

The Grants Factory

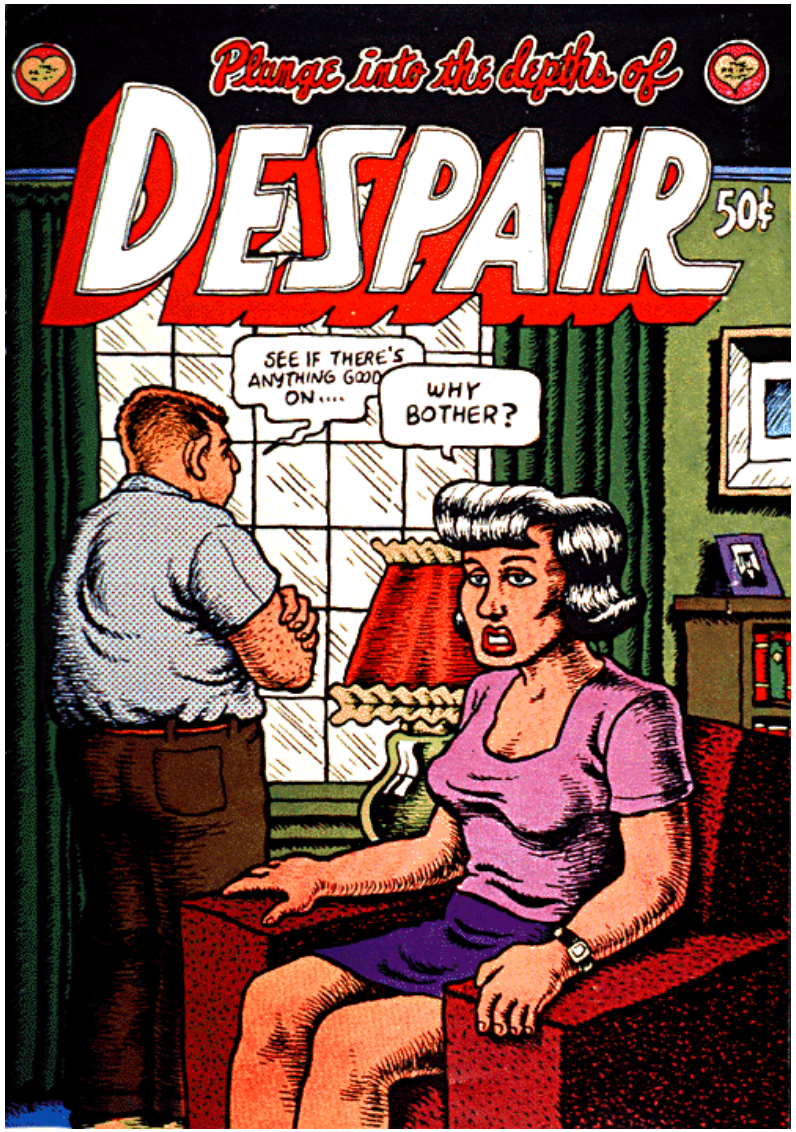
Phil Ward

University of Kent

Grants Factory

- The Background
- The Theory
- The Practice
- The Effect

THE BACKGROUND


Plunge into the depths of
DESPAIR
50¢
SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING GOOD ON....
WHY BOTHER?

The Grants Factory

- Established in 2009
- Prof Andrew Derrington and Jacqueline Aldridge
- ‘Depersonalise’ and ‘objectify’ the proposal
- Production line

The Research Funding Toolkit
(Sage, 2012)

Jacqueline Aldridge &
Andrew Derrington



THE THEORY



Start with the Reader

- Serious
  - Reviewer
  - Grant Panel Chair
  - Introducing Member
- Casual
  - Other Panel Members



Four 'Propositions'

- Importance
  - This proposal asks an important question
- Success
  - This project is likely to answer that question
- Value
  - It's worth the money to get that answer
- Competence
  - These investigators can do it.



