man dominated survival genre.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  So we did a season of that show, it kind of went okay, but we parted our ways.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  So I don't 100% know where things are going from here.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  And even though I tend to issue authority a lot in my personal life it's still even affects me - this you know - it's like what am I doing?!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0)  I'm giving up this professor job!!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0)  Isn’t this what everybody wants!?  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0)  So I'm jumping into this big unknown and figuring out what's going to happen so.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | So I did the thing that I wanted for fun, the filmmaking, and I did the kind of thing backing up and making sure that I'd be able to survive or whatever, for getting the engineering degree.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  I didn't know what I was doing - so I'm like okay cool, it's neat to have programs that actually combine your interest versus previously I had to do them as a separate things  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 7 - 7 (0)  I had this really great adviser George Attack on for my masters and he wanted me to be a PhD student and I was like ”no way I'm not doing this!“  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  I was a big weirdo down at the Smithsonian and my whole purpose was being down there and helping the scientist.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  That can be cool, or great or whatever.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 15 - 15 (0)  It was all right, a lot of these producers did a lot of really shady things, I tried to use my role in this TV show to fight against this shadiness and make things more inclusive, especially for the women, in this man dominated survival genre.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  And that was not something I was very interested in. So we did a season of that show, it kind of went okay, but we parted our ways.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  I led the first digital naturalism conference, which was a big free conference that tried to address a lot of the really terrible problems in academic publishing and sharing of ideas; where academics are being attacked by these people looking to lock off knowledge, which is just a terrible idea.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 22 - 22 (0)  But it's not enabling me to actually do the science and do the research and do the artistic explorations and technological explorations that I actually want to do.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | I think everyone who is accepted onto a PhD programme has a certain perception as to what it will be like: having your own office, jet-setting across the world and presenting numerous papers at conferences in glamorous locations (although this is usually not the case).  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 1 - 1 (0)  I compare the journey to climbing a mountain unharnessed; its precarious, you’re on the edge and there are many ascents and descents.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  From my own personal experience, the PhD journey is an isolating experience, particularly working from home, but my tip is to never cut yourself off completely from training sessions and the chance to meet others.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0) |  |
|  | My grammar was so good, but the listening and speaking skills were very bad.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  I almost had nothing but the belief of my teachers, my friends, and my own.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  This time, Mr. Long - my brother - helped me a lot, although he also worried about my ability to succeed.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  Lecturer Ming Do at UIUC said that my profile was so good, but he did not intend to recruit more students in that year and suggested that I should submit to other teachers in the department.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  Some other professors replied but said that they could receive me but no financial support.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  The score was just enough to submit (Verbal 145, Math 167, Writing 3.0)  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 18 - 18 (0)  I knew that if I tried harder, the GRE score wouldn’t be improved much, so I concentrated on preparing other documents.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 18 - 18 (0)  Since English communication is less important in the technical field, so although my English was so poor, he still accepted me to the lab.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  In my class, I spoke a lot although my English is bad.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 26 - 26 (0)  With my limited knowledge at that time, I just came up with a very simple idea.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 34 - 34 (0)  In US, almost people played sports, there were many beautiful people while I was so thin.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 55 - 55 (0) |  |
|  | I only had the funds to apply to five universities, of which Penn State was the one I hope most.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 19 - 19 (0)  Since English communication is less important in the technical field, so although my English was so poor, he still accepted me to the lab.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 24 - 24 (0)  The idea was so simple that I did not believe that it wasn’t used by any papers.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 34 - 34 (0)  In US, almost people played sports, there were many beautiful people while I was so thin.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 55 - 55 (0)  Unlike other members of the lab, the publication of my papers was pretty smooth. All papers having my name were accepted. And unlike all graduates, my job application process was a lot harder.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 62 - 62 (0)  I liked Seattle but three companies that invited me to the interview all said that I lacked practical experience.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 64 - 64 (0)  I was sad after receiving the first refusal emails but afterthat I did not have time to be sad because I had to worry too much about many things including personal works in the summer of 2018. I was sad but never lose hope.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 65 - 65 (0) |  |
|  | I have no knowledge of any of the Latin Languages; I am still trying to wrap my head around the concept of assigning a gender to everything .  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0) |  |
|  | Although I really hated the process of  writing this wretched report to begin with, by the end of it I actually acquired taste for it, and  saw the benefits  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 6 - 8 (0)  My topic was too vague to begin with, and it took me ages to find  the right focus but now I am quite happy that I am working on a research project that will  contribute to the existing knowledge but at the same time can make a difference to policy and  practice!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 15 - 18 (0)  But I am learning...slowly.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  I thought I  hated theories until I started understanding them  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 41 - 42 (0)  Well, enough regrets for one PhD year, I guess...  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 52 - 52 (0) |  |
|  | well i had some problems with that like previously and it's like i want to be it's my phd i have to to make my mistakes and i have to learn and of course your supervisors always mean good and good intentions but i think that is important that they let you make your mistakes but that they also support you and teach you and and all that if they are really carefree you are missing a lot of the learning process and if they are like really straight you're also missing part of the writing process so i think around would be  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 41 - 41 (0)  when first i started teaching i really liked it but the problem then becomes the students right some of them are not so cooperative  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 58 - 58 (0) |  |
|  | well i actually didn't have that much time to define my topic because it was like designated to me by my supervisor and on my master thesis so i've been working on this before starting my phd it was part of my master thesis and it would be like two years yeah it would be like over two years ago more or less  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 3 - 3 (0)  there are a lot of work to do as we could also have focus for example on world embeddings or classification or all that  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 5 - 5 (0)  i'm just i'm working hard towards the goal of becoming a full professor so yeah it's a compulsory part of the journey  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 11 - 11 (0)  for for several people like i've met like they they tell me that some that the decision of opting into doing a phd it's just to delay their life decisions because they didn't know what to do so some people try to like explore yeah and they don't know what what awaits them just know where they go which is you in this case  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 14 - 14 (0)  but i don't think that i'm going to be remembered by my phd this is nothing that no one is  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 29 - 29 (0)  i try to be realistic i know that my busy thesis is not going to be memorable but hopefully it will be good hopefully  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 29 - 29 (0)  i don't think that you have to to get all that anxiety about doing something really yeah impactful breaking at the end of the day that's not really it's all about science i think in my opinion it's all about scale yeah  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 33 - 33 (0)  you know we have of course we have our little discussions and all that but that's part of the learning procedure but so far i'm really happy with them  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 37 - 37 (0)  and then you see that people that are farther on the on the way that that you are are doing all right and they are doing okay and they are encouraging you to do better so i think that we have a a very good little community of business students going on there because we really support each other and i think that's really really important for everyone doing a phd to have a very good security net under you  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 37 - 37 (0)  if you are on your own you are going to miss a lot of a lot of the learning process and but if they are like very sweet people and they take make all the decisions for you it's like i it's like what's what is my role in this phd if all the people are taking the decisions for me yeah it's like it's like you are not import an important part of your phd  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 41 - 41 (0)  i had some problems with that like previously and it's like i want to be it's my phd i have to to make my mistakes and i have to learn and of course your supervisors always mean good and good intentions but i think that is important that they let you make your mistakes but that they also support you and teach you and and all that if they are really carefree you are missing a lot of the learning process and if they are like really straight you're also missing part of the writing process so i think around would be  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 41 - 41 (0)  i don't think that they are going to love me on my own at least i hope so okay  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 49 - 49 (0)  i have to dedicate to teaching and teaching support lessons that include like you know caring exams and yeah teaching assistants yeah that properly teaching hours that i'm in the in the blackboard teaching stuff are like only 12 out of those 60 so okay and that's like the maximum that that i could get  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 53 - 53 (0)  i used to but not from well not for my phd but before starting my phd i used to journal a lot but currently i didn't really do that maybe because i don't have time maybe or whatever  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 67 - 67 (0)  when i journal that i was like in a bad period of my of my life it was you feel a lot of relief once that you see that you may be thinking that you have a bad day or that or whatever and then you look back on the journal and says wow i have improved a lot and things are going much better than they were going so yeah that also helps and so maybe i will have to start doing that again  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 71 - 71 (0) |  |
|  | Even though I knew how hard the life of a PhD student was going to be  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 4 - 4 (0)  But I felt like I was about to go in an unexplored world  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 6 - 6 (0)  So that was more or less something that was definitely keeping me in contact with my department but I didn’t know what I was going in to  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 6 - 6 (0)  I believe that is not bad to know in advance, what your next job is going to be, whatever it is  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 12 - 12 (0)  It’s also a challenge and as a student I felt like I had to face that challenge  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 12 - 12 (0)  Yes I would say that, since the PhD has the tendency to ask a lot of questions about their work. Sometimes this is good and sometimes this is bad  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 20 - 20 (0) |  |
|  | But I felt like I was about to go in an unexplored world.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 6 - 6 (0)  So that was more or less something that was definitely keeping me in contact with my department but I didn’t know what I was going in to.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 6 - 6 (0)  It’s also a challenge and as a student I felt like I had to face that challenge.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  I learned how to deal with myself, and my problems and not with the whole problems of the whole team, in a research team that can happen.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  Sometimes this is good and sometimes this is bad.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 20 - 20 (0) |  |
|  | it's unlikely  you'll  revolutionize your field in a few years of doctoral study  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 32 - 34 (0) |  |
|  | so I started working didn't really know what  I was doing and the first year it was kind of a struggle  11 - James's story (Marek): 8 - 9 (0)  again didn't really know what I was doing but I kind of  maintained these high expectations of myself I still wanted to do well  11 - James's story (Marek): 16 - 17 (0) |  |
|  | In addition to excitement, there is fear and confusion.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 1 - 1 (0)  This paper is pretty good for having come into existence over the course of 1.5 months, but not objectively a great paper--and it gets rejected.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 8 - 8 (0)  I am too young to realize that not all projects go this smoothly and not all papers are this good, so I am confused.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 22 - 22 (0)  I like the work but find it isolating because I'm the only person working on my project and it's not clear what I am allowed to talk about outside of work.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 36 - 36 (0)  I find the entire trip relaxing but find it difficult to return to normal life after.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 45 - 45 (0) |  |
|  | It can seem stressful and demanding, but remember to enjoy your time as a PhD student  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0)  Whereas, with the PhD, for at least the next three years you're the only one on the planet doing  this specific research (at least you hope — the original contribution race is a blog for another  day).  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 17 - 19 (0)  The beginning of your PhD and finding your feet will be tough  enough, so don't carry even more weight on your shoulders than you have to by feeling worried that  you're not good enough or that you don't have a clue what you want from your research, what it  means, how you will carry it out, or produce a thesis so huge that it reminds of you of James and  the Giant Peach.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 34 - 38 (0) |  |
|  | However, a PhD would not be the 'gold standard' of education if it was  stress-free, undemanding and straightforward.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 25 - 26 (0) |  |
|  | It would be a perfect time for a Ph.D. if only I had already completed my Masters.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 13 - 13 (0)  While teaching can be satisfying and meaningful at times, it also takes a huge amount of time to do it right, especially when you start a new course.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0)  I enjoyed the apprenticeship of supervising theses more than teaching, although few students invested more than required for a minimum viable thesis.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 20 - 20 (0)  In retrospect, probably the most relevant was the introductory course on basic scientific methods, though it was definitely rudimentary.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 21 - 21 (0)  With mixed feelings, I asked for a break from my Ph.D., lasting till September 2015 when my contract with EEA ended.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 32 - 32 (0) |  |
|  | Doing a split-site PhD can be tricky.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 54 - 54 (0)  They are hard, but you gain experience in so  many different areas and you become confident in loads of situations.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 81 - 82 (0) |  |
|  | it was really really cool yeah but it was not only for english which is a shame but that's the start okay  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 19 - 19 (0)  so i'm very glad but when i when i when i talk to many other people they they say things like you know i don't know if for for fun but they say like they they decided to do a phd because they wanted to deal to delay their life decisions because they didn't know what to do  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 21 - 21 (0) |  |
|  | If you have a very dedicated supervisor, he or she will tell you, but it's also good to seek knowledge independently and combine it together with the advice from your supervisor  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  But if you know that this is completely normal and that the pink clouds turn into desperation after six months and that you just need to carry on and it will be better again, then you may overcome the six months steps  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 25 - 25 (0)  The first six months were like a holiday and then the hard work started  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 27 - 27 (0)  And if you are sure there is no workaround, then you can leave it  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  I believe in academia in particular, which is a very tough and competitive environment, you will face challenges much easier if you have a buddy that is sharing air with you  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 31 - 31 (0) |  |
|  | Don't cry if you cannot stay directly in academia.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  In my case this happened when the nice snowy mountains in Norway and the blue sky were suddenly pitch black and I wanted to come back to Berlin in the real civilization and not only live with woods and bush.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 25 - 25 (0) |  |
|  | On the other hand I was really inspired by women I have to say because electroacoustic music emerge from a very white middle class western tradition and I always complained that there was not enough women and cultural diversity as well in the labs.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 36 - 36 (0) |  |
|  | In 2017, I applied for 5 PhD positions, four ended in premium rejections. But, after each rejection,  I improved and moved on  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 2 - 3 (0)  After writing about 10  professors (another story), Prof. Fransef Müller graciously offered me a position to intern and learn  in his lab  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 59 - 61 (0) |  |
|  | well i don't know maybe maybe the knowledge maybe for me is the the knowledge of the type of work that i have been doing  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 34 - 34 (0)  non-monotonic and also the here is not monotonic because it's my freaking cause everything but it's interesting the way that they you are forced to do a lot of things you are forced to know a lot of things and and you have to force yourself yeah not like everyone somebody someone was forced to see yeah yeah so and you have to force yourself and you have the flexi more you have a more flexible timetable and so on that's not true because finally i work every day 12 hours but the the but it's interesting to say it's different from the from other people in the yeah you  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 36 - 36 (0)  you have to be really good at that in order to have some kind of allowance but here in india academia is kind of really fair safe environment and you can try things fail and try things that fail trying to fail again but then you eventually will succeed right yeah but nobody will like you're fired no you're fired you have to keep trying but in industry you have you have one or two chances um have you ever have you like experienced the the the worst part of phd which is like having having papers rejected and feel bad  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 39 - 39 (0)  so mostly you have to initiate it all begins from your initiative yeah well if you you don't like try to step up the comfort zone and try and contact other people then then i think you're doomed yeah more or less yeah so thank you for the interview  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 50 - 50 (0) |  |
|  | they are very simple they are they are they are okay but not so with so many information the problem is to apply in a real scenario  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 18 - 18 (0) |  |
|  | My path - my PhD career path - has been a bit bumpy, and it has taken some other turns  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  I was wondering why it was so, because it was really useful - the modeling tools in the object-oriented programming world was really applicable in logistics, but no one had done it  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  Some people had done it but that was like five or six papers, some consultancy work, but it was quite an open field  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 15 - 15 (0)  So I started looking into that, and I was almost finished - I was taking a bit longer  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  The informal name for this is the"Pie throwing" - where everyone tries to bring your thesis down as much as possible, so that you would have that feedback before your defense  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  It was then or never  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 20 - 20 (0)  Of course, this keeps a lot of people employed, which is sort of a good thing, but it keeps me from doing what I really want  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  It would not have been that good if I had done it in 2003.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  But on the other hand, it would have passed and I would have been approved and would have been a doctor  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  If not, you should look for something else  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 76 - 76 (0)  It wasn't that a few years ago, or ten years ago, at least not where I am, but now it is extremely competitive  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 80 - 80 (0)  You can also be really successful, it's a tradeoff that you need to be aware, of I think.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 80 - 80 (0) |  |
|  | I usually kept track of what companies I applied for, what interviews I had lined up, and rejections/successes in an Excel sheet to avoid becoming overwhelmed.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 14 - 14 (0)  It can be nerve-wracking in the beginning, but if you have a good CV, a wish to learn, and a positive attitude then it's much easier to find and secure a job.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 14 - 14 (0)  I think every change comes with positive and negative aspects.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  Whilst university life gave me more flexibility in terms of my schedule, having financial stability and a more close-knit team of professionals to learn from compensates for that.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  It's a big transition, but I became accustomed to it after a few months.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0) |  |
|  | It can be nerve-wracking in the beginning, but if you have a good CV, a wish to learn, and a positive attitude then it's much easier to find and secure a job.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  Whilst university life gave me more flexibility in terms of my schedule, having financial stability and a more close-knit team of professionals to learn from compensates for that.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0) |  |
|  | Her PhD was anything but easy, but she’s here to tell you what helped her persist, and what motivated her not to give up in spite of considering this as a very real option twice  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 1 - 1 (0)  Amandine’s PhD was not an easy one, but with exemplary persistence and an ability to clear the roadblocks that were in her way, Amandine managed to finish  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  It will take time to get to a point where it’s integrated in my brain and realise that I have the degree  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  And then when I found a part-time job as a Conservator in commercial Archaeology, I thought, maybe I don’t need a PhD degree.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 19 - 19 (0)  So why not just give up?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 19 - 19 (0)  Never give up on anything, just go on  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 20 - 20 (0)  It’s gonna hurt, but just go on.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 20 - 20 (0)  At the same point I thought, maybe it’s not smart to think like this  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 21 - 21 (0)  And I decided subconsciously to let it go and not to finish the PhD  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 21 - 21 (0)  That was the first turning point when I thought, okay, it was a nice project.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0)  That’s it!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0)  I can doubt myself and think that I’m not good enough, but I have no permission to say this about the other scientists who believe in me  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  I can degrade myself, but I cannot degrade others  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  And if these experienced professionals believe my PhD is worth it, I should trust them  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  I thought he was a rather dry person, an engineer not really into emotions, but he supported me  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  I just said to myself, it’s not that bad to give up  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  Maybe society sees this as a failure, but it’s no big deal for me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  I’ll just give up and that’s it  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  It was important to me because I was so exhausted already that I didn’t know how to start anymore  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  I knew my horse, but I didn’t know how to get on my horse.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  I thought, okay, I have to try, I have to report, I have to at least show up in the course.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 41 - 41 (0)  I knew I could manage six months but no more  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 44 - 44 (0)  You know, this is gonna hurt, I’ll come to the limit of what is physically possible, but it will be over by that date.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 48 - 48 (0)  So I just wish I would have had one person, someone neutral in a senior position at the university, who acted on my behalf  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 72 - 72 (0)  If anyone is in a similar situation, my advice is: pack it up and go somewhere else where you’ll get more understanding and support  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 74 - 74 (0) |  |
|  | The next day, I thought, It’s not real  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  It can’t be, I can’t be that far already  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  And now, after the defense, I feel it’s a much slower process to accept that it’s for real.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 11 - 11 (0)  It will take time to get to a point where it’s integrated in my brain and realise that I have the degree.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 11 - 11 (0)  I have this in my head: “Never give up on anything, just go on. It’s gonna hurt, but just go on.”  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 20 - 20 (0)  At the same point I thought, maybe it’s not smart to think like this.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 21 - 21 (0)  That was the first turning point when I thought, okay, it was a nice project.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 26 - 26 (0)  I can doubt myself and think that I’m not good enough, but I have no permission to say this about the other scientists who believe in me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 30 - 30 (0)  I can degrade myself, but I cannot degrade others.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 30 - 30 (0)  I thought he was a rather dry person, an engineer not really into emotions, but he supported me  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 32 - 32 (0)  I just said to myself, it’s not that bad to give up.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  Maybe society sees this as a failure, but it’s no big deal for me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  You know, this is gonna hurt, I’ll come to the limit of what is physically possible, but it will be over by that date.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 48 - 48 (0) |  |
|  | Staying within ethical constraints for participant recruitment this proved near impossible, even with the help of some very supportive practitioners.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0) |  |
|  | Objective selfevaluation is not easy because previous academic experiences may have given candidates a  false perception of themselves.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 56 - 57 (0)  Choosing a research problem in order to start writing a research proposal is one of the  first challenging tasks that PhD candidates have to do.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 82 - 83 (0)  The lesson that what matters for PhD is not the  width of the research problem but critical depth with which one engages with it is learned  after so many hardships.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 91 - 93 (0)  However, it  does not come easy; it goes through ups and downs all of which provide lessons to  candidates and help them grow.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 101 - 103 (0)  My experience with proposal writing was not very  different: I wrote it and submitted it for examination but it was rejected mainly because  the theoretical framework which I intended to use to frame my study had not been well  chosen.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 103 - 106 (0)  I had to re-write it using texts written by a scholar whom my supervisor herself  had difficulties in understanding (I will come back to this)  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 106 - 107 (0)  While I have found all aspects of PhD challenging, I have realised that the one of the top  challenging tasks is to write ‘academically’ and make one’s readers understand what one  wants them to understand or make them understand things the way one understands  them.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 124 - 127 (0)  However, they should be aware that it may take  time for them to be confident in doing so.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 173 - 174 (0)  Without contradicting the fact that the work belongs to  the student, I suggest that students need to comply because it is part of the supervisors’  responsibilities to guide the student according to what they believe is appropriate.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 211 - 213 (0)  As much as being stuck may be a challenge, my experience  brought me to view it as an indication that some progress as being made: you have moved  from point A and have come to point B and in the process of getting to point C, you are stuck.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 289 - 291 (0)  In my case, for  example, had I not been supported and encouraged by my PhD supervisor to submit a paper  from my MA dissertation for a conference, it would have been difficult for me to enter the  publication world.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 346 - 349 (0)  For example, one of my manuscripts was rejected by two journals, but I  improved it at every rejection using the reviewers’ feedback.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 367 - 368 (0)  It goes through ups and  downs, all of which have important lessons.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 447 - 448 (0) |  |
|  | While I agree with this suggestion, I have  found it difficult to revise and edit one’s work  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 129 - 130 (0)  This remark got me disappointed and surprised at the same time  but also got me to think deeply about the kind of support I should expect from her.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 189 - 190 (0)  As much as being stuck may be a challenge, my experience  brought me to view it as an indication that some progress as being made  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 289 - 290 (0) |  |
|  | Do it because you are passionate about it as anything outside passion will fade away.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  Also, he was around to help me emotionally because getting a PhD can honestly be emotionally draining.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0) |  |
|  | Although it was difficult, I had fun all the way  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Students who take initiative and lead a project conveniently are self-motivated but I do not think this can be transferred  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  I cannot compare how I was a few years ago to how I am and it gets better with time (but definitely not easy).  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0) |  |
|  | Should I have waited longer for the perfect opportunity? Maybe  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 10 - 10 (0)  If I had waited a little longer, I inevitably would have gotten what some of my well-wishers might have considered “more prestigious” opportunities…  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 10 - 10 (0) |  |
|  | Although, I am not sure if I needed to be in Canada to start my PhD  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  I picked the few that other CERC students took and a couple of courses I was interested in  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  I should have started long ago, but better-late-than-never, right?  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  But at the same time, I am realizing that doing good research plays only a small part in academic success  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  I am still not decided on academia or industry or starting something on my own  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0) |  |
|  | I felt that quitting was the best solution to give my poor mental health some peace  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 5 - 5 (0)  I still had to pass the IELTS exam, which is the English language test for study, migration, or work, but after receiving my offer, I finally saw my dream come true.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  It helps when I’m travelling around Swansea or going to university and I realize that life is here, but no place is like “my island in the sun”  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  Neither Italian nor English have a translation for this term, but I think it encapsulates the way I feel perfectly  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  Even if the road seems long and winding, we must follow the example of those who have been successful before us  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0) |  |
|  | In spite of supportive supervisors, the journey towards a PhD is always a lonely process.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0)  Although it has been difficult, it has been a fruitful and interesting journey.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0) |  |
|  | It is one of the wonderfully confusing things about Oxford, where the general Master of Law program is referred to as the Bachelor of Civil Law (even though the course has nothing to do with a bachelor’s degree and very little to do with civil law).  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0)  I will make an application that is doomed to fail so I can justify to my father that I was unsuccessful at starting a doctorate.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I therefore initially had mixed reactions to the admission.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  The start of the DPhil was both the most stressful and the most interesting part of the academic journey.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 21 - 21 (0)  I cried freely but soon put myself together.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 39 - 39 (0)  And although his body was weak, I felt the strength of his spirit.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 39 - 39 (0)  Amid the pain and sorrow, I put all the finishing touches to my thesis and within a week of my Dad’s passing, I had my thesis ready for submission.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 48 - 48 (0) |  |
