**Funding, publishing, engaging, advicing: the labyrinths of academic careers**

Possible sessions by Abel Polese, Dublin City University (Ireland) and Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia)

**Approach**

The sessions below are conceived as interactive. Material and information will be shared with the target audience that will be requested to reflect on their professional situation and come up with ideas, and possible solutions, to any issues that will be identified in the course of the discussions. They are based on the long-term experience and work of the instructor, who the of the author of "**The SCOPUS Diaries and the (il)logics of Academic Survival: A Short Guide to Design Your Own Strategy and Survive Bibliometrics, Conferences, and Unreal Expectations in Academia**” <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/the-scopus-diaries-and-the-illogics-of-academic-survival/9783838211992>

**Structure**

The series of workshops/training events are intended to enable (young) academics to make sense, and navigate, the world of opportunities (and challenges) offered by academia today. Below an outline of 6 possible sessions that can be delivered as an induction training (each session lasting 1-1.5h). Alternatively, each session is self-standing and could be delivered as a whole day training.

This structure offers the flexibility to deliver the sessions together as a one whole day training/workshop or, alternatively, only one or two sessions could be delivered in the frame of an already running event (i.e. one morning/afternoon session for a targeted audience in the frame of a working day). It is also possible to combine two sessions into a more dense one or to provide a short overview of all the topics (also covered by the book “The Scopus Diaries”)

**Possible sessions**

1. Writing approaches (1.5h)

Many papers, and abstracts, are turned down by journals and conferences, not because of their content but their form. This session is intended to provide advice, and discuss with participants, on possible ways to structure a publication or presentation (abstract, article, presentation or conference paper) to tailor it to what an international audience would expect. It will provide advice on how to structure the paper so “synchronize” its parts; but it will also be used to discuss how to frame an article to make it suitable to a particular journal (i.e. area studies vs disciplinary approaches; empirics-oriented journals vs theory-oriented journals)

2. Publication strategies (1.5h)

The global panorama of journals is not always immediately understandable to the newcomer researcher. This is made even more difficult by the fact that across countries, universities or even departments, evaluation criteria are different so that the value of academic outlets changes depending on the context. This session is conceived to guide researchers through the universe of academic publishers and outlets and to suggest what needs to be kept in mind when choosing the outlet to publish one’s research findings. Should one look primarily at the Impact Factor or the unwritten reputation of a journal?

3. Open vs closed access, publication fees and other barriers (1.5h)

Journals across world regions and disciplines offer a variety of publication models. From “unconditioned” open access (diamond model) to “liberation fees” to make an article open access (gold model), approaches and modalities change. Some journals charge authors for simply submitting an article whilst some other journals charge only when the article is published. What should a young scientist prefer?

There is no ideal model but there is definitely a model that better than others fits a given situation in a given moment. This session is intended to coach participants through a reflection on what is the best strategy to adopt with regards to publication incentives and barriers.

4. Predatory publishers: how to know and avoid them

One major consequence of the pressure researchers face to publish in “international journals” has been the mushrooming of predatory journals. The phenomenon generates confusion among scientists. Few countries have clear criteria to distinguish them but also they appear and disappear relatively quickly so that whatever list of predatory journals needs to be regularly updated. This session guides the participants to possible definitions of, and criteria to distinguish, predatory journal from standard ones. It also deals with possible ways to deal with them when evaluating scientific output and how to behave when you are not sure what kind of journals you are dealing with.

5. Applying for and managing research funding (1.5h)

Research careers are based, more or less depending on the context, on the capacity of the research to identify and apply for external research funding. However, funding is a word that may be interpreted differently. From a small conference grant to a multi-million project, funding is a word used for everything. The starting point of this session is to prompt a reflection on why someone depends on funding and for what goals. Once this is done, several options (from traditional to alternative and innovative ones) to fund research are discussed and put into context in order to allow participants to identify their own individual-tailored strategy

6. Visibility and networking (1.5h)

Although often unacknowledged, a great deal of efforts, and time, in academia is spent for networking and to gain visibility. Publishing a paper is not “the end of the story”, other scholars need to notice a paper, engage with it and eventually cite it. By the same token, being invited into projects, research groups or publications depends largely on the capacity of the scholar to build a solid network involving national and international researchers. This session is aimed at identifying possible approaches to build and sustain networks and collaborations that can enhance a scholar’s profile in the medium term.

Abel Polese is a researcher, development worker, writer, trainer and fundraiser working in research and education for both universities and the NGO sector. He has been managing projects and conducting research mainly on the Balkans, the former USSR region and Southeast Asia. He is a member of the Global Young Academy, with which he is active on critical debates on academic life, from open science to evaluation of scientific excellence. His most recent book “The SCOPUS Diaries and the (il)logics of Academic Survival: A Short Guide to Design Your Own Strategy and Survive Bibliometrics, Conferences, and Unreal Expectations in Academia” is an unorthodox reflection on academic life and in particular the choices and obstacles young scholars face to start a research career. The book features a Facebook page and and blog at [www.scopusdiaries.org](http://www.scopusdiaries.org/)