Generic Platform



Generic Platform

- 'Foot in the Door'
  - Research question
  - Importance of the question
  - Project preview
- We have a problem
  - Problem needs solving
  - You have the skills to do it
  - This project is the best way to solve it
- This project is the solution to the problem
  - Design, methods, activity, timing, resources
  - What you will do with the knowledge



- What's your question?
- Why's it important?
- Why's it important to answer it now?
- What objectives need to be achieved to answer it?
- How will you meet these objectives?
- How will you disseminate the findings?

Adapting the Platform



Adapting the Platform





Adapting the Platform







Adapting the Platform













Adapting the Platform

- Funders application templates vary widely
- Need to adapt generic platform to their needs
- Read guidance
- Use techniques to
  - Keep continuity of generic platform
  - Reinforce four propositions

Techniques

- Assert-Justify
- Priming
- Signposting
- Linking
- Labelling

Assert-Justify

- Goes against the grain for academics
  - ‘argue-conclude’ too cautious/nuanced
  - Needs to be simple and direct
- Can be used to give structure
  - To your overall argument
  - To specific sections



Priming

- Trigger concerns by feeding ideas beforehand.
  - ‘Take a break’ notices of motorways
- ‘We have a problem’
  - Make them worry
- ‘…but we have the solution’
- ‘….and it’s worth it’
- ‘….and we can do it’



Signposting



- More explicit than priming
  - Priming creates a state of mind
  - Signposting prepares them for the info to follow
- Tells you when you can skip blocks of text
- Tells you when you need to pay attention
- Each new section should start with signpost
  - ‘in this section we describe...’
  - ‘we now set out the state of the art...’

Linking

- Some grant forms break the natural narrative
  - Specific details in particular places
  - Readers may make their own links
- Try to reinforce the natural flow/links
  - eg referring to sub-projects, what leads from where, dependencies, results etc



Labelling

- Tag phrases
  - Simple labels for sub projects
  - Phrases that panellists can use to demonstrate knowledge: ‘this project bridges the gap between animal neuroscience and psycholinguistics’.



Importance of Community

- ‘Grant applications cannot be produced in isolation’
- Share your draft proposal widely
  - Panel members
  - Grant holders
  - Research Services
  - Non-experts
  - Colleagues



THE PRACTICE

Initially

- Launched in 2009
- Cohort of c30 academics
  - Series of workshops
  - ‘Homework’
  - Using schemas to focus on clarity and structure, making it urgent but achievable.

Schema Example: Global Rendition

- Main research question
  - Why is it important to answer it
  - How will you get an answer to it
  - What will the answer tell you
- 4 sub questions necessary to answer the main
- How will you use the findings

The Rendition Project

Researching the [redacted] globalisation of rendition and secret detention

SHARE

Follow us on Twitter: @samandruth

HOME

The Rendition Project website is the product of a collaborative research project between **Dr Ruth Blakeley** at the University of Kent and **Dr Sam Raphael** at Kingston University.

Following the declaration of the 'war on terror' in September 2001, the US Government led the way in constructing a global system of detention outside the law, illegal prisoner transfers (rendition), and torture. Overall, this system has involved the detention and torture, in secret, of hundreds of detainees, in scores of detention sites around the world. Renditions between detention sites in a range of countries have been carried out using a variety of aircraft supplied by private contractors, and states allied to the US (including several European states) have been actively involved, or passively complicit, in the crimes committed.

This website aims to bring together and analyse the huge amount of data that exists about the rendition and secret detention programme, and to provide users with a comprehensive picture of how the system operated, how it evolved over



What's New?

