



**Working Effectively with PhD Supervisors
(and other staff)**

**ESRC IAA Impact Workshop:
Towards maximising international PhD students' experience**

Professor Robert MacIntosh &
Professor Kevin O'Gorman

School of Social Sciences




The PhD Blog.com



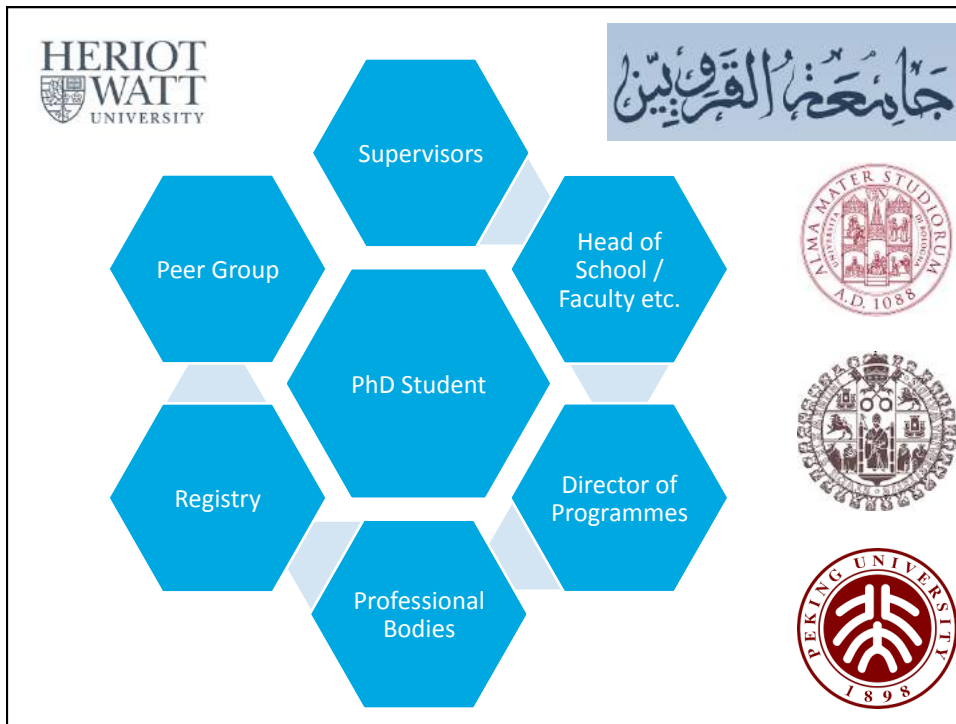
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It's your DATA
www.itisnotyouitsyourdata.com

LEADERS IN IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS



Introduction

- Universities are exceptionally complex social structures
- Our Question: “how best to effect induction into the unspoken culture of HE”
- For Example: Top 10 Hints for How to Manage Your Supervisor
- Career Development Advice



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Initial Attempts ...

The PhD Blog.com

Saturday, 25 February 2017

How to Co-author Effectively

About The PhD Blog

This blog is for anyone who is thinking about, or is already doing, doctoral level research. The blog is

It's not YOU
It's your DATA

Home About Us Methods Map The Academic Journey The PhD Blog

Knowledge

PhD

It's not you...it's your data!
A collaborative guide to take you through all the steps of university life.


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Refinements ...




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and finally ...



TOP TEN HINTS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOCTORAL PROGRAMME




ROBERT MACINTOSH
KEVIN O'GORMAN

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION


More articles by Kevin O'Gorman



Career advice: how to get promoted in academia

Robert Macintosh and Kevin O'Gorman offer advice on climbing the career ladder


March 16th 2017



Career advice: how to co-author a research paper

Working with other academics can be tricky so follow some key rules, say Kevin O'Gorman and Robert Macintosh


February 23rd 2017



Nine things all PhD students should do at least once

Doctoral study can seem like a 24/7 endeavour, but don't ignore these other opportunities, advise Robert Macintosh and Kevin O'Gorman


January 25th 2017



How to manage your PhD supervisor

Understanding the unwritten rules of graduate study is vital. If you want to get the most from your PhD supervisor, say Kevin O'Gorman and Robert Macintosh


January 12th 2017



Find a PhD: how to choose the right doctorate

Selecting the right doctorate is crucial for success. Robert Macintosh and Kevin O'Gorman share top 10 tips on how to pick a PhD

November 23rd 2016



Your first 100 days as a PhD student: a checklist



Starting a PhD might feel like beginning a journey into uncharted territory. So having a clear sense of direction in the first 100 days is vital, explain Kevin



