DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Research Development Workshop Series

Workshop 3 2014

"Developing your research career"

Wednesday 24 September via video conference

Notes and documents following the workshop

Chair: David Cahill. Associate Dean (Research)

Invited speakers for this workshop

- Professor Graeme Hays, Alfred Deakin Professor and Chair in Marine Science, School of Life and Environmental Sciences.
- Associate Professor Bernard Rolfe, Associate Head of School (Research) School of Engineering.
- Associate Professor Yong Xiang, Associate Head of School (Research) School of Information Technology

Secretary: Teresa Treffry

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| Presentation 3 overview and notes | 52 |
| PowerPoint presentation Associate Professor Yong Xiang | 53 |

The remaining workshops in this series are as follows, each will last for 2 hours and will be by VMP across all campuses. In each case the format allows for discussion and questions following presentations from invited speakers.

| Faculty Research Development Workshops | | | | |
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| Workshop 4 | Dealing with the ARC | Friday October 31 | | |
| Workshop 5 | Leading by example: Future Fellows & DECRAs | November 20 | | |

| Introduction | Chair David | Cahill |
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This is the third in a series of five workshops that have been directed particularly at early and midcareer researchers. The aim of this series, was to have a forum to enable us to discuss more openly issues surrounding research at this stage.

Previous workshops have looked at 'Pathways for women in research' and have given valuable advice on the questions to be considered when 'Engaging with industry'. The need to build capacity is very clear, if we are to sustain our research capability and enthusiasm in these days of tightened research income.

We are fortunate today to have three eminent speakers who will offer their own insights on the topic of 'Developing your research career'

Guest speakers for this session are:

- **Professor Graeme Hays**, Alfred Deakin Professor and Chair in Marine Science, with an impressive publication record and having also served on several editorial boards, most noticeably for 9 years as Executive Editor of The Journal of Animal Ecology." Graeme speaks of the experience of being a researcher in the UK and the importance of publishing in research career development.
- Associate Professor Bernard Rolfe, Associate Head of School (Research) School of Engineering has been a part of twelve successful competitive research grants, totaling over \$9 million in awarded funds. His current research focus is the forming of light weight structures, which includes the development of better material models for metal forming. Currently, he is the theme leader for the AutoCRC's lightweighting theme.
- Associate Professor Yong Xiang, Associate Head of School (Research), School of Information Technology is also the Editor/Guest Editor of several international journals. He has been invited to give keynote speeches and chair committees at a number of international conferences and is the co-inventor of two US patents. Dr Xiang is a senior member of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers)

| Overview and notes from | workshop | Secretary: Ter | resa Treffry |
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Presentation 1

Professor Graeme Hays joined Deakin University in 2013 in the position of Chair in Marine Science in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences; for 10 years previously he held a Chair in Marine Biology at Swansea University in the UK and has particular research interests in the physiological and behavioural ecology of a range of species including jellyfish, plankton and sea turtles.

A search on Google Scholar indicates that Professor Hays has an H index of 56, i10-index (the number of publications with at least 10 citations) of 184, and his publications have received over 9,900 citations to date.

The REF (Research Excellence Framework) in the UK places great emphasis on producing high quality publications. Research publications considered to be Excellent (3*) or Exceptional (4*) have a fair to high earning power. Research publications rated as Good (1*) or Very good (2*) earn nothing. The equivalent in Australia is ERA (Excellence Research Australia) and although the overall emphasis at present is slightly different, this may not always be the case.

The presentation takes an in depth look at the importance of publishing for those seeking employment in an academic environment and considers the following questions.

- Why is it important to publish good papers?
- How do you identify good papers and why it is important to do so?
- What makes a good paper and how can you improve excellence?

In addition the following insights are offered.

- Better papers tend to cover broad areas, straddle disciplines and have unique high quality data sets, so consider collaboration. Papers often have a section acknowledging contribution, make sure that your intellectual contribution is acknowledged.
- Do market research; in the way that science is assessed now, for career progression, publishing must include at least one area of high impact work. Try to have a mixed portfolio.
- Regarding the relative importance of the journal itself. It is true that with search engines available today, work will have impact whatever the journal. However publication in a lower ranked journal means that it will take some time for citations to build up, a high ranking journal such as 'Nature' brings instant recognition.
- Never stop learning.

