

# Researcher Realities

30 May 2023

## Session 1 09:20-11:00 Researcher Career Journeys

Researcher careers allow you to take a deep dive into topics, sources, methodologies, and challenges that interest you. It takes a lot of self-motivation, with chances to gain international experiences and collaborate with others to create new knowledge and find solutions. Such career paths can be challenging in terms of personal circumstances, work stability, progression pathways, and recognition. This session offers the opportunity to gain insight into the different paths researcher careers can take and what questions, motivations and challenges are informing researcher career journeys.

- Questions to be addressed in the presentation include:
  - Did you have a clear research strategy?
  - How do you develop your research trajectory?
  - How do you navigate precarity?
  - What do you wish you'd known at the beginning of this career journey?

### Speakers:

- [Dr Eilidh Garrett](#) (Senior Researcher, University of Edinburgh / Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research)
- [Dr Annie Irvine](#) (Postdoctoral Research Associate, ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health, King's College London)
- [Dr Cecile Menard](#) (Research Associate, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh)
- [Dr Andrew Schurer](#) (Chancellor's Fellow, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh)

### Moderator:

- Dr Anna Pilz (Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh)

## Session 2 11:30-13:00 Journeys to Funding

Research projects – whether small or large scale – always require financial support, whether that relates to researchers' salaries, recruitment of research associates and postgraduate researchers, accessing archival resources, field work, acquisition of equipment, bringing together collaborators, national and international networking, involvement of partner organisations, organisation of events, and impact activities or co-creation of research with creative practitioners. This session offers insights into different journeys to obtain research funding.

- Questions to be addressed in the presentation include:
  - How did you build your funding profile?
  - What helped you in succeeding at grant capture?
  - How do you handle rejections?
  - What do you wish you'd known at the beginning of application processes?

Confirmed Speakers:

- Dr [Fergus Cullen](#) (Reader in Galaxy Evolution, School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh)
- Dr [Annemarie Docherty](#) (Wellcome Clinical Research Career Development Fellow, Usher Institute, CMVM, University of Edinburgh)
- Prof [Michelle Keown](#) (Chair in Postcolonial Literatures, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh)
- Dr [Sandy Hetherington](#) (UKRI FLF, School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh)

Moderators:

- Dr Boleslaw Czarnecki (Proposal Development Executive, Edinburgh Research Office, University of Edinburgh)
- Dr Elisabetta Spano (Proposal Development Executive, Edinburgh Research Office, University of Edinburgh)

**Session 3    14:00-15:30    Interdisciplinary Collaborations**

Interdisciplinary research is highly valued by funders and often a necessary approach to tackling global challenges. In practice, it comes with its own challenges in overcoming institutional infrastructures, finding the right collaborators, and combining research methods with the aim to find answers to a set of co-created research questions. This session puts the focus on how to get interdisciplinary collaborations off the ground.

- Questions to be addressed in the presentation include:
  - At what stage of a career can you pursue interdisciplinary collaborations?
  - How do you find and approach collaborators?
  - What makes a good ID research collaborator?
  - What do you wish you'd known at the beginning?

### Speakers:

- Dr [Chiara Bonacchi](#) (Chancellor's Fellow, School of History, Classics, and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh)
- Prof [Catherine Lyall](#) (Professor of Science and Public Policy, University of Edinburgh)
- Dr [Adrian Muwonge](#) (Chancellor's Fellow, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh)
- Dr [David Overend](#) (Lecturer in Interdisciplinary Studies, Moray House, University of Edinburgh)

### Moderator:

- Dr Emily Woollen (Academic Developer, Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh)

## Session 4 16:00-17:30 Notes from the Principal Investigator

Being a Principal Investigator and leading your own research group is an exciting opportunity in a researcher's career stage. The role demands a diverse set of skills in leadership, project management, mentoring and establishing a strong team that works towards a common goal while also empowering and enabling every team member in their career aspirations, all the while ensuring that project partners, collaborators and target audiences are engaged. This session offers insights into how to approach the role and share best practice from new to experienced PIs.

- Questions to be addressed in the presentation include:
  - How has your experience as a researcher / postdoc shaped your approach to becoming and being a PI?
  - What do you wish you'd known at the beginning?
  - How do you tackle challenges?
  - What does success for your team look like?

### Confirmed Speakers:

- [Dr Katie Atkins](#) (Chancellor's Fellow and Reader, Usher Institute, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh)
- [Dr Carsten Hansen](#) (Senior Lecturer, Centre for Inflammation Research, Institute for Regeneration and Repair, University of Edinburgh)
- [Dr Catherine Montgomery](#) (Chancellor's Fellow, Science, Technology & Innovation Studies, University of Edinburgh)
- [Dr Wataru Uegaki](#) (UKRI Future Leaders Fellow & Lecturer in Semantics, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh)

**Moderator:**

- Dr Anna Pilz (Academic Developer and Trainer: Researcher Development, Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh)