
10 random thoughts you should remember to make great career mistakes in research

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Hello,



knowledge graphs, graph machine learning, explainable AI

- **Accenture Labs (Research Scientist)**
- Fujitsu (Research Scientist)
- Inria (PhD Student)
- Telecom Italia Lab (Research Engineer)



The 10th International Semantic Web Conference

October 23-27, 2011

Bonn, Germany

ISWC 2011

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Doctoral Consortium

The ISWC 2011 Doctoral Consortium will take place as part of the 10th International Semantic Web Conference in Bonn, Germany. This forum will provide doctoral students an opportunity to share and develop their research ideas in a critical but supportive environment, get feedback from mentors who are senior members of the Semantic Web research community, explore issues related to academic and research careers, and build relationships with other Semantic Web PhD students from around the world.

The Consortium aims to broaden the perspectives and improve the research and communication skills of these students as a way to contribute both to the individuals as well as to the broader research community.

The Doctoral Consortium is intended for students who have a specific research proposal and some preliminary results, but with sufficient time prior to completing their dissertation to benefit from the consortium experience. In the consortium the students will present their proposals and get specific feedback/advice on how to improve their research plan.

All proposals submitted to the Doctoral Consortium will undergo a thorough reviewing process with a view to providing detailed and constructive feedback. The best 15 submissions will be selected for presentation at the Doctoral Consortium and will be published in the conference proceedings. The top 6 of those will be selected for full presentation and the next 9 submissions will be accepted as short presentations.

Topics

The Consortium has the same scope of technical topics as the main ISWC conference including

- Management of Semantic Web Data
- Natural Language Processing
- Ontologies and Semantics
- Semantic Web Engineering
- Social Semantic Web
- User Interfaces to the Semantic Web
- Applications of the Semantic Web

#1 Your Mileage May Vary

Every university is a unique ecosystem!

Every “Company R&D team” is a unique ecosystem!

- Big corp? Startup?
- Industry sector?
- Business model?

Teams quality and scope vary wildly

Geography matters

#2 Rank Your Priorities

Come up with personal priorities:

- Life-work balance?
- Financial stability?
- Freedom to investigate?
- Real-world problems to work on?
- Flexible hours?
- Career progression?
- Remote vs on-site?
- Academic publications
- ...

#3 Compensation Matters

- Assess your finance situation.
- Your work is valuable. Make sure it is rewarded.
- Shop around.
- Ask about retention & performance review policies!

#4 Academia vs Industry: a False Dichotomy?

- Boundaries are more and more blurred
- Why not both?
 - hybrid research teams
 - research staff with dual affiliations

#5 Down with Big Corp! I want Academic freedom!

- Don't agree with intellectual property (IP) protection in industry?
- Some universities have very aggressive IP strategies
- Industry contribution to open source landscape is massive

#6 "I don't want to chase fundings in academia!"

Surprise! Industrial projects also need sponsorship, financial support, etc.

#7 “Teaching duties are not my thing”

Some degree of “teaching” required in industry as well:

- Interact with colleagues that do not come from research
- Educate clients
- Make the case with your line of management

#8 “Academic networking & cross-institute collaborations are harder in industry”

- Again, your mileage may vary
- Spontaneous collaborations may be harder
- Instead: targeted projects, student co-supervisions, hybrid multi-partner projects.

#9 Industry is richer with data

- This is most likely correct...
- ... but do not underestimate academic licenses!

#10 In a nutshell: it's up to you!

- Academia and industrial research bare have lot in common...
- .. but they also have substantial differences.
- Do a lot of interviews. Pick up "signals"
 - Understand the company/institute culture.
 - Is this the right place for me?
- Unhappy? → why not trying both!
 - Academia -> Industry
 - Industry -> Academia
 - Be conscious of lock-in factors!