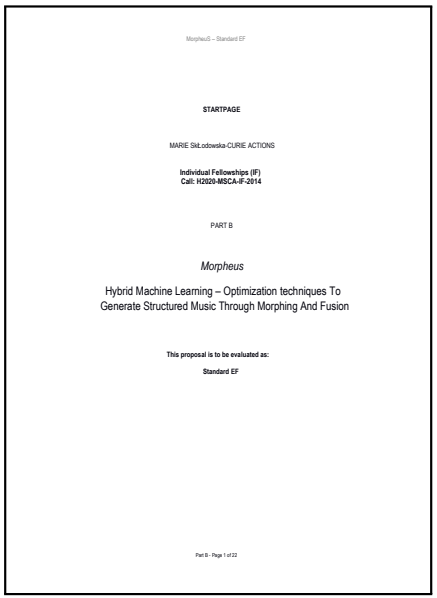
MIP-Frontiers Training: Applying for Research Grants[1,2]

Simon Dixon, MIP-Frontiers Consortium



MorpheuS – Standard EF

STARTPAGE

MARIE Skł.odowska-CURIE ACTIONS

Individual Fellowships (IF)
Call: H2020-MSCA-IF-2014

PART B

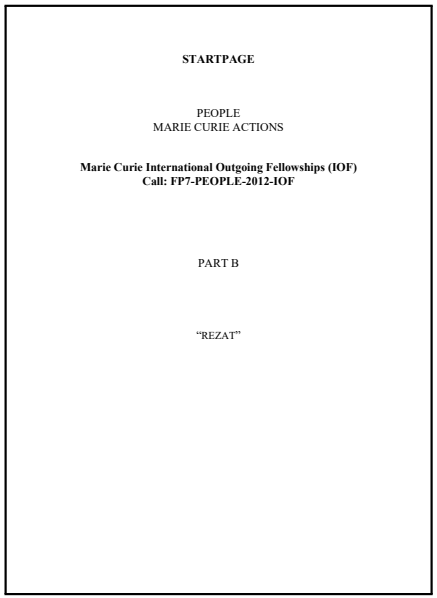
Morpheus

Hybrid Machine Learning – Optimization techniques To Generate Structured Music Through Morphing And Fusion

This proposal is to be evaluated as:

Standard EF

Part B - Page 1 of 22



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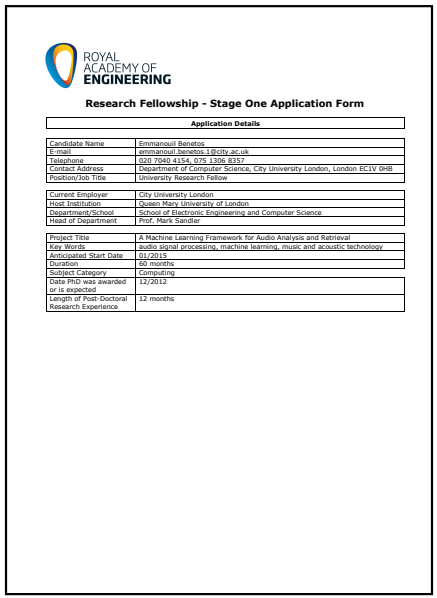
PEOPLE
MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships (IOF)
Call: FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IOF

PART B

"REZAT"



ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Research Fellowship - Stage One Application Form

Application Details	
Candidate Name	Emmanouil Benetos
E-mail	emmanouil.benetos.1@city.ac.uk
Telephone	020 7040 4154, 075 1306 8357
Contact Address	Department of Computer Science, City University London, London EC1V 0HB
Position/Job Title	University Research Fellow
Current Employer	City University London
Host Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Department/School	School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science
Head of Department	Prof. Mark Sandler
Project Title	A Machine Learning Framework for Audio Analysis and Retrieval
Key Words	audio signal processing, machine learning, music and acoustic technology
Anticipated Start Date	01/2015
Duration	60 months
Subject Category	Computing
Date PhD was awarded or is expected	12/2012
Length of Post-Doctoral Research Experience	12 months

[1] This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 765068.

[2] Thanks to Mark Plumbley and Rui Pires Martins for some of the material in the slides.

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Agenda

- Understanding the grant application process
- Q & A
- Discussion of sample proposals

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The Right Frame of Mind

- Debunking the lottery myth
  - Serial luck?
  - Understand the process and the people
- Why do funding agencies exist?
  - They want to fund the best research
  - They want to assist the best applicants
  - Communicate with them

The Starting Point

- Where does it start?
  - A call for proposals
  - A research idea
- Call for Proposals
  - Scope and priorities
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Review criteria
  - Format of submission(s)
  - Deadlines
- Making a match
  - Love at first sight
  - A marriage of convenience

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Different Types of Calls

- Deadlines vs open calls
- Personal grants: fellowships, first/start-up grants
- National research grants: “standard” grants, special calls
- Multi-national grants: European funding, funding agency collaborations
- Charity funding
- Industry funding

The Research Idea and the 3 “Why?”s

- Why this?
  - Why is it a priority?
  - Who will benefit?
- Why me/us?
  - Why am I the best person for this?
  - Who would make the right team? (strength, complementarity)
- Why now?
  - Why can’t this wait a few years?
  - What opportunity would be lost if not funded?

