

Being a forensic psychology graduate student at Carleton University—Expectations



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(on behalf of my fellow forensic colleagues)

Forensic Psychology Research Center

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Our Time Together

- Introductions
- What is the ideal student and supervisor relationship?
- What motivates your supervisor?
- What does your supervisor expect from you?
- What do you expect of us?
- Planning for success
- Kevin Nunes—presentation

WRONG ANSWER



RIGHT
ANSWER



What motivates *research-intensive* academics—aka your supervisor?

- The pursuit of a *cumulative* program of research that is
 - driven by intellectual curiosity/necessity
 - subject to critical peer review
 - unfettered by political interference



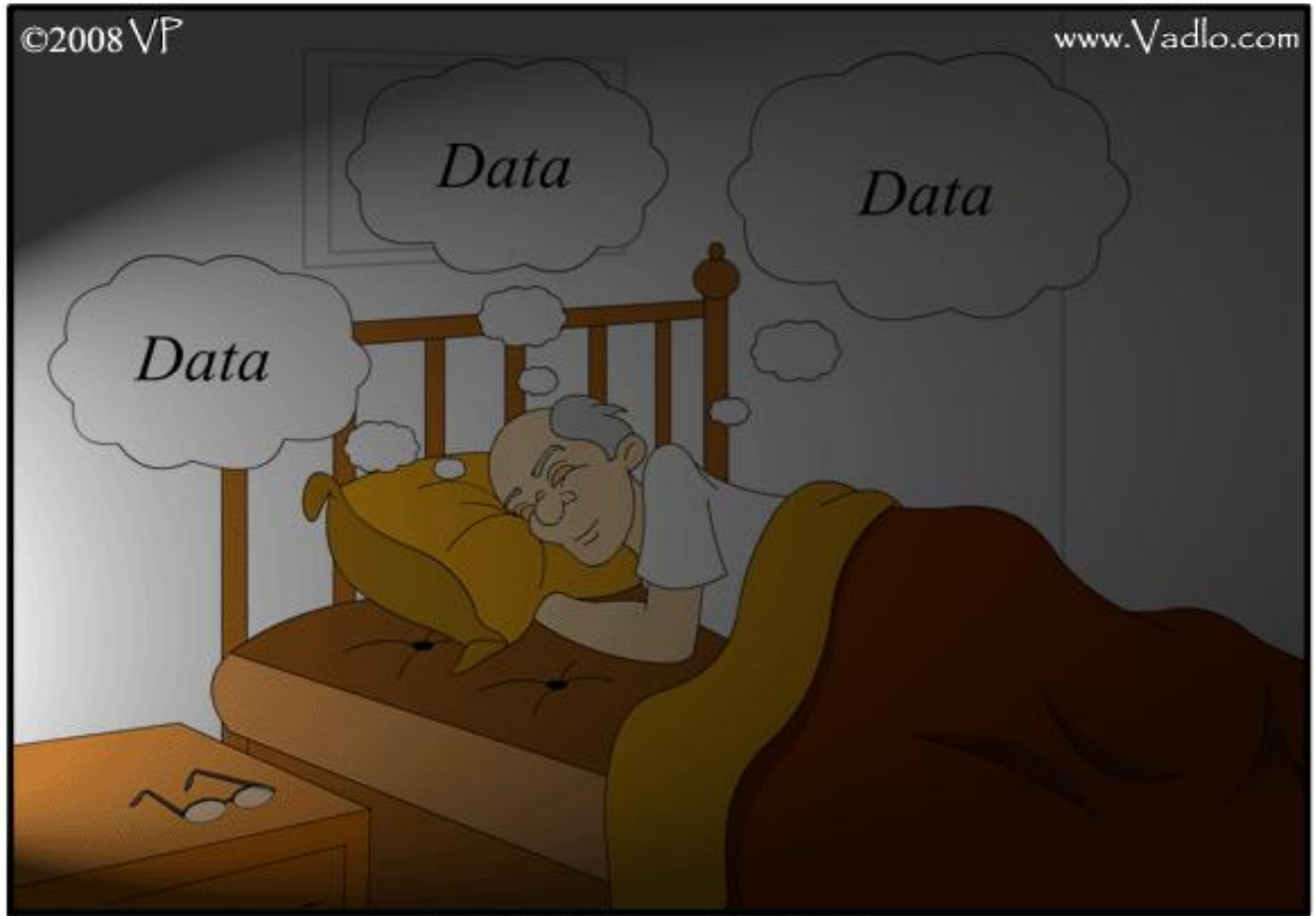
Publish or Perish



"Behind one door is tenure - behind the other is flipping burgers at McDonald's."

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Access to data



The Not-So-Secret life of a PI.

Money

- Grants
 - Social Science Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
 - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
 - National Institute of Justice
- Contracts
- Operational support to collect data / in kind

Teaching and Administration...

- Recognize that we manage multiple priorities simultaneously all the time
- Respect timelines, provide sufficient warning for reference letters or anything you need us to do, submit your best work to us, have peers read it first—listen to them, do your homework!

Passion

- We LOVE our work
- We want to discover, to create, to disseminate, to make a difference, to be part of something larger

Five key expectations of graduate students

- Nurture your own intellectual/educational development
- Be a good citizen
- Treat RA and TAs as jobs
- Do [unpaid] LAB work
- **READ** and **PUBLISH**

Intellectual development

- Expertise
- Breadth—Read, discuss, be curious
- Communication skills—written, oral
- How?
 - Desire to grow intellectually—seek out diverse opportunities
 - Positive attitude toward learning
 - Passion
 - Welcome feedback
 - Attendance—in the lab, colloquium attendance etc
 - READ!!!!

Good citizenship

- ATTEND...
 - Lab meetings, colloquium, forensic brown bags, practice defenses, post defense celebrations, lab mates' talks at conferences—if you aren't sure ASK
- Support each other, support the department, attend social events

RAs and TAs

- They are paid jobs
- Your professor is your boss
- So, treat them like jobs and treat your professor like your boss

LAB WORK

- Is NOT part of a paid RA—it is expected nonetheless
- You may not see the benefit to yourself but it benefits the lab, hence you
- Publications—be clear about expectations re: authorship—remember ORDER can change
 - Crossing the finish line and starting the race are two different things

READ and PUBLISH

- READ, READ, READ, READ, READ
- WRITE, WRITE, WRITE, WRITE
- PUBLISH, PUBLISH, PUBLISH
- Expect obstacles—this career is not for the faint of heart, perseverance wins out every time

Planning for Success

- Communicate with your supervisor—graduate life is different than undergraduate life
- Set goals, prioritize, build in accountability (e.g., writing groups), have schedules, self-evaluate regularly, ask your supervisor how you are doing
- **SUMMER IS WORKTIME; GRAD SCHOOL is 12 months a year**
- Expect hard work and work hard—**AT LEAST 40 hours a week on school work ONLY**
- Remember to laugh, do not lose site of the big picture

What do you expect from us.....

- Financial and material support (RA, lab, conference travel etc)
- Intellectual support
- Sense of intellectual community
- Networking opportunities
- Other...