The full slide presentation from **Professor Graeme Hays** follows.

Research career development:

The importance of publishing

ISSN 1354-1013

VOLUME 12

NUMBER 7 IULY 2006

Graeme Hays

Global Change Biology



Blackwell Publishing Biomass in old-growth forests of different Amazon regions
Carbon isotope record of aridity changes in the NW Mediterran
Climate change and downy mildew epidemics on grapevine
Winter climate and breeding success of common eiders

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FOREST REGENERATION Biodiversity and carbon co-benefits

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MORAL MISFIRE Psychological challenges of climate change



- Why is it important to publish good papers?

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OLUME 12

NUMBER 7 JULY 2006

- Why is it important to know how to identify good papers?
- What makes a good paper?

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Carbon isotope record of aridity changes in the NW Mediterran

Why is it important to publish good papers ?



Why is it important to publish good papers ?

- * know you've done good science
- * CV/career progression
- * university standing
- * university income (ERA, REF etc. etc.)



Good papers = \$\$\$\$\$

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Algal community shift

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QR income

Earning power

- 4* Exceptional
- 3* Excellent
- 2* Very good
- 1* Good
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Papers help make yourself employable ... for universities good papers = \$\$\$\$

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Someone with 3* and 4* papers is worth many £ £ £ £ £ £

- Why is it important to publish good papers?

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| | EDITORIAL MATERIAL (52) BOOK CHAPTER (32) more options / values | 3. Title: Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Oncolytic Treatment Interferes with Tumor-Associated Dendritic Cell Functions and Abrogates Tumor Antigen Presentation Author(s): Leveille Simon; Goulet Marie-Line; Lichty Brian D.; et al. | | | | | | |
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Identifying the best papers (1)

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| | BIOCHEMISTRY MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (669) more options / values | (Pteropus spp.) Author(s): Plowright Raina K.; Foley Patrick; Field Hume E.; et al. | ence of hendra virus from hy | ing loves | | | | | | |
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| | ARTICLE (8,387) | Times Cited: 1 (from Web of Science) | | | | | | | | |
| | | Prifysgol Abertawe [View abstract] | | | | | | | | |
| | EDITORIAL MATERIAL (52) | 3. Title: Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Oncolvtic Treatment Interferes with Tumor-Associated | Dendritic Cell Functions and | Abrogates | | | | | | |
| | BOOK CHAPTER (32) | Tumor Antigen Presentation Author(s): Leveille Simon: Goulet Marie-Line: Lichty Brian D : et al. | | | | | | | | |
| | Subject Areas | Source: JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY Volume: 85 Issue: 23 Pages: 12160-12169 DOI: 10.1128/JVI Times Citad: 0 (from Web of Science) | I.05703-11 Published: DEC 2011 | I | | | | | | |
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| | \mathbf{I} | or restrict to items published between 1970 👻 and 2012 👻 Go | 157 | 185 | 206 | 189 | 0 | 1225 | 72.06 | |
| l | 1. | Title: Seed dispersal near and far: Patterns across temperate and tropical forests Author(s): Clark JS; Silman M; Kern R; et al. Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 80 Issue: 5 Pages: 1475-1494 DOI: 10.1890/0012-9658(1999)080[1475:SDNAFP]2.0.CO;2 Published: JUL 1999 | 38 | 35 | 29 | 33 | 0 | 326 | 25.08 | |
| l | 2. | Title: TRADE-OFFS IN DIEL VERTICAL MIGRATION BY ZOOPLANKTON - THE COSTS OF PREDATOR AVOIDANCE Author(s): LOOSE CJ; DAWIDOWICZ P Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 75 Issue: 8 Pages: 2255-2263 DOI: 10.2307/1940881 Published: DEC 1994 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 0 | 165 | 9.17 | |
| l | 3. | Title: Growth compensation in juvenile Atlantic salmon: Responses to depressed temperature and food availability Author(s): Nicieza AG; Metcalfe NB Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 78 Issue: 8 Pages: 2385-2400 DOI: 10.1890/0012-9658(1997)078[2385:GCIJAS]2.0.CO;2 Published: DEC 1997 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 0 | 128 | 8.53 | |
| l | 4. | Title: Robust state-space modeling of animal movement data Author(s): Jonsen ID; Flenming JM; Myers RA Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 86 Issue: 11 Pages: 2874-2880 DOI: 10.1890/04-1852 Published: NOV 2005 | 16 | 14 | 17 | 15 | 0 | 70 | 10.00 | |
| l | 5. | Title: Migrating birds stop over longer than usually thought: An improved capture-recapture analysis Author(s): Schaub M; Pradel R; Jenni L; et al. Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 82 Issue: 3 Pages: 852-859 DOI: 10.1890/0012-9658(2001)082[0852:MBSOLT]2.0.CO;2 Published: MAR 2001 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 69 | 6.27 | |
| l | 6. | Title: Meta-analysis of animal movement using state-space models Author(s): Jonsen ID; Myers RA; Flemming JM Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 84 Issue: 11 Pages: 3055-3063 DOI: 10.1890/02-0670 Published: NOV 2003 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 5 | 0 | 66 | 7.33 | |
| | 7. | Title: Incorporating animal behavior into seed dispersal models: Implications for seed shadows Author(s): Russo Sabrina E.; Portnoy Stephen; Augspurger Carol K. Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 87 Issue: 12 Pages: 3160-3174 DOI: 10.1890/0012-9658(2006)87[3160:IABISD]2.0.CO;2 Published: DEC 2006 | 14 | 11 | 17 | 21 | 0 | 65 | 10.83 | |
| | 8. | Title: Flexible foraging movements of leatherback turtles across the north Atlantic Ocean Author(s): Hays Graeme C.; Hobson Victoria J.; Metcalfe Julian D.; et al. Source: ECOLOGY Volume: 87 Issue: 10 Pages: 2647-2656 DOI: 10.1890/0012-9658(2006)87[2647:FFMOLT]2.0.CO;2 Published: OCT 2006 | 18 | 18 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 61 | 10.17 | |

