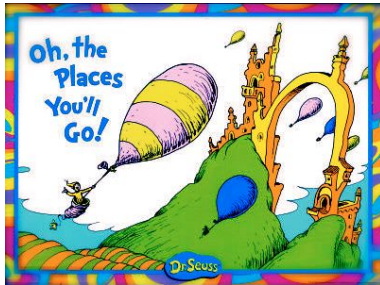


## A career in academia



Dr Bronwyn Hajek, Lecturer, School of ITMS

# My pathway into academia

1997 Bachelor of Science (Physics)  
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1999 Master of Environmental Science (Honours)  
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2004 PhD (Applied Mathematics)  
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- Solution of PDEs with application to population genetics

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And then the pathway to academia *begins*...

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Yay!

Not uncommon to land your first permanent job 10 years after your PhD

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But life in contract research positions is not all bad.

# Tasks in a normal week

- Research (nominally 40%)
  - research meetings, my research, write and submit publications, write and submit grant applications, supervise PhD students
- Teaching (nominally 40%, actually >60%)
  - writing lecture notes, teaching (lectures, tutorials), write assignments and exams, student consultation, replying to student emails, mentoring/counseling, marking, grading, moderation, websites, managing tutors, curriculum planning meetings
- Other duties
  - committees (internal and external), paper reviews, conference organisation

# Build your CV

- Publications in top journals
- Submit grant applications – there are no excuses!
- Teaching experience
- Experience at different institutions (or overseas)
- Supervision
- Speak at conferences (*don't undervalue networking*)
- Conference organisation (*don't undervalue networking*)
- Membership of committees (*don't undervalue networking*)
- Administrative duties (eg School seminar organiser)

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Make a name for yourself!

## Other important things

- Get yourself a mentor (or two!)
- **Manage your time**
- Keep abreast of the wider scene
- Gain experience at different institutions
- Volunteer

## Other important things

**You can do it!** (ie Social Confidence for 4 year olds)



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*Oscar Organisation*



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*Ricky Resilience*



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# Other important things

**You can do it!** (ie Social Confidence for 4 year olds)

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*Ricky Resilience*



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Also *Connie Confidence* and *Gabby Get-along*

Making time for your “other” life

# Making time for your “other” life

Prioritise (and don't be afraid to change your priorities)

At work

- Be organised, have routines
- Use technology
- Use snippets of time usefully
- Arrange your tasks in blocks of time
  - daily, weekly, yearly
- The 80/20 rule
- Arrange for visitors to come to you
- Speak with others in a similar situation to share ideas
  - time management, approaching ROPE for grant writing, job applications and promotions

# Making time for your “other” life

## At home

- Be organised, have routines
- Your time is precious – manage it well!
  - plan for leftovers, use the timer on the washing machine, outsource
- Get support if possible (partner, parents, other family, babysitters)

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Academic life is tough, but worth it!