Details of new and updated content on the Rendition Project Website

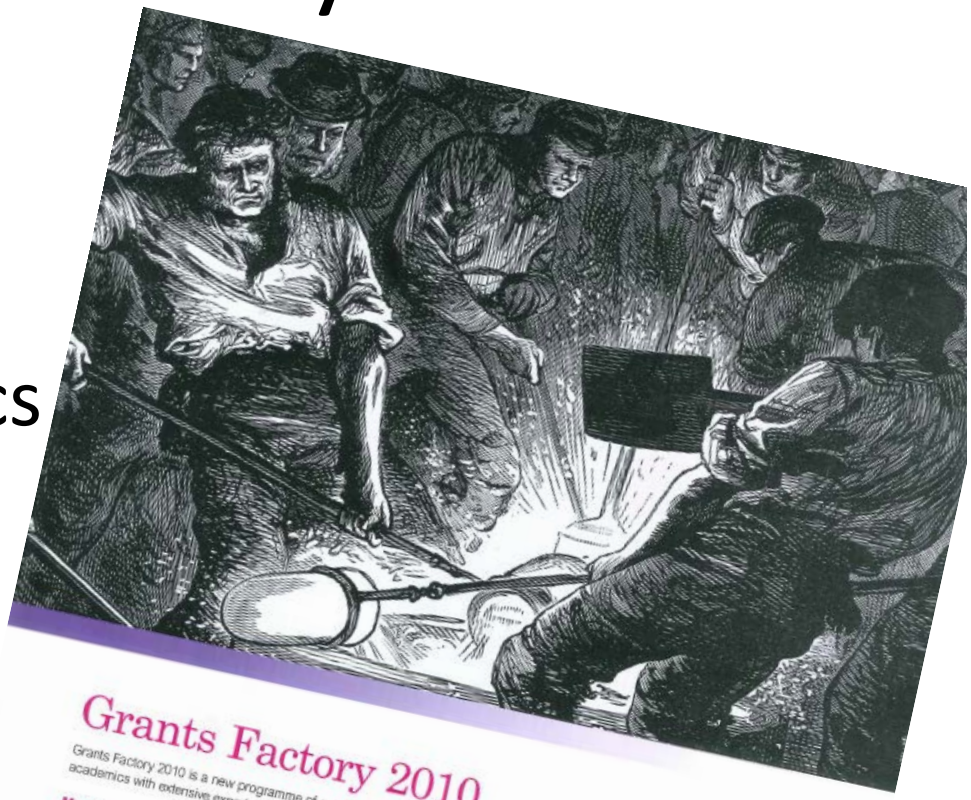
Read More...

21/05/2013

The Rendition Project launches Rendition

Grants Factory

- Expanded in 2010
- Help and advice from experienced academics
  - Workshops
  - Masterclasses
  - Mock panels



Grants Factory 2010

Grants Factory 2010 is a new programme of events to support all staff applying for research funding. It is led by senior academics with extensive experience in winning funding, sitting on grant committees and coaching colleagues.

Master Classes: what the guidance doesn't tell you
Keynes, LT3 2.00-3.00pm

Wed 20 Jan: Fit your funder: Prof Peter Taylor-Gooby
Wed 3 Feb: Work with the panel system: Prof Mick Tuite
Wed 17 Feb: Using the right words: Prof Paul Allain
Wed 10 Mar: Cross the review minefield: Prof Peter Clarkson
Wed 17 Mar: The common traits of funded applications: Dr Peter Bennett
Wed 26 May: Work the six page proposal: Prof Simon Thompson
Wed 9 June: Make your project matter: Prof Dominic Abrams

Grants Factory Workshops: the grant-writer's toolkit
Led by Prof David Shemmings

Mon 8 Feb: Grimond Seminar Room 8, 9.30am-12.00
Tues 9 Mar: Keynes Seminar Room 5, 1.30-4.00pm
Wed 19 May: Keynes Seminar Room 7, 1.30-4.00pm

Full details can be found on the Research Services website (https://www.kent.ac.
or contact the Research Funding Officer for your Faculty for further