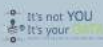
November 2nd 2016

TOP TEN HINTS ON HOW TO MANAGE YOUR SUPERVISOR

- 1 TAKE NOTES**
Write things down or ask permission to record the conversation. There is a fair chance that something insightful will be said that you can't quite remember.
- 2 SCHEDULE MEETINGS**
Your supervisor(s) might not even have full command of their own diaries so don't expect them to manage yours.
- 3 ESTABLISH EXPECTATIONS**
Know how much time your supervisor expects to spend with you and place yourself somewhere between "missing, presumed dead" and "stop stalking me"
- 4 THINK LIKE A DETECTIVE**
PhDs are like a complex crime scene. Gather evidence, do background checks, establish alibis, follow up leads and identify prime suspects.

- 5 GET FEEDBACK**
Combinations of coffee, cake, tea and sympathy, might make you feel better, but they aren't a substitute for honest, critical feedback.
- 6 FOLLOW THEIR ADVICE**
This is probably your first PhD but it won't be theirs so follow their advice.
- 7 DON'T CAUSE A DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT**
Beware of tensions between your first and second supervisors.
- 8 DON'T GO OFF-GRID**
Radio silence is worrying. Your supervisor is responsible for your progress and you should be worried if they are having to chase you up.
- 9 BE HONEST**
Speak up when you don't understand something, don't agree with something or can't see yourself being able to do something.
- 10 KNOW WHEN IT'S NOT WORKING**
Supervisory relationships sometimes suffer an irremediable breakdown. Be patient but recognise when all reasonable steps have been exhausted.

 @Rob_Macintosh
  @KDOGorman

4

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Formal vs. Informal Advice

PH.D. STUDENT HANDBOOK
Policies, Procedures, and Requirements
2012-2013
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PhD
Doctor of Philosophy
in Nursing
Student Handbook
2016-2017
UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. in International Studies
Student Handbook 2016-2017
The George Washington University

CHOOSE YOUR QUEST
Choose a topic that genuinely fascinates you. This will sustain you in the bleak mid-winter of your doctoral quest.

START WITH A RESEARCHABLE QUESTION
Avoid rhetorical questions or ironic provocations; make sure yours is clear, crisp and entitled to a question mark.

TOP 10 HINTS FOR CO-AUTHORING

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How to co-author a research paper

Careers Intelligence
How to get promoted in academia
Robert Macintosh and Kevin O'Gorman offer Boris advice on how to get ahead

Careers Intelligence
How to co-author a research paper
Working with other academics can be tricky so follow some key rules, say Kevin O'Gorman and Robert Macintosh

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION
WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS



TOP 10 HINTS FOR CO-AUTHORING

- 1 AGREE EVERYTHING IN ADVANCE AND CAPTURE IN A PRE-NUPITAL AGREEMENT**
Regardless of whether you are working with close friends or people you hardly know, find the time and bravado to broach the difficult issues in advance.


- 2 HAVE A CLEAR DIVISION OF LABOUR**
Agree up front who will do what in the co-authoring team such that everyone is aware that they have something substantive to do.


- 3 KNOW HOW YOUR CO-AUTHORS WORK**
Discuss the process that your new co-authors go through as they craft a publishable artefact. That way you'll know what to expect.


- 4 DEVELOP THE HIDE OF A RHINOCEROS**
Listen carefully, don't interrupt but don't worry about respectfully disagreeing with your examiners.



- 5 PULL YOUR WEIGHT**
If you are pulling your own weight in your shared endeavours then you will be better able to chastise your co-authors should the need arise.


- 6 REMEMBER THAT EDITING IS A FORM OF WRITING**
Writing the first draft and editing the final one are both forms of writing. Recognise that editing is a critical skill which more than justifies the status of co-author if done well.


- 7 REMEMBER YOUR STATUS**
All co-authors are equal, but some are more equal than others. Knowing where you are in the hierarchy can help smooth the social process.


- 8 EXPLOIT YOUR NETWORKS**
Who to work with? Think about the people you know, colleagues, supervisors, examiners are a very good place to start, who would like to work with?


- 9 (RE)EVALUATE THE EXPERIENCE**
Take the time to assess the pros and cons of each co-authoring arrangement and act on the conclusions.


- 10 BREAK UP GRACEFULLY**
Not all co-authoring relationships last so, if you have decided to go your separate ways, try to consciously uncouple in a way which doesn't do lasting damage.




[@Rob_MacIntosh](#) [@KDOGorman](#)

The PhD Blog

METHODS MAP

It's not YOU It's your **DATA**



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Q. What do you wish you'd been told as you embarked on an career in academia ?

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Questions ?

@rob_macintosh
@KDOGorman



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