| negative | I was kind of disappointed in the engineering school and program just because I felt like we didn't actually get to make anything  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  But I felt like we didn't really get to make things  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  I didn’t really even know what an engineer did, even while I was in the engineering program  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  I think it was something that growing up in the Midwest American culture you get it kind of beat out of you.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 9 - 9 (0)  You can't just do art unless you're some rich kid or something.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 9 - 9 (0)  So I had a little bit of an existential crisis.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 9 - 9 (0)  But they're under so much pressure, from their employers, from the people above them, to try to always be serious.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 14 - 14 (0)  And you run a real risk if you're taken as your research is just frivolous and you always have to have your excuse in your back pocket to [explain] how does this benefit humans if we're studying these ants and all this kind of stuff.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 14 - 14 (0)  I think that's just \*\*\*\*.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 15 - 15 (0)  I think it's part of this gross human centric mentality that we have, where humans are the best and everything we do needs to make it so that us humans can consume quicker and create things faster and destroy more of the Earth in record time.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 15 - 15 (0)  We're destroying so many things just because we're ignorant of how beautiful and amazing they can be.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  It unfortunately got attacked and destroyed by a horrible patent trolls.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 18 - 18 (0)  They also did things like it wasn't even supposed to be a survival show to begin with.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  So there's a lot of deception and stuff that lured me into participating in the show.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  But they would have me do things like, they would tell me okay you have to talk about how you're going to use this technology to defeat nature!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  And that was not something I was very interested in.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  But the academic system that we're dealing with here has led me to actually resign from my job.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 20 - 20 (0)  where academics are being attacked by these people looking to lock off knowledge, which is just a terrible idea.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 22 - 22 (0)  That's not how academia, especially not how science, can proceed by putting things behind paywalls.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 22 - 22 (0)  It's kind of tricky because as a PhD student you're always taught that a tenure track professor position is the be all, end all goal you have to keep staying within this cycle!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  But you receive so little training about this as a PhD student.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  I barely received any.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  But it's not enabling me to actually do the science and do the research and do the artistic explorations and technological explorations that I actually want to do.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0)  I feel like it's making me less productive being in this weird academic system that I'm currently in.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | I was kind of disappointed in the engineering school and program just because I felt like we didn't actually get to make anything.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  We just kind of solved a lot of problems, it was a very good problem solving program.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  But I felt like we didn't really get to make things.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  I didn’t really even know what an engineer did, even while I was in the engineering program.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  But I mostly did that just because I was worried about supporting myself and people said if you're an engineer you can get a job in different places.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  . You can't just do art unless you're some rich kid or something.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  A lot of people would be like you're making the scientists weird!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  But they're under so much pressure, from their employers, from the people above them, to try to always be serious.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  And you run a real risk if you're taken as your research is just frivolous and you always have to have your excuse in your back pocket to [explain] how does this benefit humans if we're studying these ants and all this kind of stuff.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  I think that's just \*\*\*\*.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 15 - 15 (0)  I think it's part of this gross human centric mentality that we have, where humans are the best and everything we do needs to make it so that us humans can consume quicker and create things faster and destroy more of the Earth in record time.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 15 - 15 (0)  We're destroying so many things just because we're ignorant of how beautiful and amazing they can be.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0)  It unfortunately got attacked and destroyed by a horrible patent trolls.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 18 - 18 (0)  So there's a lot of deception and stuff that lured me into participating in the show.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  But they would have me do things like, they would tell me okay you have to talk about how you're going to use this technology to defeat nature!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  But the academic system that we're dealing with here has led me to actually resign from my job.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 20 - 20 (0)  I don't 100% know what I'm going to do.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  That's not how academia, especially not how science, can proceed by putting things behind paywalls.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 22 - 22 (0)  But you receive so little training about this as a PhD student.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 23 - 23 (0)  I barely received any.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 23 - 23 (0)  And even though I tend to issue authority a lot in my personal life it's still even affects me - this you know - it's like what am I doing?  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  I'm giving up this professor job!!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  Isn’t this what everybody wants!?  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  I feel like it's making me less productive being in this weird academic system that I'm currently in.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | What is not well documented is the mental turmoil that one can face throughout the “PhD journey.”  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 2 - 2 (0)  It’s difficult, really difficult in fact, and there are constant set-backs which student’s face particularly with workload and managing demanding supervisors.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 2 - 2 (0)  Not only this, but there are also issues in trying to find time to socialise, dealing with obnoxious peers, managing your own workload and supervisory issues.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 2 - 2 (0)  The fact is mental illness is all too common, but not well reported, and so people start a PhD with a degree of false pretence.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 2 - 2 (0)  Moreover, these issues need reporting to show what the PhD journey is really like.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 2 - 2 (0)  However, not all PhD students have a supportive network around them and can often feel isolated and alone.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  Isolation is common, very common in fact, during a PhD.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  There are those who work from home, who have families, who are carers, who may be ill themselves (either physically or mentally) and who don’t live in close proximity to their university.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  Unfortunately, there is a culture of acceptance around mental health issues in academia, a point raised by an anonymous academic through the Guardian website in March 2014 and the constant work load causes students to burn out; exacerbating mental illness.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0)  It’s a common problem and something which I have experienced on several occasions and there is an element of guilt which creeps in if you are not doing work.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0)  It’s a vicious circle and one which is notoriously difficult to break out of.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0) |  |
|  | I had heard about the VEF program for a long time but I have never dared to find out what they were asking for because at that moment I thought this program was out of my reach.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  When having IELTS score, it was the time the VEF was about to expire and I still had not achieved the GRE score yet.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  However, I still could not wholeheartedly file a resume because my graduation theme had not been completed.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  I was really worried that other people usually spend two or three years for preparing the application.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0)  The knowledge I learned about hardware in the college did not seem to help my profile growing stronger.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  I was quite worried because every session costed 20k for coffee, and then the fees for sending the application to the US and the application fee to universities.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  My parents had invested me in learning English so much in previous years so I did not want them to carry more burden.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  Parents also did not understand my ability to be studied abroad and often anxiously advised me to consider going to work.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  I applied for the 2012 Honda YES scholarship with high expectations but failed.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  At that time I had a quite financial crisis.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  Then I dropped out of the top 10 universities because surely I did not have the ability to pass.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 13 - 13 (0)  Most professors did not reply.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  I failed to those four universities  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 20 - 20 (0)  The idea was so simple that I did not believe that it wasn’t used by any papers.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 34 - 34 (0)  Sometimes I also did not think that this idea could be written into a scientific paper.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 34 - 34 (0)  I changed the algorithm every day much so that my coworker almost had to scold harshly: "I don’t know why you keep changing ideas”  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 34 - 34 (0)  Finally, as the deadline approached, I had no choice but to return to the simplest idea.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 34 - 34 (0)  But in the US, at my living area, Vietnamese food was very limited.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 53 - 53 (0)  Food was generally expensive and a meal was often not good and not enough.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 53 - 53 (0)  Do not let yourself be sick in the United States  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 56 - 56 (0)  You have to take care of yourself because everyone has their own business.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 56 - 56 (0)  The medicine is so expensive and you still have to work when you're little sick.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 56 - 56 (0)  However, I soon realized that the creation of clips took a much time and very difficult to edit later.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 58 - 58 (0)  The number of viewers was also less because LaTex selected learners.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 58 - 58 (0)  I found that this group did not work so well and many members had not mastered the basic concepts.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 59 - 59 (0)  I had almost no new scientific work  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 61 - 61 (0)  And unlike all graduates, my job application process was a lot harder.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 62 - 62 (0)  I liked Seattle but three companies that invited me to the interview all said that I lacked practical experience.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 64 - 64 (0)  I was sad after receiving the first refusal emails but afterthat I did not have time to be sad because I had to worry too much about many things including personal works in the summer of 2018.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 65 - 65 (0) |  |
|  | My grammar was so good, but the listening and speaking skills were very bad.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 4 - 4 (0)  I was really worried that other people usually spend two or three years for preparing the application.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 8 - 8 (0)  I was quite worried because every session costed 20k for coffee, and then the fees for sending the application to the US and the application fee to universities.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 10 - 10 (0)  Parents also did not understand my ability to be studied abroad and often anxiously advised me to consider going to work.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 10 - 10 (0)  I submitted the paper then I was so worried that I had ever dreamed that the article was rejected because its idea had been used before.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 35 - 35 (0)  Until now, I have found it a pity that I should find an internship program at a major technology company.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 46 - 46 (0)  I gradually found myself not to be suitable for that generation anymore.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 52 - 52 (0)  In Vietnam, I would have many options if I did not have time for cooking. But in the US, at my living area, Vietnamese food was very limited. Food was generally expensive and a meal was often not good and not enough.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 53 - 53 (0)  Do not let yourself be sick in the United States. You have to take care of yourself because everyone has their own business. The medicine is so expensive and you still have to work when you're little sick.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 56 - 56 (0)  However, I soon realized that the creation of clips took a much time and very difficult to edit later.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 58 - 58 (0)  I joined a small group in Vietnam to translate "Deep learning" but soon left the group. I found that this group did not work so well and many members had not mastered the basic concepts.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 59 - 59 (0)  Difficulties appearing at the end of the road In last year of the PhD program, I had almost no new scientific work.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 61 - 61 (0) |  |
|  | The only disappointment is that it took me too long to focus the topic  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 18 - 18 (0)  I regret that I was not systematic with my  reading... bits and pieces here and there.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 21 - 22 (0)  Well, this probably reflects what a disorganised person  I am!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 22 - 23 (0)  Don't simply sit and wait for your supervisors to tell you what to do (that's what I did at  the beginning).  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 32 - 33 (0)  I  agree, your situation might be different, and some supervisors have a very traditional  Master-Apprentice approach  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 34 - 36 (0)  I've been struggling with this bit for a year!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 39 - 39 (0)  Still struggling with this bit...  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 45 - 45 (0)  There is always a temptation to do some other things rather than concentrate on writing your  thesis chapter.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 49 - 50 (0) |  |
|  | it's like a really competitive word so it can become really stressful because you are trying to engorge your cv and and that can be stressful sometimes  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 11 - 11 (0)  when you start doing your phd you think that it's going to be very difficult it's going to be very horrible you don't you won't do and sleep you will live out out of coffee  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 37 - 37 (0)  you are going to have many town falls and many existential prices and a lot of why the hell am i doing am i doing this  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 37 - 37 (0)  yeah that's one of my biggest concerns with teaching  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 59 - 59 (0)  this is the worst nightmare of a teacher you know like students some sometimes are really out of out of out of mind  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 60 - 60 (0)  paperwork is the worst i forgot that yeah paperwork bureaucracy in general that's horrible management it's like yeah that's how this help  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 65 - 65 (0) |  |
|  | i don't want it to end here and then join a company and do something that is really unrelated to this  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  it's like a really competitive word so it can become really stressful because you are trying to engorge your cv and and that can be stressful sometimes if you want to reach that goal if you are just doing it for the learning or you are doing it to you know reach higher positions on companies or work more or less oriented towards innovation instead of academia  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 11 - 11 (0)  i think that when we all come to to do research at first we are like really naive and we really think that we can change the world and develop something really groundbreaking but i didn't i don't think that nobody is going to to make it  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 35 - 35 (0)  because when you start doing your phd you think that it's going to be very difficult it's going to be very horrible you don't you won't do and sleep you will live out out of coffee  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 37 - 37 (0)  i don't think that they are going to you know let me let me on my own unfortunately i think and even after that  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 49 - 49 (0)  i didn't have a gp igpu and that has been a major problem because i couldn't do my experiments but it was like we are not going to buy this only for you for your thesis because there's a weight of our waste of money so institutional institutional support yeah that's what that was one problem  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 63 - 63 (0)  other problem was that well that you know some disagreements that i have with my with my supervisors like in the puzzle about what did this work with publishers work in our conference no because it's better for you to do it here  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 63 - 63 (0)  yeah paperwork is the worst i forgot that yeah paperwork bureaucracy in general that's horrible management it's like yeah that's how this help  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 65 - 65 (0) |  |
|  | Arriving at this HUGE research university, I anticipated a liberal arts haven of critical thought  and open mindedness, so I was crushed when I entered an atmosphere of self-serving negativity.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 28 - 29 (0)  My  department had terrible, ongoing faculty collegiality problems that they chose to ignore, to the  detriment of the graduate students.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 29 - 31 (0)  I saw  so many student colleagues, brilliant friends of  mine that I admired, transformed by faculty bullying into a shell of their former promising selves,  and I was the same.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 33 - 36 (0)  Unfortunately, the denigration seemed unconsciously targeted toward women in my department; it was  sickening, very much along the lines of an abusive relationship  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 37 - 38 (0)  We were constantly made to feel  that nothing we did was right, but were all convinced that we'd be left with nothing if we escaped  the situation.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 38 - 40 (0)  I stayed for four years past my Master's, hoping I could improve things from the inside,  but it was a sick system. So much happened that I couldn't forgive, yet I gave them most of my 20s.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 41 - 42 (0)  I stayed on top of my teaching, but I lived in terror of my  own anxiety, which lead to continual procrastination.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 44 - 45 (0)  I  couldn't face the giant pile of books in my apartment, even though I was studying humor, my  all-time favorite topic.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 46 - 48 (0)  So my leaving was more or  less mutually decided upon; I was not succeeding in their program and I didn't want to pursue it  any longer if it meant risking my mental health.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 52 - 54 (0)  I wasted so much energy worrying about this  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 56 - 56 (0)  That's  still tough to remember; I often feel the need to explain in great detail how crappy things got in  order to justify leaving school after six years  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 62 - 64 (0)  Oh, my already depleted self-esteem just plummeted. I was broke, unemployed and had to move back in  with my folks at age 28. My depression and anxiety took over for a while.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 67 - 68 (0) |  |
|  | And the second stage is similar to depression and you will start asking yourself if your research should take longer or if is it still worth studying, because maybe someone around the world someone is doing it at the same time, but in a better and more articulated way  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  And the third stage is anger. And that comes at the end of the PhD when you start being mad at yourself.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  Because you feel like all of the years you have spent on your research, produce something like a drop in the ocean  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  And the point is, you are so focused in the third stage, expressing your anger, that you forget about how to prepare for what comes next  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  While most universities didn’t even bother to reply to my emails  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 10 - 10 (0)  I would say that’s probably the main word that the academia tends to forget is teamwork  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 18 - 18 (0)  And teamwork was something that I did not learn quite enough during my PhD  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 18 - 18 (0)  I learned how to deal with myself, and my problems and not with the whole problems of the whole team, in a research team that can happen  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 18 - 18 (0)  But it is not the main focus of your job everyday when you are a PhD  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 18 - 18 (0)  And industry sometimes doesn’t understand that it’s those good moments which are needed for companies  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 20 - 20 (0)  Academia has the tendency to be very, very closed  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 22 - 22 (0)  Once you make a mistake, especially a big one, you realise that you have done something that can mark your life forever  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 22 - 22 (0) |  |
|  | Even though I knew how hard the life of a PhD student was going to be.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 4 - 4 (0)  I believe there many students experience something similar to the five stages of grief and loss.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  And the second stage is similar to depression and you will start asking yourself if your research should take longer or if is it still worth studying, because maybe someone around the world someone is doing it at the same time, but in a better and more articulated way.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  And the third stage is anger.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  And that comes at the end of the PhD when you start being mad at yourself.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  Because you feel like all of the years you have spent on your research, produce something like a drop in the ocean.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  And the point is, you are so focused in the third stage, expressing your anger, that you forget about how to prepare for what comes next.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  I would say that’s probably the main word that the academia tends to forget is teamwork.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  And teamwork was something that I did not learn quite enough during my PhD.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  At the same time, based on my personal experience, I noticed also some resistance and skepticism in industry.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0)  And industry sometimes doesn’t understand that it’s those good moments which are needed for companies.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 20 - 20 (0)  Once you make a mistake, especially a big one, you realise that you have done something that can mark your life forever.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0) |  |
|  | First, I felt that being attached to a single field of study would be restrictive in terms of analyzing the complexity of childhood and children's rights.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 19 - 19 (0)  The overworking culture in academia and the structural inequalities embedded in higher education are unhealthy and things do need to change.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 28 - 28 (0) |  |
|  | The initial stages of a PhD can be daunting  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 5 - 5 (0)  Occasionally, things just don't work, even after significant time  and effort spent  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 39 - 40 (0)  The post-PhD job market sucks  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 63 - 63 (0) |  |
|  | So I started my own PhD back in 2003.. .which is almost 15 years ago which is a  little bit scary now  11 - James's story (Marek): 1 - 2 (0)  so I was left in this situation where I was  sending emails but getting no replies and it looked like my PhD would be  pretty screwed  11 - James's story (Marek): 11 - 13 (0)  it really looked  like they were going to finish on time but I might not finish ever and so I had  this level of stress that was just building and building and building and  building I was going into work every day but not really engaging  so I was stressed I really wanted to do well but I wasn't working in a very very  good way I was undermining myself by  procrastinating by as I said showing up late and not really engaging with the  problems that came up  11 - James's story (Marek): 22 - 29 (0)  I walked across the campus thinking I can't take this  anymore I can't take all this stress I can't take this constant feeling that  I'm not living up to the standard that I expect of myself or that anybody else  expected me  11 - James's story (Marek): 40 - 43 (0) |  |
|  | The confusion comes not only from not knowing what to expect, but not even knowing how to think about what to expect.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 1 - 1 (0)  Soon we are meeting and working so much I no longer have time for the other project, which was a suboptimal fit anyway for various reasons.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 9 - 9 (0)  I am nervous that this high meeting frequency is unsustainable, so I try hard to recruit other students to Armando's group.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 9 - 9 (0)  Armando and I submit a paper to OOPSLA but it is not good because we don't start writing it until three days before  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 10 - 10 (0)  I also submit a paper to the Haskell Workshop about my senior undergraduate thesis, but it is not good because I don't know how to write papers.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 10 - 10 (0)  We learn over the course of 1.5 years of paper submissions that people don't care much about data imputation, especially since our results are not particularly good.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 15 - 15 (0)  We still have many things to figure out at this point so I am not that excited about my thesis.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 15 - 15 (0)  During this time, I look into acquiring more hobbies. I take some break-dancing classes at the Dance Complex but decide it's not my thing.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 19 - 19 (0)  I take up acrobatics (silks, rope, and static trapeze), for which I continue weekly classes on and off for about a year until I realize I am not serious enough about it (and travel far too much) to make continuing worthwhile.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 19 - 19 (0)  I learn a lot, but the proofs are too big and we never quite manage to get it to work.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 20 - 20 (0)  Now I am done with classes, have no more routine, and have to return to working on my project I am not that excited about, so I am less happy than before.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 23 - 23 (0)  I do not feel much hope about the project.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 23 - 23 (0)  It rains a lot this summer and we both become sad.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 29 - 29 (0)  I am now collaboratorless and still haven't published anything on this language, now called Jeeves, so I become more and more hopeless.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 30 - 30 (0)  I also feel relieved, because I'm exhausted from having two jobs and two social lives.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 37 - 37 (0)  The rest of my research is not satisfying this whole year.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 38 - 38 (0)  I work on extensions to Jeeves that Armando tells me are necessary for the work, but that I am not excited about  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 38 - 38 (0)  We work on integrity extensions to Jeeves that I don't think make sense.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 38 - 38 (0)  I submit an uninspired paper to CAV.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 38 - 38 (0)  We are both sad.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 40 - 40 (0)  I feel an incredible amount of angst about my uncertain future as I prepare for the job market.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 46 - 46 (0)  I am confused about what to do with such frequent deliveries of hot towels to my seat.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 52 - 52 (0) |  |
|  | This growth is painful and anxiogenic.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 4 - 4 (0)  Even if you are in a supportive environment and have great work-life balance, a PhD is not supposed to be a comfortable ride  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 4 - 4 (0)  Now I am done with classes, have no more routine, and have to return to working on my project I am not that excited about, so I am less happy than before.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 23 - 23 (0)  I do not feel much hope about the project.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 23 - 23 (0)  It rains a lot this summer and we both become sad  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 29 - 29 (0)  I am now collaboratorless and still haven't published anything on this language, now called Jeeves, so I become more and more hopeless.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 30 - 30 (0)  For weeks, Armando and I wake up with nightmares in the middle of the night that our server is down.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 33 - 33 (0)  I like the work but find it isolating because I'm the only person working on my project and it's not clear what I am allowed to talk about outside of work.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 36 - 36 (0)  I feel very disappointed, especially because my verifier had been very close to being put into production.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 37 - 37 (0)  I am not excited about anything by the end of this year.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 38 - 38 (0)  We are both sad.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 40 - 40 (0)  I feel an incredible amount of angst about my uncertain future as I prepare for the job market.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 46 - 46 (0) |  |
|  | You feel nervous, lost, confused and worried.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  The majority of PhD  students will already have an undergraduate degree and a Masters degree, therefore you could be  forgiven for failing to see why anyone would feel nervous going onto yet another degree.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 10 - 12 (0)  This independent journey is known to be one of the reasons why a PhD can often be somewhat  challenging and isolating.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 24 - 25 (0)  As a PhD student (especially at the beginning) you feel confused and worried that everyone else  seems to know what they're  doing and you don't.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 28 - 30 (0)  They told me that even now they still have periods of perplexity  while writing up.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 40 - 41 (0)  A fear that the work is simply not good enough, despite supervisors and peers telling them how well  they are doing  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 42 - 43 (0)  As academics (and especially as Brits) we are often too pessimistic and cynical  about ourselves and our work  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 43 - 44 (0)  Remember how sad you felt  leaving the University and your fellow peers when you graduated.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 59 - 60 (0) |  |
|  | You feel nervous, lost, confused and worried.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0)  This independent journey is known to be one of the reasons why a PhD can often be somewhat  challenging and isolating.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 24 - 25 (0)  As a PhD student (especially at the beginning) you feel confused and worried that everyone else  seems to know what they're  doing and you don't.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 28 - 30 (0)  A fear that the work is simply not good enough, despite supervisors and peers telling them how well  they are doing.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 42 - 43 (0)  As academics (and especially as Brits) we are often too pessimistic and cynical  about ourselves and our work.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 43 - 44 (0)  In the middle, you  are usually sick (Sneezy), tired (Sleepy), and irritable (Grumpy).  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 63 - 64 (0) |  |
|  | The story of my Ph.D. is a story of bitter compromises.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  A story of compromising research for paid work.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  A story of abandoning promising research to be able to finish.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  All departures from the true events are solely my faults.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 3 - 3 (0)  They were colourful and sloppy, manually cut from a thin paper.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  We thought these poorly formed ideas through, enveloped them in profound academese, and eventually submitted them as an extension proposal for the LOD2 project.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  I faced a dilemma later prominent in my Ph.D.: compromising paid work for educational progress.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 13 - 13 (0)  By the end of 2011 it was clear to me that splitting my time between work and education leads to hardly any progress in either of them.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 15 - 15 (0)  As my former position was no longer tenable, in February 2012 I quit the National Library of Technology to focus on finishing my master’s thesis.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 15 - 15 (0)  I quickly realized how far detached from the reality this myth is.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 17 - 17 (0)  The less lucky ones ended up teaching things like the basic Microsoft Office skills.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  The effort spent on teaching has sporadic returns.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0)  Rarely you hear any positive feedback, and given that one of the university’s primary goals is to produce the most graduates, you often experience frustration with disinterested and unmotivated students who expect their graduation to be simply a matter of time.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0)  Under this impression, after a year, I decided to forfeit the Ph.D. stipend in order not to be required to teach.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0)  While I endured a course in IT management, I wondered why the courses on statistics or programming were left out of the curriculum.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 21 - 21 (0)  More often than not I ended up doing the grunt work of data preparation or was swamped in the project admin and the ever-present “dissemination”.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 25 - 25 (0)  I reluctantly accepted a part-time involvement on the project, starting in May 2015.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 32 - 32 (0)  The problem with Ph.D. is that it grows without bounds.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 42 - 42 (0)  With a self-imposed deadline in sight I accepted the need for a bitter compromise.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 43 - 43 (0)  Unfortunately, despite my careful planning I did not manage to hand in my thesis before starting a full-time job.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 44 - 44 (0)  Reservations aside, I bit the bullet once again and played by the rules.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 46 - 46 (0)  People are ridiculously bad at answering “what if” questions.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 49 - 49 (0)  However, I could not disregard the Ph.D.’s negative externalities.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0)  The Ph.D. levied a toll on my relationships with others.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0)  Oftentimes I grew cold, moody, and unresponsive, as I was churning through the flexible working hours for a precarious income  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0)  I definitely was not the cheeriest lad around.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0) |  |