- Why is it important to publish good papers?

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OLUME 12

NUMBER 7 JULY 2006

- Why is it important to know how to identify good papers?
- What makes a good paper?

nature APRIL 2012 VOL 2 NO 4 www.nature.com/natureclimatechange climate change

IUNE 2014 VOL 4 NO 6

Algal community shift

PYROLYSIS Fuel from waste

BRIDGING THE GAP nd new emissions scenarios

MORAL MISFIRE Psychological challenges of climate change



SOUTH ASIAN MONSOON Extreme wet and dry spells

nature

climate chang

Sea turtle rookery resilience

FOREST REGENERATION **Biodiversity and carbon co-benefits**

IPCC PROBABILISTIC STATEMENTS Interpretations around the world

Blackwell Publishing

Global

Change

Biology

Biomass in old-growth forests of different Amazon regions

 Climate change and downy mildew epidemics on grapevine • Winter climate and breeding success of common eiders

Carbon isotope record of aridity changes in the NW Mediterran

1. Tackle broad cross cutting big questions

climate change, species extinction, overfishing, ecosystem changes, physics/maths/biology/environment

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climate change, species extinction, overfishing, ecosystem changes, physics/maths/biology/environment

GOOD:

"Many free-ranging predators have to make foraging decisions with little, if any, knowledge of present resource distribution and availability. The optimal search strategy they should use to maximize encounter rates with prey in heterogeneous natural environments remains a largely unresolved issue in ecology"

BAD:

"Little is known about the movement of leatherback turtles close the island of Grenada in the Caribbean, so here we document the movements of several individuals".

 Tackle broad cross cutting big questions climate change, species extinction, overfishing, ecosystem changes, physics/maths/biology/environment

2. Have big/unique/high quality data-sets data collected on the back of grants data from collaborations - draw in the best lab data, field data, modelling from different researchers

1. Tackle broad cross cutting big questions

climate change, species extinction, overfishing, ecosystem changes, physics/maths/biology/environment

2. Have big/unique/high quality data-sets data collected on the back of grants data from collaborations - draw in the best lab data, field data, modelling from different researchers

3. The spin

check out journal content ... cite recent papers there. avoid single species / parochial papers title/abstract. Get these right. Identify target audience Papers help make yourself employable ... wniversities good papers = \$\$\$\$

