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MTG
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Group

How to develop an academic career in Music Information Research

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The MIR academic field

- Multidisciplinary: Computer Science, Musicology, Electrical Engineering, Cognitive Sciences, ...
- Different academic models: Anglo-Saxon, European, ...
- Different focus: technology development, basic research, music production, ...
- Not well established: unstable funding, not clear academic positions, ...

Academic references

- *Research Centers:* Queen Mary, Telecom-Paris, MTG-UPF, JKU, IRCAM, McGill, Stanford, Georgia Tech,....
- *Industrial Research Centers:* Fraunhofer, Sony CSL, Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, Pandora, Spotify, Amazon, Dolby, BMAT, ..
- *Associations:* ISMIR, AES, ASA, IEEE, ACM, ICMA, ...
- *Journals:* TISMIR, CMJ, JNMR, JAES, JASA, IEEE, ACM, EURASIP,...
- *Conferences:* ISMIR, ICMC, DAFX, NIME, SMC, IEEE, ACM, ...

Competences for an academic career

- Passion for knowledge discovery
- Broad knowledge on a traditional academic discipline
- Specialization in a “relevant” research topic
- Research supervision experience and abilities
- Teaching experience and abilities
- Management experience and abilities
- Ability to get research funding
- ...

Steps in an academic career

- PhD
- Post-doc
- Tenure track position
- Associate Professor
- Full Professor

During PhD

- Do a good PhD thesis without losing the broader view of your field
- Follow reproducibility and open practices as much as possible
- Publish in the most relevant conferences of your field
- Attempt to publish in the most relevant journals of your field
- Collaborate with other PhD students and researchers
- Get acquainted with the key people of your field
- Do a research stay in another center
- Get some experience in teaching and supervision

From PhD to Postdoc

- Promote your PhD thesis and publications
- Explore options other than Postdoc
- Explore various funding opportunities for Postdoc
- Aim for a Postdoc on a different research topic than your PhD
- Make contacts by taking advantage of your advisor and research team

Conclusions

- An academic career is great if you are committed to it
- In SMC there are many research options outside the university
- A PhD in an SMC topic can be very useful to start non-research careers
- The Postdoc is the most difficult phase of an academic career
- An academic career is a long distance race