|  | it was becoming it was rather mundane very boring very monotonous  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 20 - 20 (0)  make me feel that i had probably made the wrong decision  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 24 - 24 (0)  the first pain which comes to the mind is of course the financial stability  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 35 - 35 (0)  but but you you don't have any flexibility or you don't have any freedom because you you are talk to or you what you are you have to do yeah you you cannot like you have to follow all these rules and policies like you you have  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 36 - 36 (0)  so it was like oh like too too much too much at once  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 38 - 38 (0) |  |
|  | Over the years, doing research, I realised, there is only so far I can go with a master degree in my research  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  But we also know that you have struggled  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  There are many factors in our life that are out of our control  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  To be honest, in 2004-2005, shortly before finishing my PhD, I was not sure that I could continue in academia  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  Honestly I didn't know  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  For instance, it's fully normal that after six months living in a new country you hit the ground and start asking yourself 'Oh my God, what have I done?'  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 25 - 25 (0)  In my case this happened when the nice snowy mountains in Norway and the blue sky were suddenly pitch black and I wanted to come back to Berlin in the real civilization and not only live with woods and bush  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 25 - 25 (0)  But also that it was even harder actually to go back to Sweden after five years in Germany, because I had changed and so had Sweden  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 27 - 27 (0)  Because there will always be someone in the room that is smarter than you  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 29 - 29 (0)  I'm going diving and from diving I know that sometimes if I'm deep under water, my air goes out  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 31 - 31 (0) |  |
|  | In particular for young PhD researchers close to finish, we all have been there wondering 'Oh my God, what shall I do now? What is next? Where to go on from here?'  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0)  To be honest, in 2004-2005, shortly before finishing my PhD, I was not sure that I could continue in academia.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0) |  |
|  | I saw even assistant lecturer which is a very bad condition.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 76 - 76 (0)  You are not paid that well I haven't done it but I have colleagues that where assistant lectures not assistant professor!  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 76 - 76 (0)  So you know it might be very precarious and you might not end up with professorship. Professors positions are very few.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 77 - 77 (0)  There is an image of a doctor outside academia. People might be scared of that image we have to break that and say "well look they are many other opportunities".  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 79 - 79 (0)  How you can transfer and transpose those skills, that's not discussed!  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 81 - 81 (0)  I have the impression that the professor I know think it's agreed that you will become a professor or you will become a lecturer ... they don't prepare you to be something else, to be more flexible, it will be more and more like that.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 82 - 82 (0)  Today everything is creativity, we are really at the point where we should remove it from our CV because it doesn't mean anything anymore it's kind of overused.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 94 - 94 (0)  I don't like this word intelligence it puts things above and I'm more horizontal thinking but anyway  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 98 - 98 (0) |  |
|  | I learned very quickly that  despite having introduced the Bachelor/Master system in many German universities in 2004, it was  really a Goliath task to get my Bachelor from Makerere completely approved.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 17 - 19 (0)  It can get lonely when you want to find people that can relate to your unique experiences  on both an individual and institutional level as a Black African woman.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 53 - 54 (0)  You might even catch yourself  listening to the cynical voices (sometimes from African communities) who will ask whether your aim  in life is to become an 'ever-student' (der/die ewige Student\*in). I heard quite a few harsh and  hurtful comments on my journey up the PhD ladder.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 69 - 72 (0) |  |
|  | It can get lonely when you want to find people that can relate to your unique experiences  on both an individual and institutional level as a Black African woman  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 53 - 54 (0)  I heard quite a few harsh and  hurtful comments on my journey up the PhD ladder  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 71 - 72 (0) |  |
|  | This is impossible I said…  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  But I still thought it was a fluke anyway…  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  I arrived a day before the interview and got my first reality check.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0)  I was ashamed to introduce my MSc in Agricultural Genomics  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 19 - 19 (0)  I was so intimidated…  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 20 - 20 (0)  That name alone scared the hell out of me.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 22 - 22 (0)  I was frustrated,  and I continued to ask myself…  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 24 - 25 (0)  My confidence deflated and I just wanted to go back home.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 28 - 28 (0)  I have had enough of this self-inflicted  embarrassment.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 28 - 29 (0)  I felt I have taken my dreams and goals too far.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 29 - 29 (0)  Seriously?  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  After my interview, I said this is over.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 36 - 36 (0)  I concluded in my head I had no chance against the other  candidates  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 36 - 37 (0)  On my way to the hostel, I called my mum and I was practically crying  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 37 - 37 (0)  I told her how  I embarrassed myself and how I set a goal that is too high  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 37 - 38 (0) |  |
|  | i think the most difficult part is that for me the projects i have been working in a lot of places like  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 28 - 28 (0)  i don't know because i have just survived the worst part of the thesis and i don't know how to answer that question right now because it has been very very hard for me very hard but i know maybe in two years maybe i can say something about it was worth to support that or was okay  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 40 - 40 (0)  maybe you are working and something appears something appears something up here and you have to change your schedule time so as you can you can have a report yes but finally this is always true is always this is difficult yeah for instance today i have i have to write that today where they were deliverable for european project and i have not stopped  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 42 - 42 (0)  depends for me yes i have been isolated this is the this is the the most problem the most problematic thing here because i'm the only on  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 48 - 48 (0) |  |
|  | no no maybe because i started to work too early in in  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 6 - 6 (0)  it's the problem is that first one of my supervisors is the image of the group once a year so and the other supervisor other one has really has read a lot of my my preliminary papers my preliminary work to accurate it but so on but yes  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 14 - 14 (0)  but the the but it's interesting to say it's different from the from other people in the yeah you  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 36 - 36 (0)  i think is one of the perks yeah yeah but i feel like you have to like manage yourself  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 37 - 37 (0)  even in a work normal work couldn't have survived to the way they are so  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 46 - 46 (0)  but still needs from to have strengths in this in this area yeah  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 49 - 49 (0)  if you you don't like try to step up the comfort zone and try and contact other people then then i think you're doomed yeah more or less yeah so thank you for the interview  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 50 - 50 (0) |  |
|  | My name is Per Olof Arn�s, which is difficult name for non-English and non-Swedish speakers  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  I took my degree in 1996, but mechanical engineering was not really my thing  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  It was not really encouraged to write journal papers for us in our discipline, which ended up being a monograph instead of collection of papers, which was extremely difficult to write  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 9 - 9 (0)  Lots of the PhD students in my department was taking a bit more time than they actually should  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  Some efficiency, I think, which I'm struggling with now I am in a large organisation which is extremely bureaucratic.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  Now I have to fill out forms, I have to scan receipts, do all of these things  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  That can be really frustrating.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  Not only for me,who had been in industry, I think, it frustrates a lot of people -- the bureaucracy of universities  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  Because otherwise their brains will sort of stop evolving  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 52 - 52 (0)  No, but I I am struggling to... Since I have been doing 100 episodes of my other podcasts I have been doing a lot of the mistakes already.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 65 - 65 (0)  Because the research environment today is extremely competitive  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 80 - 80 (0) |  |
|  | But, because her French MA degree was not yet officially acknowledged at a German University, Amandine had no supervision for the entire first 2 years.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  She had to embark on the journey all on her own while awaiting official registration of her PhD candidacy.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  After 3 years, when her PhD funding was running out, she started to work part-time, 3 days a week as a conservationist, working on her PhD just 2 days a week, plus evenings and weekends.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  Maybe this is not ever going to happen  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  It’s just too difficult or it’s not worth it  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  I won’t make it.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  From what I’ve heard from others, a PhD is never easy  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 15 - 15 (0)  But in my case, the challenge was that I was funded by a research institute and museum, but I was not directly affiliated with a university when I started.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 15 - 15 (0)  I had to do this all by myself.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  And I underestimated the amount of administration that I had to tackle parallel to the scientific tasks  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  And that was the time when I was really asking myself, why should I continue the PhD here?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0)  Obviously no one is offering me any funding options to complete it  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0)  No one has offered any help or support.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0)  If there is no interest, if obviously no one wants me doing my PhD in this field why should I continue?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0)  So why should I even try and complete this PhD?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 19 - 19 (0)  Maybe this was not for me, so just let it go  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 21 - 21 (0)  I thought I may never overcome this administrative hurdle, get my MA degree acknowledged and get registered as a PhD candidate  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0)  I thought, I will call her, I will call my supervisor, I’ll tell her I’m not motivated at all, I won’t continue  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 27 - 27 (0)  My motivation was zero, maybe even in the negative, I don’t know, but I was so done–really done–and I thought, okay, that’s it now.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 27 - 27 (0)  Leave me alone  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 27 - 27 (0)  Thank you very much  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 27 - 27 (0)  Bye bye  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 27 - 27 (0)  I could not have done this if someone gave me a random topic to work on  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  So it was not exactly an easy situation  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 39 - 39 (0)  That was exactly the moment in my PhD where I was absolutely not motivated anymore  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  I was so tired  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  I was physically and mentally exhausted  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  I thought, I’m only halfway up the mountain with my PhD  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  The summit is so far away, there’s no chance for me to climb it all.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 40 - 40 (0)  At that stage I had too much data, too many ideas, too much knowledge, and that was the problem  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 54 - 54 (0)  It became too much and I struggled to put it into any coherent kind of text.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 54 - 54 (0)  But before I got into this routine, I would only start to work on my dissertation Thursdays  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 60 - 60 (0)  Then it would take me half a day to get into it, and that meant I would already beat myself up about how bad it was and how much work I still had to do  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 60 - 60 (0)  And it would be downwards from there.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 60 - 60 (0)  Supervision and dealing with administration in order to get registered as a PhD candidate were difficulties for you.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 64 - 64 (0)  The major problem was that I spent two years without any supervision whatsoever at all  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 65 - 65 (0)  I started the research, defined the questions, set up everything completely alone  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 65 - 65 (0)  And there were issues with getting my MA degree from France recognised.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 66 - 66 (0)  I wanted to get enrolled, but it didn’t happen  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 66 - 66 (0)  I gave the university administration all my records, all ECTS-credit certificates, I had my BA degree, my MA degree in the same field, plus years of professional experience, but I could not get enrolled as a PhD candidate  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 66 - 66 (0)  Yes, but there was one excuse after the other!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 68 - 68 (0)  They didn’t know how to deal with me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 68 - 68 (0)  I think that a funded and employed PhD candidate should never go without supervision for such a long time, and then there are these administrative problems  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 71 - 71 (0)  The administration at my first university realised that my case was going to be a bit complicated and they became defensive  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 72 - 72 (0)  As if it was my mistake–like if I had done something wrong.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 72 - 72 (0)  I felt personally attacked when my first university told me that they would not enroll me because I did not tick the usual boxes  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 74 - 74 (0)  It was a big blow to my confidence  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 74 - 74 (0) |  |
|  | Until then, it was all on a screen, and I couldn’t conceptualize how big it was.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  From what I’ve heard from others, a PhD is never easy.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 15 - 15 (0)  But in my case, the challenge was that I was funded by a research institute and museum, but I was not directly affiliated with a university when I started.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 15 - 15 (0)  I had to do this all by myself.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  I assumed that all of that was my responsibility.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  And I underestimated the amount of administration that I had to tackle parallel to the scientific tasks.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  And that was the time when I was really asking myself, why should I continue the PhD here?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  Obviously no one is offering me any funding options to complete it.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  No one has offered any help or support.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  If there is no interest, if obviously no one wants me doing my PhD in this field why should I continue?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  Yes, there are obviously few job opportunities at a university in the field of maritime archaeology and conservation.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  So why should I even try and complete this PhD?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  And then when I found a part-time job as a Conservator in commercial Archaeology, I thought, maybe I don’t need a PhD degree.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  So why not just give up?  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  I thought I may never overcome this administrative hurdle, get my MA degree acknowledged and get registered as a PhD candidate.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 26 - 26 (0)  After four years working on my PhD project, when I had been working more than a year part-time to make a living.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 27 - 27 (0)  I thought, I will call her, I will call my supervisor, I’ll tell her I’m not motivated at all, I won’t continue  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 27 - 27 (0)  My motivation was zero, maybe even in the negative, I don’t know, but I was so done–really done–and I thought, okay, that’s it now.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 27 - 27 (0)  Leave me alone.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 27 - 27 (0)  Thank you very much  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 27 - 27 (0)  Bye bye.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 27 - 27 (0)  I could not have done this if someone gave me a random topic to work on.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 34 - 34 (0)  If it were not, I think I would’ve been prone to giving up much earlier because then I would have thought, okay, it’s not mine anyways.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 35 - 35 (0)  That was exactly the moment in my PhD where I was absolutely not motivated anymore.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  I was so tired.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  I was physically and mentally exhausted.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  I thought, I’m only halfway up the mountain with my PhD.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  The summit is so far away, there’s no chance for me to climb it all.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  At that stage I had too much data, too many ideas, too much knowledge, and that was the problem.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 54 - 54 (0)  It became too much and I struggled to put it into any coherent kind of text.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 54 - 54 (0)  But before I got into this routine, I would only start to work on my dissertation Thursdays.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 60 - 60 (0)  Then it would take me half a day to get into it, and that meant I would already beat myself up about how bad it was and how much work I still had to do.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 60 - 60 (0)  And it would be downwards from there.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 60 - 60 (0)  The major problem was that I spent two years without any supervision whatsoever at all.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 65 - 65 (0)  I started the research, defined the questions, set up everything completely alone.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 65 - 65 (0)  And there were issues with getting my MA degree from France recognised.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 66 - 66 (0)  I wanted to get enrolled, but it didn’t happen.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 66 - 66 (0)  I gave the university administration all my records, all ECTS-credit certificates, I had my BA degree, my MA degree in the same field, plus years of professional experience, but I could not get enrolled as a PhD candidate.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 66 - 66 (0)  Yes, but there was one excuse after the other!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 68 - 68 (0)  I think in the end, the university where I wanted to enroll had never had a student from a foreign university in my field.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 68 - 68 (0)  They didn’t know how to deal with me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 68 - 68 (0)  But when I enrolled at Bamberg University, it was decided that no, your dissertation is not going to be cumulative, you’re going to write a monograph because that’s what all our PhDs here do, even though I had everything in the pipeline already for a cumulative dissertation.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 70 - 70 (0)  Then I had one year to write a monograph.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 70 - 70 (0)  Basically I feel I did two PhDs because I did all the papers that were required plus a monograph.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 70 - 70 (0)  The administration at my first university realised that my case was going to be a bit complicated and they became defensive.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 72 - 72 (0)  As if it was my mistake–like if I had done something wrong.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 72 - 72 (0)  So I just wish I would have had one person, someone neutral in a senior position at the university, who acted on my behalf.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 72 - 72 (0)  I felt personally attacked when my first university told me that they would not enroll me because I did not tick the usual boxes.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 74 - 74 (0)  It was a big blow to my confidence  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 74 - 74 (0)  And it will take longer than you think.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 79 - 79 (0)  And no one is going to tell you this, because your professors may want you to do even more.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 79 - 79 (0)  Even if you have no ‘juice’ anymore to go on, they might not see that  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 79 - 79 (0) |  |
|  | Yet, the next four years held plenty of difficulties.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0)  I also faced other challenges in the form of recurring health-related issues that were both physically and mentally draining and also entailed sometimes frustrating experiences navigating university bureaucracy.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  These events and issues all created potential roadblocks that challenged the way I approached my work.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0) |  |
|  | However, I have noted  that this information is not always enough for candidates to assess their abilities vis-à-vis what  they need to do before the degree can be conferred upon them.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 43 - 45 (0)  The image that students have of a  PhD degree as the highest degree bring many students to come up with a very broad  problem which is not practically manageable.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 83 - 85 (0)  Convincing him to  reduce the scope not to one country but to very few schools in two districts (not  provinces) in Rwanda was not an easy task for his supervisors.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 87 - 89 (0)  When I chatted with him  as he was analysing his data he said, ‘I didn’t know what I was talking about! Even what I  have now is so challenging to analyse’  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 89 - 91 (0)  While I agree with this suggestion, I have  found it difficult to revise and edit one’s work: since the writer will tend to read from the  mind.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 129 - 131 (0)  They  should make it a point that they do not submit to their research supervisor a text which  contains mistakes which could be easily fixed; it may misrepresent their abilities in their  supervisors’ eyes and give them bad impression that could influence the way they  subsequently view the students’ work.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 148 - 152 (0)  If this feeling overcomes them, they may end up losing their ‘self’ in  their work, taking ‘references’ as guidelines which they have to follow and agree with all the  time.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 157 - 159 (0)  However, knowing the amount  of help to expect from a supervisor is not always easy and may be a source of ‘conflicts’  between the two sides.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 181 - 183 (0)  It was difficult for me to know what to expect from my PhD research supervisor.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 184 - 184 (0)  This remark got me disappointed and surprised at the same time  but also got me to think deeply about the kind of support I should expect from her.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 189 - 190 (0)  In short, “students should not expect the  supervisor to be a kind of headmaster who hands out orders and expects them to report back  every week” (Lelieveldt, 2003).  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 197 - 199 (0)  But this may not always be the case; some supervisors may ‘impose’ their perspectives to  students because of various reasons.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 210 - 211 (0)  Things may become different and worse (maybe) when one has to deal with two or more  supervisors who they have diverging perspectives on the thesis and, as was the case for  Niyibizi (2018), it is not clear who is the main or co-supervisors.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 217 - 219 (0)  In my case, these  experiences raised inferiority feelings, which would surface whenever I had to say or write  something about or alongside what other scholars, including our supervisors, said or wrote.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 226 - 228 (0)  These feelings can be counter-productive, especially when they increase self-doubt and the  fear of being judged.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 229 - 230 (0)  Feelings of inferiority may not just cause PhD students to self-censor; it may bring them to  have low self-esteem upon what they do.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 234 - 235 (0)  Low self-esteem may make it difficult for the  students to think critically and have a productive outlook on comments, observations and  viewpoints, which challenge their ways and work.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 235 - 237 (0)  In addition  to confusing them (as suggestions from different people may be contradictory), this approach  is likely to limit their deep thinking.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 241 - 243 (0)  Alternatively, such suggestions and comments and  questions may make them feel ‘useless’ and unworthy for the programme.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 243 - 244 (0)  They should never keep or return their draft to their supervisor or any  other person who has made comments and/or suggestions to their work without addressing  these.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 258 - 260 (0)  I did this on occasions with my supervisor’s comments but I later realized that by so  doing I was robbing my work of some quality, as well as my wasting supervisor’s time spent  giving me the feedback.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 260 - 262 (0)  If you are PhD student don’t  be like me  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 265 - 266 (0)  I have also noted that it is difficult to think creatively and thoroughly the  moment one gets stuck, which is likely to prevent some alternatives and perspectives from  surfacing.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 299 - 301 (0)  PhD students should not just be passive  participants  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 312 - 313 (0)  This is  a daunting experience for many because completing a thesis itself is challenging enough  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 344 - 345 (0)  Thus, this may be challenging for  the students because by submitting a manuscript they may have thought that they were done.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 375 - 376 (0)  Nevertheless, they should not  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 438 - 438 (0)  improvise these activities  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 441 - 441 (0)  Moreover, academic and social lives should not impact on each other  negatively.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 442 - 443 (0)  For instance, if a student decides to go and share a drink with friends one weekend,  they should make sure that its effects are not carried over the next day: they need to drink  responsibly.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 443 - 445 (0) |  |
|  | As a result, studying towards a  PhD may be a very demanding, tiring and tedious experience for many candidates  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 22 - 23 (0)  This ‘research  loneliness’ may leave the candidates in the dark regarding what they need to do in order  to meet the universities’ expectations which themselves are not always made clear  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 26 - 28 (0)  I have noted  that this information is not always enough for candidates to assess their abilities vis-à-vis what  they need to do before the degree can be conferred upon them  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 43 - 45 (0)  Nevertheless, the relationship between the student and the supervisor may not always be  smooth  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 206 - 207 (0)  But this may not always be the case  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 210 - 210 (0)  some supervisors may ‘impose’ their perspectives to  students because of various reasons  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 210 - 211 (0)  As a result, the level at which they filter their ideas may increase  and they may drop some important ones in the process  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 232 - 233 (0)  Low self-esteem may make it difficult for the  students to think critically and have a productive outlook on comments, observations and  viewpoints, which challenge their ways and work  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 235 - 237 (0)  they may uncritically follow all suggestions and comments as gospel truth  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 241 - 241 (0)  In addition  to confusing them (as suggestions from different people may be contradictory), this approach  is likely to limit their deep thinking  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 241 - 243 (0)  . Alternatively, such suggestions and comments and  questions may make them feel ‘useless’ and unworthy for the programme  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 243 - 244 (0)  For instance, if the  supervisor says that he or she does not understand certain sections of their work they may  come to the conclusion that these sections do not make any sense at all, or that the students’  entire submission is worthless  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 244 - 247 (0)  Nevertheless, coming to a point where they can chew and swallow these comments  effectively does not come easy; it always takes frustration and even ‘crying’ moments  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 252 - 253 (0)  I did this on occasions with my supervisor’s comments but I later realized that by so  doing I was robbing my work of some quality, as well as my wasting supervisor’s time spent  giving me the feedback  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 260 - 262 (0)  One other aspect of a research journey is getting ‘stuck’ from time to time  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 282 - 282 (0)  It may bring them to seriously doubt their  ability to publish and, eventually, affect their readiness for subsequent submission  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 360 - 361 (0) |  |
|  | Any purpose other than that might make you quit during your PhD program.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  It was not easy to be disconnected or to collaborate with other students based on the type of research I did.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0)  I honestly wish I had more time.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0)  This meant that years of my research were in vain.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0)  I cried every day for two weeks.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0) |  |
|  | The time I had for PhD research was sadly not enough  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  Speaking about regrets, maybe I should have done more regular exercise to increase my stamina  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  I should have also enjoyed more outdoor activities in Chicago.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  Writing papers doesn't come easy to me.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0) |  |
|  | The time I had for PhD research was sadly not enough.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 8 - 8 (0)  Speaking about regrets, maybe I should have done more regular exercise to increase my stamina. I should have also enjoyed more outdoor activities in Chicago.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 12 - 12 (0) |  |
|  | Normally, moving to a new country is a big headache  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Only the driving license took a longer time  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  I didn’t really have many choices for the courses at poly, since most of them were offered in French  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  The annoying part was the 4 complementary training workshops that I had to do along with these courses.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  Each of them were mandatory and had 4 classes along with assignments  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  Most of these workshops felt like an unnecessary extension of a 2-hour seminar.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  So obviously, I had to adjust to a new lifestyle when I started my PhD  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  But, this stipend is way less that what I was earning before  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  For a while, I was overwhelmed with the calculations about where to spend money and where to save money etc.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  This is the point of time when I realized that I never really had proper financial education  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  A big chunk of my money was resting in my bank accounts in different countries.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  The oral part took more time  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0) |  |
|  | Normally, moving to a new country is a big headache.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 4 - 4 (0)  The annoying part was the 4 complementary training workshops that I had to do along with these courses.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 7 - 7 (0)  But, this stipend is way less that what I was earning before.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 10 - 10 (0) |  |
