# CARVING AN ACADEMIC CAREER -STAGES, LESSONS, DILEMMAS

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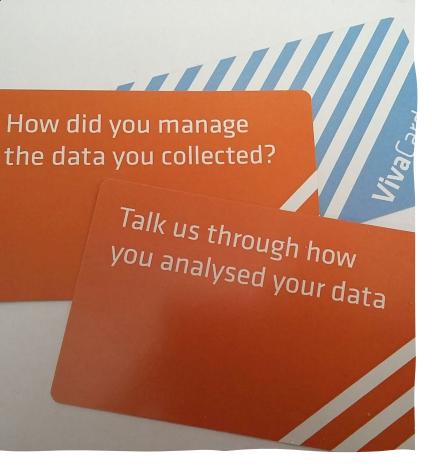
University of Sunderland, UK



## BIO & QUALIFICATIONS

- Mature student
- Undergrad IT & English
- Teacher training (PGCE) in IT
- Secondary schools 14 years
- Full time doctorate 2014-2018
- Full time HE from 2018
- PGCAP (Higher education teacher)
- AFHEA, FHEA, SFHEA









# STARTING THE DOCTORAL JOURNEY

Doctor of Education, Durham University 2014–2018



- ullet Durham Learning and Teaching Award ullet AFHEA
- Teaching PGCE and MA
- The terrifying first-ever lecture
- Interviewing BA students
- PGCAP module 2, then module 3 at current institution
- Research triallist for CEM

# LIFE AS A FRACTIONAL CONTRACT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Interesting project at Newcastle University
- 0.4 RA European project
- Learned the ways of Erasmus+
- Multiple other fractional contracts -EuroSOLE, proPIC, Linguacuisine
- Teaching opportunities doctoral training







## FIRST ATTEMPTS WITH PUBLICATIONS

- Looking out for interesting opportunities...
  - A workshop led to invite for a special issue
  - First attempts with reviewing on the special issue
  - Also led to panel presentation at BERA
- First RA project invitation to write a chapter
  - Published 2021







ISSUES OPEN ACCESS BROWSE THE PROFESSION 18/19

### O-ENHANCED OBSERVATION: A WINDOW ON LESSON FEEDBACK PGCE SCHOOL PLACEMENT

BETH HIDSON \* JANUARY 2019

EARNING AND DEVELOPMENT 0 COMMENTS S MIN READ









**Bytes** 

### Issue #2 - Summer 2019

Welcome to issue 2 of Research Bytes from the National Centre for Computing Education. Each half-term we'll present a selection of current research and evidence, hear from teachers embedding this evidence in their practice, and show you ways in which you can get more involved in computing education research

We need your in make Passarch Printing useful as no inlease tell in



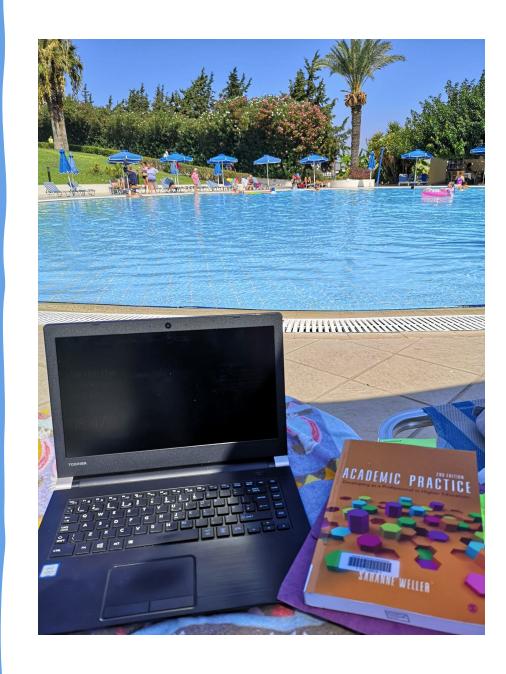
# FIRST ATTEMPTS WITH CONFERENCES

- Internal conferences
- Conference organisation as an RA
- BERA institutional student funding to attend
- Subject association Pecha Kucha!

## JOB HUNTING

- Geography
- Type of institution / type of role
- Pressure of lack of academic experience
- Previous career relatively unimportant

- Variety of expectations CVs long or short
- Research plans
- Selected publications
- Referees academic ones
- Time scales long listing, short listing, interviews



# STARTING OUT AS A NEW LECTURER

- University systems and acronyms
- Bureaucracy / administration
- Workloading approaches
- Research versus teaching contracts
- Imposter syndrome
- Mentor support







### Certificate

This is to certify that

Elizabeth Hidson

has achieved the status of

**Fellow** 

of The Higher Education Academy









### LIFE IN A TEACHING-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITY

- Workloading expressed as hours
- Research and scholarly activity allowance
- Practitioner versus researcher
- The environment/culture
- Collegiate or self-directed?
- Individual research planning
- Career trajectory

## THE POWER OF NETWORKING

- Who are your people? Where are they?
- Links back to your subject, previous institutions
- Developing your profile and getting known and recommended
- Examining
- Reviewing
- Writing invitations













Digital opportunities for EdTech professional development collaboratively or self-directed















## PLATE-SPINNING AS AN ACADEMIC

- A project application in mind / to work on
- A funded project to work on / data to work with
- A paper in progress / in review / accepted
- A conference in mind
- An abstract in mind/submitted/accepted
- Conference as a chance to develop a paper idea / meet others / talk to publishers
- The pattern of the academic year

# CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

- Examining at other institutions
- Reviewing and editorial work
- Supervision
- Internal research environment
- Maintaining a practitioner profile











# SEEKING FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Get some support and training
- Join in a bid (multiple)
- Institutional resources e.g. weekly emails
- Associations, institutions, funding bodies



### **Project Summary and Outcomes**

### **Ulster University**

An intervention through teaching and learning practice to address stress and anxiety in students caused by the challenges of studying a cross-disciplinary subject

### **Project Summary**

Project Leads: Dr Priyank Shukla, Professor Stephen McClean and Dr Elizabeth Hidson

Cross-disciplinary study is challenging, especially for those faced with teaching and learning new skillsets, such as computer programming. This study explores the use of a combination of student-centred, active- and problem-based learning approaches for teaching Computer Programming skills to Personalised Medicine students. Student self-reports will be gathered in order to identify the aspects of the approach that contribute to reducing student anxiety when faced with a challenging cross-disciplinary subject. The aim of the project is to identify the teaching approaches that contribute to improving the self-confidence and wellbeing of students, with a view to sharing these with the wider academic community.

Research Theme(s): Leading and embedding approaches to addressing mental health and wellbeing of students







### ELIZABETH, INNOVATORS AWARDED VICE-CHANCELLOR'S FELLOWSHIPS

The recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Fellowships 2021/22 have been chosen.

WHERE I AM IN THE JOURNEY, AND WHERE NEXT?

- Juggling teaching, academic citizenship, research and scholarly activity
- Applying for internal fellowship / opportunities for more research time
- Hopefully a pathway to associate professorship in the next 5 years



## KEY ADVICE FOR OTHERS AT AN EARLIER STAGE

Networking

Take opportunities - many will go nowhere

Quid pro quo / pay it forward

Be the reliable one

Look carefully at publishing restrictions e.g. paywalls

Maintain your CV and digital presence - you will forget otherwise

Treat your research as seriously as your teaching and vice versa

Find the right tribe

## THANK YOU - PLEASE ASK ME A QUESTION!





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