Humanities:
Science:
Social Sci

Lynne Bennett (

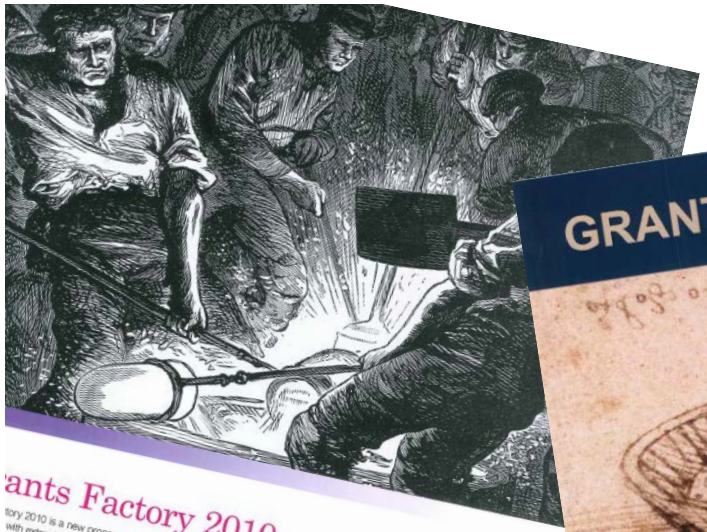
Peer Review Panels: test drive your project

Each of these lunchtime events takes less than 90 minutes, needs no advance preparation and will be led by senior academics with experience of the relevant funding panel. Date and details to be confirmed.

EPSRC:
Prof Peter Clarkson and Prof Simon Thompson
Wellcome/MRC/NHS (biomedical & experimental psychology):
Prof Mick Tuite
BBSRC/NERC (biology, ecology & conservation sciences):
Prof Peter Bennett and Prof Martin Warren
ESRC/BA/Nuffield:
Prof Dominic Abrams and Prof Peter Taylor-Gooby
AHRC:
Prof Paul Allain

Grants Factory





GRANTS FACTORY: 2011/12



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT FUNDAE

Thurs 1 December	12-2pm	Big Questions, Big Pro
Weds 7 December	2-2pm	Inside the Grants' Committee
Weds 15 February	TBC	Playing the Game: understand the rul
Thurs 1 March	10am-12	Writing Better Bid
Weds 9 May	TBC	Eurovision: the p cons of Europea
Weds 30 May	10am -12	Writing Better B
Mon 11 June	TBC	Winning Fellow

More info: www.ken



Grants Factory

Winter Term 2010

A programme of workshops and events to help academic staff develop successful research funding proposals. Every session is led by a leading Kent academic who has significant experience with research proposals, either as a successful applicant or from sitting on a funding panel.

- **Master Classes: what the guidance doesn't tell you**
  Insights on issues around research funding, from preparing an application to running a project.
- **Prizes & Pitfalls of Collaboration** (Wed 15 Sept)
  Dr Peter Bennett and Prof. Jon Williamson
- **Peer Review Panels: test drive your proposal**
  Get feedback on your proposal from fellow applicants and academics who have sat on funder panels.
- BBSRC Applications (Mon 6 Sept)
- Applications (Wed 3 Nov)
- mities & Social Sciences Applications
- ations (Wed 10 Nov)
- C Applications (Thurs 11 Nov)
- lications (Wed 17 Nov)

University of Kent

ants Factory 2010

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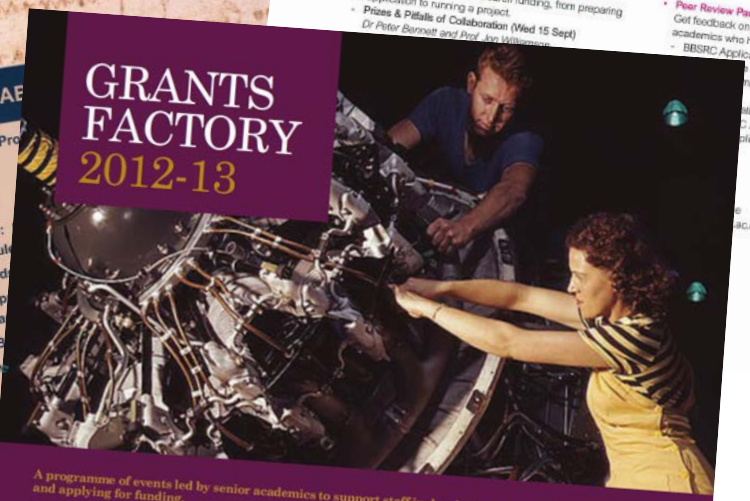
EPSRC
Prof Peter Clark
Wellcom

Workshops: the grant-writer's tool
Shemmings

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GRANTS FACTORY 2012-13

A programme of events led by senior academics to support staff in developing their research and applying for funding.