|  | It is very difficult for me to write this article and to make light of my “journey” as a PhD student because I don’t want to lie to you, it is not easy being a PhD student.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  The admissions process is even more difficult for international students, and my experience was no exception.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  Unfortunately, I didn’t pass the admissions exam.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 5 - 5 (0)  I was strongly discouraged by this and struggled to come to terms with not making it.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 5 - 5 (0)  I received another 9 refusals.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 5 - 5 (0)  Yes, 9  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 5 - 5 (0)  At that point I was struggling so badly with my mental health and I felt like I was close to giving up  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 5 - 5 (0)  I questioned whether I still had it in me, that maybe I would never follow my dream.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 5 - 5 (0)  There was one problem which still haunted me, and that was knowing that I would have to move away from Sicily, my region, and from Italy in general.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  Being an international student (since Brexit we are officially defined as international students) is not easy for a Sicilian, and it’s even harder for an Italian  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  Talking to them I realized that they miss home as well, and it’s something that makes your time as an international student much harder  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  As the plane took off from Palermo to London, I felt like my heart was shattering.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  It takes a while for me to feel normal again  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  Perhaps only Portuguese speakers will understand me when I use the word “saudade”, which indicates that deep nostalgia for home, for their place in the world.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0) |  |
|  | At the same time, having to leave your family to study in another completely different environment was not particularly funny.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Marek): 2 - 2 (0)  So I wouldn’t say I left Nigeria as a very excited student.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Marek): 2 - 2 (0) |  |
|  | So I wouldn’t say I left Nigeria as a very excited student.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Maxim): 2 - 2 (0) |  |
|  | However, completion of a doctoral program is quite another!  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  Obtaining a PhD can be considered a daunting task for many people.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  The four-year journey I took seemed endless.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  Having experienced it myself, I realized that you have to make sacrifices, disposing your nerves to constant pressure and stresses that are hard to surmount.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  Indeed, the journey to this doctorate has not been as seamless as one would expect.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  There have been twists and turns as well as unexpected obstacles.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  This journey has left me sweating, and at times, it would push me to the deepest levels of hopelessness.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  In the face of intense pressure from all sides causing indelible stresses, there have always been times when I seriously doubted my abilities and thought of dropping out.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0) |  |
|  | But also, a tale of sorrow, tears and regrets.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 9 - 9 (0)  Both me and my girlfriend applied for jobs in London to give a soft landing to the start of married life, but our attempts were unsuccessful.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 23 - 23 (0)  I was very agitated about this.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 25 - 25 (0)  Taking an Oxford DPhil is tough; merging it with a full-time job is even tougher; but taking a DPhil in securities law, merging it with a full-time job in oil and gas law, whilst settling to life as a new couple is something I simply could not be prepared for.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 27 - 27 (0)  I increasingly grew distant, missed appointments and was often unable to repay the time and effort other people sacrificed in nurturing their relationships with me.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 29 - 29 (0)  However, it severely affected my mental state.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 33 - 33 (0)  I have never cried so hard.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 39 - 39 (0)  Nothing could beat the emotions I felt seeing my Dad on his deathbed.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 39 - 39 (0)  My Dad’s passing was a heavy blow.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 42 - 42 (0)  For the first two days, I lost the will to do anything.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 42 - 42 (0)  But I was physically, mentally and emotionally drained.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 48 - 48 (0) |  |
|  | But also, a tale of sorrow, tears and regrets.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  As stated above, although I always wanted to take a doctorate, there were too many uncertainties  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  It did not take us long to see the faults in that line of reasoning.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 23 - 23 (0)  The engagement and wedding rings and preparations for a Lagos wedding quickly and severely imperilled my finances.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 23 - 23 (0)  Both me and my girlfriend applied for jobs in London to give a soft landing to the start of married life, but our attempts were unsuccessful.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 23 - 23 (0)  I was very agitated about this.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 25 - 25 (0)  This stretch was one of the most gruelling roads on the journey (but 2020 made me realise things could get even tougher).  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 27 - 27 (0)  Taking an Oxford DPhil is tough; merging it with a full-time job is even tougher; but taking a DPhil in securities law, merging it with a full-time job in oil and gas law, whilst settling to life as a new couple is something I simply could not be prepared for.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 27 - 27 (0)  . I increasingly grew distant, missed appointments and was often unable to repay the time and effort other people sacrificed in nurturing their relationships with me  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  This is one of my big regrets, even though, in hindsight, I wonder if I could have done any better.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  If I thought I was dealing with a lot at the end of 2019, 2020 showed me things could get a lot more challenging.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 31 - 31 (0)  However, it severely affected my mental state.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 33 - 33 (0)  Given this support and terrified by how little work I was able to do towards the end of the pregnancy, I took this time to immerse myself again in my work.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 34 - 34 (0)  Then tragedy struck.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 34 - 34 (0)  But the reports got increasingly worse.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 37 - 37 (0)  The reality of his rapidly deteriorating health situation only dawned on me when he was admitted in the hospital after a few days.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 37 - 37 (0)  On Sunday, 27 December, his situation had deteriorated so severely that my brothers and I had a conference call to determine whether to discontinue his life support.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 39 - 39 (0)  I have never cried so hard.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 39 - 39 (0)  He responded very weakly to the jokes I could barely speak to liven his spirit.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 39 - 39 (0)  My Dad’s passing was a heavy blow.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 42 - 42 (0)  For the first two days, I lost the will to do anything.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 42 - 42 (0)  But I knew the more I grieved, the more time I would need to recover.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 42 - 42 (0)  Given my mental state at the time, I was quite sure the completed thesis was not the best I could give.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 48 - 48 (0)  But I was physically, mentally and emotionally drained.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 48 - 48 (0)  I broke the news to my mom and desperately wanted to speak with my Dad.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 51 - 51 (0)  I played my recording of the Responsorial Psalm from his Requiem Mass and broke down again in tears.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 51 - 51 (0)  I regretted not concluding my research quicker.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 51 - 51 (0) |  |
| positive | I studied filmmaking because it was fun, it was things that I like to do and I like to communicate in different interesting media  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  Then after that I went on a really great trip to the Galapagos, where I got to film this class from my undergraduate - University of Illinois - to go explore Ecuador and the Galapagos islands  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0)  It was my first real trip out of the country and it was amazing!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0)  I got to run around all these different places, got to a camp, got to hang out with scientists and it was really really cool!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0)  I also did some projects there, I just reached out to random people in Keto and extended my plane trip by another month and met some really amazing people to do workshops with underprivileged children  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0)  It was a chance to give them a way to express themselves!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 6 - 6 (0)  It was really cool!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 6 - 6 (0)  These were really great experiences  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 6 - 6 (0)  I didn't know what I was doing - so I'm like okay cool, it's neat to have programs that actually combine your interest versus previously I had to do them as a separate things: I had to do engineering and I had to do filmmaking and now I could do both of them.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 7 - 7 (0)  And we went out there, we were sucking up ants and finding all kinds of cool things in the field and it suddenly dawned on me that for some reason I had never really thought that you could actually just be a field biologists and that field biologist actually existed.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 8 - 8 (0)  I remember taking biology classes in my undergrad but always just because I thought they were super fun and it never even really dawned on me that you could really do that as like a career.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 9 - 9 (0)  I wanted to figure out how we can incorporate all these new interesting powers that we have with digital media into this kind of naturalistic exploration, this running around, this curiousness, this going in freely, exploring, poking and probing in trying to understand what these animals are doing in their own natural environments.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  And you can get things done or whatever, and you can do whatever you want” and I'm like “okay cool!”  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 11 - 11 (0)  And so I actually wrote this in - I need something that forces me to go outside and be in nature and be with these kinds of animals.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 12 - 12 (0)  There I got to survey what the different scientists were up to, what kind of tools they were using, how they use these tools and how they could use new different types of tools.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 12 - 12 (0)  I would do workshops out there, we program different types of media, do physical computing, do sensing, all kinds of different things as well as more artistic and cultural forms of exploring what their projects were.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 13 - 13 (0)  I would have them do performance art in the jungle and you know that transects that they would run.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 13 - 13 (0)  I would have them put on performances that involved digital media they could program that would bring in people from the local community to understand what they're doing and how their research works and what's going on with these things at these tiny scales and bring it to a more human like scales.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 13 - 13 (0)  I was more so creating an outlet where they could unleash their inner weirdness.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 14 - 14 (0)  So many of these field biologists are incredibly talented in many different artistic fields and very prone to expressing all this interesting and amazing stuff that they encounter.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 14 - 14 (0)  But I think the real thing is that these scientists do this because they love the animals and because they love nature and natural processes.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  And they love figuring out why.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  They love just this basic understanding and capturing of new information about the world.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  That's what should really be cherished above all.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  And learning more about our world is what helps is actually keep and cherish the things in our world rather than constantly destroying them.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  I was down there helping the scientists, unleash their inner weirdness.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  They can have the excuse “I’m helping out this PhD student publishing in these things or whatever” so I can provide excuses for them and that was a lot of my job.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  Then taking that, distilling it and creating a set of design guidelines so other people like me, or people from nearby fields in engineering, or computing, or design, who want to work with these scientists, can have a set of basic design guidelines for how do you keep the naturalistic values that the scientists have created and maintain in their field without bringing all this technology in that just bulldozers over everything.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  We tried to avoid this kind of technological determinism and try to build technology with the scientists from the ground up to help them explore their own questions and have agency over their own tools and devices.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 17 - 17 (0)  It ended up attracting a broader audience than I would have been able to connect with anyway.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  So that's always positive.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  I've been having really great sessions with my students.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 20 - 20 (0)  The students are just unbelievable and just so awesome and really great to work with to explore a lot of these topics.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 20 - 20 (0)  My dream goal is to try to start my own art science field station.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 21 - 21 (0)  I want to create these opportunities for artists and scientists and engineers and hackers and everyone interested in this interesting rich combination of where wild field biology meets new digital technology.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 21 - 21 (0)  I want to be able to have a place that puts them together let's them express themselves and experiment and curiously explore all of this together.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 21 - 21 (0)  I led the first digital naturalism conference, which was a big free conference that tried to address a lot of the really terrible problems in academic publishing and sharing of ideas  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 22 - 22 (0)  So instead having a conference where we all collaborate and review each other's ideas and concepts and projects and we share them all back out to the world.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 22 - 22 (0)  This was a huge success!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 22 - 22 (0)  It's exciting!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  Luckily more and more people are pointing to - “no this is really the odd career choice out”, going into industry or other types of jobs that aren't these professor positions are much more common.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  But there needs to be alternatives and we need to teach our PhD students what kind of alternatives do exist.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | I studied filmmaking because it was fun, it was things that I like to do and I like to communicate in different interesting media.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 3 - 3 (0)  And I studied engineering because people told me I was smart and I went to this engineering school and that was the thing that you would do if you were smart.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 3 - 3 (0)  Then after that I went on a really great trip to the Galapagos, where I got to film this class from my undergraduate - University of Illinois - to go explore Ecuador and the Galapagos islands.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 5 - 5 (0)  It was my first real trip out of the country and it was amazing!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 5 - 5 (0)  I got to run around all these different places, got to a camp, got to hang out with scientists and it was really really cool!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 5 - 5 (0)  I also did some projects there, I just reached out to random people in Keto and extended my plane trip by another month and met some really amazing people to do workshops with underprivileged children.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 5 - 5 (0)  It was really cool!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  These were really great experiences.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  I'm like oh God I should just been a field biologists, this would have been amazing!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  And he's like “you should totally be a PhD. You're smart or whatever. And you can get things done or whatever, and you can do whatever you want” and I'm like “okay cool!”  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  So for instance I was like - I'm sick of being behind a computer so an important part of my whole process should be in finding ways that I'm not just stuck behind a screen the whole time.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 12 - 12 (0)  That is not true at all these scientists are already really weird!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  I was more so creating an outlet where they could unleash their inner weirdness.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  So many of these field biologists are incredibly talented in many different artistic fields and very prone to expressing all this interesting and amazing stuff that they encounter.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 14 - 14 (0)  But I think the real thing is that these scientists do this because they love the animals and because they love nature and natural processes.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0)  And they love figuring out why.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0)  They love just this basic understanding and capturing of new information about the world.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0)  That's what should really be cherished above all.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0)  nd learning more about our world is what helps is actually keep and cherish the things in our world rather than constantly destroying them.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0)  I was down there helping the scientists, unleash their inner weirdness.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 17 - 17 (0)  It ended up attracting a broader audience than I would have been able to connect with anyway.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  I've been having really great sessions with my students.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 20 - 20 (0)  The students are just unbelievable and just so awesome and really great to work with to explore a lot of these topics.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 20 - 20 (0)  My dream goal is to try to start my own art science field station. I want to create these opportunities for artists and scientists and engineers and hackers and everyone interested in this interesting rich combination of where wild field biology meets new digital technology.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  I want to be able to have a place that puts them together let's them express themselves and experiment and curiously explore all of this together.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  That's my goal!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  This was a huge success!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 22 - 22 (0)  My new lab is basically looking to make this a full time thing.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 23 - 23 (0)  It's exciting!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 23 - 23 (0)  Luckily more and more people are pointing to - “no this is really the odd career choice out”, going into industry or other types of jobs that aren't these professor positions are much more common.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 23 - 23 (0)  But there needs to be alternatives and we need to teach our PhD students what kind of alternatives do exist.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  So I'm jumping into this big unknown and figuring out what's going to happen so.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | I cast my mind back nearly four years ago and the elation of being awarded funding to do a PhD.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 1 - 1 (0)  But the support (the harness) comes from family, friends, loved ones and of course peers and supervisors.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  These are the people you rely upon to get you through it; to be there in both the good and bad times.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 3 - 3 (0)  Use those more sociable occasions to create your own ‘harness’ or support network if you find you do not have support from family or friends.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  My advice is not to be afraid of taking regular breaks, exercising, and taking days off and holidays.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 6 - 6 (0)  These can all help reduce stress and improve mental well-being.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 6 - 6 (0)  That’s actually one of the advantages of doing a PhD: flexibility – you manage your own workload and you are afforded time off, just as you would be if you worked, so don’t be afraid to allow yourself to unwind.  02 - Andy's story (Dominika): 6 - 6 (0) |  |
|  | I was little more confident and determined to start from that moment.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  I was so lucky because after the GRE exam, the group also gather together to file and helped each other a lot.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  Fortunately, I always get help in difficult times.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  I was really touched, and felt more touched when coming home, I opened the envelope and saw a large amount of money inside.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  These funds were extremely important to me at that time, surely I would never forget!  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 11 - 11 (0)  Your application seems interesting.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 15 - 15 (0)  I certainly like students with a strong foundation in linear algebra and probability.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 15 - 15 (0)  This email made me very glad and found all ways to make the best application to Penn State  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 17 - 17 (0)  only teacher Vishal Monga sent me an email to inform that I was accepted on March 21, 2013.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 20 - 20 (0)  I entered the lab with a friend named Yuelong Li from China in the same year.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  After many years of not learning math, I again felt my passion for it coming back when studying these two subjects.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 26 - 26 (0)  I was almost a best student in the Statistics and Probability class because many times I was the only one who can answer teacher’s questions.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 26 - 26 (0)  I got 49.5 / 50, ranked first in the faculty and higher 0.5 point than Yuelong (it is the first time I got better than Yuelong).  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 29 - 29 (0)  The result of this exam made me more confiden  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 29 - 29 (0)  I seemed to have recovered my passion which had been lost in the studying time in the college.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 29 - 29 (0)  This was a difficult task but I always believed that I can do it.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 30 - 30 (0)  In the spring of 2014, I learned Pattern Recognition and began to enjoy machine learning.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 32 - 32 (0)  I chose machine leaning for my favorite, and chose Convex Optimization because that was the strength of the lab.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 32 - 32 (0)  I really liked the sparse models and the mathematical algorithms so I chose the direction of research on the dictionary learning.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 33 - 33 (0)  Thankfully, that did not happen and my first scientific paper was accepted.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 35 - 35 (0)  My confidence increased a little bit  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 36 - 36 (0)  Luckily, I received a response in early August, submitted an update in late September, and received an accepted email in late October.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 40 - 40 (0)  Total processing time was over four months - very fast compared to average time.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 40 - 40 (0)  I felt that my PhD course seemed to be smoother than the others.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 41 - 41 (0)  Everything went smoothly because I had a magazine article and proposed a new idea for the problem of classification.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 42 - 42 (0)  After this milestone, I realized a change in the way my teacher talked to me and I also felt more confident when talking to him.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 43 - 43 (0)  Actually, I knew that many PhD candidates could graduate with just one scientific article. Of course, I did not want to stop there.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 44 - 44 (0)  Earlier I received a message that a Vietnamese-American scholar at the US Army Research Lab - a friend of my instructor - accepted me as a summer internship in 2016.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 45 - 45 (0)  After the comprehensive exam, I had two more magazine articles and was writing one more.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 47 - 47 (0)  I also had a few conference articles, including one listed in “Finalist for the best student paper award” on the ICASSP 2017 (more than 1000 articles were accepted, about 20 of them were proposed for the best article award.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 47 - 47 (0)  My instructor was quite proud of me because this was a big conference in the industry.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 48 - 48 (0)  Seeing him being proud of me, I also had the same feeling of myself.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 48 - 48 (0)  With the high number of articles and quotes, I received the excellent dissertation in the faculty in April 2018, before defending the PhD dissertation successfully on 11/9/2018.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 49 - 49 (0)  I was so lucky because there were a lot of Vietnamese students in Penn State.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 52 - 52 (0)  Fortunately, I was in the late 8x generation but still able to talk to the early 8x, even 7x generations, an had a quite good relation with them.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 52 - 52 (0)  Fortunately, I made friend with two families Mr Quang-Mrs Hang and Mr Long – Mrs Duy.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 52 - 52 (0)  I would never forget beautiful memories with these two families.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 52 - 52 (0)  Fortunately in my town, there were many Asians, so there were two small Asian markets in which selling all items to make dried-fish, noodle in crab chowder or anything that I remembered.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 53 - 53 (0)  I had a lot of free time in my early years.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 54 - 54 (0)  I returned to reading pleasure as being in high school.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 54 - 54 (0)  Another important pleasure was sport.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 55 - 55 (0)  When having a good physical health, my mental health was also better to study long-distance PhD course.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 55 - 55 (0)  Since my lab required all reports, articles and slides to be made using LaTex, after three years of working, I was quite confident with my LaTex skills.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 57 - 57 (0)  So I would like to share what I know through this Youtube channel.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 57 - 57 (0)  I started to think of self-rewriting algorithms in my own way.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 59 - 59 (0)  All papers having my name were accepted.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 62 - 62 (0)  Luckily, all good things came together.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Karel): 66 - 66 (0) |  |
|  | I was little more confident and determined to start from that moment.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 6 - 6 (0)  I was so lucky because after the GRE exam, the group also gather together to file and helped each other a lot.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 9 - 9 (0)  I was really touched, and felt more touched when coming home, I opened the envelope and saw a large amount of money inside.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 11 - 11 (0)  These funds were extremely important to me at that time, surely I would never forget!  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 11 - 11 (0)  Lecturer Ming Do at UIUC said that my profile was so good  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 14 - 14 (0)  Your application seems interesting. I certainly like students with a strong foundation in linear algebra and probability.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 15 - 15 (0)  This email made me very glad and found all ways to make the best application to Penn State  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 17 - 17 (0)  After many years of not learning math, I again felt my passion for it coming back when studying these two subjects. In my class, I spoke a lot although my English is bad. I was almost a best student in the Statistics and Probability class because many times I was the only one who can answer teacher’s questions.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 26 - 26 (0)  it is the first time I got better than Yuelong  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 29 - 29 (0)  The result of this exam made me more confident. I seemed to have recovered my passion which had been lost in the studying time in the college.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 29 - 29 (0)  This was a difficult task but I always believed that I can do it.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 30 - 30 (0)  In the spring of 2014, I learned Pattern Recognition and began to enjoy machine learning.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 32 - 32 (0)  I really liked the sparse models and the mathematical algorithms so I chose the direction of research on the dictionary learning.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 33 - 33 (0)  Thankfully, that did not happen and my first scientific paper was accepted.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 35 - 35 (0)  I felt that my PhD course seemed to be smoother than the others.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 41 - 41 (0)  After this milestone, I realized a change in the way my teacher talked to me and I also felt more confident when talking to him.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 43 - 43 (0)  Seeing him being proud of me, I also had the same feeling of myself.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 48 - 48 (0)  I was so lucky because there were a lot of Vietnamese students in Penn State.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 52 - 52 (0)  Fortunately, I was in the late 8x generation but still able to talk to the early 8x, even 7x generations, an had a quite good relation with them.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 52 - 52 (0)  Fortunately, I made friend with two families Mr Quang-Mrs Hang and Mr Long – Mrs Duy. I would never forget beautiful memories with these two families.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 52 - 52 (0)  I returned to reading pleasure as being in high school.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 54 - 54 (0)  Another important pleasure was sport.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 55 - 55 (0)  When having a good physical health, my mental health was also better to study long-distance PhD course.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 55 - 55 (0)  Since my lab required all reports, articles and slides to be made using LaTex, after three years of working, I was quite confident with my LaTex skills. All of my PhD drawings were also painted by using LaTex with high quality.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 57 - 57 (0)  Luckily, all good things came together.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 66 - 66 (0)  Always hope, but do not expect too high. Be hopeful and optimistic because negative thoughts never make things better. Do not expect high results if you do not want to collapse.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 67 - 67 (0) |  |
|  | However, even though it may seem challenging to devote so much time to one piece of work, I have come to experience the thrills of some of the roller-coaster moments entailed in doing research!  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  Personally, I am more of the early bird category as it helps me make the most of working alongside some of my colleagues during the day.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 6 - 6 (0)  These can be considered as checkpoints in your PhD, which helps to ensure you are on top of everything.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 8 - 8 (0)  A research group will usually consist of people with varying levels of expertise and in different domains and these meetings are organized to make each one aware of the expertise that flows in the group, in case you find the need to tap into it at some point.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  This helps realize different viewpoints of everyone on a common topic.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 11 - 11 (0)  This is a good time to escape from work, relax our minds and bond with everyone in the lab.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 13 - 13 (0)  I usually like to play badminton, cycle to university and every Sunday I attend ballroom dance classes organized by University of Manchester Ballroom and Latin Society.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 13 - 13 (0)  From what I have seen so far, depending on your interests and time, you can also learn something new.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  This makes these classes all the more challenging as well as interesting for me.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  The Welcome meal is organised for the new PhD students in the group and to go through the interesting and fun process of being introduced to everyone in the group, learning about what everyone is up to or even better, discussing the latest news tidbits – presidential elections in US.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 18 - 18 (0)  Now, that Christmas is near, we have our Christmas meal approaching!  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 18 - 18 (0)  In addition, for those that return from a trip (either vacation or conference related), we have the joy of consuming confectioneries from around the world.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 20 - 20 (0)  There is an e-mail that is usually sent to everyone in the group indicating the arrival of tasty treats at the usual desk!  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 20 - 20 (0)  So, when someone does complete the final viva successfully, it calls for a celebration for all their hard work!  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 22 - 22 (0)  Moreover, the students who are approaching their deadlines in the near future get to learn from their experience.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 22 - 22 (0)  Finally, every month (kind of) I try to immerse myself in writing a blog!  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0)  In the era where youtube vlogging is the new rage, I find these blogs similar, like a record of my experience during my time here and I hope that once I do complete my PhD I can look back at these and have a good chuckle 😀  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | What a relief!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 5 - 5 (0)  I was dreaming about  this day for weeks, and am so glad it has finally arrived  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 5 - 6 (0)  This important milestone in my PhD life made me reflect on my year of doctoral  studies , and the things that I should have done, or have done better!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 8 - 9 (0)  Well, make sure that you narrow it down to something that YOU  want to do for 3- 4 years, not something that your supervisors or advisors want but something that  YOU are really passionate about.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 13 - 15 (0)  If you are lucky, you can make sense of it all  soon... before submission of your first report.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 20 - 21 (0)  So do be systematic!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  The books that I found really useful are  Doing a literature search and Doing a literature review by Chris Hart.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 23 - 24 (0)  They provide a pretty good  picture of how you should go about your reading and writing in the initial stages of your PhD.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 24 - 25 (0)  There are a number of great web- based tools  available out there.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 26 - 27 (0)  But take my advice, start using  them from the very beginning, and it will save you loads of time later on.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 28 - 29 (0)  When working on collaborative projects, people challenge each other, share ideas,  and create solutions to the existing problems TOGETHER.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 33 - 34 (0)  But still, the sooner you take the ownership of you project, the  better!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 36 - 37 (0)  Establish ‘love’ relationship with theory early on!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 38 - 38 (0)  It's actually really cool when you realise that  there is enough brain in your head to see the shortcoming of some theory, criticise it and try to  find an alternative approach  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 42 - 44 (0)  Learn to manage yourself!  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 45 - 45 (0)  PhD is the time when you learn so  much about yourself, the ways you prefer to work, and what motivates you to work.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 45 - 46 (0)  Can't but agree with  that.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 48 - 49 (0)  Priority matrix by Steven Covey. might be helpful to  you in this.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 50 - 51 (0)  But I think we should remember that PhD is a  learning process, and we are allowed to make mistakes.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 52 - 53 (0)  The main thing is to reflect on your  experience and try to improve it.  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 53 - 54 (0) |  |
