SHARING OF MINDS

PROPOSAL WRITING

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BACKGROUND

– Program of research

– Statement: My program of research seeks to address gaps in knowledge that have the potential to inform public debate and policies, while also advancing the rights and the health of people at risk/living with HIV people who use substances, people who experience homelessness.
  – *Axis 1. Harm reduction*
  – *Axis 2. Critical public health*
  – *Axis 3. Sociopolitical dimensions of care*

– Career trajectory

– University of Ottawa

  – *2009 (Assistant Prof) → 2011 (Contract renewal) → 2013 (Associate Prof)* peak research time*

– University of Victoria

  – *2018 (Associate Prof) → 2021 (Full Prof)*
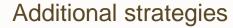
THE CONCEPT

Lots of focus on the proposal, but what about steps leading to proposal?

– Start-up and internal grants matter: *all opportunities used to advance work?*
  – Foundation work: pilot project, theoretical analysis, preliminary findings, etc.
  – Deliverables: anticipates contributions will be measured against track record of team

– Funding outside tri-council agencies also matters for the same reason and more
  – Fundable work: act as a proof on which to build an original proposal
  – Anticipated contributions: what you do with previous funding is seen as predictor

Additional strategies
  – Exploring ways of producing and publishing work without funding
  – Using smaller grants to seek bigger grants (catalyst, knowledge synthesis, insight)
  – Using sabbatical as "stepping stone"

Too much emphasis can be placed on concept to the detriment of →

FEASIBILITY

Approaches and methods

– The "how" is equally if not more important than the "what" (concept)
  – Clearly outlining the design and supporting frameworks (adding a figure if needed)
  – Structure and presentation can make a big difference for reviewers (make it easy)

Expertise, experience, and resources

– Building teams: convene, meeting, planning grants are important
  – Build network of collaborators and research agendas – demonstrate leadership
  – Developing a core group of long-term collaborators including junior researchers

– Showing connections with research collectives and networks
  – Joining existing collectives and networks can also help with KTE plan and training
  – Securing affiliations provincially, nationally and internationally early on

– It's not just about the research: graduate student training and mentorship is key

FEASIBILITY

Environment

– Taking stock of immediate and team-based environment

– Using this section to gain additional points (often neglected)
  – Moving beyond description of physical environment and standard resources
  – Using smaller grants to boost environment for future grants

Budget

– Looking past the costs of *doing* the research
  – Training and mentorship opportunities
    – *Example: undergraduate training scholarship*
  – KTE plan: graphic design, translation, etc.
  – Include staff support for transition between research and applying for next grant
    – *Common CV, literature reviews, etc.*