There are three elements:

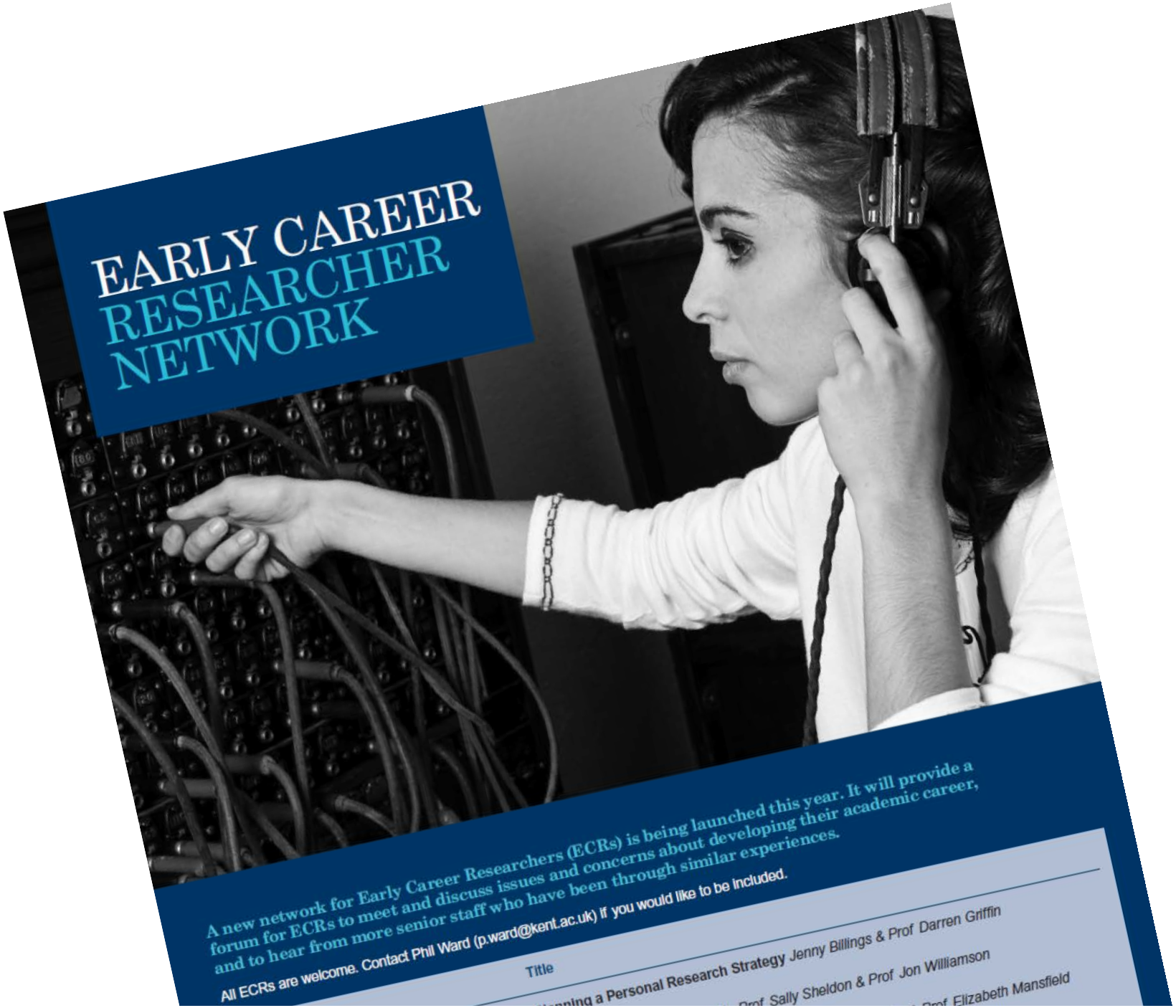
- Early Career Researcher Network (ECRN): informal meetings to allow ECRs to discuss issues around developing their academic careers;
- Application Development Workshops (ADW): workshops to help all staff develop high quality funding proposals;
- Funder Focus Events (FF): talks that explore the priorities and requirements of a specific funder.