|  | i joined another group another research group the division one and i really liked it there i just i did like a brief internship and then i continued doing my end of degree work and i really liked that and i thought i want to continue with this with this path i don't want to to end it i want i don't want it to end here  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 9 - 9 (0)  i really like the you know the research the procedure the learning the the reading all that stuff i really like that and i i wanted to continue doing that yeah  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 9 - 9 (0)  yeah i'm mostly oriented to academia i'm just i'm working hard towards the goal of becoming a full professor so yeah it's a compulsory part of the journey and so far it's going good i'm enjoying it  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 11 - 11 (0)  yeah i'm i'm really eager for for learning and for starting and knowing knowing this stuff thirst okay so yeah  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 19 - 19 (0)  that's really amazing and you have my admiration  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 20 - 20 (0)  so hopefully it will be used hopefully  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 29 - 29 (0)  i know that my busy thesis is not going to be memorable but hopefully it will be good hopefully  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 29 - 29 (0)  the most impact on me are my supervisors which are really yeah i have two supervisors and so far i'm really happy with them you know we have of course we have our little discussions and all that but that's part of the learning procedure but so far i'm really happy with them they are like really really good people and the people that i work with in the lab are amazing i really love them and they are like aside from be like properly very good human beings they're they are really somehow inspirational  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 37 - 37 (0)  and then you see that people that are farther on the on the way that that you are are doing all right and they are doing okay and they are encouraging you to do better  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 37 - 37 (0)  so i think that we have a a very good little community of business students going on there because we really support each other and i think that's really really important for everyone doing a phd to have a very good security net under you  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 37 - 37 (0)  so the people here are really supportive and are really really good  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 37 - 37 (0)  yeah i really like it in fact well and of course if if that's aside from being part of my phd in the pure research area also as i've mentioned you before you have to create yourself in order to become a full teacher so teaching hours are a big chunk of that so it's not exactly that are these joint spaces my phd and the teaching they are like merged so i don't see it as a waste of time but that's something that i have to do and something that i like to do so  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 57 - 57 (0)  you feel a lot of relief once that you see that you may be thinking that you have a bad day or that or whatever and then you look back on the journal and says wow i have improved a lot and things are going much better than  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 71 - 71 (0)  the goals this interview is starting to actually construct your your path from start to beginning from start to end well that's really really cool yeah and maybe some some kind of animation would be yeah would be really really good  06 - Elvira's story (Katerina): 73 - 73 (0) |  |
|  | it is also an a very interesting topic  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 5 - 5 (0)  i joined another group another research group the division one and i really liked it there  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  continued doing my end of degree work and i really liked that  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  the research the procedure the learning the the reading all that stuff i really like that and i i wanted to continue doing that  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  so far it's going good i'm enjoying it  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 11 - 11 (0)  yeah i'm really directed towards that  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 13 - 13 (0)  yeah i'm i'm really eager for for learning and for starting and knowing knowing this stuff thirst okay so yeah  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 19 - 19 (0)  that's really amazing and you have my admiration  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 20 - 20 (0)  it's i think that it will serve like as a good intermediate between the people that are working on on developing all this knowledge what stuff and the people working on the field so hopefully it will be used  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 29 - 29 (0)  but at the end of the day there are like very few thesis that have been like memorable or have really done something that's really revolutionary  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 33 - 33 (0)  i have two supervisors and so far i'm really happy with them  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 37 - 37 (0)  they are like really really good people and the people that i work with in the lab are amazing i really love them and they are like aside from be like properly very good human beings they're they are really somehow inspirational  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 37 - 37 (0)  you are going to have many town falls and many existential prices and a lot of why the hell am i doing am i doing this yeah so the people here are really supportive and are really really good  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 37 - 37 (0)  they really compensate each other so so far my experience with them and it's been vegan  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 43 - 43 (0)  yeah i really like it in fact well and of course if if that's aside from being part of my phd in the pure research area  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 57 - 57 (0)  i don't see it as a waste of time but that's something that i have to do and something that i like to do so  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 57 - 57 (0)  i should start doing that it should be helpful it should be  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 69 - 69 (0) |  |
|  | part of a fun,  hilarious family who've always made me believe I could do anything  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 5 - 6 (0)  was always a voracious reader and a very eager student, especially in literary and cultural  studies  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 10 - 11 (0)  The first time I read a piece of literary criticism assigned by a high school English  teacher, it was as though everything I'd always felt viscerally about what literary expression  makes possible had been proven  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 11 - 13 (0)  That I had some sensibility for what I read gave me confidence as a  teenager.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 13 - 14 (0)  I feel free now.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 71 - 71 (0)  I love seeing my students and coworkers every day.  07 - Erin's story - dropout (Maxim): 72 - 72 (0) |  |
|  | Thank you very much Michele for inviting me to PhD Career Stories  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 1 - 1 (0)  I’m so glad that we finally came up and talked together after so many years after university  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 1 - 1 (0)  Thank you again!  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 1 - 1 (0)  I felt privileged to gather some experience in the world of scientists that had different backgrounds to this  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 4 - 4 (0)  And I enjoyed the work they were doing definitely  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 6 - 6 (0)  The first one is acceptance, where you start accepting you will run a doctorate programme, and it comes with all the high or working on something that is, in your mind, cutting edge technology  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  And the outcome of this experiment was that companies were more prone to answer to my applications  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 10 - 10 (0)  And after my PhD, I got three different job offers coming from industry, and I decided I needed to take advantage of everything I learned  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 10 - 10 (0)  It gave me the chance to learn how to make a person understand even complex matters when you have a different education background  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 16 - 16 (0)  And as a PhD that was the best thing that I could get  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 16 - 16 (0)  Industry does not  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 22 - 22 (0)  You’re building something for your future. Whatever is going to be, it’s something that you will take advantage for  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 24 - 24 (0)  Definitely it is!  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Michael): 26 - 26 (0) |  |
|  | Thank you very much Michele for inviting me to PhD Career Stories.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 1 - 1 (0)  I’m so glad that we finally came up and talked together after so many years after university  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 1 - 1 (0)  What I remember is that, of all the engineering students that I knew that were dealing with circuits analog or digital simple or for complex commercial application, it doesn’t matter, I was the only one feeling that I was entering in more of a physics world that was intrigued me, because I felt privileged to gather some experience in the world of scientists that had different backgrounds to this.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 4 - 4 (0)  And that came together with the difficulties of setting up the workbench for my research and all these challenges had something truly magnetic to me.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 4 - 4 (0)  That’s great!  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  And I enjoyed the work they were doing definitely.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 6 - 6 (0)  It is fantastic, Fulvio. It’s something which I have seen, which is in common with very many PhD students.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 7 - 7 (0)  The first one is acceptance, where you start accepting you will run a doctorate programme, and it comes with all the high or working on something that is, in your mind, cutting edge technology.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  I believe that is not bad to know in advance, what your next job is going to be, whatever it is.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  I totally agree with you, both for personal experience and for listening to our podcast.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 15 - 15 (0)  Well, definitely the ability to handle most of the tasks by myself.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  And also the small experience of teaching which I had the privilege to run into during my Phd.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  And as a PhD that was the best thing that I could get.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I totally agree with you.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 17 - 17 (0)  When the PhD refuses to be a pure executor and start looking both on the detail and the big picture, those are the elements that the industry really would need.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 20 - 20 (0)  So it’s really important for you that you highlight these aspects about, I would say, mind opening of industry towards PhD: s.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 21 - 21 (0)  So keep this messages in your mind and convince yourself that your skills have a huge panorama were to be applied for.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0)  Yes, I totally agree with you!  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 23 - 23 (0)  And the sooner you will realise that, the better you will face your coming years at the university.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 24 - 24 (0)  And it is also a great trip to do a PhD, I guess. It is a great opportunity.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 25 - 25 (0)  Definitely it is!  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  Thank you very much, Fulvio. It’s been great talking to you and I really appreciate that you had got the time to contribute to our podcast.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 27 - 27 (0)  Email is the best way to get in touch with me because it’s something that I will always keep under my eyes.  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 30 - 30 (0)  That’s brilliant!  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 31 - 31 (0)  Many thanks for your contribution!  08 - Favio Caruso's story (Simon): 31 - 31 (0) |  |
|  | Understanding other people's reasoning behind their choices and explanations of their trajectory has always generated useful questions to reflect on to guide my own path. I hope this is helpful to others.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 3 - 3 (0)  My answer back then still guides me today: for the love of social science, to develop more tools to better work with children and young people, to contribute to the community locally and beyond.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 7 - 7 (0)  While I do not have a clear-cut answer, I believe that the answers to these questions, even if they are bound to change over the course of one's studies, have played a determining role in designing a PhD journey tailored to my needs and wishes.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 9 - 9 (0)  In that sense, I have discovered forward-thinking networks, such as the Child Rights International Network (CRIN), insightful podcasts like the Critical Childhoods and Youth Studies Collective (CCYSC)'s Awaaz, and artistic, yet critical initiatives, such as the Rights Studio's Blog.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 14 - 14 (0)  That's when I found Concordia's Individualized Program. Over the years, the program would encourage my creative inclinations, support my need for flexibility in terms of program structure and respect my intellectual autonomy, thus allowing me to lead the kind of research I am passionate about. In my opinion, four years (and counting!) can be a long time if there's no pleasure involved.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 19 - 19 (0)  I also surrounded myself with a supervisor (and a supervisory committee) that I have regular contact with, and who is stimulating and has a good ear.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 20 - 20 (0)  I also feel that my program is human enough to support me if something goes wrong and needs to be addressed.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 21 - 21 (0)  As an institution, I also value the kind of questions Concordia is raising and initiatives it supports to innovate, but also to be more critical, reflexive, inclusive and socially/racially just.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 22 - 22 (0)  Looking back, I feel more confident that I made thoughtful and coherent decisions for myself and my career along the way. I have put in place safety nets in case I fall, but I can also see that I benefited (and continue to benefit) from privileges that make my path easier compared to others.  09 - Geneviève-Grégoire-Labrecque's story (Katerina): 30 - 30 (0) |  |
|  | Fortunately, there are a few ways you can make the  transition into productive doctoral study as smooth as possible.  10 - Jack's story (Maxim): 5 - 6 (0)  Balancing this realism with a desire to  make a unique contribution to knowledge helps manage your own expectations, and is the key to  making continued progress. You can't do everything!  10 - Jack's story (Maxim): 34 - 36 (0)  A PhD is the first step on the ladder to becoming an independent academic, and  the unique freedom it provides is liberating. Use this freedom productively and, with a bit of  luck, your results will speak for themselves.  10 - Jack's story (Maxim): 68 - 70 (0) |  |
|  | Fortunately, there are a few ways you can make the  transition into productive doctoral study as smooth as possible  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 5 - 6 (0)  Balancing this realism with a desire to  make a unique contribution to knowledge helps manage your own expectations, and is the key to  making continued progress  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 34 - 36 (0)  the possibilities are vast  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 66 - 66 (0)  Above all, enjoy it!  10 - Jack's story (Michael): 68 - 68 (0) |  |
|  | and I started with very high expectations both of myself and of the  PhD program in general  11 - James's story (Marek): 6 - 7 (0)  so I sat there for a little while longer  built up my resolve calm down a little bit went back to the lab and just slowed  down did things basically as carefully as I  could without really worrying about the end result  so that pressure to perform that pressure to get the results I wasn't  really worried about it anymore because I could leave my self-esteem was no  longer tied up in how well I did  11 - James's story (Marek): 58 - 64 (0)  that I do now all of that came from basically that  breakdown where I stopped worrying about the end result I stopped worrying about  what it meant about me stop worrying about what anyone else thought about me  11 - James's story (Marek): 86 - 88 (0) |  |
|  | Like many other academics, I will say that graduate school was one of the best periods of my life.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 3 - 3 (0)  I loved graduate school so much that I decided to stay in academia.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 3 - 3 (0)  I like how much bandwidth Armando has for technical discussions, especially since he has no other students or teaching duties at the time.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 9 - 9 (0)  I had seen Chris's talk at POPL about verifying garbage collectors using Boogie and thought it was one of the coolest projects I had ever seen.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 14 - 14 (0)  I work closely with Chris and he teaches me an incredible amount about working with low-level code.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 14 - 14 (0)  I love having a routine and Seattle in the summer and the energy of Capitol Hill at night, so I am very happy with my life.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 21 - 21 (0)  This summer, thanks to Chris's nomination, I also participate in the Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates, where Nobel laureates give talks about science, the research process, and the future of the world.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 21 - 21 (0)  I make friends with scientists from around the world and find the talks inspiring.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 21 - 21 (0)  I find it excitiyng.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 26 - 26 (0)  I never had many female scientist friends before and this makes me happy because I feel much more understood.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 27 - 27 (0)  A nice story about Jeeves emerges: it is a convenient and practical programming model that lets you factor out information flow policies.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 28 - 28 (0)  It is great to collaborate with Kuat, who is very smart.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 28 - 28 (0)  Tiffany and I spend hours together every week and she teaches me an immense amount about the startup world.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 30 - 30 (0)  I am relieved to confirm there is life after Verve.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 32 - 32 (0)  I feel proud that I convince Armando this is an important direction of future work.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 33 - 33 (0)  My social life becomes fantastic this year.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 35 - 35 (0)  I determine that nothing else is as exciting to me and even though academia is a big commitment it seems worth it.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 42 - 42 (0)  I am more than fine with this, since a big issue had been that I don't want to leave yet.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 42 - 42 (0)  I am really excited to finally be thinking about the problem of extending the programming model to the database, especially as this is something I had wanted to do for two years.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 43 - 43 (0)  I love having Travis as a collaborator.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 43 - 43 (0)  and discovered he had been achieving my science writing dreams  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 44 - 44 (0)  and 2) Carl deciding I was a good person to take over the NeuWrite Boston group,  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 44 - 44 (0)  I am privileged to have had a relatively supportive environment and few additional pressures.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 55 - 55 (0) |  |
|  | Like many other academics, I will say that graduate school was one of the best periods of my life.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 3 - 3 (0)  Also important to me is that I developed some of the most intellectually and emotionally fulfilling friendships of my life.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 3 - 3 (0)  I loved graduate school so much that I decided to stay in academia.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 3 - 3 (0)  The flip side is that, as my friend Alex describes it, during your PhD every day is "epic."  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 4 - 4 (0)  I had seen Chris's talk at POPL about verifying garbage collectors using Boogie and thought it was one of the coolest projects I had ever seen.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 14 - 14 (0)  I work hard, 10-12 hours a day, because there is so much to learn and because the project is so fun.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 14 - 14 (0)  I love having a routine and Seattle in the summer and the energy of Capitol Hill at night, so I am very happy with my life.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 21 - 21 (0)  I make friends with scientists from around the world and find the talks inspiring.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 21 - 21 (0)  I find it excitiyng.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 26 - 26 (0)  This year, I also start to make more friends.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 27 - 27 (0)  I also become friends with many female scientists. I never had many female scientist friends before and this makes me happy because I feel much more understood.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 27 - 27 (0)  It is great to collaborate with Kuat, who is very smart.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 28 - 28 (0)  Our paper gets into POPL and everyone is relieved.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 32 - 32 (0)  I am relieved to confirm there is life after Verve. Armando is relieved for obvious reasons. My friends are relieved because they stop thinking I will quit graduate school.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 32 - 32 (0)  I feel proud that I convince Armando this is an important direction of future work.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 33 - 33 (0)  I also concede that it is important to build things.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 33 - 33 (0)  My social life becomes fantastic this year. I find the "party circuit" orbiting a nucleus of social Harvard and MIT graduate students. I meet many interesting and brilliant people.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 35 - 35 (0)  I am so happy to see him.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 36 - 36 (0)  I also feel relieved, because I'm exhausted from having two jobs and two social lives.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 37 - 37 (0)  I enjoy myself immensely and have many stimulating meetings and become exposed to the field of executable biology.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 42 - 42 (0)  I determine that nothing else is as exciting to me and even though academia is a big commitment it seems worth it.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 42 - 42 (0)  I am really excited to finally be thinking about the problem of extending the programming model to the database, especially as this is something I had wanted to do for two years.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 43 - 43 (0)  I love having Travis as a collaborator.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 43 - 43 (0)  I get good feedback on my work during both visits.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 45 - 45 (0)  Our paper finally gets accepted at PLDI.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 54 - 54 (0)  I feel relieved to publish the final part of my thesis.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 54 - 54 (0)  I am privileged to have had a relatively supportive environment and few additional pressures  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Maxim): 55 - 55 (0) |  |
|  | Who wants an easy life? Certainly not anyone in  academia!  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 26 - 27 (0)  You'll likely find that they  had similar anxieties and fears.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 33 - 34 (0)  Enjoy this time. Enjoy the first few weeks. Welcome meetings, getting to know some of your  department and your PhD community. Also, try to use these first few weeks to establish how you work  best.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 48 - 50 (0)  Enjoy your time and your journey.  Try to remember the big picture.  13 - Jillian's story (Karel): 60 - 61 (0) |  |
|  | This is normal and is likely the same thing your peers are thinking  too.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 30 - 31 (0)  Perhaps this culture of being self-critical and quite demanding on  ourselves is why we are one of the top countries in the world (https //www oecd-ilibrarv,orgy') for  Doctoral graduates.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 44 - 46 (0)  Enjoy this time.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 48 - 48 (0)  Enjoy the first few weeks.  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 48 - 48 (0)  But at the end, they call you  Doc, and then you're Happy."  13 - Jillian's story (Simon): 64 - 65 (0) |  |
|  | Still, they helped me to forge one of the most impactful connections for my Ph.D.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  Well, Czechs like to think they are a part of the “Central Europe”, but I gladly seized this opportunity.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 6 - 6 (0)  This union later proved successful and lasted through many research projects we worked on together.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  Public procurement market seemed to be a great setting for our work, since public contracts are demands explicitly represented as data as public procurement notices thanks to their proactive disclosure mandated by law.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 11 - 11 (0)  The proposal was successful and in September 2011 we joined the LOD2 project, getting us three years of funding.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 13 - 13 (0)  What made me apply for it was a practical concern to be able to continue in work that I found interesting.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I applied for the Ph.D. and successfully completed the admission exams in May 2012.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I was fortunate enough to be assigned with courses at least tangentially related to my Ph.D., including labs in an XML course and several lectures and labs in a course on linked data.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  In a fortunate turn of affairs, I managed to obtain my university’s internal funding just in time for this internship.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 28 - 28 (0)  I can heartily recommend going abroad for a few months to do such an internship.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 28 - 28 (0)  Also, I received a decent funding that sorted out my financial situation for another month and filled in some gaps from the previous period that the university’s stipend failed to cover.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 30 - 30 (0)  Working for a commercial project partner meant two things improved significantly: management and funding.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 31 - 31 (0)  . I found these activities fulfilling, perhaps because they helped me establish a sense in my Ph.D. in opposition to a clear nonsense.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 33 - 33 (0)  Yet I managed to conditionally pass the defense thanks to otherwise outstanding results, judged by the modest standards of my university.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 40 - 40 (0)  The strategic alliance with Martin Nečaský came in handy again.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 41 - 41 (0)  Consequently, I passed the additional thesis pre-defense with no problems, giving me a green light to submit the final version of my thesis.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 43 - 43 (0)  In relief, I tweeted:  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 44 - 44 (0)  Submitting your Ph.D. thesis feels like a large open wound you’ve been bleeding from for years finally started healing.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 45 - 45 (0)  A nice feeling.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 45 - 45 (0)  I believe I would be doing something just as interesting.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 49 - 49 (0)  I love deadlines.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 51 - 51 (0)  I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 51 - 51 (0) |  |
|  | I got \*ridiculously\* lucky and ended up with an unconventional but ultimately ideal supervision team!  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 13 - 13 (0)  I was lucky to be able to get a supervisor for my PhD who was interested in the applied  aspect of what can be an extremely theoretical field.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 27 - 28 (0)  Technically my time at Manchester is also my time at CERN, and starting my career in an  applied environment, which is where I want to stay, has been perfect for me  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 40 - 41 (0)  I enjoy working on theory, but ultimately what I really get  excited about is seeing things being applied outside what I'm familiar with.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 48 - 49 (0)  I'm lucky enough to live in a beautiful part of the world, so I try to explore as much as I  can.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 60 - 61 (0)  Finally, since I live in the French-speaking region of Switzerland, I really enjoy using my  spare time to practice French  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 67 - 68 (0)  Another amazing opportunity at CERN is the Summer Student programme.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 75 - 75 (0)  At the time of writing this, I've supervised three students on this programme and I  can't emphasise enough how much people can take from it.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 77 - 78 (0)  Finally, I want to promote PhDs in general.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 81 - 81 (0)  They are hard, but you gain experience in so  many different areas and you become confident in loads of situations.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Maxim): 81 - 82 (0) |  |
|  | At the same time, my future  supervisor at Manchester was looking for PhD students and he had the perfect balance of  interests for the idea we had at CERN...after a short skype call, we had a project proposal  and an agreed supervision team.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 10 - 13 (0)  I got \*ridiculously\* lucky and ended up with an unconventional but ultimately ideal supervision team!  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 13 - 13 (0)  I was lucky to be able to get a supervisor for my PhD who was interested in the applied  aspect of what can be an extremely theoretical field.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 27 - 28 (0)  This generally strengthens results and adds another layer  to the work we're doing: of course the main reason for doing everything is to get the PhD  at the end, but you're also working on a kind of product.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 31 - 33 (0)  This is one of the things I love about how my PhD has ended up.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 37 - 37 (0)  Technically my time at Manchester is also my time at CERN, and starting my career in an  applied environment, which is where I want to stay, has been perfect for me.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 40 - 41 (0)  CERN has  the perfect mix of industry and academia; I can do research (engineering and theory) and  publish, and then there are places to actually apply what you've worked on.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 41 - 43 (0)  I want to stay. I enjoy working on theory, but ultimately what I really get  excited about is seeing things being applied outside what I'm familiar with.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 48 - 49 (0)  I'm lucky enough to live in a beautiful part of the world, so I try to explore as much as I  can.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 60 - 61 (0)  I make sure to stay active by running and doing yoga (if you haven't, you should definitely  try it - it's great).  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 63 - 64 (0)  I can't emphasise enough the importance of being active (okay  sometimes I have periods, especially when I travel for work, where the active lifestyle  takes a break).  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 64 - 66 (0)  Finally, since I live in the French-speaking region of Switzerland, I really enjoy using my  spare time to practice French.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 67 - 68 (0)  Whether it's talking to people or watching movies...  interacting in your second language is a unique experience.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 68 - 69 (0)  hese contracts last  for 6-14 months and give students a good feel for life at CERN and in the surrounding  region.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 72 - 74 (0)  Another amazing opportunity at CERN is the Summer Student programme.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 75 - 75 (0)  At the time of writing this, I've supervised three students on this programme and I  can't emphasise enough how much people can take from it.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 77 - 78 (0)  Finally, I want to promote PhDs in general.  15 - Joshua-Dawes's story (Simon): 81 - 81 (0) |  |
|  | so no publications of such such something not as sad you know okay  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 7 - 7 (0)  sure i think oscar is really a carefree guy right so yeah he's he's nice  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 10 - 10 (0)  i came across a very good article about elon musk  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 24 - 24 (0)  and then it struck me because if someone of that stature can you know he can implement all of that based on what he studied  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 24 - 24 (0)  that's good in in my case i had had this topic uh figured out  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 32 - 32 (0)  so i think the perks for me would be that i mean i get to do something which i actually like doing rather than something which would get me my daily bread  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 35 - 35 (0)  when you have a finance job in the bank or insurance or something like that yeah or you have really high income like finance  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 36 - 36 (0)  i think it's really has a lot of benefits in in journaling like when when i did some literature review on phd students  16 - Justin's story (Marek): 40 - 40 (0) |  |
