A focus on careers

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Professor of Human–Computer Interaction
Director of UCL Institute of Digital Health
Chair of UK Computing Research Committee
Who am I?

- Work: Professor of HCI and Director of UCL Institute of Digital Health
- Family: growing up
- Hobby: rock climbing
A career in one slide
I’ve violated most of the rules…

- Didn’t have a plan
- Did have children
- Don’t travel more than necessary

But…

- I’ve been lucky
- I’ve taken opportunities
- I’ve worked to my strengths
- I have had fantastic colleagues and support
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I did</th>
<th>Would I do the same again?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed degree in Maths</td>
<td>✓ Double first in Maths opens doors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ CS would have been more useful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worked in industry</td>
<td>✓ I learned a lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD with small children</td>
<td>✓ I loved doing PhD in AI</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ HCI would have been more useful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-doc in Cambridge</td>
<td>✓ Great networking and learning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ HCI was a great discovery</td>
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<td></td>
<td>☐ Cognitive Science limited value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectureship at Middlesex</td>
<td>✓ Learning to manage large classes invaluable</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Getting grants transformed my career</td>
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<td></td>
<td>☐ Shift to qualitative research is mixed blessing</td>
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<td>SL at UCL</td>
<td>✓ I love the interdisciplinary, research-intensive, supportive environment at UCL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>☐ I wish I didn’t work so hard…</td>
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</tbody>
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How the landscape has changed

• Hurdles seem higher
  – More emphasis on longer, larger grants
  – Doctoral training concentrated more in CDTs

• Greater emphasis on impact and citations
  – Used to be enough to have the high-status publication

• Greater expectation of all-round brilliance
  – REF, TEF, impact, public engagement, service, interdisciplinary working, team working …
Building your career

- Think big, have a vision
- It’s going to be hard, so make sure you enjoy it
- Take opportunities, and don’t be afraid to take (some) risks
- Understand what is expected of you
  - For recruitment and promotion
  - Make sure you have cake to support your cherries!
  - Remember that it’s a team sport…

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Questions?

Thank you!