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The Application

- Usually a complicated collection of documents
  - Case for support
  - Budget and justification
  - CVs
  - Letters of support
  - Work plan, data management plan, dissemination plan, business plan, ethics, etc.
- Complicated internal approvals process
- Requires a LOT of time and communication

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The Case for Support

- The core of most proposals
- Predefined structure in many cases
  - Make sure you understand what is required for each part
  - Often based on mapping to the review form (check!)
- Who is the audience?
  - Writing to be understood vs blinding them with science (impressing referees with advanced ideas that are beyond them)?
- Help referees fill in the review form
  - Quality of proposed research, feasibility of proposed methodology, risk and novelty, potential for major advances, relevance to priorities, quality of team and management

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The Process

- (Outline proposal)
- Full application
- Peer review
- (Response to reviewers' comments)
- (Interview)
- Ranking panel
- Funding decisions
- (EU: Contract negotiations)

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Key Attributes

- Vision
- Persuasiveness
- Thoroughness
- Attention to detail
- Humility
- Patience
- Perserverance

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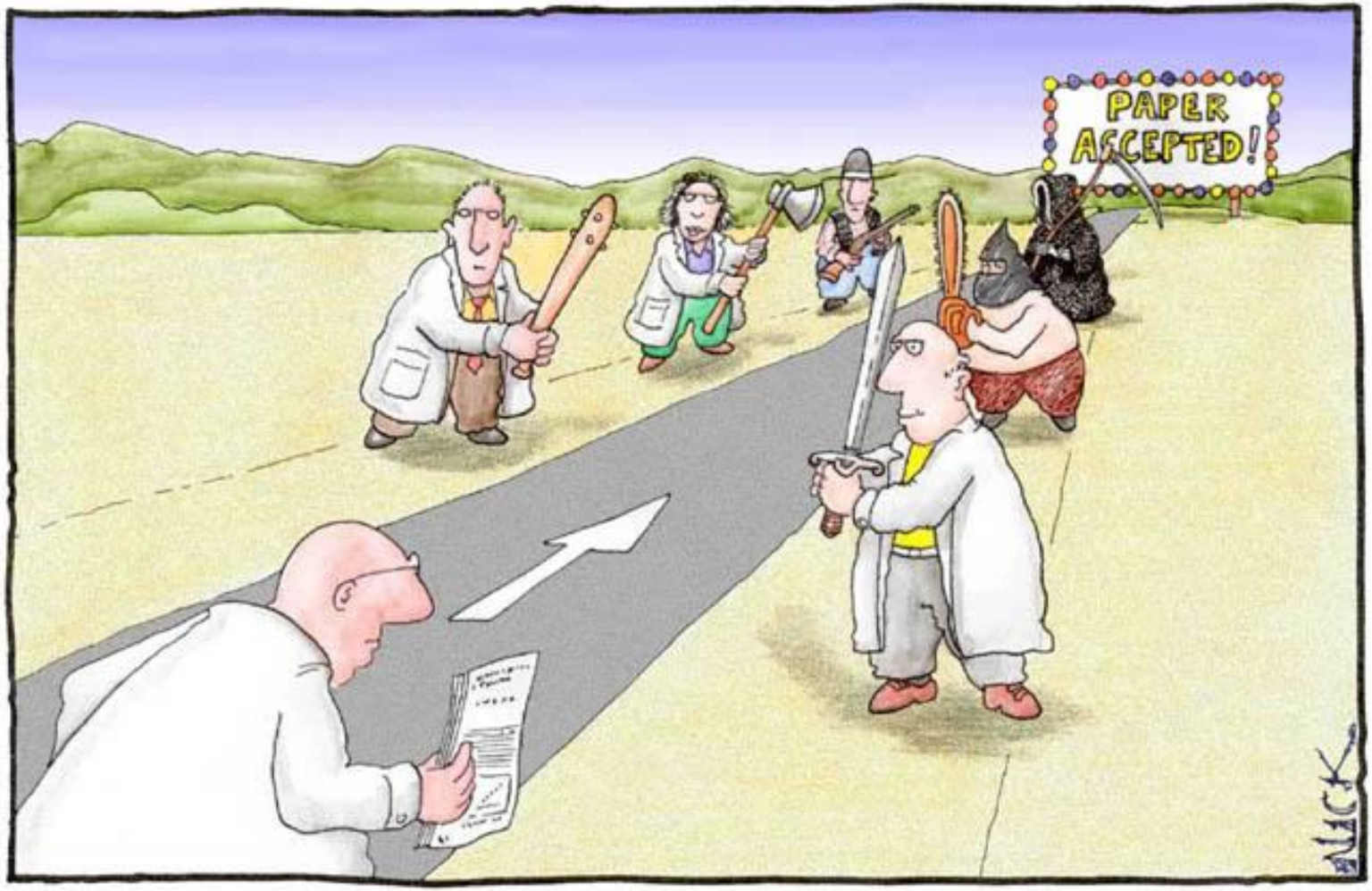
Questions?



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'