

Some survival strategies

Keep it strategic.

Do good research; tell a good story.

Understand the difference between constructive opportunism and passive reactive mode.

Follow your passion.

Understand 'the game'.

Aim for balance.

Learn to publish well:

The 50% standard for adventure in publishing; aim high, be prepared to revise and re-submit.

Learn from referees – even from rejection.

Always address referees' comments.

Collaborate – and learn from collaboration.

Use workshops as rehearsals for conferences, and conferences as rehearsals for journals.

Study the target: characterise published papers.

Get a mentor.

Network.

Talk about your research; get it into the discourse.

Who knows things you need to know?

Why not ask? Other researchers like to know what impact their research has, too.

Make yourself worth talking to: be specific, ask good questions...

Be someone useful to know: follow up, make connections, offer information back...

Identify and study role models.

Turn desires into plans:

Undertake critical path analysis.

Choose things (goals, tasks, targets) of the right size.

Establish an appropriate environment – ensure 'pull'.

Use collaboration to scaffold your research.

Find an external deadline that matches your internal goal.

Constructive behaviours:

Ask a question, rather than make a statement.

Use collaboration strategically: expertise, external drivers, motivation...

Be a 'good citizen': return favours, 'pay tax', contribute to the community.

Manage your time.

Increasing productivity:

If it's useful to you, it may well be useful to others.

Good literature reviews are highly publishable.

Turn grant proposals into papers.

Make students work for you; ensure that they contribute to your agenda.

Find your most useful time of day – and use it for research and writing.

Recognise and remedy destructive patterns:

Imposter syndrome.

Displacement activities (what you do instead of getting on with research).

Self-sabotage.

Emotional blackmail.

Get tough:

Academia is remarkably forgiving and forgetful.

Most opportunities are not singular.

'Responsible' often means saying no, or making an early withdrawal

Consider the real costs: What happens if I don't do this? (usually nothing)

Understand what counts: distinguish urgency and importance.

Prepare your 'get out' lines.