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QR income

- 4* Exceptional
- 3* Excellent
- 2* Very good
- 1* Good
- Unclassified 0

Someone with 3* and 4* papers is worth me

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LETTERS

Scaling laws of marine predator search behaviour

David W. Sims^{1,2}, Emily J. Southall¹, Nicolas E. Humphries¹, Graeme C. Hays⁴, Corey J. A. Bradshaw⁵[†], Jonathan W. Pitchford⁶, Alex James^{6,7}, Mohammed Z. Ahmed³, Andrew S. Brierley⁸, Mark A. Hindell⁹, David Morritt¹⁰, Michael K. Musyl¹¹, David Righton¹², Emily L. C. Shepard⁴, Victoria J. Wearmouth¹, Rory P. Wilson⁴, Matthew J. Witt¹³ & Julian D. Metcalfe¹²

Many free-ranging predators have to make foraging decisions with little, if any, knowledge of present resource distribution and availability¹. The optimal search strategy they should use to maximize encounter rates with prey in heterogeneous natural environments remains a largely unresolved issue in ecology1-3. Lévy walks4 are specialized random walks giving rise to fractal movement trajectories that may represent an optimal solution for searching complex landscapes⁵. However, the adaptive significance of this putative strategy in response to natural prey distributions remains untested^{6,7}. Here we analyse over a million movement displacements recorded from animal-attached electronic tags to show that diverse marine predators-sharks, bony fishes, sea turtles and penguins-exhibit Lévy-walk-like behaviour close to a theoretical optimum². Prey density distributions also display Lévy-like fractal patterns, suggesting response movements by predators to prey distributions. Simulations show that predators have higher move step lengths (distance moved per unit time) with longer reorientation jumps between them. This pattern is repeated across all scales, with the resultant scale-invariant clusters creating trajectories with fractal patterns3. Lévy-walk move steps are drawn from a probability distribution with a power-law tail: $P(l_i) \sim l_i^{-\mu}$, with $1 < \mu \le 3$, where l_i is the move-step length and μ is the power-law (Lévy) exponent (here '~' means 'distributed as'). Theoretical studies^{2,3,16} show that Lévy walks and Lévy flights (the turning points in a Lévy walk⁴) across random prey distributions increase new-patch encounter probability compared with simple brownian motion, with an optimal search having an exponent $\mu \cong 2$. Recent studies¹⁷⁻¹⁹ contend that Lévy walks or flights have been wrongly ascribed to some species through use of incorrect methods, while others indicate Lévy-like behaviour with optimal power-law exponents^{3,20,21} for highest-efficiency searches, supporting the hypothesis that Lévy behaviour may represent an evolutionary optimal value of

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-++ the spectra against frequency in the dive time series was 0.8 in the low-frequency regime, also consistent with long-range correlations

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with natural prey fields if the search pattern emerges from the underlying pattern of food distribution²⁰, or if the strategy evolved to _ 7 🗙

×





frequency distributions for: **b**, sub-adult and adult basking shark



Scaling laws of marine predator search behaviour

David W. Sims^{1,2}, Emily J. Southall¹, Nicolas E. Humphries¹, Graeme C. Hays⁴, Corey J. A. Bradshaw⁵[†], Jonathan W. Pitchford⁶, Alex James^{6,7}, Mohammed Z. Ahmed³, Andrew S. Brierley⁸, Mark A. Hindell⁹, David Morritt¹⁰, Michael K. Musyl¹¹, David Righton¹², Emily L. C. Shepard⁴, Victoria J. Wearmouth¹, Rory P. Wilson⁴, Matthew J. Witt¹³ & Julian D. Metcalfe¹²

Many free-ranging predators have to little, if any, knowledge of present re ability¹. The optimal search strategy encounter rates with prey in heterog remains a largely unresolved issue specialized random walks giving ris tories that may represent an optima plex landscapes⁵. However, the a putative strategy in response to natu untested^{6,7}. Here we analyse over a

WoK, 287 cites Circa 50 cites per year with longer rerepeated across creating trajecre drawn from a $P(l_j) \sim l_j^{-\mu}$, with s the power-law us'). Theoretical its (the turning butions increase imple brownian

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Taxonomic notes on Euro-Siberian snails, 4. Re-examination of *Limnaea psilia* BOURGUIGNAT 1862, with the description of *Radix parapsilia* n. sp.¹

(Gastropoda: Pulmonata: Lymnaeidae)