Events are held every fortnight, are free and open to all staff, and refreshments will be provided. If you would like to attend, contact Phil Ward (p.ward@kent.ac.uk).

Week	Date	Title	Stream
2	Thurs 4 October – 2.30-4.30pm	**Planning a Personal Research Strategy** *Jenny Billings & Prof Darren Griffin*	ECRN
4	Wed 17 October – 9.20-11.30am	**Getting Published in Journals** *Prof Sally Sheldon & Prof Jon Williamson*	ECRN
6	Wed 31 October – 2-4pm	**Identifying an Idea: What the Funders Want** *Prof Gordon Lynch & Prof Sally Sheldon*	ADW
8	TBC	**ESRC** *Prof Dominic Abrams & Prof Peter Taylor-Gooby*	FF
10	Wed 28 November – 2-4pm	**Constructing a Realistic Project** *Prof Peter Taylor-Gooby & Prof Elizabeth Mansfield*	ECRN
12	Wed 12 December – 2-4pm	**The Essential Elements of a Good Application** *Prof Paul Allain & Prof Mick Tute*	ADW
13	Wed 16 January – 12-2pm	**Developing Collaborations** *Prof Jon Williamson & Dr Peter Bennett*	ECRN
15	Wed 30 January – 12-2pm	**How the Peer Review Panel Works** *Prof Mick Tute & Dr Simon Kirchin*	ADW
17	Wed 13 February – 12-2pm	**Seeking and Using Feedback** *Prof Darren Griffin & Prof Paul Allain*	ECRN
19	Thurs 28 February – 12-4pm	**EPSRC** *Prof Sarah Spurgeon & Prof Simon Thompson*	ADW
21	Wed 13 March – 12-2pm	**Relationships with Senior Staff** *Prof*	ECRN
23			FF

BEAT THE ODDS WITH THE GRANTS FACTORY

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER NETWORK



A new network for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) is being launched this year. It will provide a forum for ECRs to meet and discuss issues and concerns about developing their academic career, and to hear from more senior staff who have been through similar experiences.

All ECRs are welcome. Contact Phil Ward (p.ward@kent.ac.uk) if you would like to be included.

Title	
...nning a Personal Research Strategy	Jenny Billings & Prof Darren Griffin
...Prof Sally Sheldon & Prof Jon Williamson	
...Prof Elizabeth Mansfield	

Grants Factory

- Writing better bids
- Identifying an Idea: what the funders want
- How the peer review panel works
- Essential elements of a good application
- How to write your ‘Pathways to Impact’
- Is European funding for me?
- Winning fellowship funding
- Using the right words
- Make your project matter
- Responding to reviewers’ comments
- The common traits of funded applications

