BECOMING A COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC CANDIDATE – A WORKSHOP FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

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What do you see in the future?

- What do you think are the opportunities and challenges for academics, especially those in your field?

- What are you doing to maximise opportunities and ‘set yourself up’?
Current academic job market

- Competitive – lots of PhDs out there
- Job market changing, if not confusing (great education doesn’t mean [great] job)
- Universities going through restructuring, often based on government initiatives and new funding models
- Casual and fixed-term contracts – limited job security, employment benefits, prospects for advancement

- Different Focus bring different opportunities and challenges
  - Teaching and Research (T&R) positions - traditional
  - Teaching-only positions
  - Research-only are often contract positions
  - Going into industry
What is valued?

- Research track records which include funding successes in competitive grant schemes
- High impact publications
- Good Teaching
- Good Engagement
Competitive grants

◦ **Category 1: Australian Competitive Grants**
  E.g. Australian Research Council
  Discover Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

◦ **Category 2: Other Public Sector Research Income**

◦ **Category 3: Industry and Other Research Income**

◦ Don’t give up! Persevere.
High Impact Publications

- High impact means the frequency an average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year.
- Average time it takes to get a high impact publications could be 2 years
- Everyone wants high impact so rate of acceptance is low
- How to get things published – from an editor’s perspective
- Don’t give up!
Cat’s and Shanton’s experience and strategies with grant funding and publications
Good Teaching

- Student Experience Scores

- Case Studies and Sharing Best Practice, Awards in Teaching are important

- Research into Teaching and Learning (e.g. Internationalisation, group collaboration, educational technology, etc.)

- Publications and Grants in Teaching
Engagement

- Engagement with Industry and Wider Society
  - How do you measure impact?
  - How do you ensure your research can influence practice?
  - Where are the opportunities for collaboration?
Your experience, strategies and questions with grant funding and publications