

AKC 1: How to succeed in academia - examples of successful careers

A successful career in academia is difficult to come by and involves numerous aspects aside from excellent research. In this session four established physicists will talk about their own careers: from finding a suitable post-doc position, going abroad, managing work and children before having a permanent position up to successful negotiations.

Time: Wednesday 10:00–12:00

Location: H2

Invited Talk AKC 1.1 Wed 10:00 H2
Striving towards a professorship: experiences of a Junior Researcher — ●SELINA OLTHOF — University of Cologne, Institute of Physical Chemistry, Luxemburgerstrasse 116, 50939 Cologne

In this presentation I want to talk about the path that led me into the field of academic research where I currently have a position as a Junior Group Leader at the University of Cologne. I will give insights into my side of the story, regarding some of the choices that can be made along the way and the possibilities and pitfalls that come along when choosing a life in academia.

Invited Talk AKC 1.2 Wed 10:30 H2
Academi-JA! — ●YANA VAYNZOF — Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

Physics Departments are notoriously known for lacking female faculty members, resulting in a shortage of role models for female students and postdoctoral fellows. In recent years the fraction of female faculty members slightly increased, but the progress remains slow. In this talk, I will describe my path towards a career in academia. We'll touch upon important topics such as studying abroad, choosing industry vs academia, striking a work-life balance, having a family and more.

Invited Talk AKC 1.3 Wed 11:00 H2
Career in Physics with Children — ●KRISTIN PERSSON — Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Hearst Mining Memorial Building, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720 USA

One of the greatest obstacles to attracting women to an academic career has been the coincidence of child-bearing years with the most hec-

tic time as an academic. It is well-known that most successful women in academia wait until after tenure to have children, which can delay the process and also incur medical difficulties. I decided to have my children early - during my graduate and postdoctoral years - for better and worse. In 2001, I arrived a freshly minted PhD to MIT to start my postdoctoral appointment with my oldest daughter - then a toddler - in tow. After 10 months trying to juggle a new life in the US, where 100% of my salary went to day care expenses, a young child catching all the infections that come with being exposed to many other children, and being pregnant with my second daughter, I found myself unsatisfied with my performance both as a scientist and as a mother. I quit my academic position, knowing that I may never be able to return. For 2.5 years, I stayed home raising my two lovely, and willful daughters. I will never regret the decision but I lost momentum in comparison to my fellow colleagues. In 2004 I was hired back as a postdoc at MIT, but it took many years to regain the pace of publishing and ultimately show the community that I was seriously committed to my research career. I am currently a tenured professor at UC Berkeley, and I am happy to share experiences from my roller-coaster career.

Invited Talk AKC 1.4 Wed 11:30 H2
Negotiations in Life and Career — ●LAURA H GREENE — National MagLab and Florida State University

Being a physicist is not simply my job or my career, but an integral part of what defines me. I will discuss some of my journey in this seductive and consuming field, filled with joys and challenges. Intertwined, I will also review some of the art of effective negotiations; which occur everyday in one's work and personal life, and often involve issues that are key to research success and career advancement.