MAXIM V. VINARSKI² & PETER GLÖER

Abstract

The identity of the freshwater pulmonate species *Limnaea psilia* BOURGUIGNAT 1862 is discussed on the basis of examination of its type series along with museum materials from the largest malacological collections of Russia. Malacologists of the former USSR still consider *L. psilia* as a distinct species within Lymnaeidae following the opinion of KRUGLOV & STAROBOGATOV (1989). It has been shown, however, that BOURGUIGNAT described juvenile shells of the common ear pond snail, *Radix auricularia* (LINNAEUS 1758), under the name *Limnaea psilia*. As there are sound differences between *Radix auricularia* and *Lymnaea* (*Radix*) *psilia* sensu KRUGLOV & STAROBOGATOV 1989), we describe here a new species, *Radix parapsilia* n. sp. *Limnaea psilia* BOURGUIGNAT is shown to be a junior synonym of *Helix auricularia* LINNAEUS 1758. The distribution range of *Radix parapsilia* (= *Lymnaea psilia* sensu KRUGLOV & STAROBOGATOV 1989) is outlined.

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IF=0.56 Cites=2 (one is a self cites)

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It's never too early to start some recent PhD students ...

JUNE 2014 VOL 4 NO 6

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Algal community shift

PYROLYSIS Fuel from waste **BRIDGING THE GAP** nd new emissions scenarios Psychological challenges of climate change

Jacques-Oliver Laloë

Stephanie Hinder



It's frustrating ! Don't give up !

Presentation 2

Associate Professor Bernard Rolfe worked for several years as a Business Systems consultant with Andersen Consulting (Accenture) before starting a PhD at the Australian National University (ANU). He completed his doctorate in 2002 researching novel methods for inverse modeling metal forming processes. This research included an IMechE award winning journal paper.

Currently, he is the Associate Head of School Research for the School of Engineering. He has been a part of over twelve successful competitive large research grants, totalling over AUD \$9 million in awarded funds and has published over 100 refereed articles.

His current research focus is the forming of light weight structures, including the development of better material models for metal forming. In 2008 Bernard led the Deakin's successful project team for "Creating the Model-T for the 21st Century – a Global University Challenge". Currently, he is the theme leader for the Automotive Technology Cooperative Research Centre's lightweighting program (\$15M worth of projects).

Whilst acknowledging the importance of publishing, this presentation is also aimed at those whose research is applied to industry and considers the issues relevant to this.

The following advice is offered.

- Find a good mentor someone you can bounce ideas off and help identify your strengths
- Join an active group better to have a small bit of something than a big bit of nothing. Consider how you may add value to the group.
- Develop your own identity, work out what you are good at- *Applied research?* /Fundamental Research?
- Work out early where the funding will come from, where can you source HDRs? Do you have the right equipment/resources? Do some market research.
- Make time for research, often this impacts on work/life balance. Make a plan
- Routinely review your strengths, weaknesses; what have you achieved this year?
- Routinely identify opportunities and threats; do you have a future vision?

Personal inspiration was taken from the comments of Sir John Monash regarding leadership in science/ engineering and the qualities needed.

- 1. Total mastery of oneself.
- 2. Good technical knowledge of one's field.
- 3. Courage to formulate goals.
- 4. Imagination to see the impact of your views and actions on the minds of others seize their minds and impress your views on them
- 5. Indifference to praise or blame. Do not play to the gallery or lose heart under criticism. Have confidence in your own ability

The full slide presentation from Associate Professor Bernard Rolfe follows.

DEVELOPING YOUR RESEARCH CAREER





A/Prof Bernard Rolfe Associate Professor School of Engineering Deakin University Geelong, Australia

bernard.rolfe@research.deakin.edu.au









My research career

1. Initial Tooling Setup

1993 Summer – BHP Research Labs

1997 Started a PhD in Advanced Manufacturing

2002 Started a Post-doc in Intelligent Manufacturing (Data mining and Manufacturing)

2005 Started as a Lecturer at Deakin

2012 Promoted to Associate Professor

Very applied research focus – forming lightweight structures



3. Drawing Step

Final Part (adaptive meshing)

2. Closing Step

My research career

Grants:

- 2 Discovery projects
- 6 ARC Linkage projects
- 6 ARC LIEF projects (50% non-Deakin led)
- 5 large CRC projects
- 2 Ford Competitive University Research projects
- 1 International engineering design competition