|  | I have here on my side Professor Katrin Franke, Professor at NTNU, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and I have listened to your fantastic seminar here today.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 1 - 1 (0)  It's my great pleasure to be here today  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 2 - 2 (0)  Also greetings and big compliments to the organisers from Max Planck PhD promotion group  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 2 - 2 (0)  It's for me especially nice to come back because I have been living and working 13 years in Berlin  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 2 - 2 (0)  So the only thing that I always knew I wanted from the bottom of my heart is doing research  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  Luckily I found a position at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, where I could pursue my PhD studies and at the same time work at the Fraunhofer Society here in Berlin  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  You have performed a fantastic career, Katrin!  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  Good question  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  The good foundation I had by then by being 13 years at Fraunhofer was that I had the experiences from Fraunhofer and working for the industry but also working in research.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 9 - 9 (0)  I got a great opportunity in Norway at a very small college where I could combine or use the experience I learnt from Fraunhofer working with industry and at the same time building up an academic environment  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 9 - 9 (0)  Sometimes it's even good to take a detour in industry because it will give us an exposure and to learn on what is required out there.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  With new insights you can eventually come back and pursue a second career in academia after pursuing a career in industry  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  I think yes.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  And then I believe it's very good to know the criteria, the measures, what do you need to produce.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  Then it's good if you have use the time during your PhD to find ways to educate yourself to be in continuous learning so that the culture shock from PhD to Postdoc is not so big  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  Remember on one hand that you are very dependent on them but they are also dependent on you and your loved ones may sacrifice their own life or career just for your PhD  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 18 - 18 (0)  So having this harmony at home even in times of struggle I think is very important.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 18 - 18 (0)  From a culture of sharing within this small environment, the whole group can exceed and they can in a safe and protected environment try out their knowledge and skills  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 19 - 19 (0)  If you are in the lucky situation that your funding allows you to travel to present your research at a conference, go, spend time, learn from other researchers in the field, broaden your perspectives on the domain and see where others are going.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 20 - 20 (0)  I strongly believe in the cooperation and impact of science working partitioners, working for instance with the biologists if you are in the domain, or working with technicians, those can often share with you a broad amount of experiences, technical experiences that you have just not earned yet because you are young  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 21 - 21 (0)  It will give you new perspectives on your research project and broaden your horizon and may give you the idea that eventually adheres to a Nobel prize  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 21 - 21 (0)  My personal opinion is that I wouldn't be a professor today if I had stayed in Germany.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 24 - 24 (0)  By being invited to give lectures at other universities. I saw so many different cultures going to universities in Japan, the US, the Netherlands, Canada and I saw that there are other models of working, other ways of collaborating, other ways of research.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 24 - 24 (0)  And then of course other ways of leading to impact and doing something that stays for longer.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 24 - 24 (0)  I dreamed to go abroad shortly after I started on my PhD.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 25 - 25 (0)  For me it really helped to know that this happens to many and so when it happened to me I was just conscious and thinking 'Now it kicks in, now I need to carry on'  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0)  Number two, nothing is impossible  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  Don't give up or don't take no for an answer  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  Question the no, challenge the no  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  Try to find solutions around the no  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  And then the buddy will provide his or her spare air so that you will not die  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 31 - 31 (0)  So find you buddy, support each other and build a strong team  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Dominik): 31 - 31 (0) |  |
|  | It's my great pleasure to be here today.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 2 - 2 (0)  It's for me especially nice to come back because I have been living and working 13 years in Berlin.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 2 - 2 (0)  So the only thing that I always knew I wanted from the bottom of my heart is doing research.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 3 - 3 (0)  Luckily I found a position at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, where I could pursue my PhD studies and at the same time work at the Fraunhofer Society here in Berlin.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  The good foundation I had by then by being 13 years at Fraunhofer was that I had the experiences from Fraunhofer and working for the industry but also working in research.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  I got a great opportunity in Norway at a very small college where I could combine or use the experience I learnt from Fraunhofer working with industry and at the same time building up an academic environment.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0)  With new insights you can eventually come back and pursue a second career in academia after pursuing a career in industry.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  The first and most important network is of course your family and your loved ones.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 18 - 18 (0)  Remember on one hand that you are very dependent on them but they are also dependent on you and your loved ones may sacrifice their own life or career just for your PhD.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 18 - 18 (0)  From a culture of sharing within this small environment, the whole group can exceed and they can in a safe and protected environment try out their knowledge and skills.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  If you are in the lucky situation that your funding allows you to travel to present your research at a conference, go, spend time, learn from other researchers in the field, broaden your perspectives on the domain and see where others are going.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 20 - 20 (0)  It will give you new perspectives on your research project and broaden your horizon and may give you the idea that eventually adheres to a Nobel prize.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  For me, the eagerness to reach out started to grow by attending conferences.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  I saw so many different cultures going to universities in Japan, the US, the Netherlands, Canada and I saw that there are other models of working, other ways of collaborating, other ways of research.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  But if you know that this is completely normal and that the pink clouds turn into desperation after six months and that you just need to carry on and it will be better again, then you may overcome the six months steps.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 25 - 25 (0)  Number two, nothing is impossible.  17 - Katrin-Franke's story (Karel): 30 - 30 (0) |  |
|  | Hi my name is Luca Forcucci and I am very happy to be here by the river Spree with a nice sun in front of us.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 3 - 3 (0)  Obviously, everyone has a personal historical background and memory of course but it was interesting to see if particular space or architectural space would be represented by the brain and if we can find patterns.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 8 - 8 (0)  Then of course it was a lot of inspiring people I was lucky enough to be in great university like EPFL in Switzerland, the brain mind institute in Berlin, the major lab in the world for cognitive science, in particular Olaf Blanke's lab. The interesting thing is that he comes from a family of artists as he's the only one that made it to Neuroscience.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 31 - 31 (0)  It was amazing because I was in a scientific environment, I had to be accepted and I have to learn the vocabulary of course because it's super precise but on the other hand I was someone that was totally sympathetic to my research.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 33 - 33 (0)  It was great I was very lucky to be one year in such environment, it was like going to the Star trek's spaceship everyday  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 35 - 35 (0)  I was lucky enough to meet a lot of women, composer that have to struggle like Pauline Oliveros, she's an icon just like John Cage which is a major figure in his field. I was able to meet her, she is a really generous person. I think there is less competition between women than man. She was a really amazing person and she really open my mind on many aspects about research and life.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 37 - 37 (0)  Also Ashilow Madre, she was my professor when I was doing my master in Belfast and she is great.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 38 - 38 (0)  The PhD was one of the best thing I did in my life.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 51 - 51 (0)  Not per se but the adventure I went through during that period.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 52 - 52 (0)  Take that time to experiment, and challenge the most you can because when you are out it is totally different, you are kind of cocoon you are a bit protected during the PhD  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 53 - 53 (0)  That's part of the experience to fail of course, the more you fail the better.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 56 - 56 (0)  When you are in a PhD you are still free to try things, you have the time to do it.  After you have to create your own time but it's a very privileged period I guess being in a PhD.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 58 - 59 (0)  That knowledge is very important to me. We have a lot of technology today but that technology back then is probable very valuable.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 62 - 62 (0)  Anyway I'm happy with what I'm doing mainly I would like to be able to continue to do it.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 66 - 66 (0)  I am convinced that those skills are very useful and very valuable outside.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 78 - 78 (0)  I know many people that work in the industry and they're very successful, they were very happy.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 80 - 80 (0)  Well it's a need, I'm very interested by the brain how it works. it's a really deep interest as music is.  So first you make art because it's a need you might make science because it's in need at that level it's it's like Formula One.  Like a passion that comes, like a driving force  it's really a need, it has to drive you, it has to be a really deep preoccupation I don't think that this kind of jobs is a 9 to 5 job. You go to sleep it's there, you wake up it's there.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 84 - 87 (0)  It's interesting because it gives new path and not only creativity.  18 - Luca-Forcucci's story (Katerina): 93 - 93 (0) |  |
|  | But all in all I can say that I had a supportive family  which helped me in my endeavors to kick start my life a student after my gap year as an Au Pair.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 13 - 14 (0)  I settled for English and German (Anglistik and  Germanistik) since I loved languages.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 22 - 23 (0)  The experiences of the characters  in these novels resonated so well with my experiences as a young Black woman in Germany - I was  sold!  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 28 - 30 (0)  I got the scholarship!  This by far has been one of the best experiences of my PhD journey. I had to go through so many  steps of drafting and re-drafting the exposé and doing two interviews with different members of the  scholarship foundation before I could get the scholarship. Getting a fully funded scholarship was  truly an achievement.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 41 - 45 (0)  My social circle gave me the guidance and desire to  push forward through their support spiritually, morally, mentally and academically.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 60 - 61 (0)  The PhD has opened doors for me in spaces that I would have otherwise never have had access to.  19 - Mariam's story (Katerina): 75 - 75 (0) |  |
|  | I had a supportive family  which helped me in my endeavors to kick start my life a student after my gap year as an Au Pair  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 13 - 14 (0)  I got the scholarship!  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 41 - 41 (0)  This by far has been one of the best experiences of my PhD journey  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 42 - 42 (0)  Getting a fully funded scholarship was  truly an achievement  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 44 - 45 (0)  The PhD has opened doors for me in spaces that I would have otherwise never have had access to  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 75 - 75 (0) |  |
|  | I improved and moved on. I was finally accepted for the fifth one which was the most competitive,  with over 450 applicants for 20 positions.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 3 - 4 (0)  I did not believe my eyes when I received a mail  informing me I scaled through the initial screening, I thought it was a fluke.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 4 - 5 (0)  I read widely on the projects, and I became profoundly fascinated by their prospects.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  The mere  thought that I may get an opportunity to work on something that can potentially benefit a patient,  was really thrilling.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 13 - 15 (0)  But, I put in  my best and showed them why and how I earned a perfect grade of 1.0 (A\*\*\*) in my Master  thesis  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 33 - 35 (0)  As always, she said believe that you  can and she comforted me  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 38 - 39 (0)  I decided to forget the horror and embrace the positives.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 39 - 39 (0)  Interestingly, I was positively surprised by how impressed they were with my presentation during  the interview – I could not believe it  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 41 - 42 (0)  Prof. Cantz told me he was impressed by my MSc research  findings and how incredible he finds the potentials of H. bacteriophora as a potent biological  control agents against crop pests.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 42 - 44 (0)  Furthermore, he said I had one of the best recommendation  letters and that I am not a fluke  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 44 - 45 (0)  Dr. Rothe went on to tell me his own personal story and why I should never give up on my dream  even if I am not selected  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 46 - 47 (0)  Promise me you will continue to pursue your goal, apply somewhere  else, but don’t give up, he advised me  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 47 - 48 (0)  He was very kind and encouraging, he single-handedly  tanked up my motivation and confidence  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 48 - 49 (0)  I came back to my hostel that night with a greater  commitment to become a biomedical scientist  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 49 - 50 (0)  I further embraced the positives of my Hannover  experience, I realised I did not pass these competitive screening by cheer luck  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 50 - 51 (0)  So I was fired up  and I started making new plans  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 51 - 52 (0)  I was so happy  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 54 - 54 (0)  Making  the waiting list was a big win for me, considering I had no background or prior experience in the  field  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 54 - 56 (0)  So, the next and only logical thing for me to do was to maximise the potentials of this big  win :)  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 56 - 57 (0)  This time around, I felt more comfortable during the interview  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 65 - 65 (0)  Looking back, this has been an incredible journey for me and the thought I could manage to finish  very strongly in a field where I had no prior background was the icing on the cake.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 70 - 71 (0)  I am forever indebted to all the people who encouraged me down this path.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 72 - 72 (0)  I can never forget  that redefining moment with Dr. Rothe.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 72 - 73 (0)  I am profoundly grateful to my supervisors (Dr.  Balakrishnan and Prof. Ott) who gave me a chance to prove myself  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 73 - 74 (0)  Such an opportunity is quite  rare and I will never forget their magnanimity towards me  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 74 - 75 (0)  To my parents who taught me to never stop believing in myself, and to keep reaching… I am  immensely grateful  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 76 - 77 (0)  I honestly can’t wait to pass these values you taught me to my children  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 77 - 77 (0)  So believe in yourself, make  conscientious plans, and learn to prepare and position yourself for opportunities  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 79 - 80 (0) |  |
|  | no i i i i was interested in the research server in research field and i even didn't know much about the computational linguistic parts so i just started to work in projects and see okay this is interesting and there is a gap that maybe can be covered with my my idea of thesis and right right yeah so yeah  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  so you you are doing some the kind of exploratory yeah so you you would explore more things more things like if they seem interesting to you yes i just keep doing that  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 5 - 5 (0)  it was my last year of studying and say okay i i want to move to the phd okay it's just interesting  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  yes i think since my expectation is to improve this in this part because as usual you have in yourself that and most of the things have could be improved or could be automatically automatized and also i can combine now with all the information  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  i have the lucky part of the work in this in these two domains and with this kind of two languages and and to know these these two languages because they are the the most common and more ones that of course and is have been working a lot in computational linguistics  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 20 - 20 (0)  yes the end of the second year and the the middle of the second area okay and also was the best year because i when i published the a lot of things i bought them two more the biomedical papers and the two biomedical papers about the the data of the biomedical domain this i published in the in that year was was very nice  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 24 - 24 (0)  so flexibility i think is one of the perks  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 37 - 37 (0)  so yeah learning from other people is like a crucial part of the phd so so the notion of like people talking about phd is like it's very isolated it's very lonely it's not it's not it's not true but  21 - Pablo's story (Karel): 47 - 47 (0) |  |
|  | see okay this is interesting and there is a gap that maybe can be covered with my my idea of thesis and right right yeah so yeah  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 4 - 4 (0)  you have already the vision of how this would end yeah yeah that's very really good yeah  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 5 - 5 (0)  i started to work and i realized okay this is okay and i want to continue my studies  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 6 - 6 (0)  i have the lucky part of the work in this in these two domains and with this kind of two languages  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 20 - 20 (0)  yes the end of the second year and the the middle of the second area okay and also was the best year  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 24 - 24 (0)  the two biomedical papers about the the data of the biomedical domain this i published in the in that year was was very nice the problem is that the other ideas have been working also in one of the projects  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 24 - 24 (0)  i do think that teaching helps you yes in a way in a way  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 31 - 31 (0)  because he's not he's not from this school and it has been very good for me because to improve my my knowledge of the area yeah  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 32 - 32 (0)  well i don't know maybe maybe the knowledge maybe for me is the the knowledge of the type of work that i have been doing  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 34 - 34 (0)  it's my freaking cause everything but it's interesting the way that they you are forced to do a lot of things you are forced to know a lot of things and and you have to force yourself yeah not like everyone somebody someone was forced to see yeah yeah so and you have to force yourself and you have the flexi more you have a more flexible timetable and so on that's not true because finally i work every day 12 hours  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 36 - 36 (0)  now the my area has been reinforced right but when i started i didn't have any one from my gallery and colorblindness started also it's a very good one and also there's maria no not this one another one that is also working now in parts  21 - Pablo's story (Marek): 49 - 49 (0) |  |
|  | Hi and thanks for having me  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 2 - 2 (0)  I'm very happy to have you here  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  Because I love the twenty first century so this is quite a nice job actually for me  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Now I see that it's a quite unique path.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  But during the third year of this five year education, I got the first taste of logistics, and I really found that interesting, and challenging, and that I was really good at it as well.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  I had really a good time, and I made more money than I did as a PhD student, and all of a sudden it was 2006.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0)  Because I was quite comfortable in the industry  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 20 - 20 (0)  I kept the relationships - I went there for coffee, we had a lot of fee where we sit and drink a lot of coffee in the afternoon, everybody loves it, and that's where you meet all the nice people  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 22 - 22 (0)  They had an open spot as a senior lecturer, and I applied for it and I got it.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 22 - 22 (0)  But those eight years that I had an industry are priceless for me, because I'm very much unique in that manner  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 23 - 23 (0)  I've been in academia, then I've been in industry, and then I'm going back to academia with the network and with the knowledge  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 23 - 23 (0)  I had experience in teaching and my main skill sets is to whip up the PowerPoint presentation in 5 minutes - that will blow everyone's mind  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 28 - 28 (0)  And then I brought with me contacts also. I also brought with me a vocabulary: I could talk to universities, I could talk to other researchers, and I could understand them, and they could understand me  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  That was a real asset in building relationships  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0)  Which I I think is a good thing.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 38 - 38 (0)  I haven't  done my last tour in industry, I want to go back someday, yes  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 38 - 39 (0)  Good careers, many of them  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 41 - 41 (0)  In one way, my thesis became much, much better, being marinated for a number of years  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  So I'm really proud of my PhD thesis  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  I think that is a very good thing to have with you in industry, because in industry you very soon will get extremely locked in a bubble  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 51 - 51 (0)  I am very passionate about teaching and developing new teaching methods  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 56 - 56 (0)  And I think that that is also something that is needed in the industry, pedagogical professionalism  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 56 - 56 (0)  And it is brilliant, it is it is useful for all of us podcasters out there  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 60 - 60 (0)  That is brilliant!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 62 - 62 (0)  So now I want to do everything right  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 65 - 65 (0)  And I want to do it with as low friction as possible, as little work as possible  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 65 - 65 (0)  But I also understand that I have to ramp up to those, to interview other people first, but soon I will interview some of them, I hope.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 65 - 65 (0)  That is really exciting!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 66 - 66 (0)  Brilliant!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 68 - 68 (0)  I promote my podcast of course, but I also interact with people because it is fun!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 70 - 70 (0)  And it is rewarding, and you always have these meetings that you can never plan for, but that will end up being extremely useful  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 70 - 70 (0)  And when you go home you feel that that meeting was worth the whole trip  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 70 - 70 (0)  Yeah, the opportunities today...!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 71 - 71 (0)  It is amazing  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 71 - 71 (0)  You don't have to do interviews on your topic, you can do interviews and almost anything if you are good at doing interviews  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 72 - 72 (0)  If you are good at using specific research tools to make sense of fuzzy data, well then that is a skill that you can use in several different industries.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 73 - 73 (0)  So if you work in a digital area, you are set up for life!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 73 - 73 (0)  I mean, there will always be work for you.  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 73 - 73 (0)  That is a brilliant advice!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 75 - 75 (0)  Thank you  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 79 - 79 (0)  I tend to I tend to go into things I don't really understand, and usually it works out fine  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 80 - 80 (0)  Perfect! Thank you so much, PO!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 81 - 81 (0)  Thanks for having me!  22 - Per-Olof-Arnäs's story (Dominik): 82 - 82 (0) |  |
|  | In terms of the impact of my work, I get to be part of the team that revolutionises how people train and how their performance is dynamically analysed and used to offer powerful insights and training advice.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 8 - 8 (0)  My studies at UoM have played a great role in opening a new world of opportunities around me.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  Moreover, having studied here has given me the foundation for a great software engineering career.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  I got to grasp fundamental knowledge from various computer science fields which have allowed me to find my path in the industry.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  Through these activities, I learned more about cooperation, communication, organisation, as well as being part of a community of students with similar interests.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 12 - 12 (0)  Whilst hard skills are important in my job, soft skills are a crucial aspect of being part of a team so participating in extracurricular activities has helped me in that regard.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 12 - 12 (0)  It's exciting to start new chapters in life and I am thankful and proud of my whole journey from being an undergrad at UoM to working in the software engineering team at Prevayl  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0) |  |
|  | I get to be part of the team that revolutionises how people train and how their performance is dynamically analysed and used to offer powerful insights and training advice.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0)  My studies at UoM have played a great role in opening a new world of opportunities around me.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  Moreover, having studied here has given me the foundation for a great software engineering career.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  I got to grasp fundamental knowledge from various computer science fields which have allowed me to find my path in the industry.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 10 - 10 (0)  Through these activities, I learned more about cooperation, communication, organisation, as well as being part of a community of students with similar interests.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 12 - 12 (0)  Whilst hard skills are important in my job, soft skills are a crucial aspect of being part of a team so participating in extracurricular activities has helped me in that regard.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 12 - 12 (0)  It's exciting to start new chapters in life and I am thankful and proud of my whole journey from being an undergrad at UoM to working in the software engineering team at Prevayl.  23 - Simona-Alexandra's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0) |  |
|  | It can be challenging entering a new environment, but I think it is okay to strive to be confident in your own abilities and experiences.  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 1 - 1 (0)  I love learning new things and this past year has been all about learning fun new concepts.  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 2 - 2 (0)  Ben brought a level of excitement, entertainment and humor to theoretical computer science that I have never seen.  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 2 - 2 (0)  I had the good fortune of being involved in these talks and I really began to appreciate the importance of communicating your ideas to the world.  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 4 - 4 (0)  So, looking back, it has been an exciting first year.  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 5 - 5 (0)  I am looking forward to the summer, when I get to dig a bit deeper into my research, work with and mentor some talented undergrads, and build robots!  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 6 - 6 (0) |  |
|  | You’ll learn why it is so important to have people that you trust and an inspiring community of fellow PhD candidates  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 1 - 1 (0)  Most of all, Amandine’s story is one that should inspire you to overcome your PhD difficulties, never give up on yourself, and believe that you can push through adversity and get that PhD degree  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 1 - 1 (0)  Amandine is an amazing international scientist, with a professional track record and work experience in France, the Netherlands, the US, and Turkey prior to undertaking her PhD in Germany  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 2 - 2 (0)  She is a specialist in the conservation of ancient ships!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 2 - 2 (0)  Amandine is an amazing international scientist, with a professional track record and work experience in France, the Netherlands, the US, and Turkey prior to undertaking her PhD in Germany  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  She is a specialist in the conservation of ancient ships!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  We find that this makes her a great role model, and her amazing story can inspire every PhD candidate who is right in the thick of their PhD  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  So if you are doubting whether or not you will ever finish, this post is a must-read.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  In 2020 Amandine enrolled in the PhD Success Lab and that ultimately contributed to her finishing in 202  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  Welcome Amandine!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 9 - 9 (0)  You just recently defended your PhD dissertation after five years of working very hard to reach this big, big goal.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 9 - 9 (0)  I think my high point emotionally, as weird as it may sound, was actually before the defense  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  The next day, I thought, It’s not rea  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  It can’t be  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  I can’t be that far already  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  And I was so happy!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  So I think that moment, that was really emotionally the high point  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  And now, after the defense, I feel it’s a much slower process to accept that it’s for real.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  I get it!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  Just try to stay healthy, take care of yourself, mentally and physically  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 21 - 21 (0)  That’s better.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 21 - 21 (0)  No, I think you’re right  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 23 - 23 (0)  I think when I somehow differentiated what was expected of me from the outside world and what I really wanted for myself, I could overcome this  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 23 - 23 (0)  I think when I could say, “Okay, if I complete this PhD, it’s for me, I will do it for just myself,” that made a difference  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 23 - 23 (0)  It was fun  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0)  I had great moments  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0)  My second supervisor, surprisingly, also found the right words to encourage me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  I’m so proud that I could be one of your supporters  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 33 - 33 (0)  That’s so great to hear.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 33 - 33 (0)  And I think it’s very generous of you to credit other people who have helped you so much, but I think there must be something in you as a person, a particular characteristic, that had an important influence on that process of moving on and not giving up  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 33 - 33 (0)  I choose my battles very wisely  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  All my life I chose things that I believe in  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  I always do things that I can identify with 200%  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  I chose my PhD topic myself  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  . I built it up all by myself, the ideas, everything was coming from me  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  I had a lot of help and support, absolutely, no doubts, but this project came from me  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  It’s like my blood running through it and I believed in it’s importance, scientifically  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 34 - 34 (0)  That’s a great point for other PhD candidates  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 36 - 36 (0)  Yes, definitely.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 37 - 37 (0)  But the weekly lessons in the PhD Success Lab gave me so much structure  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 41 - 41 (0)  And the power of the group was helping me out.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 41 - 41 (0)  So it was helping me a lot  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 41 - 41 (0)  The live-video joint sessions were so nice  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 41 - 41 (0)  It helped me to realise that the other PhD candidates were struggling with things that I had been struggling with too  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  Being able to give them some advice was helpful to me, and I got strength from them  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  It was so valuable to talk to you from time to time about my writing problems, the difficult situation with my supervisors, how to structure my part-time work better, and so on.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  This was so insightful and very, very helpful.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 42 - 42 (0)  That’s so good to hear!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 43 - 43 (0)  As a response to that, my second supervisor became very active  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 44 - 44 (0)  We then had meetings every four to six weeks, which we hadn’t before  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 44 - 44 (0)  This was immensely motivating and helpful.