

Career Pathways in Academia: Obstacles along the road and how to deal with them

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The landscape of higher education has been transforming in complex ways over the past three decades and COVID and other global changes present new challenges. The aim of this early career workshop is to provide a forum for students and early career scholars to meet to consider the opportunities and challenges that they currently face or may face in the future. Following a brief overview of the state of higher education, including the impact of COVID-19 on universities (for example, the consequences of turning education into an export commodity, state/university dependency on international students and the impact of the pandemic on international study and student recruitment), we will explore the challenges of contemporary research and teaching. This will include discussing more foundational elements of developing and maintaining a successful academic career including: how to choose a thesis topic of significance; how to make your research relevant to multiple audiences; how to navigate through the research and publication process; the importance of teaching and related experience; understanding what makes a candidate attractive to a university employer; and discussing the potential impacts of COVID-19 and government policy on career opportunities in higher education.