Publications:

- 40 Journals and 60 conference papers
- Scopus: H-index 8; Citations 249





My research career

I am still developing my research career

Prof Graeme Hays Scopus: 221 publications since 2010 – H-index of 46; Citations – 7600

Prof Yong Xiang Scopus: 90 publications since 2010 – H-index of 12; Citations - 498

Aspiration

Sir John Monash – Comments on Leadership in Science/Engineering

- 1. Total mastery of oneself
- 2. Good technical knowledge of one's field
- 3. Courage to formulate goals
- Imagination to see the impact of your views and actions on the minds of others – seize their minds and impress your views on them
- 5. Indifference to praise or blame. Do not play to the gallery or lose heart under criticism. Have confidence in your own ability



Mentors

Mentors provide the opportunity to talk openly about ideas and directions, provide experience knowledge, and **critical feedback**.

Good mentors are difficult to find.





Groups

Two main types of researcher extremes

1. Capacity builders – collaborates, brings in a lot of people and projects



2. Intensity drivers – small focused teams, more fundamental work



What are you?

Funding

Funding is essential for developing a research group.

How do you get funding? What schemes are open to you?

Determine what you are good at Establish a plan for future funding

- Who are your competition?
- Who should you collaborate with?
- What benchmark do you need to achieve?
- What do successful proposals look like?
- How do you fund the strategic work?

Know the difference between Contract and Grant



HDRs and Equipment

Where are you going to get a good "supply" of HDR students?

- Academic quality why should they come to you?
- How will they be funded?
- How do you make their experience the best it can be? (to attract more students)

What strategic equipment do you need to give you an advantage?

Can you build a research platform off this equipment?



Reviews and Time

Making time for research – often this impacts your work/life balance

- Set aside time to do research
- Each week read a paper in your field
- Make a plan

Undertake regular critical reviews of progress

- What did you achieve this year?
- How are your citations going? Are you having much impact
- Conduct SWOT analyses
- Do you have a future vision?



Advice

- Find a good mentor someone you can bounce ideas off
- Join an active group better to have a small bit of something than a big bit of nothing
- Work out what you are good at
- Work out early where the funding will come from, where can you source HDRs, do you have the right equipment/resources, how can I make time
- Routinely review your strengths, weaknesses;
- Routinely identify opportunities and threats

Summary

Sir John Monash

- Paraphrased comments on Leadership in Science/Engineering

- 1. Know who you are and what you are good at
- 2. Be sure of your research fundamentals
- 3. Set goals and review them
- 4. Be ready to explain your work by understanding others motivations
- 5. Indifference to praise or blame. Have confidence in your our ability



Presentation 3

Associate Professor Yong Xiang received his B.E. and M.E. degrees from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, and his PhD degree from the University of Melbourne. Currently he is the Associate Head of School (Research) for the School of Information Technology and the Director of the Artificial Intelligence and Image Processing Research Cluster.

He has obtained a number of research grants (including four ARC Discovery and Linkage grants from the Australian Research Council) and published numerous research papers in refereed international journals and conference proceedings. He is the co-inventor of two U.S. patents and some of his research results have been commercialised.

Dr Xiang is the Editor/Guest Editor of several international journals. He has been invited to give keynote speeches and chair committees in a number of international conferences and is a senior member of the IEEE.

His current research interests include signal and system estimation, information and network security, wireless sensor networks, multimedia (speech/image/video) processing, compressed sensing, and biomedical signal processing.

An outline of the detailed presentation from Dr Xiang is as follows, it offers advice and covers the areas of

- Career planning, formulating a plan and choosing a mentor.
- Selecting research areas.
- Research collaboration and networking.
- Selling your research outcomes.
 In addition to publishing papers, researchers are now also being asked about the social benefits of their research so results should also be reported to society and industry. Deakin Commercial and the Faculty media office are useful resources.

Contact details for Deakin Commercial - <u>research-partnerships-office@deakin.edu.au</u> phone +61 3 522 71135, or see following link <u>Contact a Commercial Manager</u>

The full slide presentation from Associate Professor Yong Xiang follows.





Developing Research Career: A Personal View

Yong Xiang

School of Information Technology Deakin University Australia

Email: <u>yxiang@deakin.edu.au</u> Web: <u>www.deakin.edu.au/~yxiang/</u>





Outline

- Career planning and mentoring
- Select research areas
- Research collaboration and networking
- Sell your research outcomes
- Conclusion





Career planning and mentoring

Research planning

- Research environment is getting more competitive. It is difficult to survive in research by just holding a PhD and letting research career "drift".
- It is important to have a research plan.
- Formulate a research plan:
 - Where do you want to be in 1, 5, 10 years?
 - Do you want to stay in the current research area or move to a different area?
 - Do you want focus more on fundamental research or applied research?
 - o What is your strategy to achieve your goals?
 - Do you have necessary resources for your research?
 - Rationale behind answering the above questions.
 - Set challenging but realistic research goals.
- Adjust your research plan over time to reflect the change of conditions.

Career planning and mentoring (cont.)

Research Mentoring

- Having a research mentor helps a lot!
 - Get insider's perspective on research career development and success factors.
 - o Receive critical feedback and advice.
 - o Learn specific skill and knowledge relevant to research goals.
 - o Gain access to the mentor's contacts.
 - o Help you to make decisions on your research career path.
- How to choose a research mentor?
 - The most important factor is that the mentor can, and will, provide critical comments on your research career.
 - It is not necessary for the mentor to be in the same research discipline but she/he should have good understanding of the broader research environment.





Select research areas

- Most PhD graduates continue their research career in the same research area as their PhD program, due to various advantages.
- □ If the factors based on which you chose your PhD research area have changed or will change, then it is time to consider if you should shift to a different research area, and to what area?
- Major factor in selecting research area is that the research should be of great benefits to our society and interest to the broader research community and funding bodies.
- Once the research area is selected, stick to it and do deep research.
 Do not easily change it.
- □ For example, 70% of my research time was spent on two research themes: "Blind source separation" and "Digital watermarking".





Select research areas (cont.)

- □ Example 1: Blind source separation (BSS)
 - > Assume $C=A \cdot B$, where A, B and C are matrices, and C is known.
 - > BSS aims to recover **A** and **B** only from **C**.
 - BSS is a fundamental problem and is encountered in a wide range of applications.
 - In general, this is a ill-conditioned problem. However, if the matrices A and B satisfy certain conditions, they can be perfectly recovered from the matrix C.
 - So the research is how to relax the conditions on A and B such that BSS can be applied to real-world applications, especially some emerging applications.
 - Outcomes: 2 Discovery grants, 1 joint Linkage grant, 1 monograph, and many papers in top journals.





Select research areas (cont.)

Example 2: Digital watermarking

Watermarking aims to hide watermark data into the multimedia object without affecting its normal usage.







Select research areas (cont.)

- When necessary, the authorized party (e.g., the owner or law enforcement agencies) can extract the watermark data by using a secret key.
 - Based on the extracted watermark data, we can trace the source of distribution of digital contents.
 - > Thus watermarking can be used for different purposes, such as
 - o Stop multimedia piracy
 - Prevent cyberbullying
 - Content filtering (incl. Blocking and Triggering of Actions)
 - o Authentication of content and objects
 - o Broadcast monitoring, etc.

Research collaboration and networking

- Research collaboration
 - Research collaboration may help you
 - o improve research productivity and increase research outcomes,
 - o learn new knowledge and skills,
 - o extend research area,
 - o raise research profiles, and so on.
 - Better to have a few very positive collaborations than many lowvalue ones.
 - Establish collaborations both with people in academia and industry.

Networking

- > Attend conferences.
- Serve on professional societies.
- > Even directly contact a person you would like to collaborate.





Sell your research achievements

- Having a long list of high-quality research outputs is important but not sufficient.
- Be more proactive in advertising and selling your research achievements.
 - Researchers usually focus on publishing papers to inform and impress peer researchers.
 - Nowadays, governments also ask researchers about the social benefits of their research.
 - > So we should report our results to our society and industry.
 - This is a good way to gain publicity and raise profile, and create new research opportunities.
 - o But do not oversell your achievements.
 - Deakin Commercial and Faculty Media Office are useful resources.





Conclusion

- Discussed career planning and mentoring.
- Showed my view and practice in selecting research areas.
- Discussed the importance of research collaboration and networking.
- Commented on the necessity of selling your research achievements.





Thank you!

Questions?