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 48 - 48 (0)  That’s such a brilliant insight  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 50 - 50 (0)  You enjoyed this early morning-routine  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 52 - 52 (0)  But this new writing routine helped me to get small steps done  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 54 - 54 (0)  There was only this one hour and no time for endless doubts or pointless editing  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 54 - 54 (0)  There was no time for those sorts of thoughts  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 54 - 54 (0)  And then in the early morning, the flow was effortless because I was still in a good state of mind  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 55 - 55 (0)  There was no time to re-read and be hypercritical of it.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 56 - 56 (0)  And then in the evening when I was reading what I had written in the morning, it appeared much better than I thought it would and I could go about editing in a productive way.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 56 - 56 (0)  So actually the time distance over the day helped  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 57 - 57 (0)  You could come back and read your text, and it seemed a lot better because you were not so critical of yourself.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 57 - 57 (0)  Yeah, this time lapse meant that I could be effectively critical, so to speak  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 58 - 58 (0)  I was still critical of my writing, but in a constructive way  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 58 - 58 (0)  I was not emotionally beating myself up, telling myself oh, I’m so bad. I’m so bad  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 58 - 58 (0)  In the evenings I was emotionally distanced from what I wrote in the morning and then I could say, okay, one more word here, let’s put this sentence there, easy going  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 58 - 58 (0)  Wow, it’s really great to hear tha  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 59 - 59 (0)  But having this one-hour in the morning, and maybe 1-2 in the evenings every day meant that I could keep the ball rolling  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 61 - 61 (0)  And then when I had more time, I was already warmed up  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 61 - 61 (0)  I had the ball there and could just throw, throw, throw and continue  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 61 - 61 (0)  That made a huge difference!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 61 - 61 (0)  It makes me so proud to hear that this has worked out so well for you  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 62 - 62 (0)  Then I got the opportunity to enroll at Bamberg University, two years into my PhD  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 69 - 69 (0)  That changed everything because for the first time, I had supervision and the administration was very welcoming  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 69 - 69 (0)  They were so kind to me  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 69 - 69 (0)  Okay, sit tight, it’ll take us a while to process all your records, but we’ll sort it out for you  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 69 - 69 (0)  We’ll get you in here as a PhD  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 69 - 69 (0)  And just like the administration, my supervisor at Bamberg University was also very supportive – they worked together very nicely  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 69 - 69 (0)  That would have helped a lot.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 72 - 72 (0)  Having completed the degree in the end is so important to me because of all these struggles, and now I feel like no one can ever attack me again  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 75 - 75 (0)  I have this PhD degree from a well-recognized German public university in my scientific field  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 75 - 75 (0)  It’s so impressive to hear you talking about your experiences and to know that you made it against all odds  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 77 - 77 (0)  I hope that everyone out there who is having a difficult time understands this: She has made it  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 77 - 77 (0)  I can do that as well.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 77 - 77 (0)  No matter what comes, I can get my PhD degree  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 77 - 77 (0)  You’ll meet people, you’ll get positive feedback  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 82 - 82 (0)  You’ll get input and ideas from other researchers, and then you can use this to improve your work.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 82 - 82 (0)  This way, you’re much more proactive and less passive and you’ll gain confidence  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 82 - 82 (0)  You’ll meet amazing people out there and you can build a network of people that you can work with and who support you, who may even become your friends.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 83 - 83 (0)  I think that’s very important because that is what remains.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 83 - 83 (0)  Thank you Amandine!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 84 - 84 (0)  I think this is wonderful advice for everyone!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 84 - 84 (0)  Thanks for taking the time and sharing your truly amazing PhD story with us!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 84 - 84 (0) |  |
|  | I think my high point emotionally, as weird as it may sound, was actually before the defense  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  When I had the printed manuscript in my hands, all the copies, that made it real  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  It was only when I held it in my hands that I realized the amount of work and effort that had gone into it  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  And I was so happy!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  So I think that moment, that was really emotionally the high point  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  But like most of us, I think, I’ve been taught to give high performance and to never give up.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 20 - 20 (0)  Just try to stay healthy, take care of yourself, mentally and physically.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 21 - 21 (0)  That’s better.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 21 - 21 (0)  I think when I somehow differentiated what was expected of me from the outside world and what I really wanted for myself, I could overcome this.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  I think when I could say, “Okay, if I complete this PhD, it’s for me, I will do it for just myself,” that made a difference.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  It was fun.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 26 - 26 (0)  I had great moments  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 26 - 26 (0)  Trusting the people who believed in me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 30 - 30 (0)  I thought, they are professionals, they are scientists themselves, they have a lot of experience.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 30 - 30 (0)  And if these experienced professionals believe my PhD is worth it, I should trust them.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 30 - 30 (0)  My partner, of course.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 32 - 32 (0)  My second supervisor, surprisingly, also found the right words to encourage me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 32 - 32 (0)  And then it was the other students in the PhD Success Lab, and it was you.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 32 - 32 (0)  I choose my battles very wisely.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 34 - 34 (0)  I always do things that I can identify with 200%.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 34 - 34 (0)  I chose my PhD topic myself.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 34 - 34 (0)  I built it up all by myself, the ideas, everything was coming from me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 34 - 34 (0)  I had a lot of help and support, absolutely, no doubts, but this project came from me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 34 - 34 (0)  It’s like my blood running through it and I believed in it’s importance, scientifically.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 34 - 34 (0)  It came from me and therefore, I was prepared to fight for it.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 35 - 35 (0)  If it’s personal then you are much more prepared to fight.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 35 - 35 (0)  It was important to me because I was so exhausted already that I didn’t know how to start anymore.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 40 - 40 (0)  But the weekly lessons in the PhD Success Lab gave me so much structure.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 41 - 41 (0)  I thought, okay, I have to try, I have to report, I have to at least show up in the course.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 41 - 41 (0)  And the power of the group was helping me out.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 41 - 41 (0)  So it was helping me a lot  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 41 - 41 (0)  The live-video joint sessions were so nice.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 41 - 41 (0)  It helped me to realise that the other PhD candidates were struggling with things that I had been struggling with too.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 42 - 42 (0)  Being able to give them some advice was helpful to me, and I got strength from them.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 42 - 42 (0)  It was so valuable to talk to you from time to time about my writing problems, the difficult situation with my supervisors, how to structure my part-time work better, and so on.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 42 - 42 (0)  This was so insightful and very, very helpful.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 42 - 42 (0)  During PhD Success Lab, I started being much more honest with my two supervisors, mentioning my difficulties with the project and what I was going through.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 44 - 44 (0)  As a response to that, my second supervisor became very active.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 44 - 44 (0)  We then had meetings every four to six weeks, which we hadn’t before.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 44 - 44 (0)  I decided for myself what exactly I needed to work on for the dissertation and that’s it.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 45 - 45 (0)  This was immensely motivating and helpful.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 48 - 48 (0)  Your body needs a deadline.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 48 - 48 (0)  I said, “Guys, that’s it, there’s no more new analyses, no more new topics, now let’s get this dissertation done.”  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 49 - 49 (0)  But this new writing routine helped me to get small steps done.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 54 - 54 (0)  There was only this one hour and no time for endless doubts or pointless editing.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 54 - 54 (0)  And then in the early morning, the flow was effortless because I was still in a good state of mind.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 55 - 55 (0)  There was no time to re-read and be hypercritical of it.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 56 - 56 (0)  And then in the evening when I was reading what I had written in the morning, it appeared much better than I thought it would and I could go about editing in a productive way.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 56 - 56 (0)  Yeah, this time lapse meant that I could be effectively critical, so to speak.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 58 - 58 (0)  I was still critical of my writing, but in a constructive way.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 58 - 58 (0)  I was not emotionally beating myself up, telling myself oh, I’m so bad. I’m so bad.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 58 - 58 (0)  In the evenings I was emotionally distanced from what I wrote in the morning and then I could say, okay, one more word here, let’s put this sentence there, easy going.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 58 - 58 (0)  But having this one-hour in the morning, and maybe 1-2 in the evenings every day meant that I could keep the ball rolling.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 61 - 61 (0)  And then when I had more time, I was already warmed up.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 61 - 61 (0)  I had the ball there and could just throw, throw, throw and continue.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 61 - 61 (0)  That made a huge difference!  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 61 - 61 (0)  That changed everything because for the first time, I had supervision and the administration was very welcoming.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 69 - 69 (0)  They were so kind to me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 69 - 69 (0)  They just said, “Okay, sit tight, it’ll take us a while to process all your records, but we’ll sort it out for you.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 69 - 69 (0)  We’ll get you in here as a PhD,” and that’s what they did.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 69 - 69 (0)  And just like the administration, my supervisor at Bamberg University was also very supportive – they worked together very nicely.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 69 - 69 (0)  pack it up and go somewhere else where you’ll get more understanding and support.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 74 - 74 (0)  Having completed the degree in the end is so important to me because of all these struggles, and now I feel like no one can ever attack me again.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 75 - 75 (0)  I have this PhD degree from a well-recognized German public university in my scientific field.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 75 - 75 (0)  If you’re in the middle of it now and you still have a lot of ideas, start to reduce.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 79 - 79 (0)  From the first day of your project, go out, go to conferences, and present what you plan to do.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 80 - 80 (0)  You’ll meet people, you’ll get positive feedback.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 82 - 82 (0)  You’ll get input and ideas from other researchers, and then you can use this to improve your work.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 82 - 82 (0)  This way, you’re much more proactive and less passive and you’ll gain confidence.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 82 - 82 (0)  You’ll meet amazing people out there and you can build a network of people that you can work with and who support you, who may even become your friends.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 83 - 83 (0)  I think that’s very important because that is what remains.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 83 - 83 (0) |  |
|  | And that was it: I was hooked.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 3 - 3 (0)  The process of preparing and writing that essay was so engaging that I knew I just had to stay doing this kind of thing.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 3 - 3 (0)  I was determined to become a researcher, and I even had an idea of what type of research I’d like to do.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 3 - 3 (0)  I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to work on a ground-breaking research project for the next three years, with Professors Mary Crock, Ben Saul and Ron McCallum, at Sydney Law School.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  With these three professors, I acquired so many new skills crucial to young academics: preparing and amending a large ethics application; organizing and then actually conducting international fieldwork across three different continents; writing journal articles and book chapters; presenting at the UN; and, finally, publishing a book!  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 4 - 4 (0)  I had managed to continue pursuing my interest in refugee application processes during my Master and when I was looking into my next steps, knew I’d found my dream supervisor when I met Professor Ingrid Piller  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  I felt like I had a decent chance at everything coming together okay.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 6 - 6 (0)  Professor Piller’s development of regular reading groups and other activities for her (past, present and sometimes future) PhD candidates not only creates structure and shares knowledge to help them complete their candidature successfully.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 13 - 13 (0)  It also helps establish a social network of peers who are able to offer support to each other in everything from sharing useful research and navigating bureaucracy to offering a hug and reassurance when it’s needed.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 13 - 13 (0)  I had recently graduated mentors I could look to for guidance and motivation, and in turn I could reinforce my own learning and leadership skills by assisting those junior to me.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 13 - 13 (0)  What really helped me keep going is that I was researching in an area and regarding a topic that I am truly passionate about.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 15 - 15 (0)  I love reading, writing, thinking and talking about my topic and sociolinguistics more generally, and this keeps me motivated and engaged even when things aren’t always going the way I planned.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 15 - 15 (0)  While I was able to keep focusing on the research questions that interested me, with support and guidance, I adjusted my approach to overcome some of the initial issues I had with my data collection.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 16 - 16 (0)  My parental responsibilities led to a pretty large change in my lifestyle, and being flexible about the hours and location for my work (with the support of equally flexible and open-minded supervisors and employers) meant that I could find the new best fit for my day-to-day research and writing, and remain productive and ultimately meet my deadlines.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 17 - 17 (0)  I felt comfortable and familiar with the process of submitting articles and having them reviewed.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  It was reassuring in that it created extra opportunities to seek expert feedback on my writing and research.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 19 - 19 (0)  My PhD was definitely a well-rounded journey.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  The various challenges and experiences I had have encouraged me to think of the PhD a little differently to how I did when I started.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  The ups and downs, responding to challenges, seeking support, assisting others, reading, writing, navigating bureaucracy, all these are part of our learning.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0)  However, the experience will hopefully mean that we emerge better equipped to walk out into the world (whether academic or elsewhere) and navigate the challenges and opportunities that await us.  26 - Laura Smith-Khan's story (Karel): 21 - 21 (0) |  |
|  | The best way to approach the new study environment is by trying to have an objective picture  of one’s own strengths and weaknesses as they pertain to one’s studies.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 55 - 56 (0)  On way to reduce the weight of the requirements and challenges is to find out what the  dominant research discourses are within the new study environment by reading research  reports, published work and theses which were produced by current staff and previous  students of this environment (most of which should be available online).  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 66 - 69 (0)  An extensive conversation with research supervisors may also be  useful; it will help candidates to know what the supervisors expect from them in addition to  institutional general requirements.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 72 - 74 (0)  It will also help to know the kind of support they will  provide or, in other words, what they will and will not do for the candidates.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 74 - 75 (0)  This experience has taught me  that reading, reading and reading finally lead to understanding.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 107 - 108 (0)  One way to check whether the story is  understandable is to write it and share it with a colleague or a friend and see whether  they understand it; if they do not, then the candidate should be ready to answer their  questions, give clarification and incorporate the answers and explanations in the new  version of the story.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 114 - 118 (0)  The ability to tell the story to a  layman will enable the candidate to write a good research proposal, which is, actually, the  same story but now written for academics, who will read and question every point which  is made and the way it is being made, before they can accept it as an academic text.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 119 - 122 (0)  Thus, a foreigner’s eye on one’s text is always useful.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 140 - 140 (0)  Another PhD fellow, a former lecturer, a work colleague, etc. are some of the people who can  have a critical look at your text and provide you with relevant feedback.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 142 - 143 (0)  In addition,  candidates should try to read as many academic texts as possible to acquaint themselves with  academic writing which, according to Zamel (1993) quoting Bartholomae (1986), is a particular  kind of language which, according to Bourdieu, Passeron and de Saint Martin (1994, p. 8), is  ‘no one’s mother tongue, not even that of children of the cultivated class’.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 143 - 147 (0)  Indeed, research  has indicated that the good readers make good writers (Daane, 1991; Weck, 2013).  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 147 - 148 (0)  Including the researcher’s voice3 and making it heard in one’s writing is another important  element of research report, dissertation and thesis writing.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 154 - 155 (0)  Thus, PhD students can also enter the debate  and contribute their ideas and the research project gives them an opportunity to do so  without fear as there is necessarily no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ academic arguments.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 161 - 163 (0)  They should  start making their arguments for and against some of these claims with valuable reasons.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 163 - 164 (0)  In other words, they  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 165 - 165 (0)  should dare to be different (Sibomana, 2016)  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 173 - 173 (0)  The  thinking brought me to realise that I was the key player in the PhD research process and that  my supervisor was just a helper who would intervene after I have got somewhere.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 190 - 192 (0)  Indeed, my  supervisor always had more questions to ask than answers to give about my research, which  helped me understand it better.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 192 - 194 (0)  From this experience, I came to realise that research belongs  to the researcher (the student) and he or she is the one who knows best about it.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 194 - 195 (0)  Therefore,  instead of telling their supervisors, ‘please tell me what to do’ PhD students should tell them,  ‘I want to do this in this way; what do you think?’  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 195 - 197 (0)  I was lucky that my supervisor would always  give her opinion about certain issues which we did not agree on but give me a liberty to decide.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 208 - 209 (0)  One way they could achieve this is to request for a meeting with  all the supervisors at the same time, which could lead to a common conclusion and way  forward (Niyibizi, 2018).  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 221 - 223 (0)  As postgraduate research students, PhD candidates need to understand that such comments  and observations are part of a research degree process (and of life) and help them take their  research to the next level.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 248 - 250 (0)  A  careful reading of the comments and suggestions for deep understanding is one way to  benefit from these.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 253 - 255 (0)  These comments and suggestions could make a significant difference  if they could be understood and responded to effectively  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 262 - 263 (0)  Indeed, when I received the  examiners’ report on my thesis, I noted that some of their comments and criticisms were  related to my supervisors’ concerns of the kind mentioned above.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 263 - 265 (0)  be ready to ask questions no matter how ‘stupid’ they may appear, accept  challenges and be ready to change your viewpoints and understanding if necessary.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 266 - 267 (0)  Spending considerable time and effort in reading the literature related to their work is another  way of making these comments and suggestions easier to chew.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 268 - 269 (0)  This practice will  progressively build students’ self-confidence  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 269 - 270 (0)  In my case, this increased my self-confidence to  the point of taking ‘risks’.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 270 - 271 (0)  This  initiative and related fruits taught me that if you are a research degree student, you  sometimes need to take ‘a risk’ of trusting your abilities; after all, there will come a time when  you will work on your own as an academic and other people will rely on your assistance for  their academic development.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 276 - 280 (0)  Being stuck can also be a source of inspiration and a trigger for deeper thinking.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 292 - 292 (0)  Stopping working on the section or aspect for  a certain period of time and working with what one is more comfortable with at that time is  one way of dealing with any ‘stuckness’  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 294 - 296 (0)  Working with other sections or aspects will  sometimes give hints which will help understand the issues in the section one is stuck on  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 296 - 297 (0)  Leaving the section or aspect for a while in order for it to ‘ferment’ in one’s head is  another way of dealing with ‘stuckness’ which may often be fruitful.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 301 - 302 (0)  This conversation made things clearer for  me because the colleagues could use their respective topics as examples.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 309 - 310 (0)  Along with informal  conversations, students can also benefit from taking part in conferences and other academic  forums for continuously shaping their research.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 310 - 312 (0)  they should throw their ideas in, inquire, question, friendly criticise, correct, and  explore  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 313 - 314 (0)  They need to be ready to share their work with others in such forums no matter how  inadequate it may seem to them  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 314 - 315 (0)  They need to remember, it is through comments,  observations and criticisms that their work gets improved and this is the best place to get the  most relevant of these.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 315 - 317 (0)  The more the types of support the university  provides the easier the life and work of its PhD candidates becomes  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 322 - 323 (0)  My university provided  students with carrels as a working space, a personal computer and a shared printer.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 323 - 324 (0)  It also  provided them with regular opportunities to present their work in PhD workshops and get  feedback from various categories of people including fellow PhD candidates, university  lecturers and other scholars.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 324 - 327 (0)  In addition, the university provided students with funds to  attend, and present papers in, conferences in and outside the country/continent if their  conference papers have been accepted.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 327 - 329 (0)  I remember that the first conference which I attended  was funded by the university, and this led to my first publication.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 329 - 330 (0)  Moreover, the university  would pay publication fees for students’ whose papers have been accepted for publication.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 330 - 331 (0)  In the final year of their PhD completion, candidates could apply for a PhD completion grant  to help them with the final stages such as paying editors, printing, and meet some other  expenses especially because many exceed the completion time agreed by their sponsors  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 332 - 334 (0)  On  top of this, the university had different types of scholarship available for PhD candidates in  the different faculties.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 334 - 336 (0)  In short, I can say that my colleagues and I had privileges which many  PhD students in other universities did not have.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 336 - 337 (0)  She helped me from the inception of the paper to the last version which  was published: she proofread my drafts, helped me understand and address reviewers’  comments and advised me in various ways.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 349 - 351 (0)  This boosted my confidence and competence in academic writing  and brought me to a stage where I could conceptualize a paper and have it published.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 354 - 355 (0)  As a  result, publishing from my PhD thesis was not very difficult for me.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 355 - 356 (0)  When I submitted it to the third  one, it was accepted with revisions.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 368 - 369 (0)  But the bottom line is that publishing is another way to learn.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 377 - 377 (0)  Thus, by responding to the  reviewers’ recommendations and suggestions the writers are not just satisfying the  requirements of the journals/publishing houses; they are also deepening their understanding  of various concepts and theories in the area.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 377 - 380 (0)  Thus, both a rejection and acceptance constitute  learning opportunities.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 380 - 381 (0)  A community like this  will benefit PhD candidates in several ways.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 397 - 398 (0)  Since the members are going through the same  process and, possibly, facing the same challenges, they can understand one another best.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 398 - 399 (0)  Thus, it is a place where people can share their confusions, frustrations and weaknesses and  ask any questions without fear of being judged.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 400 - 401 (0)  At the university that I attended, the connection  between PhD students was facilitated by the fact that they had carrels in the same space.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 418 - 419 (0)  This  provided them with opportunities to interact and discuss the various aspects of their work  and thereby encourage one another in different ways.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 419 - 421 (0)  Thus, they need to understand that while doing a PhD  requires a constant focus, taking a short ‘holiday’ from it and engaging in social activities for  a while actually may make a difference regarding the progress of the PhD research.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 432 - 434 (0)  It refreshes  the mind by releasing it of tense and routine activity and offering an opportunity to think  about and work on something different.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 434 - 436 (0)  Therefore, they should go to church, sing in a choir,  do sports, attend weddings and birthday parties, take you family or friend(s) out, visit  relatives, or go to a night club if that is convenient for them.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 436 - 438 (0)  PhD students need to view any event or incident as an opportunity to learn  something which will help them push their work ahead.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 450 - 451 (0)  All they need is to  objectively assess and believe in their abilities, and use these as such with a determination to  make them work no matter how difficult the task which lies ahead may be.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 453 - 455 (0) |  |
|  | I was lucky that my supervisor would always  give her opinion about certain issues which we did not agree on but give me a liberty to decide  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 208 - 209 (0)  These two  abstracts were eventually accepted and related papers presented  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 274 - 275 (0)  Now, the two papers have  been turned into a book chapter and a journal article which have now been published  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 275 - 276 (0)  Being stuck can also be a source of inspiration and a trigger for deeper thinking  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 292 - 292 (0)  Leaving the section or aspect for a while in order for it to ‘ferment’ in one’s head is  another way of dealing with ‘stuckness’ which may often be fruitful  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 301 - 302 (0)  This conversation made things clearer for  me because the colleagues could use their respective topics as examples  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 309 - 310 (0) |  |
|  | Do it because you like to research.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  Having a good lab to work with for 5 - 6 years of your research will be very helpful.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  When it comes to publishing papers, it is important to understand that submitting your manuscript and getting rejected does not mean you are not good enough, it means the journal’s focus and readers are likely not the target audience for the type of research you have done.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  Also, applying for a PhD program and getting rejected doesn’t still mean that you have failed, it can also mean that the professor/school does not have funding for your type of research  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 8 - 8 (0)  In microbiology, your lab medium might be wrong but knowing what went wrong at each point can be a source of truth for you in future  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  Also, your lab is your family - never forget.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  I love bacteria.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I love biology.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I would love to learn it even further and be an expert in genetics.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  My Idol is Dr Jennifer Doudna.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I have three big projects with a very touching story.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0)  I had two supportive advisors who kept encouraging me and telling me that there is no way those mutations could exist in that sample.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0)  The most exciting moment for me was when we were later told by the institution that there was no mutation.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0)  I was so excited.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0)  Faith in humanity restored, lol.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 22 - 22 (0)  Taehoon is a very supportive partner, and was very supportive throughout my PhD studies.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  During ups and downs, he understood me as a researcher.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  He understood the workload involved in my research.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  He has no discrimination against women in science and shares ideas about my research.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  He supports my career and he supports my life.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  Family is everything to me.  28 - Trinh Lam's story (Simon): 28 - 28 (0) |  |