ECR Network

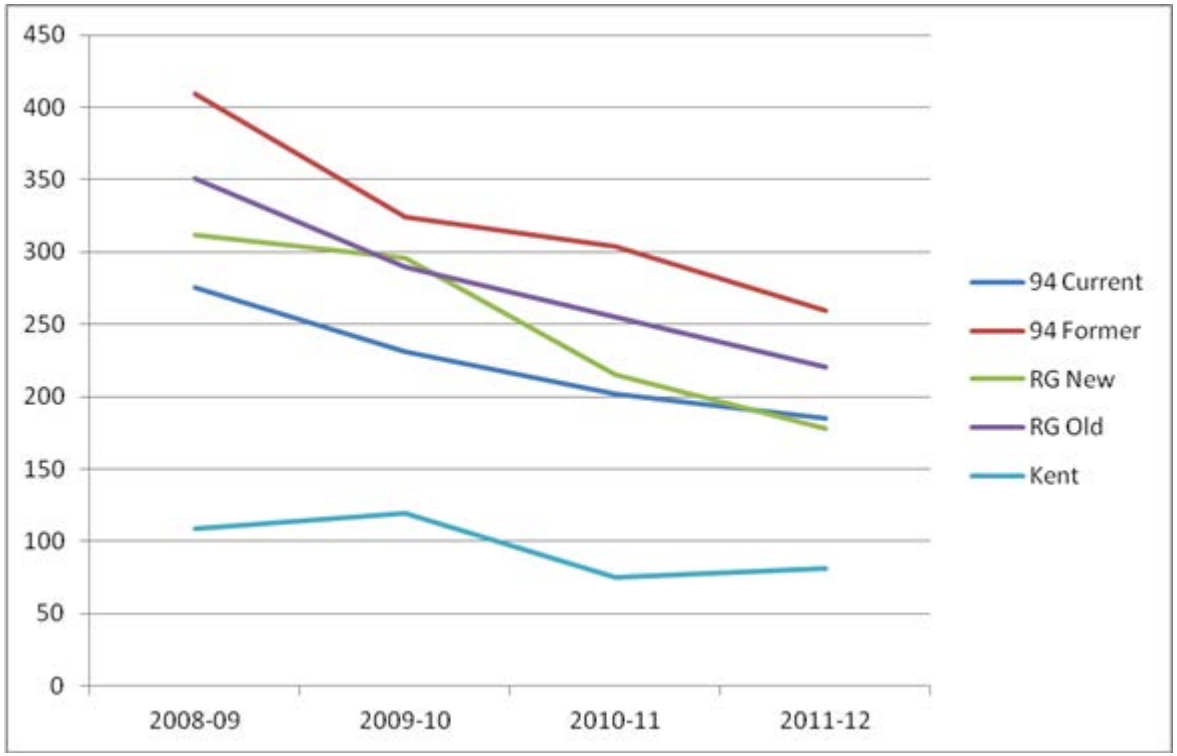
- Planning a personal research strategy
- Getting published in journals
- Developing collaborations
- Seeking and using feedback
- Relationships with senior staff
- Balancing the conflicting demands of academia

