

# Early Career Perspectives – Tales from an Interdisciplinary Social Scientist

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# Useful things I learned

- Make the most of any overseas conferences / fieldwork – try to visit institutions, give seminars, develop your own potential collaborators;
- Grants and publications – aim high, but don't get excessively hung up on huge numbers / impact factors...small grants can lead to bigger grants, papers in discipline-specific journals can also be influential and read!

# What I wish I knew

- Career can go in unexpected directions – something that's a tangent in your PhD could become a core research interest;
- Interdisciplinarity – interdisciplinary research great, but retaining theoretical / disciplinary base helpful for hiring? Or – how can you make yourself attractive to a range of departments?
- Don't be too competitive? Different people's careers move in different ways and at different speeds depending on personal circumstances, specialisation, discipline etc etc...