

Shifting Gears: Maximizing the Potential of Your Research – Prof Wenche Ommundsen

How do you learn to be a researcher?

from others – workshops, colleagues, in the research school of hard knocks through reflexive thinking –

stages of a research career

- undergraduate student
- honours student
- postgraduate student
- postdoctoral student
- ECR
- mid-career researcher
- senior researcher
- international star

progression through research stages

- steady incline
- staircase model [steps]
- meteoric rise
- two steps forwards, one step back
- crab like [sideways]
- loops and roundabouts
- time out

postgrad – ECR

- maximise the benefits from the PhD
- don't rewrite the PhD– let go of the PhD and move on
- reassess your expertise, skills, potential
- try new methodologies
- ask bigger questions
- seize new opportunities
- question disciplinary knowledge
- cross disciplinary borders
- be prepared to think laterally
- be creative
- collaborate
- think globally

one needs to actively make the shift/change in one's career. it does not happen automatically

Shifting gears

- what happens between stages
- rethinking the fundamentals
- the art of unlearning
- reassessing your role, your aims, the nature of your field, what you know
- who am i, what do i know, why am i doing this?
- rethink the basics of your field, rethink the work that has been done, rethink methodology, rethink the discipline