THE EFFECT

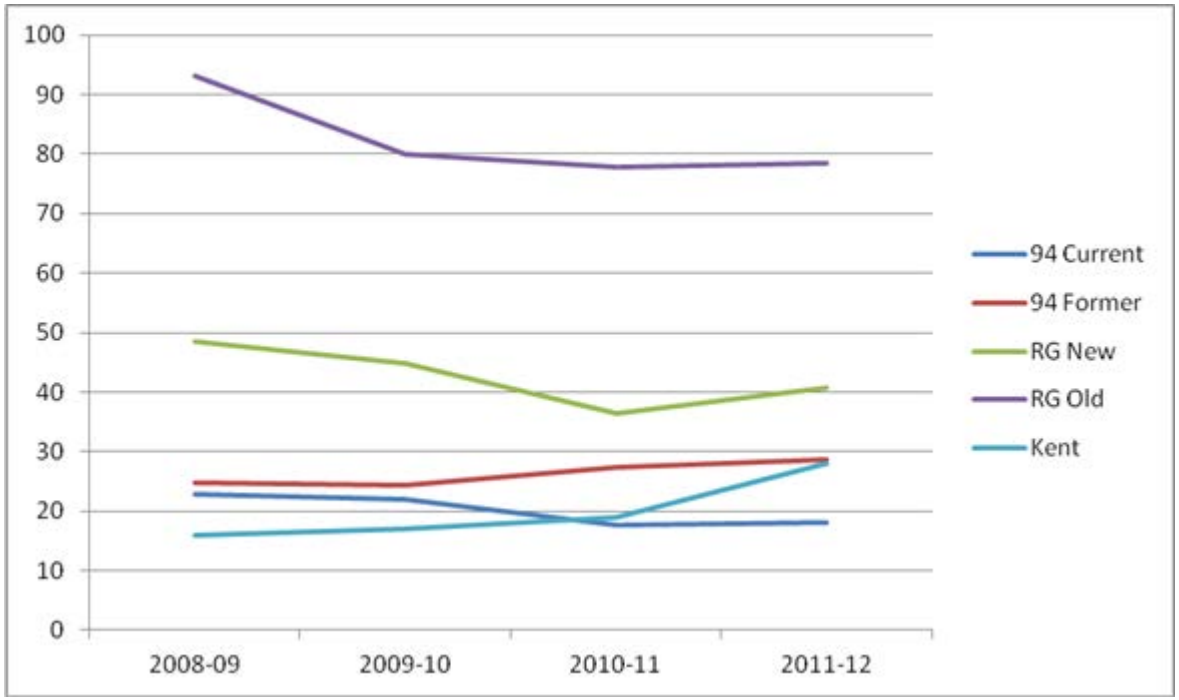
Cultural Change

- Cultural effect as much as specific wins
  - First grants for ECRs
  - Grants for Schools with no history of wins
  - Large collaborative grants
- Techniques used more generally

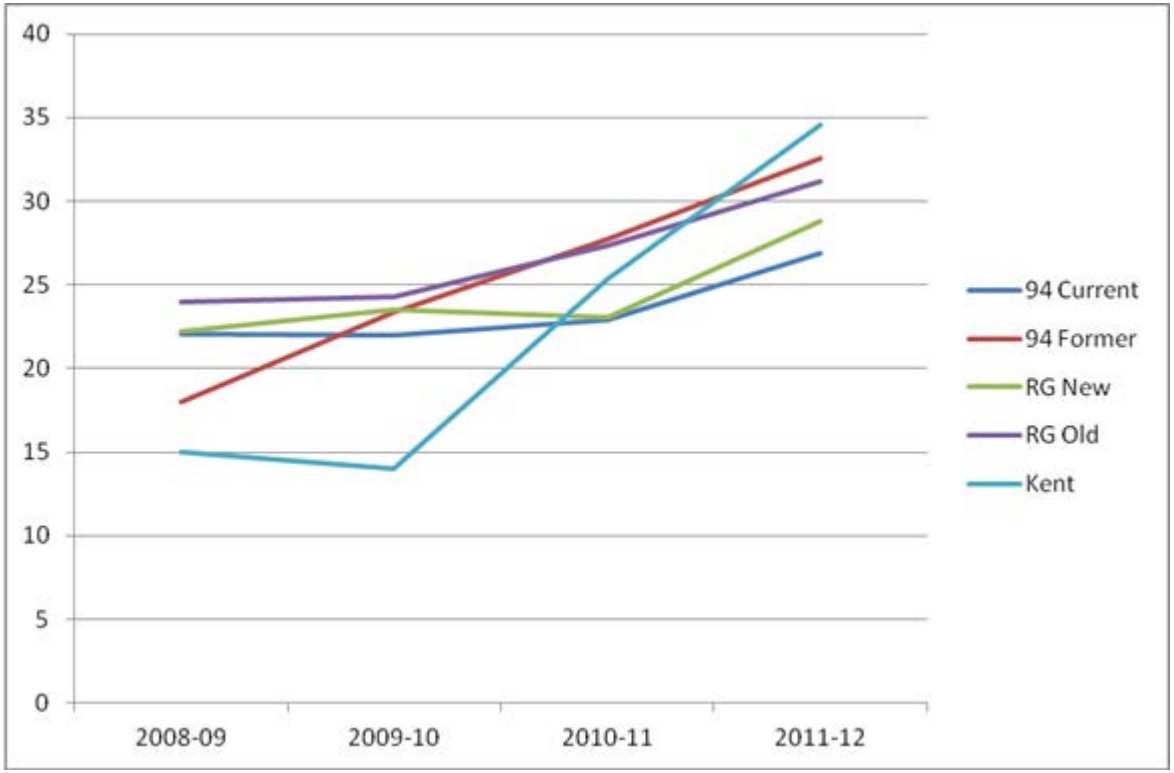
RCUK Applications



RCUK Awards


100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
2008-09
2009-10
2010-11
2011-12
94 Current
94 Former
RG New
RG Old
Kent

RCUK Success Rates





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- http://twitter.com/frootle