|  | In summary, my research enhanced the understanding of the optophysiological response of the retina under different light conditions and established an experimental basis for future clinical applications.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 2 - 2 (0)  My PhD journey was very nice  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  As a PhD student, you have protection from school and your advisor  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Your time is flexible and not so stringent as being in the industry.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  You have the advantage to attend conferences fully paid for and, at this stage, the only thing I worried about was doing good research  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Also, you have nothing to worry about if you make a mistake because people expect you to make a mistake since you are a student  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  So, it was a nice journey to me.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Performing experiments during the weekend is a lot better because there are few people in the lab so you can have less distraction, better focus and better results\*.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  It is very important to have a constant schedule or habit like this for a PhD program, especially a program that involves a lot of experiments  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  However, I encourage students to try finding a balance between academic and non-academic skills  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  I would advise anyone to get a PhD if there is no urgency in their life  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  That’s why I said if there is no current urgency in your life, you should probably get a PhD  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  Also, being innately curious and having enough grit, to me, is more important than being smart or having any form of ability.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  I will encourage new students to be self-motivated.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  A self-motivated student is constantly discussing new ideas and new projects with his/her advisor  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  Wherever I am, I will be a scientist who enjoys the research.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  Moving to UIC was an exciting moment  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 24 - 24 (0)  Publishing first-authored papers were great moments  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 24 - 24 (0)  Going to the Bay area for a postdoc was a big achievement as well.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 24 - 24 (0)  These things happen rarely so the memories of it happening to me excite me every time I think about it  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 24 - 24 (0)  After several publications, it has become clearer  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 26 - 26 (0)  She was always there for me  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 28 - 28 (0)  We helped each other, read each other’s work and supported each othe  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 28 - 28 (0)  She was always positive, especially whenever I faced a roadblock.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 28 - 28 (0)  She directly impacted my PhD success in so many ways.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 28 - 28 (0)  Fulfillment to me means you are doing what you are really excited about.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Dominik): 30 - 30 (0) |  |
|  | My PhD journey was very nice. Although it was difficult, I had fun all the way. As a PhD student, you have protection from school and your advisor. Your time is flexible and not so stringent as being in the industry. You have the advantage to attend conferences fully paid for and, at this stage, the only thing I worried about was doing good research. Also, you have nothing to worry about if you make a mistake because people expect you to make a mistake since you are a student. So, it was a nice journey to me.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 4 - 4 (0)  I will encourage new students to be self-motivated.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 14 - 14 (0)  Wherever I am, I will be a scientist who enjoys the research.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 16 - 16 (0)  Moving to UIC was an exciting moment. Publishing first-authored papers were great moments. Going to the Bay area for a postdoc was a big achievement as well. These things happen rarely so the memories of it happening to me excite me every time I think about it.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 24 - 24 (0)  Trinh really impacted my research a lot. She was always there for me. We helped each other, read each other’s work and supported each other. She was always positive, especially whenever I faced a roadblock. She directly impacted my PhD success in so many ways.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 28 - 28 (0)  Fulfillment to me means you are doing what you are really excited about.  29 - Taehoon Kim's story (Katerina): 30 - 30 (0) |  |
|  | He added that I was one of the most intelligent people he had met (we met during our undergrad days)  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 3 - 3 (0)  I have learnt so much…  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 8 - 8 (0)  I have grown so much…  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 8 - 8 (0)  I wouldn’t have done things any differently  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 8 - 8 (0)  Our interaction has been one of the most revolutionary moments of my career  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  Of course, he agreed  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  So, it was a win/win for me  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 9 - 9 (0)  I do not see my African PhD as a disadvantage  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 12 - 12 (0)  In fact, I think it is a competitive advantage  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 12 - 12 (0)  These skills, and other skills I have learnt in the process, have defined (and refined) me, and I would not trade these experiences for anything in the world  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 12 - 12 (0)  With my (African) PhD, my career prospects are limitless  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 14 - 14 (0)  I know my worth, and I am confident enough to know how valuable I would be to any organisation that I choose to work with  30 - Pearl Akazue's story (Michael): 14 - 14 (0) |  |
|  | The US-Canada borders were open at that time for students  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  So, I could travel to Canada and start my PhD  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  The immigration process was simple  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  I had a lot of help with move related stuff from other students and members of Andrea’s chair CERC  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 3 - 3 (0)  But, since this is not my first time, I knew what to focus on  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  All the things went quite smooth  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Here also I had relatively easier process since I could exchange my US driving license instead of getting a new one from scratch  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  I thought it would be hard, but it was not.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  It is easy to get the highest grades if we focus on the learning parts  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  But anyway, I survived those as wel  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  He sent me a paper about column generation and I liked that.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  He is an expert in column generation  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 8 - 8 (0)  They pay a lot of money in the USA  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  Here, I do get a stipend that is not taxable and is enough for living a decent life  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 10 - 10 (0)  This basically works as accountability, so it is good for avoiding procrastination  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  At this point, the stipend is enough to cover my expenses, so I am not looking for other income sources.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  This part was again not so hard since I had just finished those courses.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  Also, the examiners are just too lazy.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  They repeated a lot of questions from the previous exams.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  Andrea found an interesting idea for the second project  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  I had an idea for it, Andrea and Guy seemed fine with it, and I added it to the proposal.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  This was totally worth the efforts  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  I learned a lot about writing during this process  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 14 - 14 (0)  So, I'm not really facing any mental health issues  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 16 - 16 (0)  Hopefully, I will have better ideas as I move forward  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Dominik): 17 - 17 (0) |  |
|  | All the things went quite smooth.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 4 - 4 (0)  Here also I had relatively easier process since I could exchange my US driving license instead of getting a new one from scratch.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 4 - 4 (0)  I thought it would be hard, but it was not.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 6 - 6 (0)  It is easy to get the highest grades if we focus on the learning parts.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 6 - 6 (0)  He sent me a paper about column generation and I liked that.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 8 - 8 (0)  Here, I do get a stipend that is not taxable and is enough for living a decent life.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 10 - 10 (0)  This basically works as accountability, so it is good for avoiding procrastination.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 11 - 11 (0)  At this point, the stipend is enough to cover my expenses, so I am not looking for other income sources.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 11 - 11 (0)  This part was again not so hard since I had just finished those courses.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 13 - 13 (0)  This was totally worth the efforts.  31 - Krunal Patel's story (Marek): 14 - 14 (0) |  |
|  | I had found myself successful during my masters and I knew that staying here was a good choice both personally and academically.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  It would allow me to grow as a person and as a scholar, and I could also stay in Umbria  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  Umbria is one of the regions of Italy I love most: for the people I met there, for its culture and monuments, and above all, for its food!  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 4 - 4 (0)  At this event I met two people to whom I owe a lot of thanks: Dr. Maria Pretzler, Associate Professor in Ancient History, and her PhD student - and now my colleague - Thomas Husoy, who each encouraged me to propose my project to some of the lecturers of the English department at Swansea University.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  was lucky to come across the work of my (now) supervisor, Dr. Richard Robinson, Associate Professor in English Literature, who is also a comparativist.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  He was thrilled that I had made contact and was excited by my project.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  After a few months (and several corrections to my draft!), I was admitted to Swansea University.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 6 - 6 (0)  March 11th 2021 was the best day of my life - the day I received my conditional offer!  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  Everything I had worked and studied so much for was finally materializing before my eyes  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 7 - 7 (0)  Now I’d like to be honest and state that coming to study at Swansea University was the best chance I could have given myself in life.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  The United Kingdom (and especially Wales) has not only been a place where I can develop as a student and scholar, but it has also allowed me to feel free  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  Free to express my opinions and ideas at university (always with respect and kindness) without having to fear that someone will misinterpret you or take offence  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  You are able to speak freely without the level of reverence that you have to show in Italy, particularly when talking to lecturers!  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  Whenever I write a chapter of my thesis, or simply go to a meeting with my supervisor, I feel that my work is respected; I feel appreciated and, even when I receive criticism or corrections, I know that they are not destructive or mean-spirited, but that they are made to allow me to improve and move forward with my work  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 11 - 11 (0)  Furthermore, even though I am only in the first year of my PhD course, my university has given me the enormous opportunity of working as a teaching assistant and teaching Italian to a class of third years  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  Undertaking the responsibility of teaching for the first time has been one of the highlights of this academic year  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  Being able to speak my language with them and deal with important issues has helped me to recognise that grammar is not the most important aspect of teaching a foreign language  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  It has also taught me the importance of making mistakes and learning lessons from them  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  n the one semester that I have been teaching I feel I have grown a lot as an academic, and I hope that next semester I will be given the same opportunity.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  While teaching this course, I have also met my mentor, Dr. Giovanna Donzelli, who become not just a great example for me as a teacher, but also as a person  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  It is inspiring getting to know Italian academics (my wonderful co-supervisor Dr. Roberta Magnani is also Italian), and thinking about all they have done before me helps me to move forward on my academic journey.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  I hope one that that I can live up to their example, to not only get through a PhD course, but a PhD course far away from Italy  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 12 - 12 (0)  I would like to conclude this article offering advice to those who have felt the heartache, loneliness, and aimlessness of undertaking a PhD: don’t give up  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  We're all in this together!  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0)  And, as always, our motivation will carry us forward.  32 - Marika Strano's story (Dominik): 13 - 13 (0) |  |
|  | The actual journey started on a rather interesting note from my work place to the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Marek): 2 - 2 (0)  On getting to South Africa, I met with the man who will later change some of my perspectives about life!  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Marek): 3 - 3 (0)  hen the bombshell came when the PhD coordinator said it was not possible for me to enroll in the programme because there are backlogs of students.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Marek): 3 - 3 (0)  The APSP fits into my programme perfectly because I was sure the programme would add value to my PhD.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Marek): 5 - 5 (0) |  |
|  | And this happened to be the beginning of an amazing PhD journey.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Maxim): 4 - 4 (0)  I learnt about cutting edge innovative activities from different top firms  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Maxim): 4 - 4 (0)  Of note was how the two Academies fit perfectly well into my PhD programme.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Maxim): 4 - 4 (0) |  |
|  | Beginning doctoral studies is one important step and is great for many reasons including self-esteem, usefulness to society and contribution to science fields especially when science is a passion.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  With the support, determination and focus, I completed my PhD in the best possible time and I fully admit that it was a unique and enjoyable experience in its substance.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 2 - 2 (0)  I can absolutely empathize with what Thomas Edison said about success  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  I had passion for agro-ecology and I realized that when you are passionately committed to research, it becomes interesting knowing that you are working towards an important goal.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 6 - 6 (0)  I was fortunate to have very supportive supervisors who guided me through the various constraints.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  I have a thought full of gratitude towards my promoters for the guidance and friendly working environment, which contributed significantly to my training and to the successful completion of this work.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  The scientific and human values linked to their personalities will always be worth my full admiration.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  A very important thing to consider in the success of doctoral studies is the network in which doctoral studies are supported.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0)  This network constitutes a real anchor tool in matters of support and motivation.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 10 - 10 (0)  my sincere gratitude goes to these three institutions.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 11 - 11 (0)  This is also a great asset in the personal development in terms of career within the context of an environment that is too unpredictable and especially in a key area of society like agriculture.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  Thanks to RUFORUM, through my thesis, I have succeeded in gaining a series of knowledge on agroecology as a major tool for the sustainability of production and production factors in a pivotal area of agriculture, the market gardening.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  The answer is a resounding yes!  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0)  I was not born intelligent; it was hard work, the support from my supervisors, my Universities and RUFORUM that got me where I am now. I am glad to have chosen this path.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0)  My PhD journey has made me more resilient and optimistic for my personal destiny, the destiny of my country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the destiny of my Province, South Kivu and the destiny of Africa my Continent and even the world our absolute heritage  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 19 - 19 (0) |  |
|  | A tale of joy, success and celebration.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 9 - 9 (0)  The prospects of moving to Paris, immersing myself in a new culture and learning a new area of law proved compelling.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 14 - 14 (0)  Fortunately, they were happy to have me, so I accepted to join them, starting 2 January, 2017.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 15 - 15 (0)  I can still remember the scream of excitement and surprise when I opened the offer letter.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 18 - 18 (0)  It seemed God had a trick up his sleeves after all.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 18 - 18 (0)  I got a lifetime membership of the Oxford Union and thoroughly enjoyed listening to speeches and debates and meeting several world leaders.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 21 - 21 (0)  Third, it was crucial to me for my family to get up to a good financial start after marriage, and CNL offered me a solid opportunity to achieve this.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 25 - 25 (0)  First, my wife was a neck and shoulder beyond excellent and without her support and patience in my manic schedules, I would almost certainly have given up.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 29 - 29 (0)  Brave as a lion, my wife carried the pregnancy with remarkable grace and strength.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 32 - 32 (0)  Each 10km run or 20km walk came with a promise that if you only pushed yourself further, you can achieve the next milestone.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 33 - 33 (0)  My Dad was also the strongest man I knew.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 36 - 36 (0)  God granted him more than he asked for: he saw my mom become a Professor and rise to senior leadership roles in her university; and he also saw me enter into and finish from the university, the Nigerian Law School and Cambridge.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 36 - 36 (0)  The viva proved to be a challenging, but overall pleasant experience.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 50 - 50 (0)  The pain, sweat and tears were over.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 51 - 51 (0)  I smiled back and woke up with renewed confidence to trudge along in the wilderness of life.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 52 - 52 (0) |  |
|  | A few days ago, I was chatting with a good friend of mine.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 7 - 7 (0)  A tale of joy, success and celebration.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 9 - 9 (0)  Following my admission to the Nigerian Bar in 2013, I was fortunate to work in Olaniwun Ajayi LP, one of Nigeria’s leading law practices.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  In the same year, I applied to the flagship Master of Corporate Law (MCL) programme in the University of Cambridge, and I was fortunate to be admitted in 2014.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  My programme in Cambridge was 50% funded by a generous bursary from Herbert Smith Freehills LLP.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  One chance event happened in Cambridge which would later have a tremendous influence on my Oxford DPhil:  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 12 - 12 (0)  Following a relatively successful (but extremely eventful) year in Cambridge, I joined Herbert Smith Freehills in London in September of 2015 and worked there until October of 2016.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 13 - 13 (0)  On the other hand, strongly influenced by my father, I knew if I was to achieve a doctorate, it was probably better to return to the classroom sooner rather than later.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 13 - 13 (0)  The prospects of moving to Paris, immersing myself in a new culture and learning a new area of law proved compelling.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 14 - 14 (0)  I maintained very good relationships with the leadership of the firm and enjoyed the quality of work I did there.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 15 - 15 (0)  Fortunately, they were happy to have me, so I accepted to join them, starting 2 January, 2017.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 15 - 15 (0)  My father kept reiterating that this was probably the best time to take a doctorate.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  He warned me that admissions to the Oxford DPhil were extremely competitive, but graciously accepted to supervise my research if I secured admission.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 16 - 16 (0)  I had a good time re-connecting with my former job in January and February.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 17 - 17 (0)  I can still remember the scream of excitement and surprise when I opened the offer letter.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  It seemed like God was throwing me a lifeline.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  The miracle had been completed!  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  My supervisor (a fantastic, fantastic academic and gentleman) immersed me first into the economics of capital markets before I started any legal research.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 21 - 21 (0)  This meant I had covered an impressive amount of material very quickly after resumption.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 21 - 21 (0)  I got a lifetime membership of the Oxford Union and thoroughly enjoyed listening to speeches and debates and meeting several world leaders.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 21 - 21 (0)  Third, it was crucial to me for my family to get up to a good financial start after marriage, and CNL offered me a solid opportunity to achieve this.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 25 - 25 (0)  Fortunately, my university scholarship was not revoked but was restructured to take account of my new mode of study.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  Fortunately, my wife also got a job in Nigeria, and she joined me a few weeks later.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 26 - 26 (0)  A few things helped me through this phase.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  First, my wife was a neck and shoulder beyond excellent and without her support and patience in my manic schedules, I would almost certainly have given up.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  Second, I invested heavily in and leveraged on technology.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  I sharpened my ability to work at any time of the day and in the most distracting circumstances.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  Third, my job was teaching me to have a proper approach to receiving feedback.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  Therefore, even after receiving tough comments to draft work I submitted to my supervisor, I learned to take this feedback as akin to the purification of gold in fire: the output will always be better.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  Finally, I learned the benefit of setting clear (even if ambitious) goals.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  As time went on, I got better at giving clear indications of timelines and got more strategic on what my key focus areas were and what I will need to do to achieve them.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 29 - 29 (0)  Brave as a lion, my wife carried the pregnancy with remarkable grace and strength.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 32 - 32 (0)  At the time, I was getting to a good place with my research and I had already gotten used to continuing my DPhil remotely.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 33 - 33 (0)  Each 10km run or 20km walk came with a promise that if you only pushed yourself further, you can achieve the next milestone.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 33 - 33 (0)  Fortunately, as is customary in Nigeria, my wife and I got incredible support from both of our parents, both of whom spent weeks with us at different times in the first few months of our son’s birth.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 34 - 34 (0)  . Fortunately, at this time, all the substantive chapters of my thesis had been completed, and I only had to write the introductory and concluding chapters.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 34 - 34 (0)  By the end of 2020, the thesis was looking in good enough shape.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 34 - 34 (0)  Throughout my educational journey, he had been my hero.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 36 - 36 (0)  My Dad was also the strongest man I knew.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 36 - 36 (0)  Early in the morning of Tuesday, 29 December, we got positive news from the hospital.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 40 - 40 (0)  My Dad was an avid lover of country music and high life.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 40 - 40 (0)  Like amateur DJs, we started putting together a fine collection of Don Williams, Kenny Rogers and Anne Murray.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 40 - 40 (0)  My colleagues in the office were extremely kind: they gave me the time I needed to grieve.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 42 - 42 (0)  He died at 81 and was extremely content with the life he led.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 48 - 48 (0)  It was the only tribute I could give to my hero.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 48 - 48 (0)  I considered my examiners absolute gods in the field of corporate law and finance  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 49 - 49 (0)  The prevailing view seemed to be that they were tough but fair examiners and their feedback would be extremely helpful for the thesis itself and for what I do with it thereafter.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 49 - 49 (0)  The viva proved to be a challenging, but overall pleasant experience.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0)  I was particularly delighted and surprised with how familiar they seemed to be with my 390-paged thesis, clear evidence that they had read the thesis carefully before the viva.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0)  With all I had been through, I considered this to be a fair outcome.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0)  The pain, sweat and tears were over.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 51 - 51 (0)  Unlike the 81-year-old man struggling for life, he was full of life and looking like a young man in his mid-thirties.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 52 - 52 (0)  He smiled broadly as if happy with the journey his son had undertaken.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 52 - 52 (0)  Encouraging me after I told him of my Dad’s passing on 9 January 2021, he had said  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 52 - 52 (0)  I smiled back and woke up with renewed confidence to trudge along in the wilderness of life.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 52 - 52 (0) |  |
| surprised | I didn’t really even know what an engineer did, even while I was in the engineering program  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  And we went out there, we were sucking up ants and finding all kinds of cool things in the field and it suddenly dawned on me that for some reason I had never really thought that you could actually just be a field biologists and that field biologist actually existed.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 8 - 8 (0)  I remember taking biology classes in my undergrad but always just because I thought they were super fun and it never even really dawned on me that you could really do that as like a career.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 9 - 9 (0)  It ended up attracting a broader audience than I would have been able to connect with anyway  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 19 - 19 (0)  So I don't 100% know where things are going from here.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 23 - 23 (0)  I'm giving up this professor job!!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Dominika): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | But then where the \*\*\*\* did the biology come back in?!  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 7 - 7 (0)  And we went out there, we were sucking up ants and finding all kinds of cool things in the field and it suddenly dawned on me that for some reason I had never really thought that you could actually just be a field biologists and that field biologist actually existed.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 8 - 8 (0)  I remember taking biology classes in my undergrad but always just because I thought they were super fun and it never even really dawned on me that you could really do that as like a career.  01 - Andrew Quitmeyer's story (Karel): 9 - 9 (0) |  |
|  | The idea was so simple that I did not believe that it wasn’t used by any papers.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 34 - 34 (0)  After this milestone, I realized a change in the way my teacher talked to me and I also felt more confident when talking to him.  03 - Vu Huu Tiep's story (Katerina): 43 - 43 (0) |  |
|  | However, even though it may seem challenging to devote so much time to one piece of work, I have come to experience the thrills of some of the roller-coaster moments entailed in doing research!  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 4 - 4 (0)  From what I have seen so far, depending on your interests and time, you can also learn something new.  04 - Crefeda Rodrigues's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0) |  |
|  | I thought I  hated theories until I started understanding them  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 41 - 42 (0)  It's actually really cool when you realise that  there is enough brain in your head to see the shortcoming of some theory, criticise it and try to  find an alternative approach  05 - Elena's story (Dominika): 42 - 44 (0) |  |
|  | then you see that people that are farther on the on the way that that you are are doing all right  06 - Elvira's story (Michael): 37 - 37 (0) |  |
|  | But I soon realized that my PhD was different — in a number of ways — from what I'd done before.  10 - Jack's story (Maxim): 11 - 11 (0) |  |
|  | It takes a surprisingly amount of time to grade six assignments, since each assignment is likely to make different design decisions.  12 - Jean-Yang's story (Marek): 24 - 24 (0) |  |
|  | Contrary to my expectations, my actual contributions to the LOD2 project were rarely related to my Ph.D.  14 - Jindrich's story (Simon): 25 - 25 (0) |  |
|  | And then I found out  that my university of choice no longer offered Geography  19 - Mariam's story (Michael): 19 - 20 (0) |  |
|  | I did not believe my eyes when I received a mail  informing me I scaled through the initial screening, I thought it was a fluke.  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 4 - 5 (0)  Seriously?  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0)  Interestingly, I was positively surprised by how impressed they were with my presentation during  the interview – I could not believe it  20 - Nyji's story (Dominik): 41 - 42 (0) |  |
|  | It's hard to believe that I am done with my first full academic year at Tufts.  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 1 - 1 (0)  Who knew humor could help with learning.  24 - Vasanth-Sarathy's story (Maxim): 2 - 2 (0) |  |
|  | My second supervisor, surprisingly, also found the right words to encourage me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominik): 32 - 32 (0) |  |
|  | I think my high point emotionally, as weird as it may sound, was actually before the defense  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  The next day, I thought, It’s not real  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  It can’t be, I can’t be that far already  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  It was only when I held it in my hands that I realized the amount of work and effort that had gone into it  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 10 - 10 (0)  And I underestimated the amount of administration that I had to tackle parallel to the scientific tasks.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 16 - 16 (0)  My second supervisor, surprisingly, also found the right words to encourage me.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 32 - 32 (0)  It helped me to realise that the other PhD candidates were struggling with things that I had been struggling with too.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 42 - 42 (0)  And then in the evening when I was reading what I had written in the morning, it appeared much better than I thought it would and I could go about editing in a productive way.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 56 - 56 (0)  But when I enrolled at Bamberg University, it was decided that no, your dissertation is not going to be cumulative, you’re going to write a monograph because that’s what all our PhDs here do, even though I had everything in the pipeline already for a cumulative dissertation.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 70 - 70 (0)  I felt personally attacked when my first university told me that they would not enroll me because I did not tick the usual boxes.  25 - Amandine Colson's story (Dominika): 74 - 74 (0) |  |
|  | When I chatted with him  as he was analysing his data he said, ‘I didn’t know what I was talking about! Even what I  have now is so challenging to analyse’  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 89 - 91 (0)  While I have found all aspects of PhD challenging, I have realised that the one of the top  challenging tasks is to write ‘academically’ and make one’s readers understand what one  wants them to understand or make them understand things the way one understands  them  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 124 - 127 (0)  This remark got me disappointed and surprised at the same time  but also got me to think deeply about the kind of support I should expect from her.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 189 - 190 (0)  The  thinking brought me to realise that I was the key player in the PhD research process and that  my supervisor was just a helper who would intervene after I have got somewhere.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 190 - 192 (0)  From this experience, I came to realise that research belongs  to the researcher (the student) and he or she is the one who knows best about it.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 194 - 195 (0)  Indeed, when I received the  examiners’ report on my thesis, I noted that some of their comments and criticisms were  related to my supervisors’ concerns of the kind mentioned above.  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Dominika): 263 - 265 (0) |  |
|  | I didn’t know what I was talking about!  27 - Emmanuel Sibomana's story (Michael): 90 - 90 (0) |  |
|  | But then, I left anyway!  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Maxim): 2 - 2 (0)  For some reasons, the man I was meeting for the first time stepped in and told the coordinator that he has to take me in.  33 - Maruf Sanni's story (Maxim): 3 - 3 (0) |  |
|  | Indeed, the journey to this doctorate has not been as seamless as one would expect.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0)  There have been twists and turns as well as unexpected obstacles.  34 - Shakanye Ndjadi Serge's story (Simon): 5 - 5 (0) |  |
|  | But on further reflection, it struck me  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 8 - 8 (0)  On Friday, 17 March 2017, just two days into my work in Paris, the unexpected happened: I got into Oxford!  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 17 - 17 (0)  The miracle had been completed!  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 18 - 18 (0)  And it seemed my prayer was answered.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 40 - 40 (0)  Unlike the 81-year-old man struggling for life, he was full of life and looking like a young man in his mid-thirties.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Maxim): 52 - 52 (0) |  |
|  | On Friday, 17 March 2017, just two days into my work in Paris, the unexpected happened:  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 17 - 17 (0)  I can still remember the scream of excitement and surprise when I opened the offer letter.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 18 - 18 (0)  I was particularly delighted and surprised with how familiar they seemed to be with my 390-paged thesis, clear evidence that they had read the thesis carefully before the viva.  35 - Reginald Aziza's story (Simon): 50 - 50 (0) |  |